

# SAGEWOOD SCHOOL

Educating the Whole Child

23 January 2016

Dear Parents / Guardians

## ***Sagewood Pre-Primary School Newsletter*** ***First Term - 2016***

A very warm welcome to all our existing and new parents; may 2016 be a very enriching and rewarding year for all. We look forward to working and growing together so as to provide our children with a solid foundation for their growth, development and learning.

Our goal is to provide a service of excellence based on sound early childhood development principles and best practice which develops our children socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually, morally and intellectually and will equip them with the necessary 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, to cope in a fast changing world and with their formal education.

The communication and relationships that teachers and parents forge with one another is crucial for our children's well-being, therefore we appeal to parents to please feel free to approach the teachers with any concerns or suggestions you may have regarding your child. Children flourish and thrive when parents and teachers share information readily and cooperate in their children's learning and development. Teachers observe children in a school environment and parents see children in a home environment and sometimes children respond very differently in both these contexts, therefore sharing of information helps to understand our children and their behaviour and needs.

Our staff and the groups they teach in the Preprimary school are as follows:

Jeanette Richardson	-	Principal
Tiny Govinder	-	Blue Group Teacher (3-4 year olds)
Lemaine Pretorius	-	Purple Group Teacher (4-5 year olds)
Michelle Hackmann	-	Purple Group Teacher (4-5 year olds)
Khethiwe Mnisi	-	Green Group Teacher (5-6 year olds – Grade O)
Atiyyah Mohamed	-	Yellow Group Teacher (5-6 year olds – Grade O)
Susan van Pletzen	-	Red Group Teacher (5-6 year olds – Grade O)
Monica Tembe	-	Afternoon Care Teacher
Lynette Mauru	-	Afternoon Care Teacher
Mpumi Mnguni	-	Afternoon Care Teacher
Trust Ndlovu	-	Domestic Helper
Chantal Smith	-	Preprimary Secretary

The Sagewood Foundation t/a Sagewood School, Registration Number: 1991/003134/08

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\* Executive



Registered with the Independent Schools  
Association of Southern Africa

## **ACCIDENT PRECAUTIONS**

In the event of your child being seriously injured and we are unable to locate you we have an arrangement with the Carstenhof clinic to administer emergency treatment in order to stabilize your child. But in order for this to happen we require you to complete the permission slip and a Carstenhof administration form. We also require a copy of the main member of the medical aid's ID and medical card. Please could we have these returned by the Monday 26 January 2015. I would like to reiterate that this is a precautionary measure and would only be used in the case of an emergency when we cannot reach you and your child requires emergency treatment.

## **TERM DATES**

First Term	-	Wed, 13 Jan – Fri, 18 Mar
Second Term	-	Tues, 5 Apr – Fri, 24 Jun
Third Term	-	Tues, 19 Jul – Fri, 23 Sep
Fourth Term	-	Tues, 11 Oct – Wed, 07 Dec

## **Additional school and public holidays are as follows:**

Wed, 27 April	-	Public Holiday (Freedom Day)
Thurs, 28 April	-	School Holiday
Fri, 29 April	-	School Holiday
Sun, 01 May	-	Public Holiday (Workers Day)
Mon, 02 May	-	Rollover Public Holiday
Thurs, 16 June	-	Public Holiday (Youth Day)
Fri, 17 June	-	School Holiday
Mon, 08 Aug	-	School Holiday
Tues, 9 Aug	-	Public Holiday (Woman's day)

As a token of respect for all traditions, we take a day off school for Eid and Diwali when it falls on a school day.

## **BAKING**

Weekly baking which forms part of science and technology; takes place on a Thursday.

## **MUSIC**

To enrich our children's music experiences the schools qualified music teacher Elissa Lessing takes our children from the 3 year olds to the grade 0's for music. The children do music once a week 9:15 to 9:45.

## **MY SCHOOL CARD**

As Sagewood Foundation is a non-profit organisation we have linked up with My School to assist with fundraising. A letter giving more detail and an application form for a card are in your child's message folder. We request your support in this initiative and ask if you do not already have a card to please complete the form and return it to school, we will process the form for you and send the card home in your child's message folder.



## **COMPUTERS**

Our grade 0's only; attend weekly 30 minute computer lessons in our computer centre. These classes will be carried out by their class teacher in the primary school computer centre.

## **EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES**

The extra-mural activities which are currently available at the Preprimary school are:

Monkeynastix	-	Monday	Charmaine	078 309 0134
Dance Mouse	-	Mon & Wed	Tamra	082 859 7352
Computers	-	Tuesday	Lizanne	083 469 4300
UCMAS	-	Tuesday	Raisa	082 603 8327
Ballet	-	Tues & Wed	Marie Louise	082 568 2278
Soccer	-	Wednesday	Sean	083 234 5890
Golf	-	Wednesday	Gerdus	082 336 5535
Kidi-Sportz	-	Thursday	Vivian	082 886 3229
Drama	-	Friday	Juliet	082 909 1630

These activities will take place outside of normal Preprimary school hours and a separate fee will be charged. Parents are requested to pay the contact person providing the lesson directly. Fees are payable in advance at the beginning of each term. The extra-mural teacher will collect children at 13.00 from their classrooms. Parents are requested to collect children immediately after the extra-mural activities, unless we have been instructed otherwise or children are in aftercare in which case the teachers will take responsibility for them. Extra-mural activities will start as from Monday 25 January 2016.

