



ST NICHOLAS DIOCESAN SCHOOL

34 Jabu Ndlovu Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201. Tel: 033-345-1566

OUR VALUES: Faith, Respect, Compassion, Integrity, Humility, Passion, Wisdom, Truth, Discipline and Courage

Newsletter 1: 28 January 2016

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Learners

We have started the year off very well at St Nicholas and it has been wonderful to see all of you that have returned to the St Nicholas family and to meet those of you that are new to our family.

This year our school is focusing on the 10 values that we believe embody what we as a school stand for. For the next week we will be focusing on our Faith. I have always believed that God has a plan for St Nicholas. Our learners, parents and staff are all part of His plan. Knowing this, it is essential for each one of us to ensure that we are all working together to achieve our goal.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to take an active role in their child's education. Ensure that homework is done; that your child arrives at school on time; and that you give them the emotional support they need to excel in their studies.

Teachers are all required to follow a personal development plan which will help them become experts in their field. We aim to identify learner issues early and to come up with innovative solutions to resolve these issues.

Learners must take responsibility for their education. Parents and teachers can guide and teach but ultimately it is up to the learner to study. We have a dynamic and diverse extracurricular program for all phases of the school and we encourage all learners to engage in this program. We offer extra classes in Mathematics, Physical Science and English for those in the High School that finding difficulties in these particular subjects. If your child wishes to improve his or her proficiency, it is crucial that they attend these classes.

I would like to thank each and every one of you that will be attending Our Parent Contact Evening. Communication is essential for us to ensure that we achieve our goals together. St Nicholas strives to ensure that our learners receive an education of the highest quality based on our Christian values and taking the child's spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing to heart.

Matthew 17:20 – Jesus replied, “Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Kind Regards

Leon Grove'

From the Junior School

Dear Parents, Guardians and Learners

It was great to see so many parents and guardians at the Foundation and Intermediate Phase Parent Evenings on Tuesday and Wednesday respectively. I trust that your child's class teachers outlined some of the key areas and systems that will be implemented in the classrooms for the year ahead.

There's plenty of evidence that shows that positive communication between parents and teachers helps improve academic performance. As your child's greatest teacher and role model, it is vital that you get involved in their schooling, and not sit back and let their teacher handle it all. Your child needs to see the importance that you, as their parent, put on their education. Attending the parent evenings is a great start to the year. It reassures your child that mum and dad are interested in their schooling and this will motivate your child tremendously and have a very positive impact on him/her at school.

While teachers are experts in teaching, you are the expert on your child. You know what stimulates, bores and interests them. You know what they are good at and what they struggle with. You know your child's learning style and you also know if there are any other personal or external issues that might be affecting their learning at school. So on-going communication with your child's teacher is essential to make sure they can tailor their approach to your child while in class. Please feel free to contact the school on 033 345 1566 to make an appointment to see your child's class teacher. I encourage communication between parents and teachers and if you are too busy to come to school for whatever reason, please write a note in the child's homework book and the teacher will respond to your note.

Another key to your child's education, is the communication between you and your child. All it takes is 10 minutes a day for you to ask your child about his/her school day. This will mean the world to your little one as they will now realise that mum and dad are interested in me and in what I do at school. Simple questions like "How was your day at school today?"; "How did your Maths lesson go today?" or simply "Tell me about your day at school?"

Assisting your child with his/her homework tasks is another vital component in your child's education. I will be focusing on homework in the upcoming weekly newsletters. For now, it is critical to ensure that there is a set homework time and routine at home and that you are there to assist your child with the homework tasks. Reading to your child and reading with your child is a wonderful way to show children that you are interested in their education. It strengthens your bond with your child and this will have a positive impact in their reading skills and education as a whole.

This newsletter will be sent home every Thursday as a means of keeping you informed as to what is happening at school. Please ask your child for this newsletter. This newsletter can also be mailed to you if you provide me with your correct email address. If you choose to go this route, please mail me on kamal@stnicholas.co.za with this request.

Our co-curricular programme is up and running. Our children will be engaged in Basketball, Swimming, Chess and Craft Club in the first term. All children are expected to participate in at least one of these activities during this term. The co-curricular programme and the calendar for term one was sent home last Wednesday. Please ensure that your child packs the correct kit on the appropriate sport days.

Children not playing sport should be picked up at 14h00 from the aftercare gate in Jabu Ndlovu Street. Children who are not fetched at 14h00 should be encouraged to complete their homework in the library or in the Alfred Mkhize Quad rather than loitering around the school property doing nothing or getting up to mischief.

All children in Pre-primary to Grade 4 should be dewormed every six months. Eye testing and hearing testing should be conducted at least once a year. Please try and have these done as soon as possible.

I trust that you and your child will have a great year with us at St. Nicholas Diocesan School. Let's keep the communication channels open.

"When people are determined they can overcome anything" – Nelson Mandela

Take care.

Kamal Rugbar

Congratulations



Mr Leon Grove' on your upcoming Installation as Principal

& Mr Kamal Rugbar on your upcoming Installation as Junior School Headmaster.

This memorable event will take place on 05 February 2016.

MySchool - Get your free card today. Every swipe counts!

MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet is one of South Africa's biggest fundraising programmes and allows you to make a difference, just by shopping. **Every time you use your card** at any of their partner stores(Woolworths, Toys-R-Us, My School Travel, Bidvest Waltons, Engen,Quick Shop,Altech Netstar and Power 24), they'll give back a percentage of your purchase value, on your behalf to St Nicholas Diocesan School at **absolutely no cost to you!** Parents and Guardians, this is very necessary funds that the Our School could use in many ways that will be to the benefit of our children. Please inform the school if you would like to apply for a MySchool Card.



MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet
EVERY SWIPE COUNTS

Well Done to Mr Jooma and The St Nicholas Marimba Band on being invited to play at the Natal Witness 170th Birthday Celebrations. We are extremely proud of you.





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