



WOODLANDS

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



JUNIOR COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



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Woodlands International College

Junior College Newsletter

26 June 2020

A word from Mrs Knell

As all the members of the Woodlands family take a breather and some very necessary down time over the next week, I would like to take a moment and remind everyone that some time out is vitally important for both our physical and mental well-being. This is also true for our children and the time they are spending on electronic devices. For many of our children the “new normal” has necessitated an increased use of iPads/Smartphones through submitting assessments, or working online, as well as socialising with friends.

I would like to encourage a bit of boredom. You will be amazed at the creative games the younger children will develop and the activities which older children will get involved in. I know this will make me sound really old but when last did your children build a fort with blankets with the dining-room chairs, or very happily run inside to offer you a cake in a very muddy design, or make a kite from sticks. Boredom gives children an inner quiet that helps with imagination and self-awareness. Creative processes can stimulate interests that will stay with the child for life. Children develop creative skills when they must come up with solutions to boredom. Even adults require some moments of boredom or daydreaming for the brain to rest; you will be amazed how often a solution to a nagging problem will suddenly pop-in to your mind in those moments.

On a slightly different vein, while electronic devices have become a necessary part of our lives and for many a form of entertainment, please will parents take a moment to review how safe the various devices are. Please ask yourselves: have you set age restrictions on iPads and laptops using a pass-code that the children don't know; can your child access your phone at any time or is it password protected, (keeping in mind that children are very observant and may know your passwords), have you checked your child's online history lately or had a look at their message accounts and other forms of social media. (A warning sign is if your child is deleting chats or accounts are empty.)

On that note, I would like to wish all our students, parents, and staff a rest-filled Mid-term break.

Mrs R Knell
Deputy Principal Intermediate Phase



COVID-19 update

Update on our Grade 2's: Our teacher remains asymptomatic and is continuing to teach online, her return to Campus is still unclear at this stage. We will be communicating the way forward, as soon as possible. Staff in Grade 2 have tested negative for Covid-19.

Both our Senior College and pre-primary have taken all the necessary precaution while dealing with their own Covid-19 positive cases. We are happy to report that all the Senior College staff have tested negative for Covid-19.

Mr Lesapo is recovering well from an illness unrelated to Covid-19 and we are hoping he will be well enough to return after Mid-Term.

We wish Mrs Correia a speedy recovery from an illness unrelated to Covid-19, and look forward to having her back at School after Mid-term.

Increased occurrences of Covid-19 within our communities:

As the number of Covid-19 infections begins to increase, we would like to assure all the parents that the strictest of protocols are being adhered to within the College. Here are a few of the protocols, which you may not be aware of, which take place daily:

- During the school day bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected multiple times.
- After school, all classrooms are cleaned, disinfected, and sanitised, including desks and chairs.
- Corridors and bricked paving are sanitised daily.
- The Matthews Hall is sanitised daily.
- Items such as door handles, window latches and light switches are disinfected throughout the day.
- The grass areas are sprayed with an environmentally friendly sanitiser.
- All deliveries are kept to a minimum and all packages are sanitised on arrival.

Keeping the wider community safe:

We request parents to please inform the College, should you as a family suspect a member is infected with Covid-19, if you have been in contact with anyone who is infected or is suspected of being infect, as early as possible, even if later the results of testing come back negative. This information **will** be treated in the strictest of confidence. This information will enable us to prepare should the need arise. Please share this information directly with Mrs Knell, Mrs Correia or Mrs Sampson.

Health Check Forms:

We have been experiencing a number of students who have not been feeling well at school and when asked they have indicated they came to school with, for example a sore tummy. Isolated symptoms are often indicative of stress or anxiety. This information does, however, enable the teachers to be more aware of the students and assist in their pastoral care.

It is vitally important that these forms are completed by the parents accurately. Should your child be complaining of one or two of the symptoms such as a sore tummy or a headache, please indicate this on the form. Students will not be sent home during the arrival temperature checks unless their temperatures are above 37,5°C and display 2 or more symptoms. Obviously, should your child be complaining of more than two of the symptoms please rather keep them at home and monitor them.

Need to know

Individual Photographs:

Individual photographs were distributed to students this week. Several students were absent when we initially took these photographs. Once all the students are back at school, we will organise for the photographer to take these students pictures. We will then able to complete the class-group photographs which would normally have been supplied with the individual photograph packs.

