

cedar house

newsletter 7

19 July 2016

Dear Cedar House community

Welcome back to the second half our year. We wish our staff, our students and their families every happiness and as much flourishing as possible.

We welcome Cathy to our History Department, Carmen to our Afrikaans Department and Shaun to our IT and Mathematics Departments. We also welcome the following new students and wish them much happiness, growth and magic in their new School:

GRADE 5	
Declan Barry	ex-Gaia Waldorf
GRADE 6	
Farah Mirza	ex-Home School
GRADE 8	
Haydn Basson	ex-Reddam Constantia
GRADE 9	
Nicolas Fredericks	ex-Merrifield College
Keanu Williams	ex-Lotus Secondary
Ethan Turck	ex-Bishops
GRADE 10	
Bryony Clarke	ex-St Cyprians
GRADE 11	
Danielle Fredericks	ex-Merrifield College
Rosie Booth	ex-Herschel
Megan Rademan	ex-Westerford

Enclosures

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CEDAR HOUSE
education for our time

A packed and rich term lies ahead:

- The Grade 10s are going to the Holocaust Centre tomorrow to hear a talk by South Africa's last remaining Holocaust survivor. What a privilege!
- The Grade 10s are attending a 2 day integrated, creative thinking skills camp on Thursday and Friday in Simonstown.
- Grade 11s are preparing for the process after which our community elects the new Student Leaders; they will be attending a leadership camp in a few weeks' time.
- Our intercultural Food Day, which we are integrating into Heritage Day, is happening on 7 September
- Please consult the online calendar on D6 communicator to be reminded of the Grade 12 parents' evening and the mentor evenings for Grades 4-11 this term.
- Our Evening of Celebration is on Sunday evening, 18 September, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre
- Matric valedictory and the Matric farewell braai will be held in the first week of the 4th term
- The Jozi History trip departs on Friday 26 August
- Matric prelims start on Monday 29 August; the timetable will be distributed this week
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CONGRATULATIONS

English Alive is a prestigious annual publication of school students' writing from across the country. It is a true honour to have writing selected for publication and Aleya Banwari and Dani Erlank deserve sincere congratulations for having had pieces of writing chosen for publication in the 2016 edition. I will include the writing in a future newsletter, once we have received a copy of the new edition.

SONKE GENDER JUSTICE WORKSHOP REPORT BACK

We had a wonderfully successful week with the Sonke Gender Justice training course. 20 students dedicated 5 days out of their holiday to becoming official Sonke gender activists. The course included a range of engaging and fun activities to educate and prepare students to go out there and make a real difference.

These activities ranged from how to identify and deal with Drug and Alcohol abuse and how to address patriarchy within family's and society as well as how to campaign for specific issue within the community.

We will be presenting the certificates to the students along with our two Sonke Trainers Thobile and Thulani at an upcoming assembly. Out of the interactions with Sonke over the past holidays we have identified a campaign to engage with male learners during the month of August, which is women's month. Be on the look out! Angus Hardcastle and Khalifah Makgotlho

GRAHAMSTOWN FESTIVAL EXCURSION REPORT BACK

Our 2016 trip to the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown was an enormous success. As a school, we make the decision to attend the main festival as we believe it exposes our students to a range of important, hard-hitting theatrical performances, and 2016 did not disappoint.

Highlights of the programme included Lara Foot's Karoo Moose, an exploration of the loss of innocence of children raised in dire poverty. This beautifully staged play had it's audience laughing one moment, and in tears the next, and is well worth seeing. The play will be performed at the Baxter in September, and is highly recommended.

The group also saw the world premiere of Foot's new play, The Inconvenience of Wings, an investigation into the effects of mental illness on a family, individuals, and on relationships.

Pieter Dirk-Uys' The Echo of a Noise was storytelling at it's most captivating, and staff and students were utterly transported by his honest vulnerability and the intimacy this amazing man created with a full house - each of us felt spoken to, and were completely engaged.

A varied programme included virtuoso guitarist Guy Buttery in concert with a string quartet, an Improv group from Oxford, extremely clever stand-up from Rob van Vuuren, and confrontational and challenging avant garde physical theatre.

Our students were an absolute joy, and responded with intellect and heart to the performances they saw. I would like to thank them for their maturity and enjoyable companionship on this year's trip. Thank you too to the staff who attended (Ian, Erasmus, Susan and Frank) for all their help and enthusiasm throughout the trip.
Tamsyn Lancaster

PREP SPORTS TOUR REPORT BACK

The sports tour took place during the June holidays with a very excited group of 20 Prep school students. They started their adventure just outside Atlantis doing a sand boarding lesson, which the kids thoroughly enjoyed. From there we made our

way to Langebaan to check into our accommodation at the Ellefsen Golf Suites and clean up before our welcome braai at the Langebaan Golf Estate Clubhouse.

Over the weekend the kids enjoyed several different activities such as a Golf lesson with Max Birkenhead (LPGA Tour Pro), Tennis, Mashy Golf, Soccer, Gaming, Game drive and an exhilarating boat trip. Thank you very much to Keri, Grant and Sikhombuzo for all their help during the trip. Another big thank you to all the kids who joined us and made it fun for us and themselves. They were very well behaved and it was a pleasure having them on tour with me.

Thank you very much to all the establishments we made use of and we hope to see you all again next year. Russel Verster

PREP SCHOOL 2017

Janine Veitch will be retiring at the end of the year and Cedar House owes her a substantial debt of gratitude. She led our Prep School from an idea with no premises and leaves it in a moment where it is a safe, high quality, warm and valued space for over 80 Grades 4-7 students. Janine has given so much to our younger students and their families. Her wisdom, extensive experience and thoughtful kindness will be remembered and appreciated always. We wish Janine a wonderful retirement and will miss her very much. On Thursday 24 November the Grade 7 farewell is from 18h00-20h00; it will be preceded, at 17h00, by an official farewell to Janine for any members of our community who would like to pay tribute to her considerable contributions.

In 2017, Priscilla Rhoda will be leading the Prep School, alongside Hazel Gubb. They have powerful plans that they will be sharing with our Prep School community soon. They intend to develop further our Prep School's vision to offer innovative, progressive and impactful experiences of deep learning, with opportunities for personal growth, all lensed through what we believe young South Africans need in order to be as productive, mindful and actualised as possible as they venture into the complexities and spaces that the 21st century represents. Our Prep School will be in very strong hands indeed.

SOME READINGS FROM OUR OPENING ASSEMBLY AND STAFF MEETING

- An extract from Gert Biesta's *The Beautiful Risk of Education*
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZbGIDMF7HQ>
- A refreshing take on Finnish School education that is worth watching
- An article about the UK movement, Human Scale Education
- A comment on the Matthew Theunissen incident
- Some extracts from Julian Barnes's latest novel, The Noise of Time

I wish our students a great second semester.

Yours sincerely

FRANK RUMBOLL
Principal