

Veritas College Springs

(Formerly Convent & CBC, Springs)

NEWSLETTER NO 2

4 March 2015

Pre-Preparatory & Preparatory

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Dear Veritas College Families

Having just enjoyed our mid-term break we returned to the remainder of a very busy Term 1. Many sports practices have already begun and academically the learners should be completing tasks and preparing for tests in order to attain good **CASS** results.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Our Ash Wednesday Mass, on the 18th of March, marked the beginning of Lent. The 40 day period of Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God. During our Religious Education periods the teachers will be engaging the children in various Lenten activities.

ACADEMIC NEWS

During Term 1 learners are assessed through a process known as **CASS** (Continuous Assessment) which basically means that every activity which they complete is assessed and included in the Term 1 overall mark. This mark includes Homework activities, Class work, Cycle Tests and Class Tests. This term has been a very busy term and teachers have commented that some learners are finding it difficult to manage their time adequately between doing sport and completing homework. We appeal to parents to monitor their children's work by paging through their exercise books on a regular basis and to encourage them to complete any incomplete activities that they may come across.

Next term the learners will be assessed through CASS **and** they will be writing formal examinations as well.

Term 1 Reports for all Grades except Grade 7 will be issued on the 14th of April and **Parent's Evening** for these Grades will be held on Thursday, 16 April from 16:00 – 18:00. Teachers will be available to meet parents in their classrooms.



Grade 7 Parents and Learners please take note:

Grade 7 Reports will be issued to parents directly at a special **GRADE 7 INFORMATION EVENING** which will be held on **Monday, 13 April at 18:30** in the Preparatory School Hall. This will be a formal information session starting promptly at 18:30 which all our Grade 7 parents and learners are expected to attend. Parents will receive information regarding the remainder of the Grade 7 year as well as important information regarding High School.

READING

This year we implemented a half hour reading period into our school week. The reading period introduced throughout the school is to encourage reading amongst all learners, staff and in fact all on the premises at that time. The Foundation Phase reading period is on a Tuesday during the 9th period (12:30 - 13:00) and the Inter/Sen Phase is a Friday last period. Children have been quite good in bringing books to read. Thank you to parents who donated reading books to their child's class.

PRE-PREPARATORY NEWS

- Our annual **Pre-Preparatory Mini Sports** will take place on Saturday, 28 March on the Preparatory sports' field. Parents are requested to diarise this very special and exciting day.
- Parents/Guardians are reminded to adhere to the uniform requirements in the Pre-Preparatory Phase. We have more and more children arriving at school wearing inappropriate shoes. We also urge parents to label all their children's clothing so that lost property can be returned to the rightful owner.
- Due to the change in temperature in the pool, swimming for the Pre-Preparatory children will end on Friday, 6 March.

Mrs F. Kelty – H.O.D Pre-Preparatory Phase

SPORTS NEWS

Inter-House Athletics

Our annual Inter-House Athletics was held on Wednesday, 21 January 2015, at the Senior School. All the learners participated on the day.

Congratulations to Kayla Anderson for breaking the 200m record!

The Inter-House results were as follows:

- 1st – Edmund
- 2nd – Dominic
- 3rd – Catherine



Inter-House Time Trial Gala

This year we decided to split the Inter-House Swimming Gala into three Galas.

The Time Trial Gala was for our elite swimmers and was combined with the Senior School. This gala took place on Friday, 30 January 2015, at the Brakpan Swimming Pool.

The Inter-House results were as follows:

- 1st – Edmund

2nd – Dominic
3rd – Catherine

The Inter/Sen Phase Fun Galas took place on Thursday, 5 March and the Foundation Phase Fun Gala was held on Friday, 6 March, both these events proved to be a big success and were enjoyed by the learners.

Inter-Springs Athletics

We competed in the Springs Inter-School Athletics meeting on Friday, 06 February 2015. The learners worked hard and tried their best.

The highlight of the meeting was the second place achieved by Tezni Moetsuenyane in the U/13 800m.

Tezni was selected to run in the Greater Springs Athletics Meeting on Tuesday, 17 February 2015 at Hoërskool Hugenote. Well done to her!

Inter-Catholic Cricket Festival

We again hosted the Inter-Catholic Cricket Festival on Saturday, 07 February 2015.

We had 6 Catholic schools competing in the Festival. It proved to be a very successful day of Cricket.

Thank you to all the parents and families who came to support this exciting event.



Edmund Rice Summer Festival

This year's Edmund Rice Summer Festival was hosted by St Dominic's Welkom and our Cricket Team participated in the event. They experienced some wins and some loses but learnt a lot about the game and enjoyed the experience.

