



# Veritas College

## Springs



# PREPARATORY NEWSLETTER



DATE: 14 October 2008

NEWSLETTER NO: 7

Dear Families

A group of very excited Grade 6 pupils left yesterday morning on their long awaited Thaba Morula tour! We hope that they enjoy this exquisite African experience in the heart of the North Western Bushveld.

Special thanks go to Mr and Mrs Smith, Mr Cumming and Father Lewis for giving of their time to accompany the pupils.

### FOUNDATION PHASE SPORT

As mentioned in the last Newsletter we are trying to work closely with our Foundation Phase parents to make sure that sport is given more focus in 2009 following some queries in this regard. A meeting was held with interested parties in September. Ms Schroder and the Sports Department, together with Mrs Van Vuuren and the Foundation Phase teachers, spent some time preparing a Power Point Presentation showing how Foundation Phase Sport will progress in 2009.

At a follow-up meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October this information was shared with the families from the Foundation Phase. It was unfortunate that very few families attended this important event.



### ACADEMIC PROGRESS

There are just 5 weeks remaining before our Intermediate/Senior Phase pupils start their exams. Many of the teachers are working hard to complete the Syllabus and it is of concern to us that a small group of pupils continue to neglect doing homework or preparing for Cycle Tests all of which count towards the pupils' CASS (Continuous Assessment) mark. It is for this reason that a new Homework Detention system will come into practice whereby pupils who have not done homework will receive letters to take home to their parents informing them of the homework activity that was not done and indicating an afternoon where the pupil will be expected to stay after school to catch up this work. This Detention Class takes preference over sport in the afternoons. We hope that we can rely on the support of all our parents so that together we can make sure homework is completed on time.

### SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTMAS

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November the Preparatory School will be staging a Christmas Revue in the High School Hall. This production will incorporate all pupils from Grade 000 to Grade 7. Each Grade will be performing



their own choice of Christmas Song. The costumes will be kept simple and affordable and we are requesting that all pupils contribute R30.00 towards a specially printed T-shirt. (This money can be paid in to the class teachers as soon as possible please.)

With this T-shirt they will be required to wear blue denim jeans and white takkies/running shoes.

Most practices will take place during school hours and it may be necessary to have some afternoon dress rehearsals.

Pupils will be told when tickets will go on sale. The cost of the tickets will be R20 per adult and R10 per school going child. Veritas Preparatory pupils will get to see the show at a dress rehearsal and will not be allowed to go into the Hall after they have performed on the night of the performance. The pupils will be looked after by the teachers until the end of the show.

### **RETREATS**

Father Lewis, our College Chaplain, has organised with the Catholic Bible Foundation to have a week of retreats for our Grade 3-7 pupils. On their retreat day pupils may wear civvies to school and are required to bring a packed lunch as they will not be able to go to the tuck-shop. The retreats will follow the normal school hours.



Retreat days:

GRADE 7	GRADE 6	GRADE 5	GRADE 4	GRADE 3
Monday 3 November	Tuesday 4 November	Wednesday 5 November	Thursday 6 November	Friday 7 November

### **IMPORTANT 'YEAR-END' INFORMATION**

**Formal Assessments** (Exams) will take place for Senior Primary pupils from 7 - 14 November. In keeping with this Phase of the school, please take note of the following time changes to the school day as from Friday, 7 November 2008.

- School will close for **ALL** pupils (Grade 000 - 7) at **13h00** from Friday, 7 November until Friday, 28 November.  
*The Computer Centre will be closed for classes on Tuesday, 4 November, Wednesday, 5 November and Thursday, 6 November due to certain classes doing their Computer Examinations, but school will close at the normal time on these three days*
- The **Grade 7 Valedictory Mass** will take place on Friday, 21 November at 09h00.
- The **Foundation Phase Awards Ceremony** will take place on Wednesday, 26 November at 18h30.
- The **Senior Primary Awards Ceremony** will take place on Thursday, 27 November at 18h30.
- **Friday, 28 November**, will be the **last formal school day** of the 2008 school year. Pupils will attend the final assembly and school will close at 12h00
- **Monday, 1 December and Tuesday, 2 December** will serve as '**Administration Days**' for the Teachers to complete Reports and Pupil's Profiles.

- **Reports** will be handed out to pupils, in the School Hall, from 08h00 to 10h00, on **Wednesday, 3 December**. Once pupils have received their reports they may go home.

### **STAFFING FOR 2009**

We are pleased to announce that Mr Alan Barton has been appointed to the Grade 7 post for 2009. Mr Barton is presently the Principal of Strubenvale Primary School but has decided to take early retirement from this position and join Veritas College. He is a very experienced and dedicated teacher and we are delighted to welcome him onto our staff. Miss Bronwyn Baumgart will also be joining us next year and will be involved in the teaching of Physical Education in the Preparatory as well as teaching some academic subjects to the Intermediate/Senior Phase pupils. Miss Baumgart is presently teaching Science and L.O. at Sacred Heart College in Johannesburg, she co-ordinates many sporting activities as well.

As from 2009, Ms Schroder, who has always been very involved in the sport at Veritas, will be concentrating more on her position of Estate Manager and assist in the co-ordinating of events at the Preparatory.

Up to this point she has been wearing 'two caps' that of Estate Manager and Sports Co-ordinator, a situation which she has found to be very time consuming. She felt that she would prefer to put all of her energy into one portfolio. We thank her for her time and unbounding energy that she put into the Sports Department over many years, we are thankful that she has agreed to continue to offer her expertise in organising important sporting events in the future.

Please refer to the **Calendar of Events** for important information.

**S. BILLSON**  
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

**N.D.CONNORS**  
**HEADMASTER**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>OCTOBER</b>	
3 October (Friday)	Fun Walk
4 October (Saturday)	Junior 8-a-side Cricket - Senior Campus
5 October (Sunday)	Senior 6-a-side Cricket - Senior Campus
13 October (Monday) - 15 October (Wednesday)	Grade 6 Tour Thaba Morula
<b>16 October (Thursday)</b>	<b>School Closes for Mid-Term Break 12h00</b>
<b>21 October (Tuesday)</b>	<b>School Re-opens</b>
22 October (Wednesday)	Inter-School Impromptu Speech Evening 17h00 - Veritas Prep. Hall
24 October (Friday)	Grade 7 Mass - St Patrick's Church Benoni
25 October (Saturday)	P.T.S.A. Food Fair
31 October (Friday)	Sports Awards Evening 19h00 (by invitation)
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
1 November (Saturday)	All Saints Day
3-7 November	Retreat Week
7 November (Friday)	* Formal Assessments Begin * Music Centre's 'Musical Evening'
8 November (Saturday)	Grade 1 Orientation Day
14 November (Friday)	Formal Assessments End
21 November (Friday)	* Grade 7 Valedictory Mass 09h00 * Christmas Concert 18h30
26 November (Wednesday)	Foundation Phase Awards Ceremony 18h30
27 November (Thursday)	Inter/Sen Phase Awards Ceremony 18h30
28 November (Friday)	Final Assembly - School Closes at 12h00
30 November (Sunday)	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
1 December (Monday)	Administration Day for Teachers
2 December (Tuesday)	Administration Day for Teachers
<b>3 December (Wednesday)</b>	<b>Reports Issued from School Hall 08h00 - 10h00</b>