



# Veritas College Springs

(Formerly Convent & CBC, Springs)

## NEWSLETTER No. 7

### Pre-Preparatory & Preparatory

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12 October 2015

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.

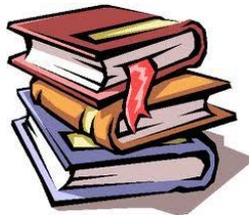
***This will be the final Newsletter for 2015 and contains important information. Families are requested to put this letter in a safe place and refer to it over the next two months.***

We started off Term 3 with a Mass celebrating the **Birthday of Mary the Mother of Jesus**, on Friday 11 September. Thank you, parents, for allowing your children to donate food at Masses to those less fortunate. The children proudly take their offerings to the altar during the offertory procession.

Although we are approaching the end of the school year, we still have two very busy months ahead of us.

## ACADEMIC NEWS

- At the end of term 2 the teachers interviewed parents of children who were not performing well academically. Veritas College has a very clear policy regarding promoting and retaining pupils. By this stage of the year parents would have been informed if there is a possibility of their child having to repeat their present Grade. This decision is not taken lightly and is not finalised until the end of November. It is not in a child's best interest to progress to the next grade if they have not mastered the necessary skills in their present grade. Various factors are taken into consideration when making this decision i.e. age appropriateness, recommendations by Teachers, Educational Psychologists and/or Occupational Therapists.



Most alarmingly, the common problem that teachers are experiencing at this time is that many pupils are not completing homework activities and sadly many parents are not monitoring their children's work. This



problem has resulted in certain children attaining very poor CASS (Continuous Assessment) marks. CASS marks are made up of homework activities, Cycle Tests and Class work.

Term 3 is a very short term. Parents are requested to stay abreast of their children's academic progress and make an appointment to see the teacher if they are at all concerned.

- **Final Examinations**, for the Grade 4 – 7 pupils begin on **Friday, 6 November**. 'What to Study Lists' will be distributed on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

***Please note that as from Thursday, 5 November, until the end of the year, school will close at 12:00 for ALL pupils. There will be waiting classes functioning until 13:00 for children who are unable to be fetched by 12:00.***

- In June, our first batch of Grade 7 learners wrote **MATCH (Measuring Abilities and Thinking Competencies) Assessments**. The assessment consisted of two exam papers of two hours each. The papers were challenging and reminded us of the importance of being able to develop critical thinking skills amongst our learners. Fortunately the results of our assessment were promising and we are happy to report that the vast majority of our Grade 7 learners scored within or above the expected scales. We were delighted to notice that of the 3600 students who wrote the exams from all areas of Southern Africa, one of our pupils, **Joshua Nortje**, was awarded with a Meritorious Achievement Certificate and placed within the top 3% rankings of all the pupils who wrote the exam. The IEB awarded a further 6 of our pupils for Substantial Achievement results – **Enrico Bristow, Lindiwe Mabanga, Thabo Ntsepe, Gemma Rees, Calvin Ryan and Jaryd Schmid**. While we shall no doubt continue to strive for improvements within these results, we are satisfied that Veritas Preparatory continues to provide an education reflecting international trends.

## **CULTURAL NEWS**

- August and September are certainly very important months for our 'Culture Vultures' of which we have many! Over 100 learners entered the Springs Festival in one or more categories, namely Verse Speaking, Dramatised Poetry, Prepared Speaking, Unprepared/Impromptu Speaking and Afrikaans Voordrag. We are very proud of all their achievements. Congratulations to the following learners who were awarded Prestige Awards, Medals or Trophies:



### **Cultural Categories**

(Verse Speaking, Prepared Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Sight Reading, Dramatised Poetry and Afrikaans Voordrag)

**Grade 1:** Sashin Naidoo (Prestige)

**Grade 2:** Maia Mezzatesta (2x Prestige, Medal)

**Grade 3:** Angel Bada (2x Prestige); Mikaela Samaras (Prestige); Unathi Sithole (Prestige, Medal); Anais Lambropoulos (Prestige); Cristina Luis (2x Prestige); Christina Calivitis (Prestige); Sameer Mahomed (2 x Prestige & 3 x Medals); Khazimla Sibeko (Prestige, Medal)