Winter Sport

From the 9th of March we will be moving into our Winter Sports programme, namely Netball and Soccer. We hope to see many of our learners attending practices. Learners will soon be informed of practice times and days.

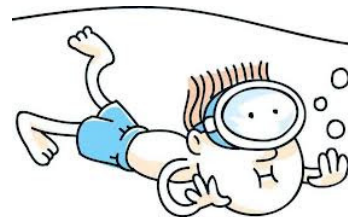
Just a reminder to parents that Soccer practices, for the Grade 4-7 boys, takes place at the Senior School. Learners will be taken to the Senior School by bus and parents are requested to fetch their children from the Senior School after practises. Aftercare learners will be brought back to the school after their practice.

Athletics Kit: We have had many children not returning their Athletic Kit from this year as well as previous years. We appeal to parents to please check if their child still has the PTSA sponsored Veritas athletics kit somewhere in the cupboard and to return it to Mr Wild in the Sports' Office.

Mr T. Wild – Sports' Co-ordinator

Swimming:

Veritas continues to view swimming as an important life-skill and a healthy form of exercise. As such, we have continued to offer swimming programmes right through the school. Earlier this year Mrs Botha, Mrs Selkon, Mrs van Blerk, Mr Wild and Mr Billson attended a Swim South Africa Learn-to-Swim teachers' training programme and these teachers, along with the rest of our teaching and sports' coaches have further developed our goal of having all Veritas learners competently swimming. Thankfully the weather has played along and all learners from the pre-preparatory through to the grade 7's have made good use of our pool.



The competitive swimming team had a successful trip to Kimberly where we took part in our annual Edmund Rice Schools Swimming Gala. Many of our swimmers returned from this gala with medals. The highlight of our season is always the Inter-Primary Gala and this year 8 of our swimmers were placed in the top three positions.

In order to continue to encourage swimming amongst our learners, our swimming season ended with two fun galas designed for everyone to partake in. These galas are always extremely popular amongst our swimmers and we plan to host them again next year.

Mr C. Cumming – Swimming Co-ordinator

CULTURAL NEWS

Choir

♪ Choir Practises will start for the Grade 4-7 learners on Wednesday, 11 March from 14:30 – 15:15. The Senior School learners will be joining us this year.

♪ The Foundation Phase Choir will start on Friday, 13 March from 13:00 – 13:30.

Guitar Lessons

Learners who are interested in taking guitar lessons on a Friday afternoon, with Mr Brendan Flynn were invited to collect notices from Mrs De Klerk in the Administration Office last week. If you are still interested, please get one of these notices.



General

- All Foundation learners must wear **WHITE TAKKIES** and short white socks when they attend Physical Education, certain sporting activities or any other activities which requires our P.T. kit. This is stipulated in our Foundation Phase Information Booklet that was sent out at our meet & greet day in the beginning of the year.
- Once again we need to remind a few of our parents that our school day **starts at 07:35**. It is concerning to see how many learners arrive late and are simply unprepared for the start of the day. This is very obvious when we have Hymn Practice and Assembly in the hall.

- If children are absent from school, for whatever reason, it is the responsibility of the child to catch up work that has been missed. We really do discourage parents from taking their children on holiday during the school term as it can be very unsettling for the child and, although the teachers are happy to administer the work, it is really not the same as experiencing the lesson that led up to it.

PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



♥ Many boxes of non-perishable food items were donated to the Catholic Church's St Vincent de Paul Society, to distribute to the poor, at our Masses for St Thomas Aquinas in January and Ash Wednesday Mass on 18 February.

♥ We continue to donate extra lunches, fruit etc, that learners bring to school on Fridays, to the Kwasa Pre-Primary School in Daggafontein.

♥ Thanks to all our learners (and parents) for donating R5 towards wearing civvies on Valentine's Day and World-cup Wednesdays. This money has been banked into our Pastoral Care account and will be used to reach out to Veritas families who may need our help from time to time.

♥ Father Lewis made a special request at Mass, on Ash Wednesday, to have the following items donated for the poor during Lent:

Grade 3 – Rice

Grade 4 – Mielie meal or samp

Grade 5 – Baby formulae/baby food

Grade 6 & 7 – Easter eggs/marshmallow boxes

Thank you to all who have already made donations.

GRADE 7 FUNDRAISING

A very big, thank you, to all our Grade 7 learners (and parents) for the effort that they put into making our Valentine's Day fund-raising a very big success. Thank you for the super new ideas and all the donations. The Grade 7's made R21 000. This money will pay for part of their year-end outing and the remainder will go towards purchasing a practical gift for the school.

OPEN DAYS

We held our first successful Open Day on Tuesday, 24 February. Many prospective parents and their children visited our Campus.

