SUNRIDGE VANDAG
SUNRIDGE TODAY
CONJUNCTI CRESCIMUS
9 February/ Februarie 2024

Dear Parents

Critical - Social Media

We have always been of the opinion that we want to educate our children. We have fought hard not to apply disciplinary hearings and the suspension of primary school learners. We have, however, reached the point where we can no longer entertain the behaviour of some learners.

When we attempt to communicate with parents about social media we find that they ignore us and choose to turn a blind eye. This attitude is slowly backfiring and D-day is so close that we can feel it as children (minors) on phones registered using **parent ID's are digging a hole of devastating consequences.**

Parents now reap what they sow as we, at school, are confronted with WhatsApp groups created by children in which they use abusive, sexually based, foul, gender inflammatory and racial orientated language which includes physical threats and comments way beyond what is expected from a child.

Although some learners are only members of the group and do not comment, by reading these comments they are basically endorsing it. This is all happening on your phone Mum and Dad! The phone is in your name!

This endangers the safety and violates the rights of others as this behaviour is now over flowing into the school environment. **This is a friendly request** to all parents to immediately inspect **your phone** which is being used by your child. Deleted chats should raise questions - we are in possession of a vast number of these chats and voice messages which proves our point.

The above matter escalated to physical attacks on a learner, firstly off our premises and now on the school premises. Please take note that we will now enforce the Code of Conduct guidelines for learners as in the South African Schools Act. We have tried our best to get parents to support corrective behaviour in the above matter. This sadly seems to have failed as **some parent's neglect to apply their parental responsibilities and choose to blame the school, teachers and others.**

Parents cannot fight a battle for children nor dictate and demand outcomes or feedback. Parents reporting incidents on behalf of a child run the risk of facts becoming distorted and others falsely accused.

A child must inform the class/ subject teachers immediately of any incident. We need the child's version and not the parents opinion and verdict. Incidents reported late or by parents take longer to investigate as inaccurate facts, emotions, threats, etc. must first be eliminated. The risk of an incomplete investigation becomes a reality.

Your child does not have the right to attack another learner verbally or physically. Retaliation is a misconduct. Your child should report any wrongdoing and allow the school to act in due time and within our policy.

Academic time (contact time) is compromised as investigations take up precious teaching time of educators. We will no longer entertain this and will act with the evidence in front of us.

Any form of verbal and physical abuse/attack will require us to send the child home so as to allow us to investigate - parents will be called to fetch their child immediately. Disruptive and poor behaviour in class will also require us to do the same as the right of the other learners will no longer be put at risk.

Although currently only a small percentage of learners are involved, there are signs that it may escalate out of control. This newsletter was difficult for me to write but a reality that must be shared with parents.

These processes are time consuming and you may be required to keep your child at home for up to five school days. **The time to instill respect and discipline is now.**

Sunshine greetings

M DE VRIES
Principal

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Geagte Ouers

Kritiek – Sosiale Media
Ons was nog altyd van mening dat ons ons kinders wil opvoed. Ons probeer ons bes om dissiplinêre verhore en die skorsing van laerskoolleerders te systap. Nou het ons egter die punt bereik waar ons nie die gedrag van sommige leerders kan duld nie.

Wanneer ons met ouers oor sosiale media probeer kommunikeer, word ons geïgnoreer en daar word anderpad gekyk. Hierdie ingesteldheid gaan wrang vrugte afwerp en die wiele gaan binnekort afval – kinders (minderjariges) wat selfone gebruik **wat op hul ouers se ID's geregistreer is, is besig met dinge waarvan hulle nie die gevolge kan voorsien nie.**

Ouers pluk nou die vrugte, want hier by die skool het ons te doen met Whatsapp-groepe wat deur kinders geskep is, waar hulle beledigende, seksueel-gebaseerde, vulgêre, geslagsonwelvoeglike en rasgeoriënteerde taal gebruik, met fisiese dreigemente **en kommentaar wat glad nie van 'n kind verwag word nie.**

Hoewel sommige leerders slegs lede van die groep is sonder om kommentaar te lewer, lees hulle dit en keur dit dus goed. Mamma en Pappa – dit gebeur op u foon! Die foon is in u naam!

