

## PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Springs

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# Veritas College

(FORMERLY CONVENT AND CBC, SPRINGS)



## SENIOR SCHOOL

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### PREPARATORY NEWSLETTER NO 1

Dear Veritas Family

24 January 2017

Welcome Back! I hope that you were all fortunate enough to enjoy a blessed Christmas Season and quality time with your families.

A special welcome to all our new Veritas families. May your time with us be filled with many successes and good memories. We look forward to getting to know you.

Build a good relationship with your child's teachers; get to know the parents of your child's friends. Join the P.T.S.A. Get involved.

Become one of the Veritas Family! Remember a family looks after each other's best interests. And from the very onset we invite you to discuss any of your concerns with us. Car-park gossip and anonymous letters can be destructive and demoralizing. I urge you to share any dissatisfaction with the right people and together we can address areas of concern. We know that you will continue to work with us, so that your child can grow in confidence, with a love of learning, a caring attitude and a determination to be the best person they can be.

The theme for Catholic Schools in 2017 is:

**"Catholic Education: Walking Forward Together."**

***"Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6***



Let us embrace this theme as we "walk forward together" into this new school year.

As parents and guardians we understand that you want the best education for your child and as such put great value on school and education. Explain to your child that treating everyone with respect and kindness, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school is important to you. These are also important life skills. The value you place on these will be the value your child holds.

It is lovely to see so many children returning to school and looking so smart in their school uniform. However, to complement this smart appearance, we also expect that children will attend school with suitable haircuts. Extreme haircuts, for example tramlines, patterned styles, Mohican cuts, mullets, unnatural colour tints etc... are not permitted in school as they undermine the unique style of our school uniform.

Create a learning atmosphere right from the very start. A routine must be put in place whereby children know that homework must be done before any recreational activity takes place. Encourage READING! Reading from real books (not electronic) is important for children to develop a love of books. Having a wide range of books at home encourages this. During homework and reading time, turn the television/computer off. Use the television/computer as incentives for work done – children will value it more.

Your children are your most important gift from God, treasure them, help them, guide them and support them – this time is crucial so do it now. Start 2017 with this commitment.

We will do everything we can to help your child to do their best. Let us know if we can support you in any way. Remember we operate an open door policy – feel free to book an appointment with your child's class teacher if you have concerns or need support, help or advice.

## STAFF NEWS

1) We have no new teachers joining us this year but some teachers will take up new teaching responsibilities in 2017. Some changes include:

- Playgroup – Ms Modubu
- Grade 000 – Mrs Freedman, Mrs McAslin
- Grade 00 – Mrs Mynhardt, Miss Kapp
- Grade R – Mrs Rees, Mrs Shardlow (R.E. Gr 3), Ms Schroder
- Grade 1 – Mrs Selkon, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Lee. Miss Campbell will join Grade 1 as an assistant teacher.
- Grade 2 - Mrs Anderson, Mrs Van Blerk , Miss Jooste
- Grade 3 – Mrs Van Vuuren, Mrs O'Donoghue, Miss Vermaak
- Grade 4 – Mrs Dennis ( Gr 4 Maths/ Natural Science/ Gr 5 RELO) & Miss Breet ( Gr 4&5 Afrikaans/ Gr 4 Social Sciences)
- Grade 5 – Mrs Billings (Gr 5 English/Social Sciences) & Mr G. Barton ( Gr 5 Maths/Natural Science & Gr 7 Technology)
- Grade 6 – Mrs Howard ( Gr 6 English/Social Sciences/RELO) & Dr Payaniandi (Gr 6 Maths/ Natural Science/ RELO)
- Grade 7 – Mr Barton (Gr 7 Maths/Natural Science) & Mrs Jackson (Gr 7 English/Social Sciences/EMS)
- Mrs Holloway – (Gr4 English/Gr 4&5 Computers)

- Mr Xaka – (Gr 3-7 Zulu/ Gr 6&7 Computers)
- Mrs Barton – (Gr 6 & 7 Afrikaans/Gr 4 RELO)
- Mr Billson – (Gr R-3 Computers)
- Mrs Smith – Arts and Culture (Gr 1-7); Miss Viljoen will assist Mrs Smith in the Art Room
- Mrs Billson – RELO (Gr 7)
- Mr Wild & Mrs Botha – Physical Education

We wish all our teachers a successful year.

