

## **LANNER HOUSE SCHOOL**



*Learning, Growing, Becoming*

### **NEWSLETTER 07/2010**

Dear Parents

Do your children play? Are they encouraged to be creative and use their imaginations to create new worlds, conquer dragons, climb the highest mountain, fly into space and become the President for a day?

It occurs to me that in our very ordered school lives, there is precious little time left to play. That old-fashioned idea seems to be left on the sidelines so that we can finish curricula, keep education authorities happy and feel good about “preparing the children for high school”. What are we doing? I refuse to believe that education is simply the transfer of knowledge from one to another. Our pupils need to be learning by doing. They need to be actively engaged in activities that force them out of their comfort zones so that they can learn to think creatively not only about the problems they face but about who they are as individuals. It is never too young to begin this process.

Unnecessary and frankly, short-sighted, pressure to conform to an outdated philosophy of education is hurting our children and will hurt our nation in the years to come. Schools need to be engaged in educating our children beyond the textbook and the classroom.

I am not saying for one moment that it is necessary to dismiss formal examinations and set curricula. These have their place. Rather I am calling for an open-minded approach to education from both teachers and parents. An approach that believes that all children have an amazing ability to learn and grow when left to explore their world. An approach that seeks to guide learning rather than force it. An approach in which teachers are also learners. An approach where children can become “complete” and not just have the ability to obtain good grades. An approach which allows children to make mistakes without fear. An approach that gives pupils an opportunity to reflect on their actions and learn how they affect others.

We can have all the techno-wizardry we like in our school but that will not make our school progressive. The very essence of our school is our philosophy of education and in the way it is brought to life by our teachers.

Our school’s Vision 2015 statement clearly states that we are to strive to give attention to the physical, emotional, spiritual and academic needs of our pupils. This is what will make our school a place which produces young people ready to take their place in society able to function at the highest level so that they may be difference-makers in their communities and families.

## **PLAY IT FORWARD** - Update

**National placing – 141<sup>st</sup>**

**Worcester placing – 1<sup>st</sup>**

Our top 3 classes are now :

- 1) Grade 6 – 1807
- 2) Grade R – 1694
- 3) Grade 5 – 1529

So the Grade 6's keep top spot and the Grade R's make a surge up the ladder!

Keep swiping! Details available from the school office.

### **Formal Assessment**

Our Grade 4-8 pupils will write their formal assessments from Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June. The timetable is attached to the newsletter for pupils in those grades.

Please note that school will end at **12h00** on **Friday 4 June** for the pupils. Teachers will remain at school until 15h00 to finalise marking and reports.

### **Walk-A-Thon**

Please diarise the morning of Saturday 22 May for a fun-filled family event – the very first Lanner House School Family Walk-A-Thon.

More details will follow – you can also find more information on the school website – <http://www.lannerhouse.co.za>

### **Winter Uniform**

Please note that pupils will be expected to wear winter uniforms from Monday 3 May. Either summer or winter uniform may be worn until then.

I have met with the gentleman responsible for school uniforms at De Jagers and he assures me that all is in order with the stock for winter. Should you find that an item is not available please notify the school office so that we can take it up with De Jagers.

Full uniform lists are available on the school website :  
[http://www.lannerhouse.co.za/site/page/uniform\\_requirements](http://www.lannerhouse.co.za/site/page/uniform_requirements)

# Say Cheese Promotion

**Prize** : A framed family portrait taken by a professional photographer.

**How can we win this great prize?** : Place your order for cheese, olives or olive oil with Hilary and stand in line to win. The family with the most orders by 12h00 on Friday 28 May will win the prize.

Our cheese supplier is Alfalfa Dairy and our olive products come from Olyfberg Olives.

## Sport



Big congratulations to Brendan Augustus (Grade 7) who has been chosen to represent the Boland U13 hockey side in the national competition in Bloemfontein in June. Despite nursing a slight injury Brendan attended the final trials last Friday and clearly caught the eyes of the selection panel with his speed and deft stick work.

We wish Brendan well as he now prepares for this wonderful adventure.



Open to all aged 4-17. Design a Google logo and win fabulous prizes including having your logo displayed on the Google homepage for 24 hours.

Details available here : <http://www.google.co.za/intl/en/lovefootball/doodle4google/>

Kind regards

A.Preston  
**Headmaster**



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