Dit stel ander mense in gevaar en skend hulle regte, want hierdie gedrag spoel nou oor in die skoolomgewing. **Ons rig 'n vriendelike versoek** aan alle ouers om onmiddellik **u foon** wat deur u kind gebruik word, te inspekteer. Gesprekke wat **uitgewis is, moet die rooi liggies laat flikker, want ons is in besit van 'n groot hoeveelheid van hierdie gesprekke en stem-**boodskappe wat ons punt staaf.

Bogenoemde aangeleentheid het fisiese aanvalle op 'n leerder tot gevolg gehad – eers buite die skoolterrein en nou ook op die skoolterrein. Neem asseblief kennis dat ons nou die riglyne vir die gedragskode vir leerders soos in die Suid-Afrikaanse Skolewet sal toepas. Ons het regtig ons bes probeer om ouers te oortuig om regstellende gedrag in bogenoemde saak te ondersteun. Dit was ongelukkig nie suksesvol nie, want sommige ouers kom nie hul verantwoordelikhede as ouers na nie en kies om die skool, onderwysers en ander te blameer.

Ouers kan nie namens hul kinders baklei nie en kan ook nie die uitkoms of terugvoer voorskryf nie. Ouers wat namens 'n kind 'n insident aanmeld, kan oor verdraaide feite beskik en ander mense vals beskuldig.

'n Kind moet enige insident onmiddellik by die klas/vakonderwyser aanmeld. Ons het die kind se weergawe nodig en nie die ouer se opinie en oordeel nie. Insidente wat laat of deur ouers aangemeld word, neem langer om te ondersoek, want **onakkurate feite, emosies, dreigemente, ens. moet eers uitgeskakel word. Die risiko van 'n onvoltooide ondersoek word 'n** realiteit.

U kind het nie die reg om 'n ander leerder verbaal of fisies aan te val nie. Vergelding is wangedrag. U kind moet enige oortreding aanmeld en die skool toelaat om tegeleënertyd en binne ons beleid op te tree.

Akademiese tyd (kontaktyd) bly in die slag, want 'n ondersoek neem kosbare onderrigtyd van onderwysers in beslag. Ons sal dit nie langer duld nie en sal optree met die bewyse tot ons beskikking.

Enige vorm van verbale of fisiese misbruik/aanval sal vereis dat ons die kind huis toe stuur sodat ons ondersoek kan instel. Ouers sal versoek word om die kind onmiddellik te kom haal. Ontwrigtende en wangedrag in die klas sal ook van ons vereis om dieselfde stappe te volg, want die regte van ander leerders sal nie langer in gevaar gestel word nie.

Hoewel daar tans slegs 'n klein persentasie leerders betrokke is, is daar tekens dat dit buite beheer kan toeneem. Dit was vir my moeilik om hierdie nuusbrief te skryf, maar dit is 'n realiteit wat met ouers gedeel moet word.

Aangesien hierdie prosesse tydrowend is, kan u kind dalk vir tot vyf skooldae tuis moet bly. **Dit is nou die tyd om respek en dissipline by u kind tuis te bring.**

Sonskyngroete

M DE VRIES
Skoolhoof

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LEARNER ACHIEVEMENTS / LEERDERPRESTASIES

If not a school event, official results must be emailed to wendy@sunridge.co.za within one week of the event.
Indien nie 'n skoolaktiwiteit nie, moet uitslae binne een week na wendy@sunridge.co.za gestuur word.

BIATHLON: Sherzaard Edinberry (u/9), **Juan Roets, Esteen Potts** (u/11), **Amalia van der Westhuizen** (u/13) and **Charl Geissler** (u/15) represented Eastern Province at the Highgate Inter-provincial.
INDOOR GO-KARTING: Graham van Vuuren (junior league) achieved 2nd overall in the 2023 race calendar.
TENNIS: Emily Robert, Kate Robert and **Stefan van Molendorff** played in the EC Zonal Tennis Tournament - the u/11 NMB Girls team were the overall winners in their age group.

