



Green Gossip

Contact us with news and views. greengossip@stirlingps.co.za

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SCHOOL IS COOL!

A new school year is now well on its way and 2010 promises to be another very successful year at Stirling Primary. Keep an eye out for each Green Gossip as we bring you the news and pictures from all our Stirling adventures!

2009 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

I saw on Mrs Hill's hat it said F.I.B. I like the part that Mrs Dell pulled Mr Dell by the ear ha ha ha! Mr Coetzee made the hole concert up. Mr Coetzee is a very nice man. I like the Chinese girl Mibi and her karate moves. Oh and Christmas is not about Father Christmas or about getting presents it is about Jesus. Oh and happy Christmas.

Wesley Grade 1 2009

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Food for thought: *The Power of Focus*
(adapted from RadioKansel's daily reading of 18 January 2010: word@radiokansel.co.za)

Focus does three things for you:

(1) It keeps you on target. We find ourselves pulled in a dozen different directions, spending much of our time and energy on things we don't really care about. Author Don Marquis put it this way: "Ours is a world where people don't know what they want, and are willing to go through hell to get it." (Pr 4:25-27 NIV "Let your eyes look straight ahead. Do not swerve to the right or the left".)

(2) It increases your energy. Attempting everything, like attempting nothing, will suck the life out of you. Focus gives you energy. Admiral Richard Byrd, the Polar explorer, said, "Few men during their lifetime come anywhere near exhausting the resources dwelling within them. There are deep wells of strength that are never used." One of the reasons those wells go untapped is lack of focus. The mind doesn't reach toward achievement until it has clear objectives.

(3) It lifts you. It has been said that "the world stands aside to let anyone pass, who knows where he or she is going". In a sea of mediocrity, just knowing what you want to do and making an effort to pursue it, distinguishes you from almost everybody else. Just by striving to become better than you are, you become elevated - even if you don't accomplish what you desire, and even if others don't step aside for you. By trusting God and aiming higher, you move to a higher level.

Let us be totally focussed in our goal to prepare our children for a future which will demand self-discipline, purpose and love for others.

Kind regards
P.M. Johnson
Headmaster



BRUSH, BRUSH, BRUSH AND SPIT!

In Grade 1 we even bring our toothbrush to school to learn how to clean our teeth well.

AMUSING EXCERPT

Our Foundation Phase teachers often have a little chuckle when reading their pupils' news: At home I watched Hell Boy 2, the golden army it was age risted. But my big big sister wanted to watch it. I don't now why I'm the won to boss around all the time. Then she wanted me to watch the Sinderlu Story the movie.

Chulu Grade 2 2009



GREAT TIMES IN GRADE R

Our new Grade R pupils are having a wonderful time trying out all the equipment in their playground and getting to know new friends.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Have you heard about the new play the drama department is working on? It's the Disney Movie Mulan! Auditions will be held next month. We can't wait for our actors and actresses to start working on this wonderful production. The movie is based on a girl called Mulan who fights in a Chinese war alongside her friend Mushu.

Okuhle

S.U. SHOE COLLECTION

Stirling collected 87 pairs of school shoes for children less fortunate than us – this is a new record! Sue Bentley, the director of Scripture Union, thanks us for our contribution. Pictured here are her two boys, James and Stephen, with the pile of shoes from Stirling. THANK YOU



MASTER AND MRS SMITH

Name: Joshua David Smith
 Birthdate: 18 September 2009
 Birthweight: 4.03 kg
 Current weight: 7.5 kg
 Birth height: 52 cm
 Current height: 68 cm

"I never dreamed I could love somebody so much. He has stolen my heart." This is what Mrs Smith said when we asked her how she feels about being a mother. Is Mrs Smith happy to be back at school? Well, yes and no. She misses her Josh lots but she has a lovely class who cheers her up. Mrs Smith tries to give 100% to both. When she is at school she is totally focused on teaching and when Mrs Smith gets home Josh gets all her energy and attention. We asked Mrs Smith if she has ever felt like not going to school and staying with Josh. She replied, "No, but I'm often tempted to pop him in his car seat and bring him with me." Mrs Smith is excited about this year and says she is going to be very busy watching her little baby growing up. Her Josh is very sweet and has a cute birthmark on his right hand and a smile that can melt anyone's heart. "Frodo, my dog, was very jealous in the beginning but now he's fine with it. Layla, my cat, is not interested and just ignores him" she says. Her motto for this year is to give of her best and to trust God to handle the rest.

Holly and Jance

STAFF NEWS

A new year always brings with it changes to the staff. At the end of last year we said farewell to Mr Harris. After 17 successful years at Stirling Primary, he has moved on to Voorpos Primary School as Deputy Headmaster. While we are very sad to see him go, we wish him well in his new challenge.

This year we officially welcome Miss Alison Hillstead to the drama department. Although she was on staff last year, this year she will be focused on teaching the Foundation Phase pupils as well as doing afternoon classes with them.