**Grade 4:** Luka Bekker (2xPrestige, Medal), Robyn De Kock (2x Prestige, 2x Medal); Katleho Ramonotsi (Prestige); Jemma Toach (Prestige); Buhle Dlamini (2x Prestige); Kirsten Van Breda (Prestige); Kyle Da Silva (Prestige); Sienna Pellizzon (Prestige)

**Grade 5:** Chandre' Francis (Prestige); Manqoba Magudulela (Prestige); Beyonce Mwale (Prestige); Kyra Stock (Prestige); Zakithi Mathe (3x Prestige, 1 medal, 1 Trophy); Sinead Francis (1xPrestige, 1x Medal), Gemmah Gunter (3x Prestige), Jock Bekker (1x Trophy), Hannah Rees (3x Prestige), Antoni Samaras (Prestige), Reatile Tlatsi (Prestige); Layla-Ann Sache (Prestige)

**Grade 6:** Thando Biyana (Prestige), Buhlebenkosi Nombewu (2x Prestige), Olivia Paulo (Prestige), Milena Pellizzon (Prestige), Dhasvir Swenandan (Prestige, Trophy), Marco-Lee Sachse (4x Prestige)

**Grade 7:** Lindiwe Mabanga (1 Trophy, Prestige & Cash Prize); Noluthando Magudulela (Prestige), Gemma Rees (2x Prestige), Claudia Breimaier (Prestige), Demitra Raouna (Prestige)

### **Music Category**

**Grade 3:** Mpho Magwaza (Trophy)

**Grade 5:** Chandre' Francis (Prestige) ; Zakithi Mathe (3x Prestige, 1x Trophy) ; Layla-Ann Sachse (2x Prestige, 1x Trophy), Hannah Rees (Prestige)

**Grade 6:** Atang Makgata (2x Prestige)

### **Veritas Art Festival**

151 learners entered between one and three pieces into the Art Festival. These were displayed in the Media Centre for the duration of the festival and were truly beautiful.

The following learners were awarded Medals.

**Grade R:** Lwandisile Sithole

**Grade 1:** Emily-Faye Wellbeloved, Evan Ernstzen, Thando Mngomezulu

**Grade 2:** Sristi Ramsagar, Lesego Rakgabyane,

**Grade 3:** Laura Draxl, Christina Calivitis, Caitlyn De Jager, Keso Legotle

**Grade 4:** Adrian Draxl (x2), Michael Engelbrecht, Johnathan Snell

**Grade 5:** Chandre' Francis, Sinead Francis, Gemmah Gunter, Antoni Samaras

**Grade 6:** Marco-Lee Sachse, Dhasvir Sewnandan

**Grade 7:** Gemma Rees, Jarrod Havinga

***A special thank you to Mrs Howard, Mrs Smith and Mrs Rothman who are the co-ordinators of the Springs Festival, Art Festival and Music Festivals respectively.***

- Congratulations to **Antoni Samaras** (Grade 5) who was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in **The Star Newspaper 'Design-an-Ad competition'**. Antoni 's task was to design an advertisement for 'Sanofi Pasteur'. Her prize included a computer case, cellular phone, sweet hamper, Spar Grocery voucher, Roman's Pizza voucher, Build-a Bear voucher amongst other things. The school also received a prize of R5000.

We are very proud of Antoni's achievement and thank Mrs Smith for initiating this competition and incorporating it into her Art Curriculum.

- Congratulations to the following learners who entered the **Lion's International Peace Poster Competition** and whose posters were placed in the Top 10.

