



TERM TWO 2009

THE HERON

ISSUE 1

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079 697 2565 (Accounts)

079 697 2566 (Prep School)

073 580 8265 (Pre-Prep School)

071 687 0419 (College)

Message for the Week

Do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians : 6:4

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to this chilly winter term. We trust it will be a good one for all our HeronBridge families. Remember to dress warmly – layers are the answer as the mornings can be very cold but, as the day moves on it can become quite warm.(Please remember to label all the layers!).

Whilst most of us enjoyed a restful April school holidays, there were a few HeronBridge pupils working hard and putting our school on the map! In this edition please find articles relating to their endeavours. On this opening page we present pictures to whet your appetites. Well done to all involved.



SA Champs Team - the their mime "get-up"!



Cricket our to Sri Lanka. The team in front of Sri Sinkathan Stadium, Columbo, the headquarters of Sri Lanka Cricket.

African Schools' Debating Championships:

Kaitlyn Churchyard and Viktoria Bruns with the ASDC trophy.



Power Outage : ESKOM has advised us that we will be having a power outage on Wednesday 13 May from 08h00 to 16h00. Please see next page for more information

DATES TO DIARISE : WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, 11 MAY

Monday, 11	14h00	Prep Cross Country : U9 - Open @ Pecanwood	
	15h00	College Cross Country : @ Delta Park	
Tuesday, 12	15h00	College Parents Evening (starts)	
		College Hockey : Girls teams vs Summit College	@ home
Wednesday, 13	14h00	Prep Soccer : U11 A&B vs Marian Collage	@home
		Prep Soccer : U9 / 10 vs Marian College	Away
		College Rugby and Netball : vs Southdowns	Away
Thursday, 14	14h00	Prep Netball : Open A, B & C vs Kings School Bryanston	@ home
		Prep Netball: Open D vs Summit	@ home
		Prep Netball : U9 A&B, U10 A&B, U11 A&B vs Kings School Bryanston	Away
	15h00	College Hockey: Girls teams vs De La Salle	Away
Friday, 15		College Parents Evening (starts)	
	14h00	Prep Junior Netball : U7 / 8 vs Kings School Bryanston	Away
		Prep Junior Soccer : U7 / 8 vs Summit	Away
	15h00	College Cross Country @ Saints	
		College Hockey : Girls teams vs Cornwall Hill	@ home
	19h00	Celebration of Talent	Auditorium
Saturday, 16	08h00	College Derby Rugby Day vs Cornwall Hill	@ home
		College Netball: vs Cornwill Hill	@ home
		College Debating	@ home
	19h00	Celebration of Talent	Auditorium

POWER OUTAGE

ESKOM has advised us that we will be having a power outage on Wednesday 13 May from 08h00 to 16h00. Please note the following;

- Ensure that your children come dressed warmly to school on this day – no heaters will be working (for obvious reasons).
- The Prep tuck-shop and College canteen will run as normal except no toasted sandwiches will be available. Aftercare will also not be affected.
- Should you need to contact the school, please use our cell phone number: 082 387 2242.

SA CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS 2009

A very proud Mrs Avis writes:

We had a wonderful 8 days in Rustenburg this past April. It was a gruelling schedule with incredibly stiff competition but, as always, our team achieved outstanding results and made us so proud.

There are approximately 30 – 40 participants in each category at the finals of the SA Champs, and they only award one gold, one silver and one bronze medal in each section. To be awarded a medal is a remarkable achievement. Our team participated in acting, vocal and dance and brought home a total of **107** medals.

50 of these were for two group mimes, and the remaining 57 were for solos and duets.

Congratulations to all the participants and thank you to all those parents and friends who supported us through this awesome experience!

