



**No 2**  
**26 January 2017**

Dear Parent/Guardians

The wheel of time keeps moving ahead and 2017 is certainly in full swing. The theme for this term is 'dignity'. The following story might assist in highlighting how we, as adults, possibly inadvertently allow ourselves to present with a lack of dignity:

"Okay, so I yelled a little too loudly when I yelled at my daughter. Okay, so maybe she didn't deserve as much of my anger as I let out. But, she did deserve some of it, didn't she? I mean, after what she did, could I just let it pass? Not say anything? Pretend it didn't happen?"

Who would she become, then? Should I just tolerate everything for the sake of not getting angry?

Okay, so it does make the house unpleasant and casts a pall over the evening, after I yell and she walks off with that look on her face and goes to her room and closes her door

You're right, it scares the other kids who just sort of look away and stay quiet for the rest of the evening, hoping I won't get mad at them.

And yes, I was in a bad mood when I came home, and yes, that did have some bearing on the way I responded. But still, should I have just let it pass? I mean, doesn't Chaya need some discipline, sometimes?

"Your dignity," my wife said.

"What? What does my dignity have to do with this? "

"When you yell like that, you lose your dignity."

"My dignity?" I questioned with exasperation. "I thought we were talking about her, about her behavior, her need to be taught right from wrong."

"You can do that with dignity," she said again. "When you lose your temper, you lose your dignity."

Okay, she got me. I sat down, ready to hear more. I took a deep breath and tried to stuff my defences in my pocket long enough to hear what she had to say.

"Chaya loves you," she explained convincingly. "She craves your approval. Your slightest look of displeasure is picked up by her and all the children." "If you had simply grimaced," she continued, "it would have given her the message, taught her the lesson, and yet, left your dignity intact."

"Just grimaced?" I asked, disbelievingly.

"Just grimaced," she repeated. "Chaya—all of them—are totally tuned in to you. You are their father. They love you and want you to be happy with them. When you're not, they notice and it matters. If you believed this, you wouldn't have to get angry. And if you didn't get angry, you'd keep your dignity. And if you kept your dignity, you'd teach them how to keep theirs as well."

Whoa! This was a lot to take in; too much to take in. And how did my wife get so wise? And where did she even find the courage to say all this to me, this husband not really known for accepting criticism in the lightest of ways, especially from his wife; this person who often saw criticism when there wasn't even any around. Was there any around?

Well, I looked and I couldn't find any. It felt close to criticism. It had some of the texture and smell of criticism. But there was something in the way she was telling me all this that didn't feel like criticism. But it did feel really important. Like something I should hear if I could just get my ego out of my ears.

"You mean to tell me that if I just grimace, the kids will get the message?"

"Yes," she said, "though you might also have to explain what you're grimacing about. But you don't have to yell to do that. Your displeasure is loud enough."

"And when I yell?" I asked.

"Painful," she said. "Straight into their little hearts; the hearts that love you." Oh, my!!

"But I don't want to be so responsible with my behaviour," I screeched. "What about spontaneity?" I pleaded. Can I ever be myself again? I cried out to the One Above.

"Of course," she replied. (My wife, not the One Above.) "Just don't get so angry. You don't need to, and it hurts your dignity. And the kids want you to have dignity."

Dignity. What a word. What a concept. What exactly did it mean? How could you lose it? Where can you find it?

"You're on your own. Figure it out. You'll get it," she said with confidence, and in such a way as to preserve my . . . yes . . . dignity. We ended the conversation with my ego intact. So, I started my research where any good student would go: to the dictionary.

Dignity: The presence of poise and self-respect in one's deportment to a degree that inspires respect; loftiness and grace. Syn. Decorum. Intrigued, I followed the link to decorum.

Decorum: . . . suitability of speech and behaviour to one's own character, or to the place and occasion . . . Poise in behavior. Poise again. I had to check that out.

Poise: To be balanced; the state or condition of being balanced.

This is what my wife was talking about, wasn't it? ". . . suitability of speech and behavior to the place or occasion . . .," "poise and balance." My anger had been out of balance with both the occasion and my daughter. I had done the opposite of "inspiring respect."

