



No 7

30 March 2017

Dear Parent/Guardians

We have come to the end of a very eventful first term. I always enjoy this term, as it is a time of growth. The children always come back at the start of the new year with an enthusiasm for learning, and this year has been no exception; it is great to see how much they have grown as learners and as confident, responsible people. They have a better understanding of this term's theme 'Dignity' and will hopefully be able to display such in their daily lives. The end of a term brings with it the culmination of the theme for that term, however, I would like to reiterate that, even though it is the end of my weekly discussions around it, the concepts need to be a part of an ongoing, lifelong journey.

'Dignity' indeed is a fitting theme as we have just celebrated Human Rights Day. The 1960s were characterised by systematic defiance and protest against apartheid and racism across the country. On 21 March 1960, the communities of Sharpeville and Langa townships, together with their fellow compatriots across the country, embarked on a march to protest against pass laws. The Constitution is the ultimate protector of our human rights, which were previously denied to the majority of our people under Apartheid. Hence, the commemoration of Human Rights Day to reinforce our commitment to the Bill of Rights, as enshrined in our Constitution. Human rights come with responsibilities and we all have the responsibility to build a society that respects the rule of law. In a world obsessed with human rights and the abuse thereof, we seem to be sacrificing the very core of what it means to be human, and that is, responsibility. We owe it to our children to train them to meet the demands of an increasingly competitive world. Professor Jonathan Janssen wrote an article which highlights that we will dig our graves in mediocrity unless we step up to the plate and accept our responsibilities without excuse. The journey is never easy and it requires courage and perseverance. But, above all, it requires respect for the values and principles that are imperative in fostering responsible human beings. Whether we are in the workplace, within communities, at schools, or with our own partners and children, we all need to demonstrate the kinds of responsibility that we would like to see in our country's future. We all have a responsibility to ensure that our human rights' record and the history thereof are preserved and strengthened for future generations.

A further right that I personally feel should be a priority is the right to have something to read, as the benefits of reading are endless. It is our expectation that each child's reading age should be commensurate with their chronological age. To achieve this, we need your support by encouraging your children to engage with good-quality literature at home. To this end and wherever possible, please choose the printed word rather than a screen over the holidays. Parents, please peruse your child's reports carefully and put interventions in place where necessary to ensure a good pass at the end of the year.

Congratulations to Miss Stockil (Grade 1) on her marriage, and she has now returned as Mrs Gaydon. The following staff members will be celebrating their birthdays during the school holidays:

Mr Dalle Ave – Grade 6 (5 April), Mr Jonas – Grounds (11 April), Mr Senekoane – Active Ed (12 April), Miss Peeperkorn – Grade 3 (14 April), and Mrs Anthony – Grade 2 (17 April).

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members of staff at Craighall Primary. The administrative, support and teaching staff all work together to create an environment that is safe and nurturing for the children in our care. It is by no means without its challenges and often thankless, but the love and dedication that goes into every day is remarkable. I wish them all a well-deserved rest during which to do things that feed the soul and bring restoration to the mind and body. To all our families whose support we rely on and the children who fill our days with laughter and some tears, enjoy the break and come back refreshed and ready to tackle a new term.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 18 April for the commencement of second term.

Drive safely and arrive alive!

Kind regards

Prout-Jones (Mrs)
Principal