Sibling and Special Grade 1 photograph orders are to be returned to the College by Wednesday 15th July 2020. Please ensure the correct amount of money is in the envelope, supplied and that it is sealed.

Intermediate Phase Diaries:

Students will be issued with a new diary after mid-term. The diary will be including both the final days of term 2 as well as term 3.

Intermediate Phase implementation of Google Classroom/Meets:

The Grade 4 to 6 students and staff will be adding Google Classroom and Google Meets to their already impressive list of technology skills. A more comprehensive explanation and set of instructions will be supplied to both parents and students during the week after mid-term.

We will continue to use MiEbooks as our primary platform for supplying notes, instructions and staff designed books, as students (and parents) are familiar with this platform. Google Classroom will be used for students to submit classwork, tasks, and assessments. Google classroom will enable both students and parents to keep track of work which needs to be submitted. Google Meets will be used in place of Zoom for all online classes.

The Grade 5 and Grade 6 online students will begin to follow their normal homeroom class' timetable and will link into each of subject classes as it occurs on their timetable. There will be no need for meeting IDs and passwords to access the virtual class. The Grade 4 students are already following their homeroom class timetables.

We will be implementing Google Classroom in stages in the week after mid-term:

- Stage 1: Setting up each students' school issued Gmail account and downloading Google Meets app onto their iPads
- Stage 2: Providing students with a pin number to access each of their virtual classrooms (this is a once off process)
- Stage 3: Providing instructions on how to use the Google classroom to submit work and linking to Google Meets.

At any stage of this process the staff and our IT gentleman (Jarred De Almeida) will be on hand to assist should any problems arise. Those with siblings in Senior College will be able to assist to.

Aftercare Facilities

Should you require aftercare during our mid-term break and from the 6th July, please contact Belinda Rossouw, at aftercare@woodlandscollege.co.za. We are available for you.

Lunch will be provided, we will be allocating cutlery and crockery per student to avoid cross contamination. A reminder that aftercare closes at 17:30.

Depending on numbers, aftercare will take place on the main College campus and not on the Dr Vosloo side. Parents will be required to collect their children from the Matthews Hall. Once we exceed the capacity we will move back to Dr. Vosloo property.

Students returning to the College after Mid-term

Several parents have indicated that their children will be returning to the college and not using the online facilities from after mid-term. **Please** inform your homeroom teacher via email, if you are presently using the online facilities, but will be returning after Mid-term.

We have also found that students returning sometimes do show some anxiety with the return process, as they are not sure of what to expect, we therefore encourage parents to send students back after the mid-term so they can return back with their friends and it eases the return experience.

Tuckshop

The tuckshop will "re-open" in July with a few changes. The tuckshop will be run on a cashless system. Details on how the tuckshop will be run and what will be available will be supplied after mid-term. The exact date of re-opening will be confirmed. Cafe@Woodlands will comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act No 85 of 1993) and Covid-19 regulations. All employees will comply with Woodlands Covid Protocols and wear masks, shields, gloves, hairnets, maintain 2m social distance, strict sanitization and hand washing protocols to continue to maintain the safety environment at Woodlands. The tuckshop team is being guided by Doctor Montalbano and complies in terms of regulations.



MENU

Snacks:

Assorted crisps (Lays, Simba, Doritos) R10
 Small Nik Naks & Frito's R5

Homemade Crunchies R8
 Muffins of the day R10
 Biltong cut R15
 Biltong wheels R10
 "Droë wors" R12
 Mango strips R15
 Fruit cubes "Dainties" R10
 Japanese Mix R7
 Homemade assorted biscuits: choc chips, caramel, sprinkle R5
 Jumbo homemade biscuits R10

Sweets:

Kit Kat 2 fingers R5
 Bar One R10
 Astros R10
 Jelly teddies R10
 Peanut Brittle Bar R10

Food:

Toasted cheese (Halal) R15
 Toasted Ham and cheese R20
 Hot Dogs R20
 Salad roll (Pre-order only) R25
 Chicken salad (Pre-order only) R30

Cold drinks:

Buddy bottles (only senior college) R15
 Water: Still R10
 Sparkling R12

Ceres Fruit juices: R10
 apple, grape, fruit mix

Food Menu: pre order only before 2 o'clock the previous day

Monday:

Chicken Mayo Tramezzini's
 Full portion R30
 ½ portion R18

Jam Squares R10

Tuesday:

Rib Ciabatta R30

Cup-cakes R10

Wednesday:

Vetkoek savoury mince - Large R25
 - Medium R15

Thursday:

Chicken Prego rolls R30

Chocolate Brownies R10

Friday:
 Pizza Full R30
 Pizza ½ portion R15

Assorted Doughnuts R10

All stock and products entering Café @ Woodlands will be sanitised.

