



03 November 2020

NEWSLETTER 14

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please see below for the latest updates.

“Within the child lies the fate of the future.”— Maria Montessori

School continues with Online learning for children in Grades 1-6. Our on-campus learners continue with their preparation for High School.

We are pleased to announce we have not had any Covid-19 cases on campus, so far!

Study packs and online learning

We would also like to remind parents that learners should participate in as many teaching activities as possible. We encourage our learners to stay dedicated to their learning. Attendance in Google Meets, Zoom sessions, teacher check-ins and classroom chat groups are there to aid learners in getting through the year. Please use all the tools available to you in order to be successful.

Teacher meetings

Teachers continue to communicate with parents regularly to keep track of children’s progress. Teachers will be scheduling Zoom or Google meetings with parents; schedules will be sent out shortly.

Reports

Teachers will be doing reports for this cycle, Term 3. Comments will cover the core curriculum and will be released on the last day of school, 9th of December. Parents will be asked to collect hard copies in the same way packs have been collected throughout the year. Hard copies of this year’s reports and all other necessary information will be sent out on the 9th of December. We will also email reports to parents and guardians.

Moving to the next grade

At Montessori we are very lucky to work in a holistic environment that moves learners in 2 to 3-year cycles. This approach gives learners the opportunity to revisit topics throughout a cycle. Each child is worked with at his/her own pace while ensuring that the statutory requirements are met, and that the child reaches his/her full potential.

2021 has many parents concerned about progress. The Montessori Cycling method is very useful to us at this time. Teachers will be working with adjusted goals and curriculum, and will make allowances for revision to fill in any learning gaps.

In terms of moving on to the next grade in 2021, learners' academic history, engagements via online tools, work received and interactions with teachers, will be assessed in placing learners.

We are aware that learners have not all engaged to the same degree, and with this in mind there will be learners who will be revisiting 2020 work more than others. The goal in Term 1 is to fill in any learning gaps that learners may have, to ensure a smooth as possible transition, into the new grade.

In addition to the normal Montessori approach of following each child, we will be adjusting the curriculum to accommodate additional individual support, which some learners may require. Extra curricular staff will be utilized together with class assistants in order to support the teachers in insuring that learning gaps are filled.

Parents will be kept well informed of their child's progress as we tackle the challenges of the year ahead.

Staff for 2021

We welcome Bridget Van Dort, who will join us as a Lower Elementary teacher next year. Bridget is a qualified Montessori Teacher and holds her Postgraduate Certificate in Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Technology and Fine Art. We look forward to Bridget joining our Montessori family and wish her a long and happy stay with us. Coach Gerard will be moving into UE, Class 4, to replace Kirsty Rust. Gerard is a qualified Lower and Upper Elementary teacher and we are excited for his move into the UE phase. A breakdown of Class teachers will be sent to teachers before the end of the year. Designated classes for 2021 will be sent out with the final report packs.

ABC

This has been a difficult year and it has definitely seen some communities hit harder than others. We have made the decision to continue with our annual charity drive to ABC (Abandoned Babies for Christ). We will not do our normal visit with the babies and family but can do a drop off. We remind families that there are many babies and families in need and that charity begins at home. We ask all students and parents to please clear out their unwanted items in support of ABC.

ABC 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 on to homes for older children.

Montessori makes an annual donation of clothes, babies' milk, nappies, toys, scooters, old bikes and food to ABC. Donations can be dropped off at the school office.

Mr. Nhlanhla and I will do a drop off on the 27th of November.

Important Dates

Close end of year: 9th December

2021 Calendar attached to this newsletter

School Fees

We urge parents to please come forward with payments for any outstanding school fees. For those parents who are struggling to make payments we ask you to please approach management or the Bursar to set up a payment plan. Children with outstanding fees, that have not made arrangements with the school, will not be allowed to continue nor will they receive their end of year report.

As our schooling year draws to a close, we remind learners to continue to apply themselves, giving of their best until we cross the finish line.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need to.

Best wishes

Thea Rudd
Principal
Montessori Life Primary

Student attendance 2021

The school is in the process of preparing classes for 2021. Please could parents complete and return the following slip to the office.



My child (name and surname) _____

Class: _____ **will continue / not continue** (tick appropriate option)

at Montessori Life Primary in 2021.

