

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Veritas College

(FORMERLY CONVENT AND CBC, SPRINGS)



Learn, Live and Lead with Love

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NEWSLETTER No. 7

9 November 2016

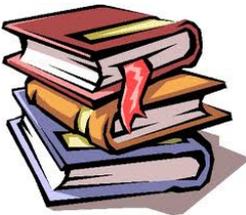
Dear Veritas Families

We are rapidly drawing closer to the end of yet another school year and teachers and learners are busily completing the syllabus and preparing to write the final examinations.

This will be the final Newsletter for 2016 and contains important information. Families are requested to put this letter in a safe place and refer to it over the next two months.

ACADEMIC NEWS

- **Final Examinations**, for the Grade 4 – 7 pupils began on **Tuesday, 8 November** and end on **Friday, 18 November**. ‘*What to Study Lists*’ have been distributed and pupils should be preparing for these exams.



Please note that as from Thursday, 10 November, until the end of the year, school will close at 12:00 for ALL pupils. There will be waiting classes available until 13:00 for children who are unable to be fetched by 12:00, followed by Aftercare if required.

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to Paballo Lekhuleni on his selection for the under 11 Eastern’s Schools’ Regional Cricket Team that will participate in a Regional Festival during December.

CULTURAL NEWS

Congratulations to Buhle Nombewu, Atang Makgata and Olivia Paulo on winning the team trophy at the Inter-Primary Impromptu Speaking Competition on Tuesday, 1 November 2016. Buhle was awarded 1st place and Atang, 3rd place.

HERITAGE DAY FUN FASHION SHOW AND ENTREPRENEURS' DAY

Our 'Heritage Day Fun Fashion Show and Entrepreneurs' Day' on the 23rd of September proved to be an enjoyable and successful day. Thank you to all families for sponsoring their children to dress up for Heritage Day. Many children also entered the Fashion Show and enjoyed their time on the ramp. We collected R20 800 in sponsorship and entry fees on the day. We will be using this money to upgrade the children's bathrooms around the school.

Well done to the Grade 7's for running their stalls at the Entrepreneurs' Day so efficiently. I'm sure that we have some up and coming businessmen and women in the making.

Congratulations to Milena Pellizzon and Olivia Paulo who made the most profit on the day – R3478.50.

PASTORAL CARE



With Christmas just around the corner, as part of our final 'Out-Reach Programme' we would like to make a contribution towards those less fortunate in our community and in so doing bring some happiness to families over this special Christmas Season of giving. We would therefore like to make the following request to our Veritas Families:

- **Christmas Hampers**

We would like to acknowledge the work done by our Support Staff in keeping the school neat and tidy. We therefore ask our families to be generous and to contribute any food items for hampers that will be given to our Support Staff as Christmas gifts. Please send these items to school before we close on the 2nd of December 2016.

- **Christmas Gifts**

We would also like to ask our pupils to donate a gift (new or nearly new) that can be taken to the children of the Dominican *Sithand' izingane Care and Support Centre* for Christmas. Many of these children have lost their families to the AIDS pandemic. Please wrap your gift (toy/book etc) in Christmas wrapping and on the wrapping write whether the gift is for a boy or a girl, and the appropriate age. The children at the centre are so grateful for these gifts each year! We ask that these gifts be brought to school before the 2nd of December 2016.

- **St Vincent de Paul**

Learners are asked to bring non-perishable food items to the Valedictory Mass on Friday, 2 December. These offerings will be given to the St Vincent de Paul Society of the local Catholic Church who will distribute the food to needy families in the Springs community.

OUTINGS/PRODUCTIONS/RETREATS

The mission of the college is to *'educate young people to **live** fully in their world, not only with knowledge and competence but with the integrity and purpose that comes from the vision and values of Jesus as they pursue and participate in the unfolding of truth.'*(*'Veritas'*)

Education extends beyond the classroom and thus we have offered our learners a variety of extensions to their academic programme this year.

We had two outside productions that our learners enjoyed this year. **'Hooked on Books'** shares the philosophy held by many of our teachers which stresses how, in this day and age, we need to get our children's noses out of "technology" and into books. The emphasis on reading has never been higher for our future generations.

The second production was given by a company called **'On Cue Theatre'** which dealt with the important topic of 'Bullying'.