Our 2009 team (total medals awarded are in brackets)

Amy Rigby (9) Sinead McKenna (9) Dylan Guerra (8) Donnaley Avis (8) Megan Rigby (7)

Maxine Pernet (6) Sarah Jo Malcolm (4) Ashlinn McFarlane (4) Dayna McFarlane (4) Sarah Forsyth (4) Katie Groves (4) Siobhan Meyer (3) Kaylene Nel (3) Kayla Ritchie (3)

Danie Broomberg (3) Bianca Schulte-Brader (3) Megan Kurzewski (3) Jessica Hall (3)

Michael Seath (2) Dominique de Comormand (2) Amber Stucke (2)

Please see the table below for a summary our results.

Medals Awarded for Solo Items

Participant	Genre	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Amy Rigby	Vocal	2	1	1
Donnaley Avis	Acting	2		
Sinead McKenna	Vocal		2	3
Megan Rigby	Vocal			2
Siobhan Meyer	Vocal		1	
Maxine Pernet	Acting		1	1
Dylan Guerra	Dance & Acting	2	2	

Medals Awarded for Duet Items

Participant	Genre	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Amy and Megan Rigby	Vocal	2	1	
Donnaley Avis and Sarah Forsyth	Acting	1		
Donnaley Avis and Dylan Guerra	Acting			2
Sinead McKenna and Katie Groves	Vocal	2		
Sarah Jo Malcolm and Maxine Pernet	Acting	1		1
Jessica Hall and Megan Kurzewski	Acting			1
Dayna and Ashlinn McFarlane	Vocal	1		
Kaylene Nel and Kayla Ritchie	Acting	1		
Bianca Schulte-Brader and Danie Broomberg	Acting	1		

Continued on page 4

SA CHAMPS CONTINUED....**Medals Awarded for Groups Items**

Participant	Genre	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Fab 4: Sarah Forsyth, Donnaley Avis, Dayna and Ashlinn McFarlane	Acting		1	
The Upstage Team (included all)	Acting	1	1	

Highest Achievement For Vocal: Amy Rigby
Highest Achievement For Acting: Donnaley Avis

A reminder that the best of these items will be showcased together with theatre sports, at the **Celebration of Talent** on the 15th and 16th May 2009. Tickets are available from Mrs Bishop in the Prep Office.

Sri Lanka Cricket Tour

Darren Seaton, 1st XI Cricket Touring Squad Captain, writes:

This was honestly the most amazing choice of country to tour for cricket. Sri Lanka is a place where cricket is their life and their passion. Everywhere we went we were greeted with warm smiles and an effort was made to make us feel as comfortable as possible. Their effort to communicate in their second language, English, was commendable and admirable.

It is a nation built on humility and culture. It was wonderful to experience the excitement that was obvious because a South African team was touring their country. We became celebrities in their national newspaper, the 'Daily Mirror', and at each match as we shared in their love for cricket and its history.

The heat and humidity was definitely something we had to get used to. Being greeted by 100% humidity and 38 degrees heat at each match was a real challenge. We, however, pulled through winning 2 of our games comfortably. The experience of a life-time has come and gone, but we have left this experience wiser and more enlightened about a culture and life style so vastly different to our own.

The touring squad would like to thank our parents, Itech, City Lodge, Edusport, our coaches and Mr I Van der Merwe for making this tour possible.

Ayabowan ("Long life" in Singhalese).

U14 RUGBY & NETBALL FESTIVAL : DIARISE NOW!

This exciting event takes place on Friday the 22nd and Saturday the 23th May.

- 18 schools participating this year.
- Promise of some excellent rugby and netball.
- Fun-filled family day on Saturday, 23rd May.
- Craft Market and lots of delicious food.



AFRICAN SCHOOLS' DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS (ASDC)

From the 14th to the 21st of April Kaitlyn Churchyard and Viktoria Bruns joined forces with two pupils from St Dominic's College in the Free State to compete in the African Schools' Debating Competition held at St John's College. This is a very prestigious competition to which only the top debating schools in the country are invited.

During the course of the week the debaters attended talks by the likes of Tito Mboweni and Penny Heyns and they also engaged in discussions with high-profile South Africans such as Justice Edwin Cameron and AIDS activist, Zakkie Achmad, all of which was highly enriching.

