

## **LANNER HOUSE SCHOOL**



*Learning, Growing, Becoming*

### **NEWSLETTER 03/2010**

Dear Parents

#### **Technology Matters**

Our school website is undergoing a revamp and we are in the process of adding new information and usability. We want to make the website the primary source of communication to prospective parents as well as to our current school community. Newsletters, photographs of recent events and so forth will be updated regularly and I want to encourage you to check the website regularly for updates. The website may be found at <http://www.lannerhouse.co.za>

All our teachers now have their own email addresses which may be found on the website under the About Us section. You are welcome to email our staff with comments, questions and suggestions. This is still new for our staff team so please bear with us if response time is not as quick as you would like it to be! It will improve!

Some of our teachers have recently completed training in the use of [Twitter](#) and [Diigo](#) to develop Personal Learning Networks. They have also learnt to use the ever-present [Google](#) in far more effective ways. This aspect of professional development of our staff is essential as we move into an increasingly digital world. There is an incredible wealth of educational insight and resources right under our noses – we just need to know how to take advantage of it!

Those of you who use Twitter can follow the school's feed by going along to <http://twitter.com/lannerhouse> This feed will give you regular updates of events at the school and will inform you when newsletters and so on are sent home. You may also subscribe to updates of the school's Twitter feed using an RSS feed in your Outlook or other email program - [http://twitter.com/statuses/user\\_timeline/91270549.rss](http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/91270549.rss)

Still on technology matters – planning is now in an advanced stage for our Grade 8 class to have their own netbooks for what is known as 1:1 computing. This development will mean that our Grade 8's will be able to work on assignments online and be able to utilize the power of Web2.0 collaborative tools in a controlled and monitored environment. There is an ever-increasing body of research which indicates that 1:1 computing has very positive academic outcomes. We are excited about this development and look forward to seeing this come to fruition in the very near future.

### **Inter-House Swimming Gala**

The Grade 1-8's enjoyed a fun afternoon this past Wednesday as they competed in several relay races in the pool. The fantastic camaraderie amongst all the pupils was remarked upon as even the weaker swimmers were cheered by their peers in both the Green and Blue house.

The Blue House team came out winners on the day. Congratulations to all those who competed in such great spirit and who gave of their best for their team.

### **Class Ambassadors**

The Class Ambassadors (formerly known as class reps) recently met to discuss their roles and how to build community within the parent body of each class. Much fruitful discussion was had and many ideas were shared.

I would ask that you give your full support to your class ambassador who will be working hard at providing opportunity for the parents in your child's class to get to know one another and work towards improving our school.

This forms part of the formation of the ***Lanner House Parent Association***. If you have a child at Lanner House you are automatically a member! More about the Parent Association, including its role and function, to follow in forthcoming newsletters.

### **After-Care**

We are revisiting the issue of supervised aftercare at our school. Please fill in the attached survey form and return to school by Monday 8 March. Even if you will not use this service, please fill in the form and return to school.

### **No Change**

Please note that from the second term the finance office will not give change to pupils who bring money for camps, school outings and so on. We try to keep as little cash on the premises for security reasons and so there is often little or no cash from which to draw change. Giving children change also increases the chance of that money being lost.

When requests for payment are made, please ensure that the correct amount of money is placed in a marked envelope and brought to school. The class teacher will collect all monies during the first period of the day.

## **Marketing**

Our Fundraising / Marketing Office is a hive of activity as Lynn Stanford and various other staff members and parents work at developing a clear strategy for marketing and fundraising opportunities for our school.

One of the projects being developed is a termly school newspaper which will contain photographs of our pupils in action and articles written by staff and pupils.

We are inviting business owners to buy advertising space in the newspaper. The rates are available from Lynn at [marketing@lannerhouse.co.za](mailto:marketing@lannerhouse.co.za) Special ad rates are on offer for the first edition which will be published at the end of this term.

Families are also invited to sponsor a page at R100 per page. An acknowledgement will be placed at the bottom of the sponsored page. Families may wish to dedicate a page to a loved one or in memory of a special person. Please contact Lynn at the office or at [marketing@lannerhouse.co.za](mailto:marketing@lannerhouse.co.za) should you wish to take up this opportunity.

## **PreSchool Fun Day**

The annual PreSchool Fun Day for the preschool and Grade 1 pupils takes place on the morning of Saturday 13 March. Please ensure that you bring your little one along for a fun-filled morning. Moms and Dads will also be participating so be sure to put in some athletic practice before the event!

Various food and drink items will be for sale on the morning.

## **Sport**

There has been a fair amount of sport action over the past number of weeks. We will have a sports focus in next week's newsletter when all the results will be published.

We will be hosting a major InterSchools Soccer World Cup event in June. More news on this in the next newsletter.

There is also the possibility of a very well-known sport celebrity taking part in an event at our school in the near future... keep reading the newsletter for more news on this.

Next week's newsletter will also have more information on The Sporting Edge Academy to be launched next term.

## **Music Academy**

Some of you may be aware that our drum teacher, Mr Johan Koen, has not been at school for the past three weeks. He is not well at all and is currently undergoing intensive treatment in hospital. Our thoughts and prayers go to him and his family.

Guitar, piano, violin and voice lessons are continuing. Should you wish your child to enrol in the music academy please leave your name with Hilary at the school reception.

## **Cheese, Olive Oil and Olives**

A reminder that you can order cheese, olive oil and olives from the school using the attached order form.

Why not organize to buy from the school for family and friends and help us with this very easy fundraising project? Order forms can be copied for you and distributed to your colleagues and so on. Please speak to Hilary at the school office should you require further forms.



Every Swipe Counts!

If you need a MySchool card, please speak to Hilary at the school reception. We should all be using our MySchool cards regularly!

Have a wonderful weekend!

A.Preston  
**Headmaster**



Follow the school on <http://www.twitter.com/lannerhouse>



Visit the school online at <http://www.lannerhouse.co.za>

**AFTERCARE SURVEY – Please fill in and return to school by Monday 8 March**

Name of child : \_\_\_\_\_ Grade : \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate by ***circling*** the appropriate response :

1) I would like Lanner House to offer a supervised aftercare program

YES      NO

2) The aftercare program should include a period of supervised homework

YES      NO

3) The aftercare should offer a lunch meal to pupils

YES      NO

4) I am prepared to pay up to the following **hourly** fee for a well-run, supervised, monitored aftercare facility for my child understanding that a monthly fee will be invoiced

R50      R80      R100

5) With safety being of paramount importance we will want to have at least two adults present at the aftercare. One will be a school employee while the other will be a parent who volunteers one afternoon a week. Are you willing to offer your assistance in this way?

YES      NO

6) Please share any further insights, comments or questions on the issue of a Lanner House Aftercare :

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**\*\*\*Thank-you for your time\*\*\***

***Please return by Monday 8 March***