I began to think of my little Chaya trying to receive and contain my outburst of negative energy. I was angry for my own sake, not for hers. I had not only lost myself, but I had forgotten my daughter as well. She was simply overwhelmed by my intensity, unable to absorb or understand it. She was frightened, and I could envision her little mind and heart bursting from the power of my voice, words and facial expression. There was no way this anger could have any positive effect. My anger was only delighting in its own expression. And in behaving like this, I had lost, as my wife said, my dignity. And my daughter had suffered the consequences." Food for thought?

Some of our Grade 7 pupils, tasked with creating and supporting a culture of respect and dignity for all team members, have already been chosen as house captains. We would like to congratulate the following boys and girls:

#### **Duiker**

Captain Zethu Ncgobo  
Vice Willow Karusseit  
Captain Gabriel Ross  
Vice Osinda Mvinjelwa

#### **Springbok**

Captain Rachel Steven  
Vice Jorja McLintock  
Captain Aiden Anhaeusser  
Vice Ato Kaimpa

**Kudu**

Captain Sara McMaster  
 Vice Laa'iqah Naidoo  
 Captain Thapie Morapedi  
 Vice Nathan Merifield

**Impala**

Captain Annalea Chetty  
 Vice Amy Alexander  
 Captain Mzi Sibanda  
 Vice Vhutshilo Kone

Their leadership ability and passion to instill camaraderie and a sense of pride/dignity was met with great success during the Interhouse Gala held on Friday. Each house displayed what we, as a school, stand for and, through their enthusiasm and bonding with one another, reflected that they are indeed empowered with a moral compass. This understanding of team was enhanced when the entire group sang the song, 'Together', lead by Nipho, who stated that this song was chosen because "We, at Craighall, always work together." It was a very special moment.

Congratulations to Duiker on coming in first, followed by Impala, Springbok and Kudu. The spirit trophy was won by Impala. The following pupils broke records: Rachel Ball-Guymer, Callum Turner, Aidan Wasserman and Ruttger Schleisser. Trophies were awarded to Jessica Lumsden and Ruttger Schleisser for the Girls and Boys Junior Medley respectively and to Kristina Sheppard and Callum Turner for the Girls and Boys Senior Medley respectively. Well done to all of you!

**STAFF NEWS**

Happy belated birthday to Mrs Syed – Grade 3 (25 January) and to Miss Hardie (Grade 2), happy birthday for 4 February.

**FINANCE MATTERS**

Thank you to those parents who have made an effort to pay school fees timeously this year. Each parent is responsible for ensuring school fee payments are kept up-to-date. Exemption application forms will be available at the finance office from Mrs Govender from Monday 30 January from 8am to 2pm, Mon to Thurs. A parent who meets the criteria, as prescribed by the SA Schools Act, is entitled to an exemption, provided that the application is completed in full, together with the relevant documentation and returned timeously to the Accounts Office by 15 February. An exemption of school fees is only applicable for the current year. The school should be notified immediately of any change in your financial position.

Kind regards

A Prout-Jones (Mrs)  
 Principal

# Classifieds

While the school accepts outside adverts, we are unable to take responsibility for the nature and quality of the services offered)

## LOOKING FOR WORK

John, a Malawian gardener (071 795 7447), is looking for two days a week, part time garden work.

He is experienced in garden activities, is a hardworker, reliable and trustworthy.

He likes pets, can walk dogs, is proficient in compost-making, herbal production, cleaning swimming pools and cars, odd paint jobs and other related work

Contact references: 083 648 3215 and 083 460 8359.

Girls, have fun and adventure with 3rd Randburg Girl Guides. See us on Instagram

#guideshavefun

Contact Lyall Schwikkard on

082 808 9965



# KARATE 4 KIDS

WEDNESDAYS AT 14H00 to 14H40

D & T CENTRE

R 545 PER TERM

Sensei Stuart Hulley 083 417 6315

[karate4kids@iafrica.com](mailto:karate4kids@iafrica.com)

**ALL INTERESTED CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO TRY OUT**



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## CENTRAL PARKS

CITY CHURCH

**Central Parks is a vibrant, community of believers with large vision who love Christ Jesus and love the Parks.**

We meet on Sundays, 09:30am at  
Craighall Primary School.  
Cnr Rothesay and Grosvenor, Craighall Park

[admin@centralparks.co.za](mailto:admin@centralparks.co.za) | 082 885 4680  
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