During the first six rounds, they debated topics such as: The banning of terrorist videos; Prioritising scarce medical resources for people who live healthy lifestyles and South Africans should vote directly for their president. After these preliminary rounds, the "St DomBridge" team ranked first and was the hot favourite to win the competition.

After winning quarter and semi-finals they found themselves up against Pretoria Girls in the final which was held at the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The motion for the final was: The banning of international funding for political parties. Although it was a close debate, the St DomBridge team won four adjudicators to one. An amazing achievement!

The highlight of the tournament, however, was a photo shoot with Nelson Mandela and meeting him in person.

Take a look at <http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/410/98/35402.html> for more information.

miagi
MUSIC IS A GREAT INVESTMENT

During the April holidays the corridors of HeronBridge College resounded with classical music!

Over 100 young South African musicians – the MIAGI Youth Orchestra and Youth Big Band - spent 8 days at HeronBridge Retreat while they practised for their performance at the Linde Auditorium on Saturday 2nd May.

Half way through the week they were joined by Italian conductor, Marino Formenti, and after just a few days of intensive rehearsals they were ready to perform.

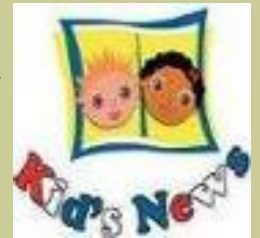
Those of us who were at the College during the holidays were able to enjoy the music of Beethoven, Dvorak, and Gideon Nxumalo coming from our own auditorium!

The MIAGI organisers expressed special thanks to Marcus & Bettie and all at HeronBridge for their care and hospitality during the visit.



"Kids News goes GREEN!!!"

Which means.... we no longer line your child's school bag, nor do we waste anymore trees.... We now keep parents informed by email.



Send your email address to: jill@kidsnews.co.za to receive our weekly, informative, newsletter, or look at our website www.kidsnews.co.za.

Kids News has over **TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY PARTY VENUES & SERVICES LISTED** for you to choose from. That's not all, make sure you visit www.kidsnews.co.za and browse for parenting info, recipes for healthy family meals, & we have a Kids Page. For more information you can also call Jill on 011 476 9218 or 083 230 8974.



**TO LOOK
AFTER OUR
BIRD LIFE!**



MY SCHOOL CARD

ATTENTION HB PARENTS!

Have you got a MY SCHOOL CARD? Are you using it?

Our records show that you have raised **R5 959.73** during the month of April, against **R4 598.38** last month. 424 supporters raised funds for our school this month, whilst 407 supporters used their My School card to support you last month. We are still in 2nd place on the school rankings! Well done! CONTINUE SHOPPING, PLEASE! However, St David's is still in 1st place!

REMINDER: Parents, MySchool is a national programme with a large network of national partners. Look out for MySchool stickers in-store. (SEE LIST ON NEXT PAGE)

All funds raised through the use of this card will ultimately be used on YOUR child's behalf, for items or improvements that you, the Staff & the Senior Management may request or see as a need to improve your school.

NEWS UPDATE:

Please keep spending and we'll continue with our AWARENESS CAMPAIGN. We'll continue to award our Top Class, Top Spenders/Supporters and Class Moms who are making the most use of their My School Cards! This month we are going to reward Grade 4W with a hot chocolate & marshmallow treat for their support. Congrats! The competition continues so, get moving, get spending and, most importantly, USE your My School Card - EVERYWHERE! Please take a look at the MYSCHOOL card partners list near & around HB, to build up your contribution.

If you need a card, please go to the school's reception offices to collect a form. Alternatively, you can access the My School Card website: www.myschool.co.za

FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP :

Preparatory Girls' Navy Winter Pants

Our Uniform Shop order for the Preparatory Girls' Navy Winter Pants was due to be delivered in March this year. Delivery was then promised during the holidays but this did not happen, and the delivery eventually arrived from the supplier on Tuesday, 5th May. To our dismay, when the order was unpacked, it was discovered that the pants had been manufactured incorrectly and we had no option but to reject and return the whole order.

