



Dear Parent/Guardians

On October 19, 2017, we held our AGM which a cross-section of our parents/guardians attended. Thank you to the parents who showed an interest in the school and supported the event. Below is an excerpt from our School Governing Body Chairperson, Mrs Coral Van Zyl's speech on the night. I felt that it was most worthwhile including it in the newsletter as every parent/guardian needs to think about and act on what she said.

"I am sure that you know by now that the motto of our school is Craighall Cares. But who is it that we care about? If we take the old adage "Charity begins at home" then those closest to us seem to be high on the priority list in terms of whom we care about. Our school's tightest knit community is those of us in this room, the educators and staff of Craighall Primary School, the parents, grandparents and guardians, and the children that you represent.

And we are without doubt a diverse group. Looking at the Grade 4 Cultural Day alone, there were well over 20 cultures represented. However, diversity exists in many areas, the ones we can see, such as race and gender, but also in the many ways we can't see. By way of example, in our community right now there are those: who have lost loved ones in the most tragic of circumstances; who are having babies; who have lost babies; who have lost their jobs; who have been diagnosed with life-threatening diseases; who have beaten life-threatening diseases; who have bought their dream cars; for whom buying any car is a dream that seems unattainable; whose children have got married; whose children have excelled on the sports field and on the stage; whose children have been seriously ill; who are here for the last time; for the first; for whom just being here this evening has cost a lot; who are in pain; who are so stressed they are not sleeping; who are exhausted with the daily grind of school lifts; who would love to be able to drive their children to school; who are very much the centre of things at Craighall Primary; and those who feel excluded. We speak a great deal about diversity, and in many respects we feel proud of ourselves if we appear diverse. What is less obvious and much less spoken about is inclusion.

I was privileged recently to attend a workshop facilitated by Nene Molefi, author of 'A Journey of Diversity and Inclusion in South Africa'. What really stood out for me was how we end our conversations around diversity at the word 'diversity', and how we need to extend the conversation to make it about inclusion. We may be part of diverse groups of people, but unless everyone feels included and able to contribute, we fail to get the benefit of our different experiences and views. Inclusion requires courageous and deliberate work. Many parts of the world are moving in the opposite direction. As Mary-Frances Winters puts it:

"Over the past 20 years, we have witnessed increased and intensified global polarisation on many topics related to our differences. Unfortunate acts of terrorism, incidents that spurred movements like Black Lives Matter, Brexit (fuelled by xenophobia), and the divisiveness of the 2016 US presidential election are leaving indelible wounds on many. We see vast divisions that exacerbate an 'us-and-them' disunity, leading to heightened racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, classism, and homophobia. We are failing to find a shared purpose that binds all of humanity together. Rather than moving more towards shared meaning and understanding, as President Barack Obama said in his farewell address, we are staying in our own corners with like-minded people, entrenched in our own ideologies, unable to find a common vision."

In the farewell address by Barack Obama she is referring to, he says the following:

"For too many of us, it has become safer to retreat into our own bubbles, whether in our neighbourhoods, or on college campuses, or places of worship, or especially our social media feeds, surrounded by people who look like us and share the same political outlook and never challenge our assumptions. . . .All of us have more work to do. . . .Hearts must change. . . .But without some common baseline of facts, without a willingness to admit new information and concede that your opponent might be making a fair point . . . then we're going to keep talking past each other. . . .None of this is easy." *Barack H. Obama - January 10, 2017*

So why am I talking about this? This is the world our children live in. The concepts of diversity and inclusion impact them directly. Studies have shown that a child who is excluded is not sleeping as well as one who is included. The excluded child arrives at school feeling demotivated, stressed, without confidence, without energy, and his/her ability to learn something new and contribute and grow is severely compromised.

An included child is brave, confident in his/her ability to learn something new. An included child is willing to tackle challenges put in front of him/her, express the thoughts in his/her head, even if he/she is not sure how they will be received. In this world with increasing levels of misunderstanding and discord in so many places, and where this can be expressed on social media with little or no consequence, we need to be vigilant in protecting the excluded child.

I extend the challenge to each one of us, if your child is part of the group of the popular children, the included ones, those who always seem to find themselves in the centre of everything, or even those who have a close-knit group of friends, teach your children to reach out. Ask them about their classmates, ask them who's often alone, challenge them towards greater levels of empathy and show them what actions they can take to make those on the outside feel the joy of being included. Challenge your children to find out something new about their classmates every day – those they don't sit with, and especially those that do not look like them. If yours is the child who feels he/she is on the outside, either because he/she is excluded or because his/her tendency is to exclude him/herself, there exists the challenge to help him/her find his/her own community, his/her 'tribe'.

Our schools have recently been rocked by horrifying abuse scandals, by deadly bullying scandals. The most worrying aspect of these for me, is not that the evil exists, but that it is allowed to fester and those who are experiencing the victimisation feel too exposed and unprotected to voice what is happening. It is the isolated and excluded child who is most vulnerable. It is in communities and friendships where children feel safe where they will choose to talk about what is happening; an excluded child is incapable to speaking out against injustice.

Is this all a little heavy at primary school level? Perhaps it is, however, this is the time to build our children's skills, to help them increase their networks, to teach them to include others, to help them find a space where they are included. This might not come naturally to your child; it possibly doesn't come naturally to you, and I am certain that most of us were not taught these skills when we were children. But I am equally certain we are able to teach our children even what we were not taught, and by doing so, we can help them be better than we are at loving others, at accepting others, and protecting those around them who are vulnerable and in need. I think we can do better. And we have to do better. Our children will be better than us. I believe for them, diversity is a reality. But let's help push them towards inclusion, just as we push ourselves.