- 2) Mr Mike Hirst will take up the position of Estate Manger in 2017. He had already been employed as Estate Manager at the Senior School and will now oversee both Campuses. We wish him a happy, successful stay at Veritas College.
- 3) As stated earlier, Ms Schroder will be taking on the Grade R Bunny Class permanently this year. We thank her for the hard work and many extra hours that she devoted to the school during the time that she managed the estate. Her exceptional dedication and loyalty to the school is to be commended. She is a talented, versatile lady who has 'many strings in her bow' and has the attitude that she will assist where she is needed. After the successful year she had in the Pre-Preparatory last year, we feel she is definitely needed in Grade R.
- 4) Mrs Rees, who has been overseeing the Pre-Preparatory School during Mrs Kelty's absence, will take on the position of Head of Preparatory in a permanent capacity from 2017. We wish her the very best of luck in this post.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### School Hours

- Families are reminded to have their children at school by **07:30**. The first bell rings at **07:35** each morning. Learners report to their classroom and **register** is taken. Quite often they have to line up to attend assembly/computers/hymn practice etc. The first lesson starts promptly at **07:45**.
- School closes for Grade 3 – 7 learners at **14:00** from Monday to Thursday. The Grade 1 and 2 learners finish school at **13:30** from Monday to Thursday.
- On **Fridays** school will close at **13:00** for Grade 1 and 2 learners and at **13:30** for Grade 3 – 7 learners.
- The Pre-Preparatory closing time is **13:00** Monday - Friday.
- There will be **waiting classes** available for Grade 1 and 2 learners until 14:00 (Mon – Thurs) until older siblings finish their day.
- Families are requested to make the necessary arrangements to have their children fetched from school by **14:30 latest** unless they are part of the After-School Care Facility or involved in an extra-mural activity. It is NOT permitted or safe for your child to be left unattended at school until late into the afternoon. Neither is it conducive for academic success.

## Parents' Meetings

I trust that all families made use of the opportunity to attend the Parent Grade Meetings on Monday, 16 January 2017. This was the opportunity to hear valuable information regarding, academic, cultural, sporting and social activities that the children will be involved in this year in their new Grade.



## Choir

Both our Senior & Junior choir practices will start directly **after the mid-term break**.

## Pre-Preparatory

We at the Pre-Prep are so excited to welcome new families to our Veritas Community and are equally thrilled to have our existing families back after a long holiday.

The children have all settled into their new classes and the routine of their daily activities very quickly.

Our Grade 00 and Grade R classes will be starting with our swimming program on Monday (23 January) – please refer to your child's notice files for relevant information.

A reminder to please return Personal Information, Indemnity and Information booklet forms by next week.

## Upcoming events:

17 February – Pre-Prep Open Day. Please invite friends to come and visit us.

01 April – Pre-Prep Mini Sports

We look forward to a wonderful year together – thank you for choosing us!

## Matric Results

Congratulations to all our Matriculants and their teachers as we celebrate our 19<sup>th</sup> year of a 100% pass rate!!

60 learners achieved 59 distinctions in the IEB system. 87% of the learners attained a Degree Pass and the remainder nothing less than Diploma Passes. Well done to all the teachers from Grade R – 12 who played a valuable role in these final results.



## Maintenance

During December we undertook to complete some important maintenance projects, and upgraded areas around the school. Ceiling fans were installed in the school hall. The senior boys' and girls' bathrooms, together with the Pre-Preparatory bathrooms, were retiled and upgraded. The walls of the main buildings had the unsightly 'cracks and chips' fixed. The Administration Offices were painted and the ladies from the Accounts' Office are in the process of moving downstairs.

An area on the playground, where children can sit and eat their lunches, was paved. A decorative, signage wall was built at the corner of Middlesex and Planation Roads which will soon receive the school badge and school name. All these upgrades to our school were made possible through the Special Projects Fund which is built up from the R500 per year that parents pay in addition to their annual school fees, as well as from fundraising activities such as the Heritage Day Fashion Show, Valentine's Day and P.T.S.A Funds. Thank you, parents for supporting these initiatives.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

### Veritas College After-School Care

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** are to report to the After-School Care Centre to do their homework.
3. Children who are supervised for the first ½ hour or part thereof (14:30 – 15:00) will be charged **R20** per day.
4. Children who are supervised past 15:00 will be charged **R43** per day.
5. Fees charged will be as follows:
  - **R20 / R43** per learner, **per day or part of day** for casual attendance.
  - **R796.00** per learner, **per month, over 10 months** for regular attendance.
  - **R724.00** per learner, **per month, over 11 months** for regular attendance.
  - **R7960.00** per learner, **per year**.



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

We appeal to parents not to instruct their children to stay out of 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, get up to mischief and create discipline problems. By the time they reach home they have little energy left to attend to their homework.

