



NEWSLETTER

Issue 5 - 2022

24 March 2022

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last night we held our first Parents' Forum meeting for the year. There was a good turn out with approximately 100 participants. I would like to extend my thanks to all the parents and teachers who participated and to all the Deputy Principals for their reports. We trust that the good communication between the school and parents will continue going forward.

This week the government released new regulations regarding Covid protocols. One of the biggest changes was that masks do not need to be worn in outdoor spaces. As the government is the highest office in South Africa, the regulations they make are the most valid. However, as an organisation, we are taking a conservative approach to the wearing of masks. We encourage our staff and students to continue to wear masks in any place where there are large groups of people, including outdoors. This being said, we cannot contradict the government's ruling and will not reprimand any students who do not wear their masks in outdoor settings. We will continue to

enforce the mask wearing indoors as per the government regulations. We ask that you encourage your children to keep to these protocols. We will also continue with screening protocols until we have received further instructions from ISASA, but we do not expect to receive these instructions during the course of this term. We will communicate the new regulations to you as soon as we have received them which will come into effect next term.

You may have seen the various marketing campaigns in our newsletter, on our Facebook and Instagram platforms. Our school has now started a regular Saturday market, the Red Panda Food and Cultural Market. We will also be hosting some free cultural activities for those who join the market, and we invite any interested parents and associates of the school to come and enjoy. I would like to thank Miss Chirima who has been working diligently on this project. If you are interested in setting up a stall, you can contact her via Facebook or her email. The pamphlet is further in this newsletter. We ask you to please like the pages on Instagram and Facebook to increase the traction.

We will be hosting various social media talks. This week will be the JP and SP and next week will be targeted towards the College parents. We encourage all parents and students to participate so that they can be aware of what is happening with their children's social media and how best to protect them.

Should you have any further queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Jennifer Neethling
Principal & Director of Business Administration



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I have been so fortunate to participate in the daily activities of the Preparatory School students. I pop in and out of classes and see what everyone is doing in the Senior Phase. The Junior Phase students eagerly share their work with me too. I also so enjoy the chats shared with the students in library periods, helping them find books according to their interests. Our enthusiastic librarian, Miss Volschenk, is continuously encouraging the reading of books by introducing games and the “dating books” programme. Different topical displays encourage the different phases to read. The Grade 4 and 5 groups are also actively participating in the SORA reading programme in their English lessons. Encouraging reading is essential for so many reasons, as elaborated on below:

- Vocabulary development – new words are added to our word banks. This is an essential practice exercised in our language departments where dictionaries are used to help check definitions for spelling words too.
- Continuous reading – the more we read, the better we get at it, and the more confident we become at pronunciation and speaking. Prepared and unprepared reading forms part of our assessments in the languages.
- Self-confidence and independence – reading independently, both out loud, and silently, encourages us to understand the world around us. Comprehension is an important part of deciphering and helps interpret information in all subjects.
- Feeling secure and making sense of the world – we can understand the signs and symbols around us for purposes of information, but especially in cases of warnings that encourages caution.
- Future academic success – progressing at school is essential through reading because we learn to follow instructions and answer questions in our schoolwork.

- Stimulates the imagination – reading encourages us to create a picture in our minds by imagining the story and the characters in it.
- Entertainment value – following the chapters in a book, and especially without pictures eventually, stimulates us to get “involved” in the story.
- Improves grammar – the composition of sentence structures with the correct grammar helps improve communication skills and reading by following cues using punctuation.
- Better writing skills – with an enhanced vocabulary, improved grammar skills, a good imagination, and an understanding of punctuation use, written works encourage better communication.
- Conclusion – reading is important for all aspects of life. Reading TO our children, reading WITH them, and allowing them to read to US, are all valuable experiences that teach growth, communication, and values that cannot be taught, but rather learnt through the experience.

REF: <https://www.opti-baby.co.za/10-reasons-why-reading-is-important-for-kids/>

So, dive into your home library, school library, community library, online library and find books to read to and with each other and in so doing, encourage the love of reading while sharing time together too.



Our eager mini cricketers arrived at St Paulus early on Saturday, 12 March, to participate in a cricket tournament. First to play were the Grade 0s and Grade 1s after a quick warm up session to co-ordinate eyes and hands before we moved to our playing fields.

