13 June 2024

NEWSLETTER # 4 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians

Please see the newsletter for the latest updates.

Upcoming Events:

June
Fri 14th – **Culture Day** – Please join us at 11:30 for our Culture Day Assembly.
Sat 15th - U9 and U14 Hockey Festival @ Usutu
Fri 21st – Close mid-term break at 12 o'clock.

July
Mon 1st – Open mid-term
Sat 6th – U11 Mini Festival Soccer and Netball @ MLP
Sat 13th – U11 Soccer @ Enjabulweni, U11 Netball at Khanyisile
Wed 17th – U9 Soccer and Netball @ Enjabulweni
Sat 20th – U14 Soccer and Netball @ Usutu
Mon 22nd July – **Public Holiday** - King Sobhuza's Birthday
Sat 27th – Craft Market at Montessori
Sat 27th - U14 Soccer and U14 Netball at Waterford
31st July-2nd August – Grade 6 and G7 Trip to Wide Horizons

August
Wed 7th – U8- U14 Cross Country @ Usutu

Culture Day- Friday 14th
We will be celebrating our annual Culture Day this coming Friday. Children are encouraged to dress to celebrate their own or another culture. Parents are asked to please send in a plate of eats which represents
their culture or another culture, for their child to share with their class. We will be ending the day with an assembly to celebrate our world and invite parents to join us. The assembly will start at 11:30 sharp.

Sports
Well done to the Cricket Team that travelled to South Africa during the holidays. The students engaged with students who play at a high level, and gained a lot from the experience. Thank you to all our sponsors, teachers and parents who worked together to make this trip a success.

Term 2—For the first half of Term 2, there will be hockey for girls and boys. We will integrate Netball for Girls and Soccer for Boys on some Wednesdays to start preparing the students for upcoming matches and festivals.

Well done to the Boys and Girls U11 teams who played this past weekend. We are proud of your efforts. We look forward to the U9 and U14 games this Saturday.

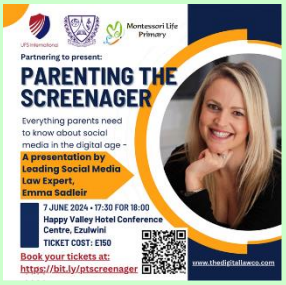
We have stock of mouth guards in the office at E60 per guard.

Athletics Day

Our inter-house Athletics Day was held on the 24th of May. It was a fantastic day filled with many activities and fun. Thank you to the PTA, which managed the food and tuck shop. Well done to all the children and parents who participated on the day.

Social Media Presentation

Parenting the "Screenager" talk which was held this past Friday was a huge success. As a school, we feel that we have been able to support parents with something that is pertinent to their children's everyday lives. Thank you to those parents who attended. For those who were unable to attend, a takeaway from the talk:



- Don’t feel pressured into giving your child a phone.
  If they have a device:
- Limit screen time
- Check phones regularly
- Turn off Wifi at night or remove devices from children at night
- Screen all apps that your child is using
- Have parenting apps installed on your phone (**Bark** is an advised one; this app scans your child's text messages, media apps, web browsers, emails, and other online activity, keeping you informed, and your child protected). For parents, the website **haveubeenpwned.com** allows you to search across multiple data breaches to see if your email addresses or phone numbers have been compromised.
- You are your child's legal guardian and have every right to monitor their device. Parents are seen as being responsible for what children post and share on their devices, and in Eswatini, they will be held liable in a court of law for what their children do online.
- Parents can be sued for what children post on their phones, even if the child is a minor.

To further support our children, the school plans on bringing someone in to talk to the children about the dangers of the web.

Teacher Communication

Please remember that teachers cannot communicate during class. Teachers can return messages and calls during free periods and after school. We kindly ask parents to be considerate when contacting teachers in the evenings, as this is their personal time. Teachers will only respond to messages that are urgent or an emergency during their personal time.

Staff

Ms Nicole is no longer assisting in class 6. Her contract with the school has ended. Mr Xolani our stand in teacher and external sports coach, and Mr Keagan will be supporting the environment while we find a more permanent solution.

School Uniform

LONG HAIR—Students should ensure that their hair is neat and does not detract from their school activities.

UE Trips

We have chosen to stay in Eswatini this year.

Grades 6 and 7 will go to Wide Horizons from 31 July to 2 August. On the 2nd of August, they will visit Malolotja Nature Reserve to zip-line. The cost for the trip will be E2900.
Grades 4 and 5 will go to Wide Horizons in Eswatini on the 6th – 8th of November. They will visit Sibebe Resort and do the school package tour on the 8th of November. The cost of the trip will be E2600.

Information on the trips will be circulated in the coming weeks.

Library Book Donation

Thank you to the parent who initiated a GoFundMe campaign on behalf of the PTA. A good number of books were purchased for our library. The donation has greatly contributed to the reading experience available to the children, and is much appreciated by all.

Photo Day

School photos will be taken on the 15th and 16th of July. Order forms will follow in due course.
The cost will be E220 per photo, as specified below:
Package Includes: Mug with photo, A4 photo, 2x Colour Passport Photos, 2x B/W Passport photos, standard size sepia photo, wallet size photo, 6X8in Class Photo, Bookmark and A4 Calendar.

Sickness

We currently have many flu cases and stomach bugs going around, including the H1N1 virus. To prevent the spread of illnesses, please ensure that sick children stay at home until they are symptom-free.

ABC Ministry – A Safe Haven for Children.

ABC Ministry

Our annual charity drive to ABC Ministry will take place this term. ABC – Abandoned Babies for Christ Ministry, takes in babies from around the country. The home loves and cares for unwanted babies until they are placed back with their families, foster families or moved into homes for older children. Montessori make an annual donation of clothes, babies' milk, nappies, toys (scooters, old bikes) and dry foods to ABC every year. The G7 students will be doing a drop-off on the 14th of August. We ask that any donations of pre-loved or new items be brought to school.

Fees

We remind parents with outstanding fees to please settle their accounts in a timely manner. Termly payers should have settled their accounts. Monthly payers, please make payment before the 7th of each month to avoid disruption to learning. Learners with outstanding amounts and no current payment plan or communication with the school will face disruption to learning.

Term Dates -2025

Please see the attached 2025 Term Dates.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office should you need to.

Kind regards

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