We will be working on a cashless system.

Snap scan and zapper will be available.

Accounts can be opened for children via an EFT deposit.

Unfortunately, we will not have a credit card facility available as yet.

Exact details on how to pre-order food for your child will be communicated before school returns from mid-term break.

Thank you!
 We look forward to bringing some flavour back to school!

iPad usage and Security

In the Intermediate Phase, we are aware that there has been an increased sharing of inappropriate images, as well as the playing of online team games. We have recently tested the firewalls and nannies systems which are installed on the Junior College Wi-Fi network and can assure parents that both have extremely strong restrictions in place. The Junior College Wi-Fi is also currently set on a timer and is only available from 8:00am to 1:15pm.

We urge parents to set-up the age-appropriate restrictions on your child's iPad, using a pin which is **unknown** to your child. It is also worth investigating the 'downtime' option.

Here are a few useful How-to links:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-to-set-parental-controls-on-ipad?IR=T>

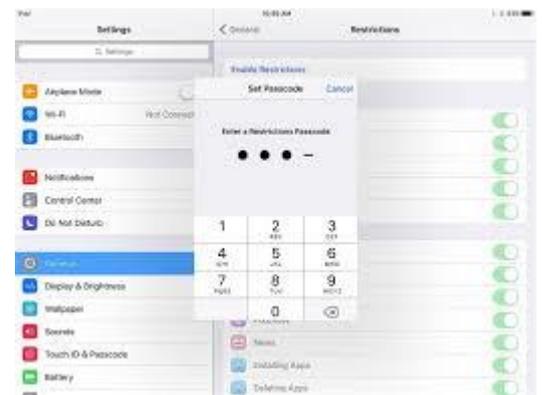
<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304>

For students, whose iPad is enabled with data sim cards, we are unable to monitor your child's internet usage via our nanny systems, therefore it is vital that restrictions are in place, as this not only puts your child at risk but also their peers.

Within the classroom, students are only allowed to play critically thinking games, word games and maths games. Examples of such games are: Word Cookies, 4 pics 1 word, Zen Block, Brain Dots. If a student is unsure if a game is allowed or not, they are to show the game to Mrs Muller or Mrs Knell.

A suggestion is that students create two folders on their iPads, one for games allowed at school and one which they can play at home. With regards to photographs, I always say to the students if you are not willing to show me or your mother a particular picture, it should not be on your iPad and definitely not shared.

An excellent resource for parents in <https://www.thedigitalawco.com/> run by Emma Sadleir, South Africa's leading expert on Social Media Law



Supporting our wider community

Civvies Day on Friday 10th July

We will be having a “hat, scarf and gloves” civvies day on Friday 10th July. Students may wear civvies and come to school with their craziest hat, beanie scarf and gloves. Cost: R5.

Soup and Bread Collections

Usually in the winter months the Junior College collects soup and bread which is distributed to several charities of need. We would like to continue with this tradition, particularly during these trying times. There will be two crates at the Matthews Hall (one for tinned food and one for packets of soup) near the sanitising stations where students can drop off soup. We will have a day towards the end of July for bread donations.

Mandela Day shoe collection

We would once again like to do a shoe collection as part of Mandela Day and appeal to our Woodlands family to go through your cupboards and donate shoes that are in a good condition and that are no longer being used. Please can you send the shoes (one pair per plastic bag) to the College on Friday 17th July **only**.

Dates to diarise

26 th June	Start of mid-term
6 th July	Return back to college after mid-term
10 th July	Hat, Scarf and Gloves Civvies (Cost R5)
15 th July	Sibling and Grade 1 photograph orders close
17 th July	Shoe collection day for Mandela day

Woodlands wishes...

Belated Birthday wishes



Upcoming birthday wishes

26th June



27th June