Mrs Carla Britnell is the new face heading up Peter Pan. She takes over from Mrs Ballard, who retired at the end of last year.

Mr Wesley Renton has joined the Grade 7 team in Mr Malherbe's old class as he fills Mr Harris' gap in the Mathematics department.

Grade 6 also has a new face. We welcome Mr Warren Ahschlager.

Miss Brink has filled in, in a number of roles at our school and is so excited to now be placed in Grade 3 where she has already begun to make her mark.

We also welcome Mr Mark Guest from the UK who is heading up our cricket academy this year.

We also have a JOT teacher for the first time this year and would like to welcome Daniel Marshall in this role.

While Mrs Krüger is on maternity leave, Mrs Mary Lou Berndt will be thrilling the Foundation Phase pupils in the Computer lab.

And on that note; Congratulations to Mrs Krüger and her family on the safe arrival of Cara Trixie.

Born 18 January,
 Weight 4.03 kg,
 Length 52 cm.



STAR SWIMMERS

Congratulations to Brooke Swanepoel, Danielle Smit, Faiz Soomar, Luke Seymour and Tyla Phillipsis (absent from photo) who were chosen to represent Border in an Inter-Provincial gala that was held in Uitenhage on 23 January.

SUPER STUDENTS

On the 10th of February the Grade 6 and 7 pupils walked across to Stirling High School to listen to Cynthia Tobias speak on learning styles. Mrs Tobias is an education specialist in America and spent some time in East London speaking on various topics. We were all given handouts that told us how we differ in our study techniques. She talked to us about how to find our strengths and how to learn in our own way. Although it was extremely hot, she kept us interested and even made us laugh. We learnt that some people like to eat and drink while studying while other people don't, some like to sit in a chair at a desk and some like to sit on the floor, couch or bed. Some like to study in bright lights and others like to study in soft or dim light. We also learnt that some people like to move around while they are studying and some people like to stay still and not move around. The three best ways to succeed in life is to know your strengths, know what you need to succeed and to prove it works.

Jance, Dani and Rachael



CRICKET ACADEMY

The Cricket Academy is now in full swing. The Academy offers individual, specialised coaching with indoor and outdoor facilities for your child's advantage. Our English Coach Mark Guest is putting the boys through their paces every afternoon on the Stirling Primary School fields. The aim of the academy is to inspire our cricketers to think, knuckle down, dig deep and up their game.

THE CRICKET ACADEMY Easter Holiday Camp Bookings now open: Call Mark on 0786016199

STIRLING MOMS KEMPSTON LADIES NITE RACE

Saturday, 6th March 2010 @ 17h00 : Oxford Striders

Dress in green, and come and run, walk, run or crawl
 5km OR 10km!



It is all for fun...bring your daughter too!
 Cost - Own

For more info go to <http://stirlingmoms.ning> - EVENTS

ATHLETICS DAY 2010

On the 18th of January everyone arrived at the Jan Smuts Stadium excited and ready to do their track and field events. All the Grade 4-7 pupils started cheering loudly as they watched their friends running around the track. As the day progressed and got hotter and hotter our cheering got more and more quiet. As the day began to come to an end, Froelich decided to start singing. This was a good decision because the other houses joined in and Mr. Malherbe made us feel special because he told us it was the best Athletics day ever. The highlight of the day was definitely when the teachers ran against each other. After some argument, we suspect that Mr Renton's team won the race. Well done to Froelich and Hall for their close end result: Froelich with 278 and Hall with 274 but Brown house defeated all with 361 points!

Okuhle and Rachael



ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Last year Stirling Primary School sent 6 artworks to the Republic of China to take part in the 40th annual World Schoolchildren's Art Exhibition. We were thrilled to hear the news that 4 of these were selected for a travelling exhibition, 1 of which received the ONLY gold award in South Africa. Well Done Jaimey-Lee and Lia on the gold award and Nicos, Soso and Bianca (absent from photo) on having your pictures selected.

THOUGHTS ON "TEMPTATION" - GRADE 2L

Wuns I asket my mom if I could watch tv borfor scool. But she said no and Then the devel came on my shoulder but then I flicket him off.

Sam

When I was in grade one I all most stowl sombodes toy but I didn't.

Mila

I was tempted to steal my brothers botele and I dindit do it.

Lameez

I just say: Oh no just go away! Please go away? Leave me alone shoosh! Im not going to do that you not the boss of me.

Wesley

My mom went to work and told me no ice crem. the devel was wisprin. I said no.

Cahlea

HEAT WAVE!

We are definitely starting to think that East London is turning into a frying pan with the heat we've been experiencing these past days. It is extremely difficult to concentrate on our school work and there are some complaints of . . . "very stinky people" as Mr. Whitelaw would say.

Some advice to cope in this sauna: Make sure you bring some water to school, keep up with your breathing, DON'T fan yourself as it only makes you hotter, stay in the shade and make sure you wear roll-on or deodorant!