Our Grade 3 to 7 learners will all enjoy a **Retreat Day** this month. This year our retreats will be facilitated by a team of teachers from the Preparatory School and I'm convinced that they will enjoy this valuable spiritual programme.

Many of our learners have had the experience of participating in the **Edmund Rice Festivals** and **Inter-Catholic Schools'** events in both cultural and sporting activities this year. These events are held in addition to the seasonal sports' league fixtures.

Finally our learners all had the opportunity of going on their annual **Grade Outing**. The Grade 1's visited the Pretoria Zoo, the Grade 2's will visit the Reptile Park, the Grade 3's went to the Montecasino Bird Park, the Grade 4's and 5's will be going to the annual Pantomime, the Grade 6's attended a leadership development programme at Thaba Morula where they enjoyed a three night stay and a busy programme of activities. The Grade 7's will enjoy their outing to Gold Reef City.

Funding for these abovementioned activities (amongst other items) is covered by the levies that our families pay at the beginning of the year and we thank them for affording their children these opportunities.

SCHOOL PROGRAMME 2017

As was the case in 2016, school will close for Grade 3 – 7 learners at 14:00 from Monday to Thursday.

The Grade 1 and 2 learners will finish school at 13:30 from Monday to Friday.

The Pre-Preparatory times will remain the same – 13:00.

On Fridays school will close at 13:30 for Grade 1 – 7 learners.

There will be waiting classes available for Grade 1 and 2 pupils until 14:00 (Mon – Thu inclusive) when older siblings finish their day.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE /HOMEWORK SUPERVISION CLASSES

In our drive to keep children safe and productively supervised during 2016 we met with a lot of resistance from some families and from some of the older children. We do not want our learners to be loitering around the school grounds in the afternoons for many reasons. All children should be in a safe environment and should be given the opportunity to be in a routine of completing necessary homework and studying for tests.

The rules regarding the After-School Care at Veritas Preparatory are as follows:

1. *No child may remain unattended on the school premises after 14:30 in the afternoon.*
2. *Children remaining unattended on the school premises **after 14:30** (Grade 3 – 7) are to report to the After-School Care Centre to do their homework.*
3. *Children who are supervised for the first hour or part thereof (14:30 – 15:30) will be charged **R20** per day.*
4. *Children who are supervised past 15:30 will be charged **R40** per day.*
5. *Fees charged will be as follows:*
 - **R20 / R40** per learner, **per day or part thereof** for casual attendance.
 - **R744.00** per learner, **per month, over 10 months** for regular attendance.
 - **R677.00** per learner, **per month, over 11 months** for regular attendance.

Fees will be adjusted annually and monthly statements for School Fees will include the After-School Care Centre's fees.

Learners will need to bring extra lunch for the afternoon as lunch will not be provided. However, food can be bought from the Veri Deli Tuck-shop.

Parents or Guardians please do not instruct your child to stay away from the After-School Care facility as you are compromising your child's safety. The children have the opportunity to complete homework within a supervised environment. Children running around the school grounds, unsupervised, are getting up to mischief and creating discipline problems not to mention any safety issues.

If you are unable to fetch your child or arrange to have him/her fetched by the necessary time – 14:30 – they are required to go to the After-Care Facility.

STAFF NEWS

Sadly we will be bidding farewell to Mrs Penman and Mr Cumming at the end of this year.

Mrs Penman will be relocating to KwaZulu Natal. We wish her much happiness and thank her for all she did at Veritas Preparatory, both in the classroom and extra-murally, during the three years that she spent here.

Mr Cumming will be joining his wife, Bronwyn, in Singapore where he will take up a position at St Joseph's International Catholic School. We thank Mr Cumming for the nine very fruitful years he spent at Veritas College. His dedication to teaching and the coaching of a variety of sports is invaluable. Mr Cumming also played a pivotal role within our Learner Support and Pastoral Care Programmes. The professional way in which he engaged in the counselling of our learners and their families is to be commended and was of great benefit to our school community. We will surely miss him but wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS LISTS

- Please refer to the 'Stationery Requirements List' for information regarding additional books and stationery as well as how books need to be covered per Grade. It is essential that the learners return to school, in the New Year, with all the necessary equipment. This will be a positive start to a successful academic year.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

We have a number of important events taking place before the end of our school year:

1. **Grade 1 Orientation Day**: Saturday, 12 November 2016.

