



PRE-PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

5 May 2017

Dear Parents,

It is with great sadness that we heard about the sudden passing of Joyce Moyo on Monday 1 May. Joyce was Glorious' assistant and her humble and unassuming personality had a calming effect on all at SAHETI. She will be deeply missed by her colleagues, friends, parents and pupils at the school.

Natalie Palm, our school psychologist will be spending time observing the children in Glorious' classroom just to make sure that our children are happy and settled in the new term. We are fortunate enough that the assistant, Nellie, who was helping out Glorious last term, will be staying on at SAHETI to ensure continuity for the children.

Death is one of the most difficult subjects to broach with young children, but death is also an inescapable part of life.

Pre-schoolers are aware of death from a very early age. They hear about it in fairy tales, see it on TV, and encounter dead bugs, birds and hamsters. Some children may have already experienced the death of a pet or a family member.

Despite this there are aspects of death which children at this age cannot understand. It is difficult to comprehend at this young age that death is permanent, inevitable and happens to everyone. Nor can they understand that death means that the body no longer functions. They often believe that the deceased still eat, sleep and do normal things but in the sky and not on the ground.

Because pre-schoolers react to death in such a variety of ways and with reference to their life experiences or parents' religious beliefs we will not be telling the children about Joyce's passing. We will answer a child's question honestly and privately if a child asks a question about Joyce.

If your child asks a question about death always answer honestly and simply. Be brief, young children can't process too much information at once. At this age it is more helpful to explain death in terms of physical function rather than long explanations of a particular illness. "Now that Uncle John has died, his body has stopped working. He can't walk, run or, eat and see anymore and he doesn't feel any pain."

We extend our deepest condolences to Joyce's brother, father and Michael. May her soul rest in peace.

CHANGES AT THE PRE-PRIMARY

Parents and children were greeted with a fresh coat of paint in our Reception Area as well as our toilet rooms. Our toilet rooms were deep cleaned over the holidays and a fresh coat of paint was given to our lockers. Our Reception Area is looking trendy and clam and we have exciting plans still on the drawing board for all common areas.

If you would like to be part of the decision making with regards to these areas please join us for a PTA Meeting on Wednesday 10 May at 17h30 in Stela's classroom. There will be a short presentation on our plans for our toilet rooms, Reception Area and a small garden space.

BLANKETS AND PILLOWS

All of our children were given blankets to sleep with at school. All Grade R's are expected to use their school blanket and no pillow at sleeptime.

The transition from sleeping at home to sleeping at school is not always an easy one for our young children and for this reason we allow our younger children to bring in a transitional blanket or pillow to school. Our Grade 00 and 000 children may have a small pillow that fits into the locker for this term only but needs to use the school's blanket.

We will slowly start getting the children ready for the class next year where they will have to start sleeping without their home pillow.

ICE CREAM TUBS

All children need 2 litre ice cream tubs for an outreach initiative which our teachers have planned for Mandela Day. Please ensure that your child has a 2 litre tub by Monday 8 May.

ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΤΜΗΜΑ

Μετά την μικρή ανάπαυλα των διακοπών για τον εορτασμό του Πάσχα, τα παιδιά με πολύ ενθουσιασμό, επανήλθαν στις τάξεις τους.

Την ερχόμενη Παρασκευή και με την ευκαιρία του εορτασμού της γιορτής της Μητέρας τα παιδιά του μεγάλου τμήματος ΑΘΗΝΑ σας ετοιμάζουν μια μεγάλη έκπληξη. Συντονιστείτε λοιπόν όλοι στις 11.00 π.μ. στο ραδιοφωνικό σταθμό της Νέας Πανελληνίας Φωνής στα 1422 μεσαία κύματα ή στην ιστοσελίδα www.hellenicradio.org.za για να ακούσετε ζωντανά τα παιδιά που με το δικό τους τρόπο θα δώσουν ευχές σε όλες τις μανούλες.

Η εκπομπή θα μεταδοθεί σε επανάληψη την Κυριακή 14 Μαΐου αμέσως μετά την αναμετάδοση της Θείας Λειτουργίας.

FROM THE GREEK DEPARTMENT

After our Easter break, the children returned to school full of enthusiasm. On Friday 12 May and with Mother's Day coming up, the children from the Grade R Athina group are preparing a surprise for all our mummies. Please tune in to the New Panhellenic Voice at 11.00 am on 1422 medium waves or to www.hellenicradio.org.za to hear your children wishing you in their own special way.

Let us fill our life with their smiles and dreams as they wish us from the bottom of their hearts.

The programme will be repeated on Sunday 14 May after the church service.

THEMES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 12 MAY 2017

The theme for Grade R is “Autumn”

The theme for Grade 00 is “Trees”

The theme for the Grade 000 is “Autumn”

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Terri', is positioned above the printed name.

Terri Ohannessian
Principal
SAHETI Pre-Primary and Playschool