Veritas Preparatory and Senior College will be having an Open Day for 2016 enrolments on Saturday 14 March from 09:00 – 11:00. Both campuses will be open for visitors.

Teachers will be available to meet prospective parents and various displays will be on show. Please inform your friends and families of this important day. Our present parents are welcome to come along too.

We are very pleased to welcome our new Marketer on board, Ms Shelley Bent, and wish her a happy and successful stay at Veritas College.

P.T.S.A

We thank Mrs Shirley Pinkerton (former chairlady of the P.T.S.A) and all the members on the P.T.S.A for their hard work and dedication. Last year, through their efforts, the Pre-Preparatory School was given R20 000 and the Preparatory School R45 000 to use to upgrade our campus in a way that will benefit our learners. We are truly grateful. At this point the Pre-Prep are using their portion to upgrade their playground, while the Preparatory will be installing more data projectors into classrooms. We wish the 2015 executive of the P.T.S.A, namely Michael Jardim (Chairman), Melanie Veludo (Vice-chair), Nina Raouna (Secretary) and Judy Fuchs (Treasurer), the very best of luck for the year of fundraising that lies ahead. We ask that our Veritas parents offer their support to the P.T.S.A. in any way that they feel they can.

FACEBOOK & COMMUNICATOR



If you have not as yet joined the '**Veritas College Springs South Africa**' Facebook page you are really missing out on wonderful photographs of recent events as well as news and important updates.

The Communicator is another wonderful application to have on your computer or cell phone to keep you in touch with happenings at Veritas.

For the download of the Communicator:

- Installing from the website go to: <http://www.school-communicator.com/downloads>
- Choose the applicable school from the download list
- Select the applicable operating system: Mac or Windows
- A dialogue box will appear. Choose Save File. Do not choose Run before saving the File.

Don't miss out!!

STAFF MATTERS

We continue to pray for Mrs Gilbertson and Ms Edwards who are ill and we ask that God may place his healing hands upon them. Mrs Billson has returned to school after her illness and is on the road to recovery.

A Thought for the Day

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

www.LifeMotivationalThoughts.com

Mrs S. Billson
HEAD OF PREPARATORY

Mr D. Connors
HEADMASTER



INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

Please take note that Individual and family photographs will be taken on Thursday 12 March. If you would like your child to have a photograph taken with his/her brother or sister from either the Preparatory or Senior School please complete the form attached and return it to school with the amount of R40. Please note that no family photographs will be taken without having returned the tear off request, together with the payment, by Tuesday, 10 March. On this day Senior School learners should be dropped off directly at the Prep School in the morning and they will be taken back to the Senior School after their photographs have been taken.

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS (Tear off slip. Please return by Tuesday, 10 March)

I would like my son/daughter _____ in Grade _____ to have his/her photograph taken with his/her brother/sister/s

_____ Grade _____

_____ Grade _____

_____ Grade _____

Enclosed is the payment of R40.

Parent's Signature: _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

March

3 March (Tuesday)	School Reopens
5 March (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter/Sen Phase Fun Gala @ 12:00
6 March (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation Phase Fun Gala @ 12:00
7 March (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting Inter-School Swimming Gala
12 March (Thursday)	Individual & Family Photos
13 March (Friday)	SISA Chess @ Shangri-La
14 March (Saturday)	CSSC Foundation Phase Cricket
17 March (Tuesday)	<i>Feast of St Patrick</i>
21 March (Saturday)	Wheelchair Race @ Senior School Fields <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Human Rights Day</i></div>
26 March (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz at Senior School Gr. 6 & 7
28 March (Saturday)	Pre-Preparatory Sports' Day
29 March (Sunday)	<i>Palm Sunday</i>

April

2 April (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stations of the Cross <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Holy/Maundy Thursday</i></div>
3 April (Friday)	School Holiday <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Good Friday</i></div>
4 April (Saturday)	<i>Easter Saturday</i>
5 April (Sunday)	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
6 April (Monday)	<i>Family Day</i>
8 April (Wednesday)	P.T.S.A Meeting
10 April (Friday)	F/Phase Parental Book Control
14 April (Tuesday)	Reports Issued
16 April (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents' Evening 16:00 – 18:00 • Netball v. Hannes Visagie (H)
17 April (Friday)	End of Term 1 – School Closes @ 12:00
27 April (Monday)	<i>Freedom Day</i>
29 April (Wednesday)	<i>Feast of St Catherine</i>

