



August 2011

Dear Parents

Thank you to all for another special term and aren't we glad that we've come to the end of the cold, the frost and the dark winter mornings!

Let's start with the academics. I have just completed signing off all the children's progress reports. What a pleasure! Children, you have all performed so admirably. I am not quite sure if our standards are high or if we just have such intelligent children. What pleases me most is that the majority have given of their personal best and that is what matters. Thank you to Grade Five and Grade Six for two most enjoyable evenings, as we celebrated their classrooms. It was so encouraging to witness the passion in the 'Bug's Day' theme and the upcoming talent in the Grade Six cultural evening.

A first for HeronBridge this term was the Study Skills courses offered by Mr McFarlane to our Grade Sixes and Sevens. This was such a success that we will now be offering it to the Grade Fours and Fives in the new term.

All the sports ticked along as usual but two particular highlights spring to mind. The Inter-House Athletics was such a fun morning. Weaver came from nowhere and all of a sudden there were three houses still in it going into the very last event. Barbet won the race but Weaver the event. First Weaver, second Barbet, third Turaco and fourth Starling. The Inter-School Cross Country was huge. Hosting over 1500 athletes was an amazing feat all of its own. This is the big league, children. Well done to York Myles and Tayla Van Eck who both won their respective events.

Wasn't it great to celebrate the talent in our school on those two special evenings back in May! Well done to all again, for performing so well in the S.A. Champs and at Eisteddfod. It was great to recognize you all at our HeronBridge Achievement Awards Assembly along with all our sportsmen and women who managed to attain that level of recognition. We have put the award winners names onto the communicator for you to read.

Our Equestrian team have also come along in leaps and bounds this year. The latest results can be found on the communicator. Well done to all the riders and good luck for Nationals!

Thank you for taking time out to complete our 'HeronBridge Health Check Survey'. You would have already received the results and feedback from our marketing department, but I would just like to say how encouraged we were by your overwhelming support for and satisfaction of our product. We have also noted the concerns expressed and are already well under way to addressing these. We are focusing currently on two non-negotiables as far as our discipline is concerned:

- The wearing of our correct uniform at all times and the general appearance of our pupils. (Length of hair, jewelry etc)
- The manners and general respect of our pupils. (Greeting visitors, adults etc)

Please support and assist us in all our discipline efforts. We cannot do this alone, as the children spend more time with you than they do with us.

We would like to continue with these surveys (most likely under a new name, watch this space) in order to ensure that we are offering a product that suits most of the market. We cannot please everybody all the time.

Along with the award winners I have also attached a letter from Grant Caw our Estate and Project Manager informing us all of the exciting work the Estate will be up to for the remainder of the year.

May I sign off by thanking you all for the support that you do give us. It is most appreciated. Your children are special. We love them all, as does our Heavenly Father. He has a plan and purpose for each one and our job is to set them on the right path.
God bless!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Irving', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Irving
Preparatory Head

ESTATE NEWS

Just to keep you all in the picture I would like to outline some current plans.

We are planning to build the long awaited large school hall in the next few years. This will be situated below the main entrance circle. In order to do this we need to remove some of the older scruffy buildings which we have been using for various activities and clear this site for the new hall. This means that we need to replace these facilities elsewhere on the property. This involves the following :-

- Build a therapy block between the Prep and Pre Prep which will consist of the 2 bridging classes (Gr1 and Gr2) and 11 therapy rooms for the therapists. This will commence in August with M&M doing the building.
- Build new Estate workshops. These will be below Riverview next to the water storage tanks. We will be building these ourselves starting this week.
- Build new staff accommodation for emergency Estate staff and school staff who work peculiar hours like functions staff and bus drivers. This will be across the road at the top of the sports complex. We have already commenced here. This project will include toilets for the new fields as well.
- Build new Retreat Hall to replace Jacaranda Hall which will be demolished. Work has already commenced on this project. This is situated between the Retreat Dining Room and the Retreat Tuck shop.
- Demolish all buildings in the hall site and move all service etc
- Sort out temporary parking for Prep staff while the building is in progress
- Build sewerage processing plant for staff and sports toilets
- Build new septic tank for new hall and link to existing sewerage processing plant
- Raise levels between new hall and river and between Retreat Hall and river to ensure we are out of flood lines

Only then will we be able to commence the Hall itself and related facilities. Details of this project will be provided once we are ready to start building!

As you can see we have a busy time ahead. During all building operations there is some disruption but we have planned this process from the inception of this project and the building sites are all accessed from the river side so builders are never mixed up with school learners. Construction does however involve a certain amount of noise and we will all have to do our best to work around this in order to benefit from the end product. If you have any concerns as we progress please feel free to email me and I will do my best to resolve the situation. We do take all precautions required to keep our learners safe.

We have one need to assist us with these projects and that is good building filling. The site for both the Retreat and School hall is on a pretty steep slope and in order make the best of the river frontage and remain within the flood line we need to fill the entire area surrounding these buildings so they flow down to the river. This requires a huge amount of filling which is hard to find especially at a reasonable rate. If anybody knows of anyone with several thousand cubic meters of filling looking for a new home please let me know. Either on my cell 082 450 8816 or via email grant@heronbridge.co.za.

We trust that we will all be enjoying these facilities in the near future.

Regards,
Grant Caw
Estate and Projects Manager