The turnaround time for any order is a minimum of six weeks and as the winter term is very short, from the beginning of May until the end of July, the term will be nearly over before the new, corrected stock arrives. Due to this unfortunate circumstance, we have revised our uniform requirements and the girls will be allowed to wear their tracksuit pants as part of the academic uniform for this term.

The shop does, however, have limited stock of the girls' pants available in the following sizes - 20, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36 & 38 - and these will be on sale on a first-come-first-served basis. We also have a limited amount of stock in our 'Good As New' section.

We realise that this is a huge disappointment for many of you and we sincerely apologise. We trust that you will be kind enough to understand that the circumstances surrounding this order were beyond our control and we assure you that we will strive to deliver service excellence at all times!



List of MYSCHOOL partners in Johannesburg North area for HeronBridge

Cedar Paint Emporium - Broadacres	Broadacres Centre, Cnr Valley & Cedar Rd	BROADACRES
Garden Shop - Broadacres	Broadacres Centre, Cnr Valley & Cedar Rd	BROADACRES
Kodak Express - Broadacres	Broadacres Centre, Cedar Rd	BROADACRES
Spur - Grey Wolf	Broadacres Centre, Cnr Cedar & Valley Roads	BROADACRES
Ballyclare Auto	13 Ballyclare Dr	BRYANSTON
Bryanpark Liquor Store	46 Grosvenor Road	BRYANSTON
Bryanston Jewellers - only open at 10am	Bryanston Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Ballyclare Dr	BRYANSTON
Cramers	Bryanston Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Ballyclare Dr	BRYANSTON
Engen - Bryanston Convenience Centre	11 Sloane Rd	BRYANSTON
Engen - Main Rd Bryanston	Cnr Main & Bruton Rds	BRYANSTON
Health & Pharmacy - Bryanston	Bryanston Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Ballyclare Dr	BRYANSTON
Impala Flora - Bryanpark	Bryanpark Centre, Cnr Grosvenor & Cumberland Rd	BRYANSTON
Lingerie & Leisure	Bryanston Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Ballyclare Dr	BRYANSTON
Link - Riverside Pharmacy	Riverside Centre, Cnr Bryanston Dr & The River Str	BRYANSTON
M & V Art	Bryanston Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Ballyclare Dr	BRYANSTON
Mugg & Bean - Bryanston	Coachmans Crossing, Peter Place	BRYANSTON
Pharma Save/Husted's	Epsom Downs Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Sloane Str	BRYANSTON
Riverside Fruit Market	Riverside Centre, Bryanston Dr & River Rd	BRYANSTON