Term 2

May

5 May (Tuesday)	Term 2 Begins <div style="text-align: right;">Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice</div>
7 May (Thursday)	Netball v. M ^o rester (Away)
8 May (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass for Blessed Edmund Rice • SISA Chess @ Curro Helderwyk
14 May (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Mass • Netball v. Dunnottar (Away) <div style="text-align: right;">Ascension Day</div>
15 May (Friday)	SISA GR 1 & 2 Mini Netball & Soccer
16 May (Saturday)	CSSC Primary Netball & Hockey Festival (u/13)
19 May (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netball v. L/S Selectionpark (Home)
21 May (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netball v. L/S Christiaan Beyers (Home)
22 May (Friday)	SISA GR 1 & 2 Mini Netball & Soccer
23 May (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Preparatory Parents' Day

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSSC Primary Soccer Festival (u/13)
24 May (Sunday)	Pentecost Sunday
26 May (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Netball v. Selpark (Home)
27 May (Wednesday)	SISA Speech Evening @ Ashbury
28 May (Thursday)	Netball v. L/S Eloff (Away)
29 May (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S/Phase Parental Work Control SISA GR 1 & 2 Mini Netball & Soccer
30 May (Sunday)	Trinity Sunday

June

5 June (Friday)	SISA GR 1 & 2 Mini Netball & Soccer
6 June (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSSC F/Phase Mini Netball & Soccer Festival
15 June (Monday)	School Holiday
16 June (Tuesday)	Youth Day
20 June (Saturday)	CSSC Primary Cross Country
25 June (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Photos
26 June (Friday)	School Closes @ 12:00 for Mid-Term Break

July

6 July (Monday)	School Re-opens
8 July (Wednesday)	S/Phase Exams Begin
15 July (Wednesday)	S/Phase Exams End
18 July (Saturday)	P.T.S.A. Food Fair
29 July (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hooked on Books
30 July (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edmund Rice Winter Festival - Bloemfontein
31 July (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SISA Chess @ Ashton F/Phase Books sent home for Parental Control Edmund Rice Winter Festival - Bloemfontein

August

1 August (Saturday)	Edmund Rice Winter Festival - Bloemfontein
3 August (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports Issued Parental Interviews Begin
6 August (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Redhead Production' Inter-House Chess
7 August (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass- Feast of St Dominic Inter-House Sports' Day End of Term 1 – School Closes @ 12:00 Veritas Music Festival

TERM 3

September

8 September (Tuesday)	Term 3 Begins <i>Birthday of Our Lady</i>
9 September (Wednesday)	Achievement Forms handed out
11 September (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass – Birthday of Our Lady
12 September (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P.T.S.A. Golf Day
15 September (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veritas Art Festival Begins – 18 Sep
16 September (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO Choir Festival Gr R School Readiness
17 September (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO Choir Festival

18 September (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSSC Primary Athletics
19 September (Saturday)	Lex Liston 8-a-side Cricket Tournament
23 September (Wednesday)	Heritage Day Fun Walk
24 September (Thursday)	Heritage Day (Public Holiday)
25 September (Friday)	School Holiday
30 September (Wednesday)	Achievement Forms Due

October

1 October (Thursday)	CSSC Foundation Phase Athletics
2 October (Friday)	Pre-Preparatory Grandparents' Day
3 October (Saturday)	CSSC Primary Tennis Festival
10 October (Saturday)	P.T.S.A. Barn Dance
15 October (Thursday)	School Revue
16 October (Friday)	School Revue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SISA Cross Country @ Woodlands
19 October – 22 October	Grade 6 Thaba Morula
22 October (Thursday)	School Closes @ 12:00 for Mid-Term Break
23 October (Friday)	SISA Cross Country 2 Kathstan
27 October (Tuesday)	School Reopens
30 October (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO Gr 7 Mass tbc Mass for All Souls SISA Cross Country @ St Dunstan's
31 October (Saturday)	CSSC Primary Chess

November

1 November (Sunday)	All Saints' Day
5 November (Thursday)	School closes @ 12:00 until the end of the year
6 November (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S/Phase Exams Begin CSSC Foundation Phase Swimming SISA Cross Country @ Serengeti
7 November (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 1 Orientation Day CSSC Foundation Phase Chess
13 November (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S/Phase Exams End
19 November (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 3 Retreat
20 November (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 4 Retreat Christmas Concert
23 November (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 5 Retreat
24 November (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 6 Retreat
25 November (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> F/Phase Awards Ceremony Grade 7 Retreat
26 November (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S/Phase Awards' Evening
27 November (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Assembly Grade 7 Valedictory Mass 10:30 School Closes for the end of the Year @ 12:00
29 November (Sunday)	1st Sunday of Advent
30 November (Monday)	Staff Administration Day

December

1 December (Tuesday)	Staff Administration Day
2 December (Wednesday)	Staff Administration Day Reports Issued 07:30 – 09:00