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KEN U PERSONEEL

FOKUS OP: *Celéste Bezuidenhout*

VROEËRE LEWE: Ek het in Port Elizabeth groot geword – my ma was ook in die Onderwys en ek het my skoolloopbaan by Laerskool Dagbreek, waar sy skoolgehou het, begin. Ons het destyds in Kabegapark gewoon. Ek was 'n baie soet kind, maar het 'n vloermoer gegooi omdat ek soos al ons buurkinders skool toe en terug met my fiets wou ry. Ek het gevolglik in Graad 3 by Laerskool Kabega begin! Ek het daarna aan die Hoërskool Framesby gematrikuleer.

GESINSLEWE: Ek het 'n jonger sussie wat ook in die Onderwys is en op Caledon skoolhou. Ek is getroud met Cobus en het 'n viervoetige skaaphond Zorro.

LOOPBAAN: Ek het aan die Onderwyskollege Boland my Hoër Onderwysdiploma verwerf en het my eerste betrekking by King Williams'Town Primêre Skool aanvaar. Ek het daarna by Haas Das Pre-Primére skool in Algoa Park skool gehou en het in 2014 deel van die Sunridge-familie geword.

PRESTASIES: Ek het my B.Ed. Hons. (Cum Laude) in 2010 geslaag.

INTERESSANTE FEITE OOR MYSELF: Ek vind plesier daarin om met my hande te werk – van kos kook, bak, naaldwerk, verf, mosaic, tuinwerk, kralewerk, stoffering. Ek probeer om elke jaar 'n nuwe vaardigheid aan te leer.

Beantwoord asseblief die volgende vrae:

1. **Wat was jou gunsteling TV-program toe jy grootgeword het?** Magnum PI
2. **Het jy enige vreemde fobies?** Groot spinnekoppe.
3. **Is jy verslaaf aan enige vreemde stokperdjies/ aktiwiteite?** Ek gaan gereeld deur stokperdjieverslawings. 'n Paar jaar gelede het die Geneologie-gogga my gebyt. Ek het menigte nagte, tot in die vroeë oggendure graf stene op die internet deurgekyk, op soek na die verlore skakels van my stamboom.
4. **As jy enige superkrag kan hê, wat sou jy kies?** Om 'n tydreiser te kan wees.
5. **Wat is die eerste ding wat jy van 'n mens raaksien?** Ek let gewoonlik op of mense vriendelik of knorrig is en oogkontak maak wanneer hulle groet.
6. **Wat was die ergste straf wat jy op skool gekry het?** Om my leesboek neer te sit.
7. **Wat, of wie, is jy 'n geheime aanhanger van?** Nigella Lawson.
8. **Wat is die drie dinge wat jy nog in you lewe wil doen?** Valskermspring, 4x4 sandduine uitry en met 'n motorfiets deur Namakwaland te toer.
9. **Wat is die ergste troeteldier wat jy ooit gehad het?** Ek het nog net goedgemanierde honde gehad.
10. **Wat verkies jy?** **A.Strand** of Bos **B.**Braai or **Pizza** **C.Winter** of Somer **D.** Flieks of **Reekse**

KNOW YOUR STAFF

Staff Member: *Christine Bird*

Early Life: I was born in Cape Town and sixteen months later my sister in Kempton Park. My parents divorced when I was very young and from my father's second marriage, I have a half-sister and half-brother. I started school in Brackenhurst, Alberton at the age of five and completed high school at seventeen at DF Malherbe in Port Elizabeth. I was raised as a follower of Jesus by a remarkable mother who changed her career to become a teacher in order to have more time with her daughters. She sadly passed away from cancer the year I turned 40.

Family Life: My husband and I have been happily married for six years. We are grandparents to a two and a half year old intelligent little girl from my eldest stepdaughter. My second stepdaughter matriculated with BD last year and my stepson is in Grade 7.

Career Life: In 1993 I completed a four-year diploma with academic distinction in Maths, Science, Biology and Afrikaans at the Teachers' College in Port Elizabeth. Then I did a three years further diploma in Computer Science and Mathematics. In my second year of teaching, I was appointed permanently at Diaz Primary School as a Grade 4 and Phys. Ed teacher and served the school and community for 18 and half years. I have been a teacher at Sunridge Primary School since 2013 and serve the school as Assessment Head, coach athletics and netball and teach mathematics and EMS.

