



Newsletter 1/2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

We have reached the end of a very long first term! A term filled with exciting activities and excellent achievements by our students. This newsletter not only reports on some of these, but also contains some very important information. Parents and guardians are requested to read it carefully.

ATHLETICS

Five athletes represented the Lady Grey Arts Academy at provincial level. Pamela Constable, Candice Constable, Sinethemba Mlamlali, Lelethu Hoyi and Tshepo Makae were included in the Joe Gqabi team which represented the district at the Eastern Cape Secondary Schools Athletics Championships in East London. Tshepo won the bronze medal for High Jump (Boys 15) and was included in the team which represented the Eastern Cape Province at the National Championships in Durban.

Thank you to all the athletes, coaches and members of the community who were involved in the 2017 athletics season. Congratulations to all the athletes who worked hard. They have done the school (and athletics) proud!

LADY GREY PASSION PLAY 2017

A sincere word of appreciation goes to all the educators and students who are involved in the 2017 Lady Grey Passion Play - a special thank you also to the parents for their support in allowing their children to attend long hours of rehearsals. We are fully aware of the consequences it has on transport arrangements and the like, but we assure you that your efforts are appreciated. Without our students, the Passion Play would be impossible.

We encourage parents to come and celebrate the love, passion and endless commitment of our Saviour during the Easter Weekend. It is essential to book early to ensure good seats for the scenes in the church. Bookings can be done at any Computicket outlet or Shoprite/Checkers store countrywide.

DALRO

The Dalro Bursary Competition for grade 12 students is around the corner. The first round of this competition takes place in Johannesburg at the end of June. We wish our students well for this competition.

INNIBOS ARTS FESTIVAL

We are very proud of the fact that the school has been invited to participate in this popular arts festival, which takes place from 5-8 July in Nelspruit.

Le Passiones, the school's performing arts group, will travel to Nelspruit where they will be the guests of the Meridian Karino school. Mrs Pitout, Mr Hattingh and Mr Scharneck will present various workshops from 2-4 July, after which Le Passiones will perform at INNIBOS from 5-8 July.

BUS STUDENTS

Learners travelling by bus from Aliwal North must pay their bus fees before the 15th of each month. The fees are payable every month from January to November. LATE PAYMENTS cannot be allowed and payments are done on a CASH ONLY basis.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents who attended the AGM of 2016 approved a proposal for a new school uniform.

The following changes to the winter uniform were approved and will gradually be implemented over the next few years:

THE CURRENT SHOOOL UNIFORM WILL BE USED AS BASIS FOR THE NEW UNIFORM. IT MAY BE WORN AS IS, OR IT CAN BE COMBINED WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- ❖ HOODIES
 - ✓ RED only
 - ✓ Ordered from school (Mrs Nel) or buy your own
 - ✓ NO print
- ❖ JEANS
 - ✓ Navy blue or black
 - ✓ NO print or embroidery
 - ✓ NO skinny jeans
 - ✓ NO holes and not torn
- ❖ “TEKKIES” OR SNEAKERS
 - ✓ Navy blue, black or white
 - ✓ Socks have to be navy blue, black, white or red
- ❖ SLEEVELESS FLEECE TOP
 - ✓ Navy blue, red or black
- ❖ TRACK SUIT PANTS (PRIMARY SCHOOL ONLY)
 - ✓ NAVY BLUE OR BLACK

Grade 12 learners may also wear these items in combination with their other matric items, like the cardigan, pull-over and matric jacket.

The official school scarf and beanies will still be used.

Navy blue gloves will be allowed.

We trust that these changes to the uniform will serve its purpose. We wanted to make school uniform more affordable to parents, while at the same time creating a uniform that is warmer for the students.

I am appealing to everyone to embrace these changes and to implement it responsibly.

EXCELSIOR HOSTEL

Boarders can report at the hostel between 14:00 and 18:00 on Sunday, 7 May 2017.

Parents are reminded that the hostel fee of **R5800** per term is PAYABLE IN ADVANCE. Fees for Term 2 have to be paid when the boarders return after the holiday and NO learner will be allowed into the hostel if there are any outstanding fees for Term 1 or if fees for the 2nd term have not been paid in full.