The Grade 0s were a team of 9 eager beavers and faced Maragon's Grade 0s. To conserve concentration, we opted to field and bowl first. The team showed remarkable improvement from the first match a month ago. The fielders concentrated for longer periods of time, and they managed to bowl and take some wickets. After a quick water break, the team walked on to bat. This proved to be a trying task and hitting the ball

was the priority. Finally, everyone got a chance to bat, and the players could enjoy the icy provided by St Paulus.

The Grade 1s arrived very promptly and Coach Ayanda was pleased with their performance. They faced Southdowns' Grade 1s. They demonstrated an improvement and a better understanding of the sport. Batting proved a challenge as Southdowns needed more practise in bowling, but the team persevered.

The Grade 2 team was far more committed as more team players arrived and only a few Grade 1s were needed to fill the team. A few sixes were hit, and many wickets were taken. Coach Rey was impressed with their concentration skills. This was an enjoyable morning, and we want to extend our thanks to the parents for their involvement, as well as to the coaches – Stacey, Ayanda and Rey – for their commitment to their teams.

Junior Phase

Outing to Valley Farm Animal Hospital



On Friday, 11 March our Preschool went on their first outing for the year. Having completed the theme "Pets", this was an ideal outing. With great excitement, they climbed on

the buses and for some students, riding in a bus was a first-time experience, so singing a couple of songs while enjoying the view was great. At last, the bus turned into Old Farm Road in Faerie Glen and parked in a safe spot. All were escorted to an upstairs "classroom", where the nurse explained how to greet a dog, how to behave around other people's dogs and to show general courtesy when looking after dogs and cats.

The topic shifted to what the requirements are for having pets and after the different needs were discussed, they then visited the shop. A large variety of products are



available to ensure that our pets are happy. From the cutest jerseys to stairs for climbing up and down to exercise overweight dogs were displayed. The veterinary nurse spent a while explaining the variety of toothpastes available and showing our students how to brush their dogs' teeth.

The students were then taken to the pre- and post-operation section of the hospital. Large x-rays, an MRI and even a specific x-ray just for teeth to depict cavities, were examined. This hospital has the most impressive equipment to cater for all emergencies and operations. The section just for cats waiting for post-op proved a huge hit amongst the girls.



After this, the students were escorted to the intensive care unit. There were dogs with bandages, and some were crying while others were very excited to see the children. One of the dogs was so cold that a special heater was erected to keep her warm. Keeping them very quiet in this section was a challenge but most co-operated as they felt the empathy towards these sick animals.



Back in the classroom, the discussions continued, and bags were given to each child containing colouring in pictures, bandages and other treats. This was an educational and enjoyable trip and hopefully, an impression was made on how to appreciate and look after our pets.

SENIOR Phase

The Toastmasters Speech Craft Course

By Nuhaa Alladin (Gr 7M)

On the 18th of January, the Grade 7s had the first ever lesson at Toastmasters. This took place every Tuesday for 8 weeks. During this course, we learned about public speaking, how to write a speech, and to prepare and deliver a speech with confidence.

We know that all these aspects will stand us in good stead for the future and will definitely help us in our schoolwork too. We grew in confidence and learnt to train the butterflies in our tummies to fly in a straight line. This helps us stay calm in the delivery of speeches. Although there was a lot of talking and preparation involved on a weekly basis we, the Grade 7s, took in every moment and will cherish it (and this included taking selfies or posting TikToks!).

We learnt so much over this 8-week period and we encourage anyone who is in Grade 7 in the future to do this course, so that you can improve on your speech craft and make memories as we did as Grade 7s, Class of 2022.

The Toastmasters' Gala Dinner – 15 March 2022

By Amaan Alladin (Gr 7R)

The Toastmasters' Gala Dinner is the ultimate conclusion to the Toastmasters' Speech Course and the dinner was delightful, including the dessert. To be honest, I felt the butterflies flying in my stomach when presenting my speech, but overall... it was an enjoyable experience. I did both a prepared and impromptu speech for the event, and it turned out to be surprisingly successful.



I was truly grateful to hear the other contestants'

speeches which gave me a whole ton of inspiration, such as adding more expression and humour to your speech. Trust me, you do not want to bore someone to death!

My Prepared Speech was titled: The B·N·P· (Book Nerd Problems) Disease and I delivered it in a time of 3 minutes and 39 seconds, not bad as we had to do this in 4 minutes or less.

For the Impromptu Speech section, the Grade 7 members received a topic to the title of: Why You Deserve an Allowance, so as a result, everyone let out all their laughter!

Our Toastmaster for the evening was Nuhaa Alladin, and Tanika du Plessis was the Toastmaster for the Impromptu Speaking section. Every member of the Toastmasters' Speech Course had an important role to play, that includes the judges.

I congratulate all the members for participating in this memorable event of public speaking, especially all the winners.

The 3 foremost winners of the evening were:

- Kgahliso Mofokeng (Gr 7R) - Prepared Speech
- Ternez Moodley (Gr 7M) - Impromptu Speech
- Leabilwe Keitsemore (Gr 7M) - Toastmaster of Excellence Award



The Toastmasters' Speech Craft Course is an amazing opportunity in which leaders are made, and as Mr George Jessel once said, "The human brain starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public."

We learnt to conquer our human brain.



Operation Blacksmith Lapwing

To the great consternation of the Gr 6s, a Blacksmith Lapwing bird was seen at the swimming pool with fishing line entwined around its legs. The poor bird could only hop about and was obviously battling to feed. Coach Nicky and a team of caring students tried to catch the bird, but it obviously didn't understand that they were trying to help. Both its legs were so enmeshed in the line that the bird's toes were deformed as the line had bitten in deeply.



The poor bird eventually became so weak that Mrs Mauldon was able to catch it and with one of our caretakers, Steven's help, the line was cut away. The process took about half an hour and the bird lay quietly and accepted the help. It survived the ordeal and is still around in the pool area. Its legs are still weak but at least now it has a chance of survival. This is sad proof to how polluted our earth has become but at least we were able to save one small creature to redress the harm done. We will continue to monitor our Lapwing and will give an update in a later newsletter. Thank you, PCS, for caring!

Have a safe weekend and enjoy time with your families.

Kind regards

Lydia Curwen
Deputy Principal: Prep. School



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been an incredibly busy two weeks. Not only are we gearing up for the end of term and all the sections of work that need to be completed before then, but we

are also mindful of our commitment to take our student's education beyond the classroom. To this end, the SEC organised a very successful Culture Week. Not only did the students learn a lot about the different cultures, but they also had fun. Sometimes we forget that we can learn a lot quicker when we are enjoying what we are doing. A full report on the Culture Week follows.

The teachers have organised day outings to enhance the students' learning even further on 12 April. Many venues are still closed due to Covid restrictions, but I believe that the planned outings will be of immense value as far as general knowledge, a wider worldview, and possible careers go. Please note that this day is a compulsory school day.

People who are not in education do not always appreciate the fact that schools are dynamic organisations. There should be a culture of learning and growth for both the staff and the students, and I am always delighted when our teachers actively pursue their own growth. This year we have a number of teachers who are doing Honours, Master's, and PhD degrees. When teachers are actively learning, they are able to give their students a wider and more perceptive view of the world. The unfortunate downside of this learning culture is that teachers will leave PCS as they look towards their own growth. Ms Ditshego left to follow a different degree course at university, and Ms Douglas has been given the opportunity to teach senior English classes. We will miss them, but wish them the very best, and hope that they are very successful in their further careers.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Otto (EGD and technical drawing) and Mr Swart (junior English) to the College phase. Mrs Otto is so enthusiastic about joining us that, even though she is still serving her notice at her previous school, she has given up her school holiday to be with us for the next two weeks. We are very grateful for her sacrifice.

Mr Swart joins us as the Grade 8 and 9 English teacher and Ms Simigianis will take over Mrs Gellings' post and retain some of her previous duties. We hope that they will all be a part of the PCS family for a long time. Ms Schorr will be taking Life Orientation for Grades 8 and 9, Mrs Curwen will take the Grade 8 History and Mrs Pullinger will teach the Grade 9 History classes.

Culture Week

By: Ms Schorr

Culture Week is always a highlight for the College students. This year's focus was on celebrating

diversity and heritage while also appreciating artistic talent and skill. Our SEC Heads of Culture, Jassie Yuan and Khensani Motsepe, along with the other SEC members really showed with their organisation of the week. While the Culture Week was aimed at the College, there were some activities that the Preparatory school could participate in as well.

On Monday we celebrated Chinese Day. The tuckshop sold dumplings and noodles while College students graced us with their incredible traditional Chinese outfits. The Chinese Department organised a fantastic Chopsticks Master competition and we even saw some of our teachers give it a go. Popular Cpop and Kpop music was played during break and the whole school showed off their artistic skills with that day's colouring competition.

On Tuesday we celebrated English Day. The tuckshop sold fish and chips while College students were challenged with dressing up as their favourite literary character, author, or English musician. We saw some incredible costumes and outfits and even better colouring-in pages from the rest of the school. A professional bagpiper played bagpipes for the whole school at first break, and it was great to see some of the students try to mimic the finger movements and stances of the bagpiper. At second break, some of our College students delivered their own slam poems and showed off their amazing talents.

On Wednesday we celebrated South Africa Day. The tuckshop sold vetkoek and mince while the whole school dressed up in their heritage or South African-inspired clothing. It was a whirlwind of colour that day and we all learnt so much from each other. South African music was played during break and we saw some of our students show off their dance moves.

On Thursday we took time to appreciate art. The tuckshop sold veggie wraps and the College students participated in a collaborative art piece. Music was played at break and, as the younger generation says, the whole day was a 'vibe'.

Finally, on Friday, we had our first ever Comic Con Day. Students had to dress up as their favourite character from a movie, series, anime, or video game. We also had a competition for this, and we saw the most fantastic costumes. A huge congratulations to

Masola Mampye in Grade 12 who won the competition with his *Peaky Blinders* costume. He won a set of Volcano headphones valued at over R500. The tuckshop sold corn dogs and music from movies, series, and anime was played during breaks. To see some of the highlights of the day, go check out the reel and video on our Instagram and TikTok pages!



Warm regards

Mary-Ann Pullinger
Deputy Principal: College



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Red Panda Food & Cultural Market

The Red Panda Food & Cultural Market specialises in Asian goods and products. However, we have approached various vendors and other kinds of goodies can also be found here. Please join us for breakfast, lunch or brunch and look out for our FREE cultural experience activities held monthly. For vendor and stall applications, please email nchirima@pretoriachineseschool.com.

Also take note that the market time has been adjusted to **8:00–12:00** on Saturdays. Below is the link to our school market for more details and updates. Please like and share so that we can create more awareness about it! Thank you all!

<https://www.facebook.com/RedPandaMarket894>



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@ Pretoria Chinese School







Every Saturday
08:00 - 12:00

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FREE monthly cultural experiences*
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Pretoria Chinese School
Cnr Dennil and Halse Street
Wingate Park, Pretoria



For stall and vendor application contact:
nchirima@pretoriachineseschool.com



Chinese Department

By Nyaradzo Chirima

On the 15th day of the first lunar month, two weeks after Chinese New Year, another important traditional Chinese festival, the Lantern Festival, is celebrated. It marks the first full moon of the new lunar year and the end of the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) period. It was celebrated on Tuesday, February 15th in 2022.

On the night of the Lantern Festival, streets are decorated with colourful lanterns, often with riddles written on them. People eat sweet rice balls called tāng yuán, watch dragon and lion dances, and set off fireworks.

To celebrate this festival, the College students made tāng yuán in class. We rolled out the glutinous flour and food colouring and boiled them in a sweet syrup to make the delicious comforting sweet desert. The students enjoyed the practical activity and are looking forward to the next one.



Chinese Culture Day

The Chinese Day which was held on Monday 14 March and was a great success. Twelve teams made up of four members each, including some College teachers, participated in the “Chopsticks Master” competition. The winning team from each round received a pack of chopsticks as their prize. A big thank you to those students who supported the Chinese food and drinks stall. The funds raised will be used for the Grade 7 farewell party.



Kind regards

Angela Liu

Deputy Principal: Chinese



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your CALENDAR



Monday 28 March	
Tuesday 29 March	
Wednesday 30 March	
Thursday 31 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ KLC Initiative (Easter Eggs Collection) ➤ College Social Media Talk
Friday 1 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ College Inter-House Water Olympics

Monday 4 April	
Tuesday 5 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Soccer U17 Premier Division @ PCS vs Pta Central ➤ Soccer U15 Premier Division @ PCS vs Reddford A
Wednesday 6 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ JP Hearing Test
Thursday 7 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ JP Hearing Test ➤ College Table Tennis (@ Affies Seuns)
Friday 8 April	