Claudia Breimaier (Gr.7); Gemma Rees (Gr. 7); Kayla Anderson (Gr.7); Dhasvir Sewnandan (Gr. 6); Olivia Paulo (Gr. 6); Remo Venturi (Gr. 6); Gemma Pamplin (Gr. 5); Chandré Francis (Gr. 5); Sinéad Francis (Gr. 5); Derrick Bada (Gr.5)

- **Applications for Scrolls and Awards** were distributed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September for learners and parents to complete and these had to be handed in to Mrs Billson by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Please note:** If no form has been submitted, we will assume that the learner has not attained enough points to qualify for an award.

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### **Tennis**

The tennis league is at present taking place and we are pleased that we have two Boys' teams and a Girls' team taking part.

Mrs Anderson has been holding practices on a Monday afternoon and the private coach on a Wednesday. This continues all year. Our teams are young, as many of our players have moved on to High School, but they are enjoying their matches and have performed to the best of their ability, winning a number of games. We wish them well for the rest of the season. A friendly match will be held at St Columbus in Benoni on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**R.A. Barton - Tennis Coordinator**



### **Athletics**

Our athletics team took part in the Inter-Catholic Athletics Meeting, hosted by De La Salle Convent, in Johannesburg, on Friday, 18 September 2015.

Our athletes tried their best and ran well on the day and we finished consistently in the top 4 in most of the races.

We are still waiting for the official results to come from De La Salle Convent.

### **The Lex Liston 8-a-side Cricket Tournament**

On Saturday, 19 September 2015, we hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Lex Liston 8-A-Side Cricket Tournament. 6 teams participated on the day.

Throughout the morning, the spectators were treated to cricket matches of the highest order and all the players played each match with great skill and sportsmanship.

The Tournament was won by Tom Newby Primary.

We would like to thank Bos Ice Tea for the sponsorship of refreshments for both the players and the officials.

### **Boys' Hockey**

This year the Boys' hockey season was very intense and the boys managed to display their skills and at times play some awesome hockey.

The results from the league are as follows:

Veritas 1	–	AG Visser 1
Van Dyk 2	–	Veritas 0
Rynfield 3	–	Veritas 0
Veritas 2	–	Randhart 1
Alberview 1	–	Veritas 2
Parkrand 0	–	Veritas 0

Well done boys for an enjoyable season!

### **Cricket League**

This year we entered an under 11 and an under 13 cricket team into the Blesbokspruit Cricket League.

The boys played some good cricket and also learnt new skills and how to cope with the pressures associated with the sport of Cricket.

Unfortunately, not too many results went our way, but the boys keep improving and remain positive.

### **Sporting Achievements**

We would like to congratulate the following pupils on their provincial selection:

**Taylor Ryan** – has been selected for the Eastern Gauteng Gymnastic Team that will be participating in the South African Gymnastic Competition from 4-7 October 2015 in Pretoria.

**Gianna Patao** – has been selected for the Eastern Gauteng Gymnastic Team that will be participating in the South African Gymnastic Competition from 6-10 October 2015 in Pretoria

**Stefi Matic** – has been selected for the Gauteng East Tennis training squad

***Request to Parents: Please check if by chance you still have some school sports' kit at home (athletics, hockey, soccer, netball). If so, please can you return these to school.***

**Mr. T Wild – Sports' Co-ordinator**

### **'AROUND THE WORLD WITH VERITAS'**

Our school revue, **'Around the World with Veritas'**, was a great success and we have received so many positive reviews and words of praise. Thank you to Mrs Van Vuuren and Dr Payaniandi, the directors of the show, and all the staff and learners who worked so hard in putting on a top class performance. Thank you to all our families for buying tickets and supporting this show.

### **HERITAGE DAY FUN WALK AND ENTREPRENEUR'S DAY**

Our **'Heritage Day Fun Walk and Entrepreneurs' Day'** proved to be an enjoyable and successful day. Thank you to all our families for sponsoring their children to dress up for Heritage Day and to walk around the school grounds looking for clues relating to South Africa. We collected about R20 000 in sponsorship money on the day. The School Management Team will decide in which area of the school this money can be put to use and will report back on their decision.