Riverside Liquors	Riverside Centre, Cnr Bryanston & The River Dr	BRYANSTON
Sloane Meat Market	Epsom Downs Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Sloane Str	BRYANSTON
Spar - Bryanpark	Bryanpark Centre, Cnr Grosvenor & Cumberland Rd	BRYANSTON
Spar - Madison Foods	The River Str	BRYANSTON
Steers - Epsom Downs	Epsom Downs Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Sloane Str	BRYANSTON
Steers - Grosvenor Crossing	Grosvenor Crossing, Cnr William Nicol Dr & Grosvenor Rd	BRYANSTON
Western Province Cellars	Hobart Centre, 249 Hobart Rd	BRYANSTON
Woolworths - Bryanpark - new	C/r Cumberland/Grosvenor Road	BRYANSTON
Woolworths - Bryanston	Bryanston Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Ballyclare Dr	BRYANSTON
Woolworths - Epsom Downs	Epsom Downs Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Sloane Str	BRYANSTON
Woolworths - Summit Road	The River Centre, The River & Bryanston Dr	BRYANSTON
Zenex - Bryanston Service City	14 Peter Place Lyme Park	BRYANSTON
Jacks Paint - Bryanpark	Bryanpark Centre, Cnr Grosvenor & Cumberland Rd	BRYANSTON
Woolworths - Home & Food	Design Quarter, William Nicol Drive	BRYANSTON
Kwikspar - Buccleuch	Bridge Centre, Gibson Dr	BUCCLEUCH
Spur - Little Crow	Crowtorne Centre, Cnr Arthur & Pitts Rd	CROWTHORNE
Woolworths - Crowthorne	Cnr Arthur & Pitts Rd	CROWTHORNE
Club Travel - Dainfern	The Valley Centre, Broadacres Dr	DAINFERN
Woolworths - Dainfern	The Valley Centre, Broadacres Rd	DAINFERN
Kings Paint & Hardware - Douglasdale	Douglasdale Village, Cnr Douglas Rd & Leslie Str	DOUGLASDALE
Pick 'n Pay - Douglasdale	Douglasdale Centre, Douglas Rd	DOUGLASDALE
Shelia's Sewing & Haby Centre	Douglasdale Centre, Douglas Dr	DOUGLASDALE
Woolworths - Douglasdale	Douglasdale Village, Douglas Dr	DOUGLASDALE
Broadacres Fitment Centre	Broadacres Mall, Cnr Cedar & Valley Str	FOURWAYS
Honey Boutique - Fourways	Fourways Mall, William Nicol Rd	FOURWAYS
Pick 'n Pay - Dainfern	The Fern Centre, Cnr Cedar Rd & Gateside Ave	FOURWAYS
Pick 'n Pay Mini Market - Fourways Gardens	Agora Centre, Cnr Bushwillow & Uranium Rd	FOURWAYS
PNA - Douglasdale	Douglasdale Centre, Douglas Dr	FOURWAYS
Ruby's Original Restaurant	Fourways Mall, William Nicol Dr	FOURWAYS
Spar - Kingfisher	Kingfisher Ave	FOURWAYS
Steers - Fourways Mall	Shop L9A - Fourways Mall	FOURWAYS
Surf Centre - Fourways	Fourways Mall, William Nicol Dr	FOURWAYS
The Ladder of Learning	Fourways Mall, William Nicol Dr	FOURWAYS
Toy Zone - Fourways	Fourways View, Cnr Witkoppen & Cedar Rd	FOURWAYS
Woolworths - Fourways	Fourways Mall, William Nicol Dr	FOURWAYS