Parents who prefer to pay the fees monthly, pay **R2200 per month for 11 months** (January to November). This is payable **IN ADVANCE** every month. It means that the fee for May has to be paid before the student will be allowed to enter the hostel on 7 May.

SCHOOL TERMS 2017

Due to the Passion Play, certain changes were made to the dates of our school holidays. The following dates apply:

Monday, 8 May: School re-open on 07:30 (**ALL LEARNERS** are expected to report to school on this day)

Friday, 29 June: School closes for the June holiday.

SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to the many parents who are paying their children's school fees punctually. Your commitment is highly appreciated. Other parents are requested to follow this example to ensure quality education to all our learners.

Parents are reminded that, in accordance with the South African School's Act, the payment of school fees is compulsory. **The Act further stipulates that if a parent fails to honour an agreement to pay school fees monthly, the total amount still outstanding for the year becomes immediately payable.** If a parent fails to settle the account in full, the account can be handed over for collection.

School fees for April 2014 was payable by 30 April 2017. This is an urgent appeal to all parents who did not adhere to this due date to pay their April fee immediately. **This is the only way in which we can ensure that there will be enough money to pay the teachers' salaries!**

OFFICE HOURS

The Admin- and Financial Office will be open from Tuesday, 17 April to Friday, 5 May, from 08:00 – 13:00, except on public holidays.

Accounts for April should be settled by 30 April 2017.

I would also like to remind parents about the debit order system which was implemented. Parents are encourage to make use of this system because it makes it much easier for parents to pay school fees regularly and it decreases the amount the school has to pay for bank charges.

Interested parents are requested to visit the Admin office in order to sign the necessary documents. They are kindly requested to bring along the following documents:

1. A copy of the account holder's identity document.
 2. Proof of address – for RICA purposes.
 3. Recent bank statements (3 months) as proof that salary is paid into account holder's bank account.
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ARTS IN SCHOOLS

During the last weekend of the June holidays, the schools Visual- and Performing Arts departments will be involved in a joint project with the Sterkspruit Community Arts Centre, by hosting the Arts in Schools workshop.

This is an exciting new project and we trust that it will grow from strength to strength.

PARENTS! HERE ARE 10 SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN'S LEARNING!

I would like to close this newsletter with some advice to parents, given by remedial therapist, Mr. J H Botha, on how to support their child's learning. I trust that parents will find this information useful:

1. **Be actively involved.**
Find out about the school's policy on homework and help the school to make it work.
 2. **Work with your child's teachers.**
Talk positively about school and teachers in front of your child.
Meet with your child's teacher and discuss ways to help your child.
 3. **Be a reader.**
Let your child see *you* reading. Read with your child for 10 minutes each day.
 4. **Punishment is not Discipline!**
Rules and boundaries give structure and stability to the child's living and learning; punishment bypasses the learning parts of brain and impacts the child's emotional life.
 5. **Help your child get organised.**
This will reduce anxiety and help you both feel in control.
Help your child organise books and school tasks. Work together on a timetable which includes play, homework time and study time.
 6. **Monitor TV / cell phone time.**
Research shows that poor readers watch TV for more than 3 hours a day.
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7. Feed your child well.

Provide nourishing breakfast and lunch. Discuss the day round the dinner table. Talk *with*, not *at*, your child.

8. Be encouraging, but realistic, about school achievements.

Expecting too much creates anxiety and sense of inferiority in your child. Be sensitive to these feelings.

9. Find out how your child learns best and develop these skills.

It is vital that children learn *how* to learn.

10. Get help if you think your child is not coping well.

As a parent, you also need support. Do not hesitate to seek help. Don't leave it so late that the child has to unlearn bad learning.

I trust that you will enjoy the holiday with your child(ren). Students should use this opportunity to REST – they will need it during the few short weeks leading up to the June examination.

Regards.

HN Bekker
Headmaster

DATES TO REMEMBER

14-16 April	LADY GREY PASSION PLAY
16 April	SCHOOL CLOSES (Term 1)
8 May	SCHOOL RE-OPENS (Term 2)
10-26 May	Free State Eisteddfod
1-6 June	Practical Exams (Art subjects)
7 June	June Exam starts (Grade 7 – 12)
16 June	Youth Day
30 June	SCHOOL CLOSES
1 - 8 July	INNIBOS TOUR (Le Passiones)