### **SCHOOL TUCKSHOP**

Our school tuckshop, now known as the **'VERI DELI'** has had a much needed facelift. The money collected from last year's Fun Walk was used for this project. Colourful wall murals have been completed in this area and together with some pots and plants it looks very welcoming.

### **PASTORAL CARE**



With Christmas just 12 weeks away, as part of our '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 by asking our families to be generous and please 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 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2015.

- **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 *Sithand' izingane Care Project Orphanage* 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 Orphanage are so grateful for these gifts each year! We ask that these gifts be brought to school before the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2015.

- **St Vincent de Paul**

Learners are asked to bring non-perishable food items to the Valedictory Mass on Friday, 27 November. These offerings will be given to the St Vincent de Paul Society of the Springs Catholic Church who will distribute the food to needy families.

**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. Our Grade 6 group are getting excited about their school outing to **Thaba Morula** from the **19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> of October** with Mrs Howard and Dr Payaniandi.
2. On **Sunday, 25 October**, fifteen of our pupils will make their **1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion** at the 10 am Mass. Thank you to Mrs Shardlow for preparing them for this blessed Sacrament.
3. **Colours and Awards Assembly**: On the **30<sup>th</sup> of October**, at our weekly Assembly, we will award certificates and scrolls to pupils who have qualified for these this year.
4. **Pre-Preparatory Christmas Party and Grandparents' Day – Wednesday 18 November 2015**  
We are looking forward to sharing our annual Christmas Party with our honoured Grandparents this year. Grannies and Grandpas' will revel in some of our Christmas songs on the **18<sup>th</sup> of November** and then get to enjoy the excitement of their grandchildren at having Father Christmas visit us. The Pre-Preparatory children may wear civvies to school on this day.

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

5. **The Foundation Phase Awards Ceremony** will take place on **Wednesday, 25 November 2015**. 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 uniform & yellow pullover. 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** attend the ceremony, please.

6. **The Intermediate/Senior Phase Academic and Special Awards Evening** will take place on **Thursday, 26 November 2015, at 18:00 for 18:30**. Parents will be informed by Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November if their child is a Prize Winner. Due to the limited seating, we request that **only two family members** attend the ceremony, please.

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

7. The **Grade 7 Valedictory Service** will take place on **Friday, 27 November 2015**, 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.

## **STAFF NEWS**

- 2015, at Veritas College, was not the best year, health-wise, for a few of our staff members which resulted in some of our classes having to have substitute teachers. We thank our Veritas families for their support in these instances where new staff members were brought into their children's classes. We also extend our sincere thanks to the teachers who made themselves available to step in at short notice. Thank you to Ms Schroder and Ms Greville who assisted in Grade 2 when **Ms Edwards** was away; and to Mrs Pocock who looked after **Mrs Billson's** Grade 7 classes. Unfortunately, just as we were planning on getting back to some form of normality, within our staff, **Mrs Kelty** underwent surgery and was also diagnosed with cancer. She is at present receiving chemotherapy and we pray that she returns to us soon. We thank Mrs Lee for being available to take over Mrs Kelty's classes.
- On a happier side, **Mrs Kapp**, who went on maternity leave in May, after the birth of her son, Bryan, will be returning in the middle of October. Thanks to Mrs Coertzer for managing her classes so efficiently.

We also celebrated two engagements on our staff: **Dr Payaniandi** and **Ms Jooste** both got engaged. Dr Payaniandi and his fiancé, Chantal will be getting married in December. We wish them much happiness.

- During the August holidays many of our staff members enjoyed a tour of Ireland, an experience which they thoroughly enjoyed.



- At the end of this year we will be saying farewell to **Mrs Govan**. We thank her for the contribution she made in Grade 1 this year and the initiative to open a Foundation Phase Art Club.

