



24 March 2017

Dear Parents

Greetings from the Playschool.

This last week has been busy. Last Sunday the community celebrated Greek National Day on the SAHETI Sports grounds. Our Grade R's looked fetching in their traditional clothes and participated in the march with pride.



On Monday we celebrated Human Right's Day with stories, songs and discussion. Our Little Ones were captivated by the story of Nelson Mandela and were fascinated by the Children's Bill of Rights. They learnt about their rights and responsibilities.

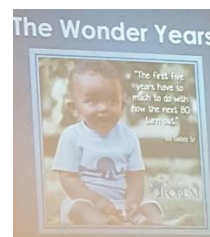
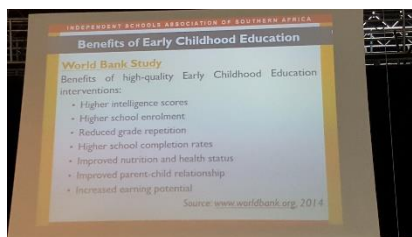
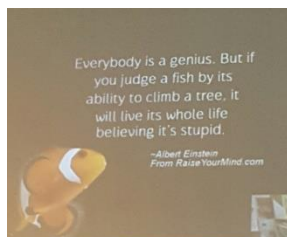




Yesterday we celebrated Greek National Day at school. Our festivities incorporated stories about our great heroes and songs.



ECD CONFERENCE



This last week Dominec, Irene and I attended the ECD Conference in Rustenburg. We came away feeling inspired by the many informative lectures and by our surroundings. The common thread that linked all the lectures was the necessity to celebrate our strengths, we should celebrate momentous occasions. We need to create a sound foundation for children to operate from in the future. We should stop focusing on our weaknesses! Music is a perfect way of boosting the development of numeracy skills, which starts to crystallise by the age of four. At this stage we ought to create a love for learning. We should speak kind words to our little ones, to make a difference in their little lives. We should give them the freedom to play. Many adult skills are realised through free play. Unlock creativity and innovation through **play**.

- *Play teaches us to deal with uncertainty.*
- *Play celebrates diversity*
- *Play opens possibilities*
- *Play is collaborative*
- *Play facilitates change*
- *Play is intrinsically motivated*
- *Play enables us to make good decisions*
- *Play and intention is science, but once rules are incorporated 'Play' becomes an experiment.*



With respect to reading:



In the early years of a child's life we should create 'Reading Readiness', in terms of developing the pre-reading skills necessary for this activity. We need to establish sound Visual, Auditory, Memory and Perceptual skills, which are central to the achievement of reading. Reading and academic progress go hand in hand. Language is the greatest predictor of success. To empower a child with good reading skills we have to create a relationship between the symbol and sound in a playful manner. The best way to foster a love for reading is for Mom and Dad to model happy reading habits and the joy derived from this activity. Children learn best through mimicking behaviour. To further build on this "Love for reading", place your child on your lap and engage in 'reading' the story together. Once the story is finished recap, ask open ended questions – such as 'what if', 'what do you think?' Look at the illustrations and ask your child to make up his own story.



LAMBATHES – EASTER CANDLES



'Lambathes' are special candles for Easter, which are given to children as gifts by their parents and Godparents. These candles are used for Midnight Mass on the Saturday night when we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

These beautifully decorated candles will be on sale as from Monday the 27 March in the Playschool Perception area.

Forthcoming Events

Please diarise the following events!

- PARENT INTERVIEWS – 28 MARCH AND 30 MARCH
- SALE OF LAMBADES – 27 MARCH UNTIL THE 4 APRIL
- EASTER EGG HUNT – Last week of term
- PARENT TALK - SPEECH DEVELOPMENT – 4th MARCH – 8H30-9H30
- SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR THE FIRST TERM- 7 APRIL

PARENT FEEDBACK SESSIONS

These individual Feedback sessions with your child's teacher will take place on Tuesday 28 MARCH and Thursday 30 MARCH. They will be held after school and each parent is allocated a 15 minute time slot to discuss their child's progress and any concerns they wish to address. You will also be able to consult your child's Greek Teacher before or after you have seen the Class Teacher. Forms with time slots, are displayed at Reception and we urge you to fill in your preferred time as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

SPEECH ADDRESS – 4 APRIL FROM 8H30 – 9H30

PLAYSCHOOL PERCEPTION AREA

On Tuesday, the 4th April, our Speech Therapist will be addressing the moms and dads at Drop Off Time. Under discussion will be the attainment of the necessary milestones with reference to Speech and Language Development. This talk will apply to children going to Grade 000 and those going into the Toddler class in 2018. Parents you will find this discourse of great value as it will create an awareness of expectations, when do we flag speech/language deviations from the norm, the difference between expressive and receptive speech, the relevance of age – appropriate speech/language with respect to academic learning and when is

intervention required. Please make every effort to attend this informative address. This informative session will take place in the Playschool Perception area.

OUTREACH

- Within the next two weeks we will be visiting the Bothala Ke Thuto Daycare Centre to treat Sanna's young learners to an Easter Egg hunt.

REMINDERS

- Box of tissues each term
- For our younger children – 5 nappies a day, barrier cream and wet wipes
- A change of clothing. **Check bags daily**
- **Apply sunscreen every morning before school**
- Hats for sunny days
- Remember blankets will go home on a Friday for washing and will be returned on a Monday.
- Please mark all clothing, dummies, bottles, shoes and blankets.
- Please book your child's birthday with Denise – and no party packs. A cake is sufficient.
- Library- we will notify you when this commences.
- Baker's Day will commence after Mid-Term.
- **Should your child be off colour, vomiting, have a fever, earache, diarrhoea, infected nose and coughing please keep them at home as they will have a miserable day at school and infect others.** Please notify Denise in case of absenteeism.
- Daily hours – 7h40 to 13h30-14h00 on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
7H40 to 13.15-13.30 on a Wednesday
- **MY SCHOOL CARD** can be swiped at any of the following outlets **Woolworths, Toys R Us, Reggies, Waltons, Jack's Paint, Altech Netstar and Supa Quick**. A small percentage of the amount spent will be forwarded to the school. ***Please remember to swipe your card.***

THEMES FOR WEEK ENDING 31 MARCH 2017

THEME	Easter
PERCEPTION	Shapes

Elli Lambropoulos
Vice-Principal
SAHETI Pre-Primary/Playschool