

5 February 2021

Dear Parents

“Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.”

Oscar Wilde

It does make for a wonderful change that I can write my weekly newsletter... with all our children having returned and not have my whole letter devoted to confirming Covid protocols etc.

With our Chapel having been re-purposed into the SP music room during Covid, the sound of choirs and marimbas practising is a welcome sound with my office right next to the Chapel. Obviously all protocols are observed, but it is wonderful to be able to return to aspects of “normality” while still observing all the required protocols.

Our new staff have settled in well and “hit the ground running”. We are so pleased to welcome **Mrs Anita Whitehead** (Grade 0), **Ms Monique Langlois** (Head of Learning Support), **Mr Paul Vincent** (Grade 5) and **Mr Owen Chimuka** (Head of Music). All experienced and passionate teachers, I am delighted at their appointments and wish them many happy years at Clifton Notties!

We also welcome our new Interns too, who have been through a rigorous orientation programme before school commenced. (Please see the photograph of our new Interns below.)

It is with sadness that I inform you that **Mrs Gill Bissett** (Head of Girls’ House) will be retiring at the end of the 2nd Quarter. She has given many years of dedicated service to our community as a whole and to Clifton Notties for the past 5 years. Appropriate farewells will be held closer to her departure.

As is customary, I endeavour to include an article/video in my newsletter each week; one which is hopefully interesting or offering an opinion which may be different from the norm. I came across this article, entitled “**Stop Trying to Raise Successful Kids...and start raising kind ones.**” Written by Adam and Allison Grant, it provides an interesting look at parent (teacher/child relationships). The link to the article is:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/12/stop-trying-to-raise-successful-kids/600751/>

Enjoy the weekend ahead!

Kind Regards



**VIKTOR KURZ
HEADMASTER**

New Staff Members:



Mr Owen Chimuka



Ms Monique Langlois



Mrs Anita Whitehead



Mr Paul Vincent

Our Interns:



*Sarah Rijs
Callan McLuckie
Megan Hatch
Linda Sibiya
Matthew Everest
Nonkululeko Chiliza
Cayden Poole
Lee Stopford
Mitchell Steenkamp
Beth Van Onselen*

News from the Riding School:



“Our riders enjoying the Clifton campus...”

We are excited to be able to report that our riding school has “kicked off” with a busy schedule this year. We are almost at capacity with only a few slots left for lessons for anyone still interested. We have been able to stable 8 ponies so far, with 3 stables open for any additional ponies, if any other children would like to bring their own. Should you like to find out more information about our riding school in general and/or what we offer, please feel free to contact **Mrs Lauren Menton** on riding.school@cliftonprep.org.za or see the D6 for further details under Resources, Riding School.

News from the Expressive Arts Department

Drama:

Mrs Nicolene Badenhorst writes:

Clifton... a place for brave creativity...

Traditionally, term 1 usually means an impressive production in the form of a play, but for obvious reasons this cannot happen in the foreseeable future, as a traditional audience has safety implications. But we, as a department and as a school, will not be stopped...

The Expressive Arts department, in collaboration with the Grade 6s & 7s will attempt a Clifton first... the making of a movie!

The children have received their scripts, "Dorothy in Wonderland", rehearsals have officially kicked off and everyone is excited about the concept. This is very new, for the children and their teachers, but in these uncertain times it is important to be brave and try new approaches. Limitations can also be seen as a great opportunity for creativity.

Practical implications:

- Please rest assured that the standard safety protocols, as per Mr. Kurz letter, will be strongly adhered to at all times of this adventure.
- We will be rehearsing each scene, with filming starting as we work through the play for the second time.
- We will be shooting various scenes across the whole Clifton campus.
- Resources and time, as always, are tight. With school opening two weeks later we are unable to guarantee that the movie will be ready by the last week of term. A lot of practicalities will only become apparent as we go (like timing, for example). We will do our very best to have the movie ready by the end of the April holiday. Please be patient with us, this is brand new to us all.
- Rehearsals are important and we ask that you please make it a priority in your child's life, by making sure they turn up for rehearsals (specifically if they're needed on a Thursday afternoon at 14:00), helping them learn their lines and encouraging their enthusiasm. Your child will receive a detailed rehearsal schedule on Monday 8 February, which might also change as the process unfolds.
- If finances and time allow, please purchase a face shield from the school shop for your child. With film, the emphasis is more on facial expressions than theatre skills like projection. We will not be rehearsing or filming without masks/face shields and a face shield is the better option.

We are extremely excited about this project. For a teacher, the prospect of teaching new skills, like camera angles and use of facial expressions to convey emotions and singing for the camera, are refreshing.

We are greatly looking forward to sharing this project with you, which you can watch with your superstar child at home (another first!)



Art:

Dr Faye Spencer writes:

The year has got off to a busy start with our Junior Primary children working at home in week one to create artworks using templates and instructions shared with them by their teachers.

Grade 1 children have made 'birthday candle cupcakes' and a few were shared with me. I was so happy to receive them!



Grade 2 children are working on bird themed tasks and so far have created lively 'handprint' hoopoe's.



Grade 3 children have constructed funky paper plate Polar Bears and Arctic Foxes!

Music:

We are so very pleased to announce that private music lessons began on Monday 1 February. If your child is interested in taking up (or recommending) private tuition in any of the following: Piano, Drums, Violin, Saxophone, Clarinet, Guitar and Voice please download the Private Music Application Form from the D6 and get in touch with **Mr Owen Chimuka** at sp.music@cliftonprep.org.za

The Grade 6&7 Marimba Band practices in “full swing”!