## NEWS FROM THE SPORTS' DEPARTMENT

The 2017 sporting calendar is jam packed with events! Many of our important sports' activities are already taking place within the first few weeks of this term.

Below is some important information regarding these events.

### Term 1 Swimming

The 2017 swimming season, promises to a very busy season.

Swimming is both fun and a healthy form of exercise. Being able to swim is an essential life skill and we expect all our learners to involve themselves in both the Physical Education Swimming Programme and the Extra-Curricular Programme.

Our Inter-House Time Trial Swimming Gala is mainly for our competitive swimmers while the Fun Galas will enable our entire Preparatory school to be involved in showing off their swimming skills. As always, families are welcome to come and watch these galas

Extra-curricular swimming will start from Monday, 23 January 2017. The days and times are as follows:

GROUP	DAYS	TIME
Team Swimmers	Tuesday and Thursday	06:45-07:30
Grade 1	Monday and Wednesday	13:45-14:30
Grade 2	Tuesday and Thursday	13:45-14:30
Grade 3	Tuesday and Thursday	14:30-15:15
Grade 4 and Grade 5	Monday	14:30-15:30
Grade 6 and Grade 7	Wednesday	14:30-15:30

Our more competitive swimmers will be given letters informing them of their participation in the Team Selection Gala. Please see below for the details of the galas:

GALA	DATE	SWIMMERS
Gauteng League Gala	Wednesday, 01 February 2017	Selected Swimmers
Inter-House Gala	Friday, 03 February 2017	Selected Swimmers
Gauteng League Gala	Wednesday, 08 February 2017	Gala Swim Team
Edmund Rice Gala	Thursday, 16 February 2017	Gala Swim Team
Gauteng League Gala	Wednesday, 22 February 2017	Gala Swim Team
Gauteng League Gala	Wednesday, 01 March 2017	Gala Swim Team
Inter-Primary Gala	Wednesday, 08 March 2017	Gala Swim Team
Inter/Sen Phase House Gala	Wednesday, 15 March 2017	All Grade 4-7 learners
Foundation Phase Fun Gala	Friday, 17 March 2017	All Grade 1-3 learners

Please ensure that our young swimmers are wearing the correct swimming costumes and swimming caps which are available from our Uniform Shop.

### **Inter-House Time Trial Swimming Gala**

The Inter-House Time Trial Swimming Gala will be held at the Selection Park Swimming Pool, on **Friday, 03 February 2017** at 08:00 for 08:30

- A letter with more information will be sent out to selected swimmers by Thursday, 26 January 2017.
- All events are 25m, except the Individual Medley which is swum by our Senior Primary learners.
- We request that parents organise to transport their child / children directly to the Swimming Pool on this day by **08:00**.
- Parents are requested to organise that their children are collected from the Swimming Pool by **12:00**. Learners, who are not fetched by 12:30, will be transported back to school.

## **Tennis**

Practice days and times for Grade 4-7 Tennis:

Boys: Mondays – 14:30-15:30

Girls: Wednesdays – 14:30-15:30

## **Cricket**

Practice days and times for Grade 4-7 [Boys only] – Tuesday and Thursday 14:15-15:30.

## **Netball**

Netball practice for only Under 12 and Under 13 will be on Tuesday from 14:15-15:00.

## **Inter-Catholic Cricket Festival**

The Preparatory School will, once again, be hosting the Inter-Catholic Primary Schools' Cricket Festival this year. The festival will take place on **Saturday, 11 February 2017**. Once the final arrangements have been made for this event, the information will be given to the learners and parents.

## **Edmund Rice Swimming Gala**

The Edmund Rice Swimming Gala will be hosted by St Dominic's Welkom and will take place on **Thursday, 16 February 2017**. Our Swimming team will be announced after the Inter-House Time Trial Swimming Gala. More information will be given to the swimmers closer to the event.

## **Edmund Rice Summer Festival**

This year's Summer Festival will take place from **Thursday, 23 February – Saturday, 25 February 2017**. The Festival will be hosted by St Patrick's Kimberley. More information to follow.

## **Extra-Mural Activities**

Extra-mural activities will start on **Monday, 23 January 2017**. The Sports Department wishes all learners and families a wonderful and successful 2017.

## **Mr Trevor Wild – Sports' Co-Ordinator**

# COMMUNICATION

## **Calendar of Events**

Attached is the Calendar of Events for the year. Parents/Guardians will be notified of any changes in dates.

## **School Communicator**

We would like to encourage all our Veritas Families to make use of our "School Communicator" on your personal computers, smart phones or tablets. It is such a simple way of keeping up to date with your child's school life. It features all the forthcoming events at the school, photos of recent activities, photos and details of all who have achieved in sport, culture and academic fields.

Please logon to <http://schoolcommunicator.mobi> and then select VERITAS COLLEGE.



## Facebook



Join us on  
Facebook

If you have not yet joined our **Veritas Pre-preparatory & Preparatory** Facebook page you are missing out on news, photos and videos. Join it, like it and share it with your friends and family.

## Website

Visit [www.veritas.org.za](http://www.veritas.org.za)



### **ST THOMAS AQUINAS**

On Friday, 27 January we will be celebrating the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas, the Patron Saint of Veritas College with a school Mass at 07:45. Learners are requested to bring some non-perishable food items for the poor.

**Feast Day: January 28**  
**Born:1225 - Died:1274**

### *A final thought...*

*“Life is a journey, along different roads, different paths, which leave their mark on us. We know in faith that Jesus seeks us out. He wants to heal our wounds, to soothe our feet which hurt from traveling alone, to wash each of us clean of the dust from our journey.”*

**- Pope Francis**



**Mrs S. Billson**  
**Head of Preparatory**

**Mr D. Connors**  
**Headmaster**





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

### Term 1

#### January

16 January (Monday)	Staff Administration Day • Parent Orientation 17:00 – 18:00
17 January (Tuesday)	Staff Administration Day
18 January (Wednesday)	<b>Term 1 Commences</b>
27 January (Friday)	Mass – Feast of St Thomas Aquinas 07:45

#### February

3 February (Friday)	Inter House Time Trial Gala
8 February (Wednesday)	Grade 7's Valentine's Day Fundraising → 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb
10 February (Friday)	Valentine's Day Disco
11 February (Saturday)	CSSC PS Cricket
14 February (Tuesday)	Valentine's Day
15 February (Wed)	P.T.S.A / Board of Governors Annual General Meeting 18:00 – Senior School Hall
16 February (Thursday)	Edmund Rice Swimming Gala in Welkom
17 February (Friday)	Pre-Preparatory Open Day CSSC PS Swimming Gala
23 February (Thursday)	Edmund Rice Summer Festival in Kimberley • <b>School Closes @ 12 for Mid-Term Break</b>
28 February (Tuesday)	School commences after Mid-Term Break

#### March

1 March (Wednesday)	Ash Wednesday Mass
2 March (Thursday)	P.T.S.A. Meeting 18:00
8 March (Wednesday)	Individual Photos
10 March (Friday)	SISA Chess @ Shangri-La
17 March (Friday)	<b>Feast of St Patrick</b>
20 March (Monday)	School Holiday
21 March (Tuesday)	Public Holiday <b>Human Rights Day</b>
25 March (Saturday)	Senior School Open Day
31 March (Friday)	Foundation Phase Books sent home for Parental Control

#### April

1 April (Saturday)	Pre-Preparatory Mini-Sports' Day
7 April (Friday)	Reports Issued
11 April (Tuesday)	Parents' Evening 16:00 – 18:00
12 April (Wednesday)	<b>End of Term 1 School Closes @ 12:00</b> PTSA Colour Run
13 April (Thursday)	SISA U/13 Football Trials @ St Dunstan's <b>Holy Thursday</b>
16 April (Sunday)	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
17 April (Monday)	<b>Family Day</b>
27 April (Thursday)	<b>Freedom Day</b>
29 April (Saturday)	<b>Feast of St Catherine</b>

## Term 2

### May

3 May (Wednesday)	<b>Term 2 Commences</b>
5 May (Friday)	<i>Feast Of Blessed Edmund Rice</i> SISA Chess @ Ashton Matric Farewell
10 May (Wednesday)	Preparatory School Open Day 08:00 – 11:00
11 May (Thursday)	P.T.S.A. Meeting 18:00
12 May (Friday)	25 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee Mass 08:00 SISA Mini Football & Netball
13 May (Saturday)	25 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee Sports' Afternoon & Alumni Dinner
19 May (Friday)	SISA Mini Football & Netball
20 May (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-Preparatory Family Day</li><li>• U/13 Netball &amp; Soccer Tournament @ Marist Brothers</li></ul>
22 May (Monday)	Catholic Schools' Week 21 <sup>st</sup> → 26 <sup>th</sup>
24 May (Wednesday)	SISA Speech Evening @ Ashbury
25 May (Thursday)	Ascension Day Mass
26 May (Friday)	SISA Mini Football & Netball
27 May (Saturday)	CSSC Netball & Soccer Tournament

### June

1 June (Thursday)	Grade R Parent Meeting 18:00
2 June (Friday)	SISA Mini Football & Netball
3 June (Saturday)	CSO Special Meeting CSSC Cross Country
4 June (Sunday)	<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>
8 June (Thursday)	P.T.S.A. Meeting 18:00
10 June (Saturday)	CSSC F/P Netball & Soccer CSSC Primary School Hockey
11 June (Sunday)	<i>Trinity Sunday</i>
14 – 15 June	Run Offs
16 June (Friday)	Public Holiday <i>Youth Day</i>
20 June (Tuesday)	Group Photographs
21 June (Wednesday)	SISA Mini Festival @ St Dunstan's
22 June (Thursday)	Inter-House Athletics
23 June (Friday)	<b>School Closes for Mid-Term Break @ 12:00</b>
24J June -2 July	<b>MID TERM BREAK</b>

### July

3 July (Monday)	<b>School Commences after Mid-Term Break</b>
6 July (Thursday)	P.T.S.A Meeting 18:00
10 July (Monday)	Examinations Begin
18 July (Tuesday)	<i>Mandela Day</i>
19 July (Wednesday)	Examinations End
24 July (Monday)	F/P Parental Interviews Begin
25 July (Tuesday)	Hooked on Books
26 July (Wednesday)	OPEN DAY 2

26 July -29 July (Wed-Sat)	Edmund Rice Winter Festival in Pretoria
28 July (Friday)	F/P Parental Work Control Chess @ Woodlands

### August

1 August (Tuesday)	Reports Issued
2 August (Wednesday)	S/P Parental Interviews Begin Public Speaking CSO SISA Quiz Evening @ St Francis
3 August (Thursday)	S/P Parental Interviews
4 August (Friday)	Mass for the Feast of St Dominic Inter-House Netball & Soccer <b>End of Term 2 School Closes @ 12:00</b>

### TERM 3

### September

5 September (Tuesday)	<b>Term 3 Commences</b>
6 September (Wednesday)	Achievement Forms Submitted
8 September (Friday)	Mass – Birthday of Mary Mother of Jesus 07:45
13 September (Wednesday)	Grade R School Readiness
14 September (Thursday)	Choir Festival Holy Rosary P.T.S.A. Meeting 18:00
15 September (Friday)	CSSC Primary Schools' Athletics
16 September (Saturday)	8-a-side Cricket
20 – 22 September	REVUE
24 September (Sunday)	<b>Heritage Day</b>
25 September (Monday)	Public Holiday
28 September (Thursday)	CSO Foundation Phase Athletics
29 September (Friday)	Achievement Forms Due Pre-Preparatory Grandparents Day

### October

5 October (Thursday)	P.T.S.A. Meeting 18:00
10 October (Tuesday)	'Lus vir Lees' Production
13 October (Friday)	Grade 7 Catholic Schools' Mass – Benoni SISA Cross Country @ Curro Serengeti
14 October (Saturday)	Catholic Schools' Primary Tennis Festival
19 October (Thursday)	<b>School closes @ 12:00 for Mid-Term Break</b> Grade 6 Thaba Morula Tour – 16 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> October
20 October (Friday)	SISA Cross Country @ Kathstan
20 – 23 October	<b>MID TERM BREAK</b>
24 October (Tuesday)	<b>School reopens after Mid-Term Break</b>
27 October (Friday)	SISA Cross Country @ St Dunstons

### November

1 November (Wednesday)	Mass for All Souls' Day SISA Cross Country @ Woodlands  <i>All Saints' Day</i>
2 November (Thursday)	<i>All Souls' Day</i>
3 November (Friday)	Catholic Schools' Foundation Phase Gala
4 November (Saturday)	Grade 1 Orientation Day
7 November (Thursday)	School Closes @ 12 for start of exams
8 November (Wednesday)	Year End Exams Begin
9 November (Thursday)	P.T.S.A. Meeting 18:00
11 November (Saturday)	CSSC Mini-Cricket
17 November (Friday)	Examinations end.
23 November (Thursday)	Grade 3 Retreat
24 November (Friday)	Grade 4 Retreat Grade 7 Outing
27 November (Monday)	Grade 5 Retreat
28 November (Tuesday)	Grade 6 Retreat
29 November (Wednesday)	Grade 7 Retreat Foundation Phase Awards' Ceremony
30 November (Thursday)	Inter/Sen Phase Awards' Evening Pre-Preparatory Christmas Party

### December

1 December (Friday)	Final Assembly Grade 7 Valedictory Mass <b>School Closes @ 12:00</b>
4 December (Monday)	Staff Administration Day
5 December (Tuesday)	Staff Administration Day
6 December (Wednesday)	Reports Issued from 07:30 – 09:00