Some of the extra mural coaches presented a free demonstration lesson for all our children during this week to familiarise our children with the extra mural activities on offer.

## **SWIMMING LESSONS**

Swimming lessons will be offered as part of the school curriculum on a weekly basis commencing from Thursday 28 January 2016. Each group will be taken to the swimming pool by their teachers; 4 qualified swimming teachers will be conducting the lesson. The group teacher will remain in the swimming enclosure for the duration of the lesson and will bring the group back to the Preprimary school after the lesson. We require all parents to fill in the Sagewood indemnity form and an enrolment form from the swimming school Centurion Swimming School, no child will be permitted to attend swimming lessons unless these forms are completed. Swimming will only be offered in the first and fourth terms on a Thursday. Please ensure that you send your child to school with a swimming costume, swimming cap, flip flops and towel on their allocated day and that you put sunblock on them in the morning before coming to school. Kindly ensure all swimming gear has your child's name on it.

## **EYE AND HEARING ASSESSMENTS**

Notification regarding eye and hearing screenings, which will take place this term, and the necessary consent forms will be sent home prior to the assessments. Although the cost of this is catered for in the school fees, we still require your consent to have your child tested.



## ACTIVE EDUCATION

Active Education, which is a gross motor development programme, will be offered as part of the school curriculum on a weekly basis commencing from Tuesday 26 January. Our children love these lessons and look forward to them each week. This programme will run for 30minutes for each group on Tuesday's. The purpose of this programme is to develop our children's gross motor coordination for later participating in the various sporting codes. Children are to wear shorts and takkies on their active education day.

## PARENTS POLICY AND PROCEDURE BOOKLET

Kindly read through the Parents' policy and procedure booklet issued to each parent, on important practicalities, with regard to the smooth and efficient running of our school. We would really appreciate your cooperation in this regard and require you to return the reply slip indicating that you have seen and are in possession of the booklet.

## THEMES

Please find attached the yearly themes, as well as the termly events.

## D6 COMMUNICATOR

We use a school communicator which is an innovative and exciting way of communicating with parents. Parents install the communicator onto their computer (as many computers as they would like) and it keeps you up to date with what is happening at the school. It updates automatically when connected to the internet and brings you all the latest news, calendar events and photos. To install the communicator you can either request a CD from the office or you can download it from the internet.

Please go to the website <http://www.school-communicator.com/download.php> and select 'Sagewood School' from the drop down list. All newsletters, and school related matters will be put onto the communicator for easy access and convenience for our parents.

In line with the Reggio Emilia philosophy, the teachers have cameras in their classrooms where they can take photos of the children's various learning experiences while engaged in projects. They will record and document these learning experiences and will display them for children to revisit and re-evaluate their learning experiences. From time to time teachers will email you these documented recordings to make the learning more visible to you.

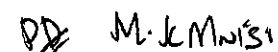
All grade '0' classrooms have Mimio projectors and interactive whiteboards in line with information, communication and technology learning. This enhances our children's learning experiences, bringing the virtual world into the classrooms and making learning more memorable, interesting and fun.

Communication is the essence of good relations between parents and school. Please feel free to approach me with any ideas/concerns/suggestions you may have. Our learners' well-being with regards to their holistic development is our primary concern.

Please note that as this is the first newsletter of the year it is going out as a hardcopy; all future newsletters and notices will go out via email and the D6 communicator. Please ensure that we have your correct email address. If you do not have an email address, please notify your child's teacher and you will be furnished with a hard copy.

We look forward to a happy and rewarding year ahead.

Yours sincerely



J. Richardson (Mrs)  
Principal – Preprimary School



**FIRST TERM EVENTS - 2016**

DATE	EVENT
Wed, 13 Jan	School year begins
Sat, 23 Jan	1 <sup>st</sup> Parent Meeting
Wed, 27 Jan	On Cue Theatre – I'm special the way I am – All Groups
Wed, 17 Feb	Hearing Tests – All Groups
Wed, 24 Feb	Eye Tests – All Groups
Fri, 26 Feb	Puppet World – Circus – All Groups
Mon, 07 Mar	Parent-Teacher Interviews 1:15 – 5 Notification will be sent out prior to this
Tues, 08 Mar	Parent-Teacher Interviews 1:15 – 5pm
Fri, 18 Mar	Last day of School – Term 1 ends at 12.00
Tues, 05 Apr	School re-opens for Term 2

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**REPLY SLIP**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ parent / guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ group have received the 1st Term Newsletter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE

