



CIRCULAR NO. 8
23 JULY 2010

NEWS AT SAHETI!

GREETINGS!

Welcome back after a very exciting and football-fun-filled break! We certainly hold our head up high for South Africa having hosted one of the best World Cup tournaments in the last 20 years! Now that we are back into the school term, it is rewarding to see how everybody has settled back into a rigorously busy term. Please be aware that this phase of the term will end on 20 August 2010. There will be a short break from 21 August – 5 September 2010 with school re-opening on the 6th September. PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM 6 SEPTEMBER UNTIL 3 DECEMBER, THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONAL HOLIDAYS EXCEPT FOR 24 SEPTEMBER WHICH IS A GRANTED PUBLIC HOLIDAY. For your information, details of the calendar may be downloaded from our website.

STAFFING

Ms Tania Patrikios has been granted sick leave until the 20th of August. We welcome **Mrs Debbie Katakuzinos** who will teach Grade 6 and 7 English and Drama in Ms Patrikios' place.

HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS

Matric Prelim Examinations have commenced. As these take place in the Music Centre we request those passing the Music Centre, to be sensitive to the noise levels in the area. Grade 8 – 11 examinations commence on the 2nd August. All examinations from Grade 8 – 12 will end on 20 August 2010. Please be aware of our procedures and policies in terms of examinations:

1. All pupils are to present themselves 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the reading time.

2. Only transparent pencil cases will be permitted to be brought into the exam venue.
3. Pupils may bring in a bottle of sealed water.
4. PUPILS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE EXAMINATION UNTIL THE FULL DURATION OF THE PAPER.
5. Should a pupil be absent, the Academic Director and Grade Controller need to be informed before 7h30 am. A detailed doctor's note explaining the nature of the illness needs to be faxed or emailed to the Grade Controller. The Grade Controller will make arrangements for the examination to be written.
6. If a doctor's note is not produced and the doctor's note does not specify the nature of the illness, the pupils will be awarded zero.

PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS DEPARTMENT

- **Tina Piagalis** in Grade 4 has been awarded Central Gauteng colours for Gymnastics.
- The **under 9 and under 12 Soccer teams** have progressed to the semi-finals of the Soccer Knock Out Cup Competition.
- Athletics training will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons for an hour after school. The Inter house meeting will take place on 11 and 12 August (field) and 18 August (track).
- The Tennis championship is taking place from 19 – 24 July. The finals will be played on Friday 24 July.

FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

- Warm greetings from the Psychology Department! We trust everyone enjoyed the World Cup festivities over the extended holiday period and that you are all prepared and enthusiastic for the challenge of the remaining year.

GRADE 12

We have received the following update from WITS "Although Applications to the Faculty of Health Sciences closed on the 30th June 2010, the deadline for Applications to the remaining Faculties (Commerce, Law & Management, Engineering & the Built Environment, Humanities and Sciences) is **Tuesday 31st August 2010**. We are pleased to inform you that our Online Applications, which went live on the 3rd May 2010 are running smoothly. Learners wishing to apply online may follow the link on our website www.wits.ac.za."

GRADE 9

The grade 9's will be receiving an hour long presentation by Mr. Ziyaad Khan from WITS next week to gain further information about faculty requirements and important factors to keep in mind when making their subject choices. The talk has been scheduled to take place during the school day.

The grade 8's and 9's have all received three pre-workshop questionnaires to assist them determine their learning styles; time management techniques and places of study. The workshops will be hosted next week so that strategies can be put in place for the exams.

- Matric and Grade 11 learners interested in studying overseas are encouraged to attend the 3rd Annual Global Education International Tertiary Education Exhibition at the **Sandton Convention Centre on Monday 26th July from 3pm – 7pm**.

This **International Study Options Exhibition** is being promoted with the vision of "**Bringing your specialized skills back home and make South Africa proud**". The exhibition is expecting 10 institutions from America, Canada and Australia, to be available to answer any questions learners may have regarding their options of further studies.

Attendance to the exhibition is **FREE**. For further information contact Keshni Pillay 079 964 8353 or www.globaleducation.co.za

OUTREACH

Outreach – Mandela Day

High School

The highlight of our first week back after the World Cup month was the exciting preparation for Mandela Day. This day was celebrated by hosting the children from Kids Haven on Sunday, 18 July. Our more than 67 minutes began with a soccer and netball coaching clinic. Our pupils assisted the girls in making beautiful charm bracelets and this was our gift to Kids Haven. Lovely refreshments were provided and clothes, shoes, books and sport equipment were donated to Kids Haven. In Madiba's words, 'It is time for the next generations to continue our struggle against social injustice and for the rights of humanity. It is in your hands'.

Primary School

To participate in the Mandela Day initiative the Primary School showed their support to Kensington Laerskool. The Primary School filled two busloads on Friday (17th July) – one with pupils and one with collections. The SAHETI pupils spent some time at the school and shared in musical activities. These enthusiastic learners demonstrated a number of dances and taught the steps to the Laerskool children. The fun continued when 180 Learners from the Laerskool Kensington, worked with members from the SAHETI team to create their own miniature rocking chairs. Stationery, colouring in books and reading material were left for the school to use at their leisure. Lunch and tasty treats were prepared by our children for the children from the Laerskool. Thank you to all pupils and especially parents who have assisted us in this BLITZ campaign to collect all the donated items and to show our support for Mandela day.