2. **Pre-Preparatory Christmas Party– Thursday** 1 December 2016.

We still have our two Awards' Evenings ahead of us where we will be honouring both Foundation Phase and Senior Phase pupils:

3. **The Foundation Phase Awards' Ceremony** will take place on **Wednesday, 30 November 2016**. All Foundation Phase parents are invited to attend this evening. We give recognition to **EACH CHILD** for the work he/she has done throughout the year.

All Gr.1; Gr.2 & Gr.3 pupils are to be smartly dressed in their summer uniforms & yellow pullovers. They must report to their class teacher at the side of the hall, **NO LATER THAN 18:00**. We will start with the Awards Ceremony promptly at **18:30**.

Due to limited seating, we request that only **two family members** per child attend the ceremony, please.

4. **The Intermediate/Senior Phase Academic and Special Awards' Evening** will take place on **Thursday, 1 December 2016, at 18:00 for 18:30**. Parents will be informed by Friday the 25th of November if their child is a Prize Winner. Due to the limited seating, we request that **only two family members** per child attend the ceremony, please.

All Grade 7 pupils and their families are, however, welcome to attend.

5. The **Grade 7 Valedictory Service** will take place on **Friday, 2 December 2016**, at the Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, at 10:30. All our Grade 7's and their families are invited to join us at this special farewell service.

6. The **final school day** of 2016 for **all** pupils is on **Friday, 2 December 2016**. This day will include our final assembly followed by the Grade 7 Valedictory Mass at 10:30 in the Church. School will close at 12:00.

7. **Reports** will be issued on Tuesday, **6 December 2016** from 07:30 – 09:00.

Grade 1 – 7 can collect reports from the hall.

Pre-Preparatory teachers will be in their classrooms.

8. An important **Parents' Meeting** for Grade 1 – 7 will take place on Monday, 16 January 2017 from 17:00 – 18:00. At this meeting parents and learners will have the opportunity to meet their teachers for 2017 and get important information about their year.

9. **School reopens**, for pupils, on **Wednesday, 18 January 2017**.

THE UNIFORM SHOP

Our uniform shop is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 07:00 to 10:00 and on Fridays from 07:00 to 11:00

Monday 5th December 07:00 – 09:00

Tuesday 6th December 07:00 – 09:00

Extra Hours for January 2017

<u>January 2017</u>		
13 January	Friday	08:00 – 12:00
14 January	Saturday	08:00 – 12:00
16 January	Monday	08:00 – 12:00 and 15:00 – 17:00
17 January	Tuesday	08:00 – 12:00
18 January	Wednesday	07:00 – 10:00

ACCOUNTS OFFICE

The Accounts Office will be open until the 9th of December, from 08:00 – 10:00. For matters concerning accounts, you can contact Nicolette at 011 362-2686 or nicolette@veritas.org.za. We urge families with unpaid fees to please settle their accounts by the 9th December.

THANKS

A very big 'thank you' to all of our wonderful, caring and supportive Veritas families. Every request that has been made this year has been answered in so many caring ways. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a caring community.



We wish all our Veritas Families a Blessed Christmas.

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents,
but in *His* presence

Mrs S. Billson
Head of Preparatory

Mr N.D. Connors
Headmaster

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

2 November (Wednesday)	Mass for All Souls
10 November (Thursday)	School Closes @ 12 for the remainder of the Year
11 November (Friday)	Year End Exams Begin
18 November (Friday)	Examinations end
22 November (Tuesday)	Fun Gala
24 November (Thursday)	Grade 3 Retreat
25 November (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 4 Retreat • Grade 7 Outing
28 November (Monday)	Grade 5 Retreat
29 November (Tuesday)	Grade 6 Retreat
30 November (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 7 Retreat • Foundation Phase Awards' Ceremony

December

1 December (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter/Sen Phase Awards' Evening • Pre-Prep Christmas Party
2 December (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Assembly • Grade 7 Valedictory Mass 10:30 • School Closes @ 12:00
5 December (Monday)	Staff Administration Day
6 December (Tuesday)	Reports Issued from 07:30 – 09:00