I would like to think that you are giving your child skills to include my child, and that together, as they get older and external influences and pressures increase, they are safer, wiser and better prepared to make courageous world-changing decisions. And I would like you to know that I am doing the same for you."

### **AGM Resolutions**

The following resolutions were adopted at the AGM. Letters regarding the school fees, book fee and levy payment have gone out. Please ensure that you adhere to the requested dates.

#### **Resolution 2**

That Craighall Primary School charge compulsory school fees of R23,000 per learner for 2018, payable as follows:

- If 2 or more siblings in the school - in full before 28 December 2017 with a discount of R2,760 (12%) = R20,240 x 2 or 3 if paying by EFT or Cash deposit, OR
- If 2 or more siblings in the school - in full before 7 December 2017 with a discount of R1,610 (7%) = R21,390 x 2 or 3 if paying by Credit Card, OR
- In full before 28 December 2017 with a discount of R2,300 (10%) = R20,700 if paying by EFT or Cash deposit, OR
- In full before 7 December 2017 with a discount of R1,380 (6%) = R21,620 if paying by Credit Card, OR
- In full before 27 January 2018 with a discount of R1,380 (6%) = R21,620 if paying by EFT or Cash, OR
- In full before 27 January 2018 with a discount of R690 (3%) = R22,310 if paying by Credit Card, OR

- Monthly in 10 equal instalments of R2,300 commencing on 25 January 2018 = R23,000 (an increase of only R125 per month). Debit orders are definitely preferable.

### Resolution 6

That Craighall Primary School charge a developmental levy of R1,100 per learner for 2018 payable as follows:

- Please pay this in full in December 2017, latest in full by 17 January 2018, being the first day of school.

### Resolution 7

That Craighall Primary School charge a Book Fee of R500 per learner for 2018 payable as follows:

- In full by the 30th November 2017. This is so we can order timeously for start of 2018 school year.

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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)

# PIRATES CLUB

## JUNIOR CRICKET

### 2017/2018

**PIRATES**

[piratesclub.co.za/juniorcricket](http://piratesclub.co.za/juniorcricket)

**First Period:** Sat 9 Sept 2017 – 2 Dec 2017

**Second Period:** Sat 13 Jan 2018 – 31 Mar 2018

**For Ages 4-13**

**Every Saturday  
9am-11am**

**R1850** for season OR  
**R150** per Saturday for casual

**Pirates Club, 25 Braeside Road, Greenside**

Contact Liam 071 160 4370  
[gallboys@mweb.co.za](mailto:gallboys@mweb.co.za) | [piratesjuniorcricket@gmail.com](mailto:piratesjuniorcricket@gmail.com)

Let's  
Go  
Swimming!



**Children, Adults, One-on-one lessons, Domestic workers, Private lessons for singles and groups**

Comfortable under-roof seating alongside the pool with full CCTV coverage of your child's lesson.  
Wi-fi, Coffee, Light snacks,  
Off-street secure parking



## Indoor Heated Pool

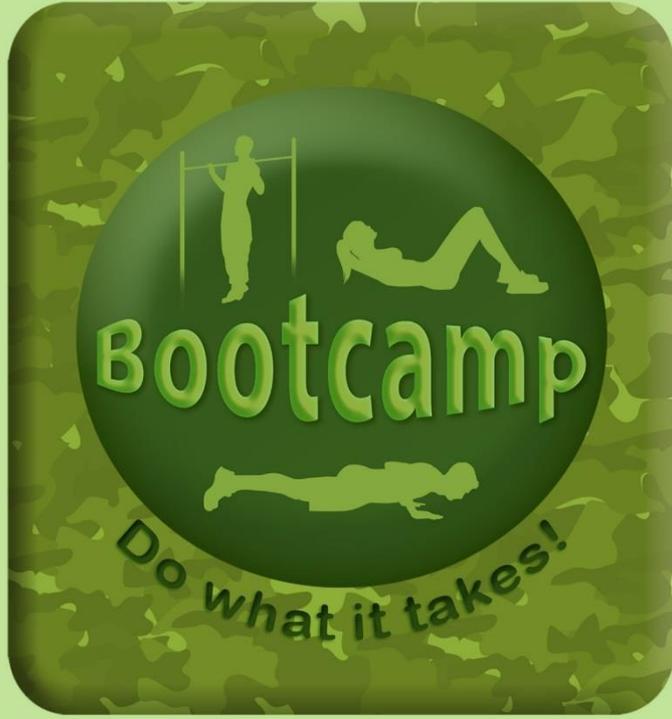
R650 p/m (1 x per week)  
R970 p/m (2 x per week)

R1 500 p/m (1 x per week, one-on-one)  
R2 600 p/m (2 x per week, one-on-one)

You are most welcome to make an appointment to visit our facilities

**SLEEKSWIMS**SCHOOL

41 St Albans Avenue,  
Craighall Park,  
The Peartree Centre  
Tel: 076 469 8160  
Email: [info@sleekswim.co.za](mailto:info@sleekswim.co.za)  
[www.sleekswim.co.za](http://www.sleekswim.co.za)



## Bootcamp Classes

Join **Colin White** every Monday at  
Trefoil Park Guide campsite (adjacent to the bird sanctuary  
in Delta Park) for a challenging workout.

Times -  
17.30 to  
18.30

**Special offer for the 1<sup>st</sup> 20 people to sign up!**  
First class free, thereafter R100 for a single class, R280 for 4  
classes or R350 for 5 classes.

For further details goto  
[www.boxingfit.co.za/bootcamp](http://www.boxingfit.co.za/bootcamp) or  
contact Colin on 0832334293 or  
mailto: [colin@boxingfit.co.za](mailto:colin@boxingfit.co.za)