Accomplishments: At the age of 10 I ran my first 1000m and at high school achieved provincial colours in athletics and cross country. I have competed in many road races and ran my first marathon (42,2 km) at the age of 50. I relived my youth by achieving provincial colours for cross country with my stepson last year. In 1989 I enrolled at the SADF for one year voluntary military service. In 2005 I was appointed as an HOD in the Intersen Phase. I have done a course in Children's Evangelism, been an honorary ranger (Storms River National Park), organised athletics meetings (Attie van Wyk and PE East), aerofit coach, secretary and chairlady of the Eastern Cape South African Sport Aerobics.

Interesting facts about yourself: During holidays I have journeyed through our beautiful South Africa and been to all nine provinces. I also enjoy traveling to other countries – I have been to the USA, Scotland, England, Europe, Greece, Greek Islands, Namibia and Botswana. I prefer cats to dogs. I enjoy reading thrillers and novels especially written by Ted Dekker, Frank Peretti and Jaco Thom. Occasionally I play the piano, keyboard and guitar. From little I was an active busybody and did ballet and tap dancing - on school level I did choir, eisteddfod, gymnastics, swimming (midlands colours), netball, tennis, athletics and cross country.

Please answer the following questions:

1. **What was your favourite TV show when growing up?** Family Ties and Who's the Boss (equally favourite).
2. **Do you have any strange phobias?** Only walking down a flight of stairs (since a nasty fall a year and half ago).
3. **Are you addicted to any strange hobbies/activities?** Only road running – perhaps strange to some as the wheel was invented.
4. **If you could have any one superpower, which would you choose?** Speed – to clean my house in a flash.
5. **What is the first thing you notice about people?** What their heart reveals.
6. **What was the worst punishment you received in school?** In Grade 2 a teacher hit me with a ruler over the knuckles for playing in water puddles after school while waiting for the aftercare bus – even though I took my shoes off before playing!
7. **What, or who, are you a secret fan of?** Christian artists such as Toby Mac, Grayhavens, Brandon Lake etc.
8. **What are the three things you still want to do in your life?** The Two Oceans 56 km, Comrades marathon and to attend a live Formula 1 race.
9. **What is the worst pet you have ever had?** When I was little I had rabbits that did not live long.
10. **What do you prefer?** **A. Beach** or Bush **B.** Braai or **Pizza** **C.** Winter or **Summer** **D.** Movies or **Series**

PHOTO GALLERY / FOTOGALERY

CRICKET RESULTS

TEAM	OPPONENT	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
U/13A	GREY COLLEGE	Lost by 77 runs	HANNO WINTER
U/13A	GREY COLLEGE	Lost by 37 runs	STEAN RAUBENHEIMER
U/13A	HERBERT HURD		*Game still in progress*
U/13B	WALMER WEST A		
U/13C	LORRAINE B	Lost by 8 wickets	JOSHUA CAMERON
U/13D	NEWTON PARK B	Lost by 7 wickets	JAYDEN LONDT
U/11A	GREY COLLEGE	Lost by 201 runs	WIHAN ERASMUS
U/11A	GREY COLLEGE	Lost by 119 runs	KADEN NORTJE
U/11A			
U/11B	KABEGA A	Won by 9 wickets	EMMETT SMIT
U/11C	COLLEGE HILL C	Lost by 6 wickets	CHRISTIAAN DE WIT
U/10A	GREY COLLAGE 10B	Lost by 217 runs	KEEGAN JORDAAN
U/10A	HERBERT HURD	Won by 9 wickets	ZAYDEN HENWICK
U/10B	GREY C	Lost by 7 wickets	DYLAN OOSTHUIZEN
U/9 HARDBALL	CHARLO	Won by 9 wickets	MARNUS MULLER
U/9A MINI	WESTERING	Won by 5 runs	CORNÉ DU TOIT
U/9B MINI			
U/8A			
U/8B	HERBERT HURD A	Won by 7 runs	MALACHI BOOYSEN
U/8B	CURRO	Won by 1 run	KUNGENTANDO MDLATU

TENNIS RESULTS

TEAM	OPPONENT	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
1ST TEAM BOYS	CLARENDON B	19 - 23	FLIPPIE SMIT
1ST TEAM GIRLS	THEODOR HERZL	15 - 40	MONJA TERBLANS

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