- Sadly we will also be bidding farewell to **Father Lewis**, our School Chaplain, who will be leaving Veritas College at the end of this year after eight and a half very fruitful years. We will truly miss him and thank him for the special way in which he crept into all of our hearts, inspired our choir and fed us spiritually at School Masses and in the classroom. Father Lewis will be taking on the position of Prior at a Seminary in Pietermaritzburg. We wish him much happiness.
- We will also say farewell to **Mrs Jones** who has decided to retire at the end of this year. Mrs Jones has been a loyal member of staff for the past 25 years during which time she worked in the Accounts' Office and later in the Uniform Shop. We thank her for her dedication and commitment and wish her a healthy, blessed retirement.

**DATES TO DIARISE:**

- The **final school day** of 2015 for **all** pupils is on **Friday, 27 November 2015**. 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.
- **Reports** will be issued on Wednesday, **2 December 2015** from 07:30 – 09:00.
- **School reopens**, for pupils, on **Wednesday, 13 January 2016**.
- *Please take note of the following important gatherings at the start of the new school year.*



- **'Meet and Greet Day' (Grade 000 - 7):** Monday, 11 January between 16:30 and 18:00.

**THE UNIFORM SHOP**

<b>December 2015</b>		
1 & 2 December	Tuesday & Wednesday	07:00 – 12:00

<b>January 2016</b>		
11 January	Monday	08:00 – 14:00
12 January	Tuesday	08:00 – 14:00
13 January	Wednesday	07:00 – 16:00

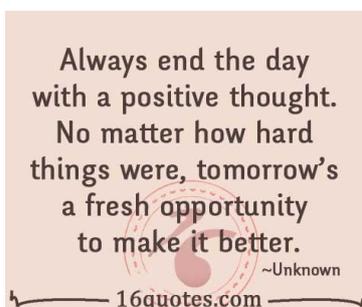
### **ACCOUNTS OFFICE**

The Accounts Office will be open from until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, from 08:00 – 11:00. For matters concerning accounts, you can contact Nicolette at 011 362-2686 or [nicolette@veritas.org.za](mailto:nicolette@veritas.org.za)

*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.*



### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**



**Mrs S. Billson**  
Head of Preparatory

**Mr N.D. Connors**  
Headmaster

<b>SCHOOL CALENDAR 2016</b>		
<b><u>TERM</u></b>	<b>SCHOOL PERIOD</b>	<b>HOLIDAY PERIOD</b>
ONE	13 January (Wed) – 8 April (Fri)	9 April - 2 May <i>Midterm Break: 12h00 Thursday 18 Feb – Return to school Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</i>
TWO	3 May (Tue) – 5 August (Fri)	6 August - 5 September <i>Midterm Break: Friday 1 July - Return to school Monday 11 July</i>
THREE	6 September (Tue) – 7 December (Wed)	8 December → <i>Midterm Break: 12h00 Thursday 20 Oct – Return to school Tuesday 25 Oct</i>

### **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

**TERM 1** MONDAY 21 MARCH (*Human Rights Day*)  
FRIDAY 25 MARCH (*Good Friday*)  
MONDAY 28 MARCH (*Family Day*) Easter

**TERM 2** THURSDAY 16 JUNE (*Youth Day*)

FRIDAY 17 JUNE (*Public Holiday*)

TERM 3

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER (*Heritage Day*)

## TERM 3 Calendar of Events

### October

3 October (Saturday)	CSSC Primary Tennis Festival
7-9 October (Wed – Fri)	School Revue
9 October (Monday)	Grade 7 Catholic Schools' Mass @ St Columba
16 October (Friday)	SISA Cross Country @ Woodlands
19 October – 22 October	Grade 6 Thaba Morula
22 October (Thursday)	<b>School Closes @ 12:00 for Mid-Term Break</b>
23 October (Friday)	SISA Cross Country 2 Kathstan
25 October (Sunday)	1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion
27 October (Tuesday)	<b>School Reopens</b>
30 October (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass for All Souls</li> <li>• SISA Cross Country @ St Dunstan's</li> </ul>

### November

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

### December

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