List of MYSCHOOL partners in Johannesburg North area for HeronBridge

Zenex - William Nicol	William Nicol Dr	FOURWAYS
Mistique hair, Beauty & Florist	51 William Nicol Drive	FOURWAYS
Deziner Optical	Fourways Crossing Centre, Cnr William Nicol Dr & Sunrise Dr	FOURWAYS
Flower Spot - Woodmead	Woodmead Value Mart, Waterfall Str	FOURWAYS
Fruit & Flower Connection	Leaping Frog Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Mulbarton Dr	FOURWAYS
Fruit & Veg City - Fourways	Cnr William Nicol & Sunrise Str	FOURWAYS
GardenShop - Fourways	Cnr William Nicol Dr & Monte Casino Boulevard	FOURWAYS
Hirsch's Home Store - Fourways	Cnr The Straight & Forest Dr	FOURWAYS
John Dory's Fish & Grill	Leaping Frog Centre, Cnr William Nicol & Mulbarton Dr	FOURWAYS
McCullagh & Bothwell - Fourways Crossing	Fourways Crossing Centre, Cnr William Nicol Dr & Sunrise Str	FOURWAYS
Monte Casino Bird Gardens	Cnr Witkoppen Rd & William Nicol Dr	FOURWAYS
Mugg & Bean - Fourways Crossing	Fourways Crossing Centre, William Nicol Dr	FOURWAYS
Stax - Fourways Crossing	Fourways Crossing, Cnr William Nicol & Sunrise Dr	FOURWAYS
Waltons - Fourways	Fourways Crossing, William Nicol Dr	FOURWAYS
Pick 'n Pay Mini Market - Kyalami Estates	Kyalami Downs Centre, Kyalami Boulevard	KYALAMI
Zenex - Kyalami	Cnr Main & Arthur Ave	KYALAMI
Engen - Lonehill Service Station	371 Lonehill boulevard	LONEHILL
Woolworths - Lonehill	Lonehill Shopping Centre, Boulevard Street	LONEHILL
Mugg & Bean - Paulshof	Cambridge Crossing Centre, Witkoppen Rd	PAULSHOF
Woolworths - Paulshof	Cambridge Crossing, Witkoppen Str	PAULSHOF
Tile Africa - Fourways	Design & Décor Centre, Sunset Ave	PINE SLOPES
Netcafe Sunninghill	Sunninghill Hospital, Nyanuki Str	SUNNINGHILL
Spar - Sunninghill	Sunninghill Centre, Edison Crescent	SUNNINGHILL
Woolworths - Sunninghill - new		SUNNINGHILL
Engen - Woodlands Service Centre	Cnr Woodlands Dr & Western Services Rd	WOODMEAD
Engen - Woodmead Service Station	Cnr Woodmead Dr & Waterval Crescent	WOODMEAD
Kings Paint & Hardware	6 Waterval Crescent	WOODMEAD
The Fruitspot - Woodmead	Woodmead Value Mart, Waterval Crescent	WOODMEAD
Tile Africa - Woodmead	Woodmead Value Mart, Waterfall Crescent	WOODMEAD
Toyzone - Woodmead	Woodmead Square, Waterfall Crescent	WOODMEAD
Waltons - Woodmead	Woodmead Value Mart, 15 Waterfall Crescent	WOODMEAD
Woolworths - Cedar Square - new		
Engen Quick Shops	All areas	

LIFT CLUBS REQUIRED

- **All GRADE R teachers/moms.** I require a lift club service for my daughter, Skylah Lona. We stay in the Olivedale area, in a suburb called Northwold. Contact Tracy 011 709 7773.
- **I require a lift** for my daughter from the Cedar Road area to Fourways High School in the mornings. In return, I am willing to contribute towards petrol OR I will take your child to HeronBridge for you! Call 076 457 8910.
- **Grade "0" pupil** looking to join a lift club from Midrand (Carlswald / Oliphants area). Contact Dawn on 082 923-5582 or 0861 00 3326

TRAFFIC RULES!

An appeal to all our parents:

- Not to turn left at the pool.
- Not to drive through the retreat or cottages.
- Not to leave your car if you are parked in the drop off zones.

We thank you for reading this appeal and request that you take note of it.

PREP WELCOME!

Mr Irving writes...

Welcome back for the second term. I'm sure you all had a great holiday and are ready to face our challenging HeronBridge winter.

We have pleasure in welcoming to our Preparatory staff:

Mr William McKee, our new Deputy, who actually started with us in the last week of last term

Mrs Lindi Bartlet, our special educational needs co-coordinator (SENCO)

Mr Gary Botha, our Head of Department, Sport

Mrs Caron Botha who will be replacing Mrs Cathy Haigh for the term

Miss Timshell Lipawsky, our Library Assistant

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new pupils who will be starting this term, and also to their families. We trust your stay with us will be a long and enjoyable one.

It's already been a great start and I must thank, right up front, our new tuck-shop team and the marketing team for the great launch to the tuck-shop this week. The co-curricular programme is already up and running with festivals this coming weekend.

Don't forget 'Celebration of Talent' next weekend. Book your tickets now.



What is Super Heroes?

A 10 week series for kids from Grade R to Grade 6. Teaches the super powers of confidence, forgiveness, courage, self control and compassion. Every week we will reveal a TRUE HERO from the Bible.

Meet with awesome leaders and super cool kids just like you.

Starts **Sunday 17th May** 09h15 - 11h00.

KID'S CHURCH

9 St James Crescent (between Eccleston Crescent and Wilton Ave) Bryanston.



Want to find out more?

Call the church office - (011) 463-1530

or email church@bbc.org.za

JUNIOR PRIMARY CHALLENGE!