Jessica and Jance



MAGNIFICENT MOMS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the moms who help out at and organise so many functions for the school. Being involved at your child's school is not only a much needed service to the school, but also helps you to feel a part of the school and makes your child experience school in a more positive and enthusiastic way. Our special thanks goes to The Mother's Group Committee who sacrificed their time and so enthusiastically organised and mobilised the moms last year.



Fun photos snapped at the Top 10 Gala

This picture was sent in by a Stirling dad. In his words "It's an old pic, but it does say a lot about Stirling Primary and its headmaster." - We agree.



VALENTINES DAY

A week before Valentines Day, some of the Grade 7 pupils made posters. while others sold Valentines goodies to raise money for the Grade 7 Farewell. We sold suckers, cards, chocolates, cupcakes and packets of sweets. We managed to raise a lot of money and had a lot of fun raising it. The cupcakes were huge and absolutely delicious! The chocolate and candy hearts were also very tasty. Thank you to every one who supported.

Danny and Tsepsio

SURFERS MARATHON 2010

Our super-fit Stirling teachers and children put their best foot forward (well... sandy, sore, wet feet) at the Surfers Marathon on Saturday 13 February. Some entered as walkers and some as runners. They survived what was called "the toughest Surfers in years" with high tides and much soft sand, gaining the precious Surfers T-shirt as their victory prize! Next year we challenge Mr Johnson as a runner and a now-established East Londoner to prove his mettle on the beach. He could not be reached for comment on this matter...



DID YOU KNOW

The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left? Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing?



GREEN GOSSIP REPORTERS

The following pupils are our Green Gossip reporters for 2010: Holly Cadle, Jance Peterson, Dani Smit, Danny Cloete, Jessica Hindman, Okhule Mpaka and Tsepiso Mbali. Congratulations! We are sure this is going to be a very good year.



LEADERSHIP CAMP AT FOREST WAY

There was a rage of excitement as the Grade 7 leadership group hopped on the buses and braced themselves for a truly unforgettable weekend at Forest Way. Most of us had never been to Forest Way before and we had no idea what to expect. We were really curious about what Mr. Whitelaw had planned for us and if we were going to get through the 3 day stay. We had quite a long drive ahead of us so we all got comfortable by listening to music and playing Sweet & Sour. We were telling ghost stories and what got us really scared was the fact that we were passing a huge forest full of fog ... that was scary! At Forest Way, we were introduced to Graham and Stan. Our first activity was orienteering, we were allowed to go far into the forest and some of us managed to get lost. A leadership talk by Mr. Whitelaw made us realize exactly what was expected of us as the leadership body. We went on a night walk and an A.N.T ("Adventure Night Trail"), on the A.N.T we were left alone in the forest without teachers and only reflectors to lead the way back. After the second day all we can say is that clothes that once were white will never be white again. We made our own potjies and went to see a beautiful waterfall. My voice was gone after singing "100 green bottles hanging on the wall". We were sad to leave the best camp we've had and would like to thank the Forest Way leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Malherbe and of course, the one... the only... Mr. Whitelaw!

Jessica



LEADERS 2010

After our fun camp at Forest Way we are proud to announce our Grade 7 prefects and monitors for 2010:

Prefects

Jessica Hindman, Zandile Pali, Jance Peterson, Danielle Smit, Melinie Stone, Megan-Jane Thompson, Matthew Dawson, Luke Seymour, Sinaso Sogoni, Joshua Van Niekerk, Ross Van Reeken, Dylan Vosloo and Simon Webster.

Monitors

Giorgia Boucher, Lia Cesler, Rachael Mattheys, Simanye Mavume, Tsepiso Mbali, Lelethu Mbilase, Tamryn Meyer, Candice Moyo, Okuhle Mpaka, Kuhle Mpondo, Danielle Pike, Pamela Pretorius, Britany Reddy, Schyler-Jane Robertson, Jocelyn Verdokus, Ryan Hattingh, Graham Rowland, David Westgate, Kaya Masha, Andile Ngcaba, Hano Jacobs, Phillip Jordaan and Heath Field.

Congratulations and may 2010 be a good and memorable year for you.

Dani



BEING HEAD PREFECT

When I heard my name being called out I wanted to stand up and shout and scream in my loudest voice. I couldn't believe it. I was head prefect! I think that all of the head prefects felt this way because you could see it on our faces - We were all smiles. Michael said that he was scared silly and that his knees were shaking. But Michael was also very excited. "This year is going to be a big challenge for me." he said. Sage and André were feeling the same. Sage said she was so happy but was also a bit scared. "What if I tripped and fell?" she said. André was delighted and excited. This year is going to be a very good year for all of us and we will never forget it.

Holly

VERY BUSY AT BIG SCHOOL

In Grade 1 we have been very busy learning about letters, shapes and numbers, our bodies, drawing, swimming and much more! We feel so smart in our school uniform too.