Pre Primary

In the Pre-Primary School, the Grade 0's visited the Mother Teresa Home for orphans and abandoned children on Friday 16 July. SAHETI children entertained the children at the home with song and dance and played with them in the garden. There was also a donation of milk and a teddy bear for each child.

Finally, during the service at our school chapel on Sunday 18 July, the sermon had a theme relevant to the commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day, and in addition, there was a cash collection, the proceeds of which will be donated to the "Children of Fire", a charity which helps young survivors of burn injuries.

FROM THE P.T.A.

Dear Parents please save the following date:

The SAHETI P.T.A. invites parents and learners alike, to a very informative and insightful presentation on "Social Networking in the Electronic Age". Topics covered will include technology, availability, range of social forums in use, networking trends, do's and don'ts and the reality of the cyberworld amongst others.

DATE: **Wednesday 28 July 2010**

TIME: **18h30 for 19h00**

VENUE: **SAHETI Music Hall**

The presentation will be by Colin Morris, an authority in the field, who recently addressed school pupils on a similar theme. Please support this communication initiative, and get answers to the questions you have always wanted to ask.

All queries can be forwarded directly to the SAHETI P.T.A. at pta@saheti.co.za or contact NATALIA on 082 330 3752 / (011)789-5041.

ART COMPETITION

The Lyceum Club of Greek Women organized a 2010 FIFA World Cup Art Competition where over 1000 entries were received from all over South Africa. SAHETI Primary and High School pupils also participated in this Art Competition. This Competition gave children the opportunity to creatively combine the culture and heritage of Greece and South Africa.

The Prize Giving Ceremony took place on the 15 June 2010 at the Cyprus Club. In Category 3, Senior Phase Age 15 years to Grade 12, **Stephanie Akakios** (Grd 11) won **SECOND** Prize and **Angelique Bertsatos** (Grd 11) won **THIRD** Prize. **Congratulations to both girls!**

LIFT SCHEME REQUIRED

"Lift Required for my son, Kimón Mazarakis - Grade 5 - If anyone can assist in helping me with collecting Kimon at school from 4pm, to drop him off at our house in Kensington. From Monday - Friday. Starting from Monday August the 2nd. Would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me on 082 852 0344 or 011 622 0898 or e-mail maz@mweb.co.za

Tania Mazarakis."

Mrs A. KRYSTALLIDIS
EXECUTIVE HEAD

EURO TOUR WOES

Of course, we've all heard how wonderful the Euro Tour was, how well-organised it was, how it was enjoyed by all. But there are some things we may not have heard, or, particularly, as parents may all not be aware of. But, not all of what follows applies to everyone.

Some children are socially inept. They lack basic life skills like how to cross a road – a flashing red man on the traffic lights means 'don't walk'. There were times when they resembled the wildebeest crossing the Masai Mara River – one makes the start and the herd follows, often into the gaping mouths of crocodiles. Watch National Geographic and you will see what I mean.

Some children are sorely lacking in the manners department. People, adults specifically, are not there to serve their whims and beckon to their every call – particularly when that is expressed by the "snapping" of one's fingers. They may call their dog in that manner, but not people. You, as parents, may accept this. We don't and other adults may not be as tolerant as we were.

Some children show a blatant disregard for punctuality and while staying up till early hours of the morning may have contributed to waking up late, we fear that the reasons are deeper – a sense of entitlement, a sense that "Oh, they can wait" or "they won't leave without me". It's best that they learn soon that life and the world will wait for no one.

Some children seemed oblivious to surroundings and their significance. Their behaviour was *shockingly* inappropriate. And no, we are not exaggerating. We find it disturbing and horrifying that some of them posed for a "modeling" shoot, wearing bikinis, and painting their lips, at places like Auschwitz and the Ghetto Memorial. They seemed oblivious to the fact that these two places specifically, represent horror and suffering in all its gore and are such blatant examples of man's inhumanity to man. As one of their classmates pointed out, "don't they realize they're posing on a grave?"

Some children can look you directly in the eye and lie – lie about being responsible, lie about sneaking out, lie about getting drunk, lie about smoking – masters of excuses and deception. And what's worse is that you know they are lying and you're hoping they'll actually just be honest and accountable for their actions – and you're left disappointed, disillusioned.

Some children may have visited the most incredible places but all that mattered was Zara, Bershka, McDonald's. Parents paid close to a hundred thousand rand for their children to go, not on an educational tour, but on a shopping spree of Europe. That's sad. Tragic.

Some children have no clue of boundaries and no concept of consequences. Assaulting another person is a criminal offense, and daring someone to do it and promising a financial incentive, is sharing in the guilt and borders on juvenile delinquency.

Some children need to be told about the “birds and the bees” – urgently! And they need to be told about what is acceptable behaviour for their age-group. Enough said!

Some parents need to take responsibility for their children – for not teaching basic things like manners and boundaries, for having sheltered them too much, for having spoilt them, for raising children that may one day be materialistic, ego-centric, emotionally-challenged and unable to cope with adversity and responsibility.

And yes, we know that some will think we are exaggerating, over-dramatizing, that we are too idealistic, but those parents would do well to be honest with themselves, not to once again blame someone else, and to assume their responsibilities in the correct upbringing of their children.

Thankfully, ‘*some*’ children are not *all* children.

Fr. Petros