This month is **Friendship month** in the Junior Primary. Our little people are learning: *I act in such a way that my friends know they can trust me.* Now that's good advice for all of us!

PREP APPEAL.

Mr Moore - our science and technology teacher - is looking for 2 and 5 litre empty ice cream containers. Should you have any at home that you don't need please will you send them directly to him.

HeronBridge
Community Church

We would like to invite you to join us every Sunday at 09H00. Our services are held in the HeronBridge College auditorium and are open to all denomination.

We offer Sunday school for the young as well as a youth group for the teens. We look forward to hosting you and your family.

PARENTING MATTERS

A **NEW** weekly column.

Creative parenting expert and author, Nikki Bush, shares some insightful, informative and encouraging advice for parents. Each week, look out for catchy sound bites, information, wisdom, hints and tips to assist you in raising your children while being supportive of the school environment. To kick off this series, please read **The Titanic and a bottle of Milk!**

THE TITANIC AND A BOTTLE OF MILK

Don't children just have the most creative ways of looking at, and understanding life? Their imaginations are still in tact and haven't been dulled by life in the fast lane. With their limited life experience they are not yet thinking 'in the box' so they are able to come up with spontaneous and unexpected ideas and solutions. I remember a conversation with my eldest son, Ryan, when he was around four years old. We were talking about how far away the moon was and I asked him how we could get there. "With a very, very long ladder," was the reply. You see, their minds are not yet crowded with the obstacles of reality that we have come to expect.

At the age of seven when Ryan was just about to pour milk (from a semi-defrosted bottle) onto his cereal, he piped up, "I can tell exactly how the Titanic sank just from looking into this half-frozen bottle of milk!" Boats and The Titanic in particular, had been a favourite interest of his for years. He had amassed a number of books and a wealth of knowledge on this ill-fated passenger liner. He was fascinated by the fact that an iceberg had ripped open the hull of The Titanic, causing it to sink, and was always trying to work out exactly how that had happened – yes, this is my child of a thousand questions! When we looked into the milk bottle at our son's insistence it was quite clear that the frozen milk in the bottle did, indeed, look like a white iceberg. It's quite awesome how a story you have read to your child over and over again can suddenly come alive for them because of their active imaginations.

Aren't these kind of moments some of the joys of having children? Such simplicity is the essence of childhood. One of our challenges as parents of 21st century children who will enter the world of work somewhere between 2020 and 2030 is to encourage our children's imaginations, for innovation will be the lifeblood of companies in the future. "This new world will demand the ability to visualise, to form images and ideas in the mind, especially of things never seen or not yet experienced personally. Imagination leads to original thought and is often driven by the dual thoughts "Why?" and "Why not?" Our children will need original thoughts and ideas to solve the problems and challenges of the world – problems that don't necessarily yet exist! You hardly need to develop this ability in most young children. The key is to ensure you don't stifle it." (Nikki Bush & Graeme Codrington, *Future-proof Your Child*)

Here are just three ways to encourage your child's imagination:

- Allow them downtime at all ages, time when they can just potter around the house, unscheduled and unsupervised, doing nothing in particular. This is the time when their brains can consolidate all the learning that has taken place and all the stimulation it has received. While our children are being rushed from one activity to another constantly, they don't have time to process all their experiences because they are in a constant state of 'doing' rather than 'being'.
- Listen to their thoughts and ideas. Much of the time we spend with our children our minds are going off in a million directions at once and we are not really focused or listening to what our children are saying to us. How many times have you caught yourself saying, "Sorry, what was that?" As your children express their thoughts these can become the start of fascinating conversations which engage them because their thoughts were the starting point in the first place.
- When they ask you a question, don't always give them the answer, ask them what they think.
- Provide space and time for creative activities such as painting, drawing, dough play, pottery, free play with construction toys, making up their own songs, fantasy play, making music, creating their own concerts, story writing, poetry and reading.

Play is not only the language of childhood but it is the door to imagination and original thought. Keep your child's imagination alive!

Monthly Masses of Messages

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ADVERTISE HERE! DEADLINE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 12H00.

PLEASE CONTACT KAREN BLAKEWAY AT THE COLLEGE OFFICE ON 082 387 2242 / 082 771 4470 OR
FAX 086 643 0545 OR EMAIL : kblakeway@heronbridge.co.za

ELECTRONIC REPAIRS: We specialise in repairs – all notebooks / computers. Motherboards, LCD screens, battery cell, power supply, DVD, LCD plasma TV, Hi-fi. laser colour printer, fax, scanner, camera, UPS, cell phone (Nokia, Motorola, Samsung), with warranty and free quote. Call 082 594 8941 or mail nbzcomputers@telkomsa.net

ALAN POWELL GARDENS ESTABLISHED 1991: Garden Maintenance, Landscaping, Pruning and Tree Felling: Once-off clean ups; irrigation systems and repairs. We operate in: Fourways and Broadacres. CONTACT US FOR A QUOTE. Tel: (012) 669 0326 OR 082 548 3283 (Alan or Mandy) or E-mail address: apowell@mweb.co.za

CHARTWELL STABLES: children's Riding School specialize in teaching children to ride on safe ponies with qualified instructors. Pony camps, fun days and training shows held regularly. Ladies rides in the mornings. Our motto is "Have fun while you learn". Tel Shirley 083 500 0103 / Stables 073 952 8572

LOOKING FOR ANY JOB: Skhumbuzo has just completed his matric and is looking for a job. Contact him on these 0745493849 or contact Happiness @ the Pre-Prep 0736685611

ZILZ EVENTS & PARTIES CC: Are you planning a Function or Event and have no idea where to start or what to do? Give us a call and we shall alleviate your stress with our expert advice and professional help. From Birthday Parties to Company Functions. www.zilzevents.co.za, info@zilzevents.co.za, Reinhard on 082-492-8215

TIMESHARE FOR SALE: 2 FlexiWeeks (Red - ideal for private school holidays) at Mtunzini Forest Lodge. Situated on the unspoilt Natal Dolphin Coastline in the Mtunzini Nature reserve. R15000 per week for 2 double bedrooms plus loft room with 2 single beds (6 sleeper). Levies for 2009 already paid (average of R2300 per week per annum). Visit <http://www.wheretostay.co.za/mtunziniforestlodge/> to view the Lodge facilities. Contact Hilary Crowther on 071 607 5416.

ACCOUNTING, BOOKKEEPING, tax, Annual Financial Statements, CC registrations and much more, done by CA with 15 years experience at affordable rates. Contact Christine on 082 562 5927

DAMP KING: Damp proofing, waterproofing & painting to domestic and commercial properties. Registered with Master Builder Association, Waterproofing Federation and Damp proofing Association. Call Anthony for a quote on 011 792 6575, 083 232 6695 or email anthony@dampking.co.za

HORSE RIDING: Just 5 minutes from HeronBridge. Beginner's package: 4 x 1 hour lessons which include riding and horse care. Lessons offered Wed, Fri and Sat. Valued at R640 but on special for only R500. Safe ponies and experienced instructors. Contact Belinda 084 220 2657

HORSE OUTRIDES: Just 5 minutes from HeronBridge. Fantastic scenery and quiet trails. Get back to nature any day of the week. Rides range from 1 hour to 3 hours, so take your pick! Beginners and advanced riders welcome. Contact Belinda 084 220 2657

TENNIS LESSONS: I am doing group lessons in the holidays on a Wednesday afternoon for an hour the price is R65 per lesson if anyone is keen please contact me on 0833979555. The lesson will be held at HeronBridge College.

HOLIDAY FLAT NORTH COAST: 3-bedroomed penthouse flat (sleeps 7). Westbrook Beach (between Umdloti and Baliito), R1500/night. website www.sunrisebeach.co.za, email kmorton@klmcs.co.za).

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