



To the stars.....



ORION PRIMARY NEWS

March 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

What a busy first term we have had, filled with plenty of fun but also a sprinkle of challenge! We've had the Swimming Gala, Valentines celebrations, Read DEAR Day, interschool softball tournament and so much more. We've also been gearing up for the building work to start and have pushed through the teething problems of the site being shared between two schools.

I'd like to thank the teachers and therapists for all their hard work and commitment to doing the best job they can, in a challenging time of transition. I'd like to thank the children for trying their best this term and for being so adaptable to our changing environment. Lastly, I'd like to thank the parents for their understanding and patience as we embark on the journey into our new school.

Some staff news: On a sad note, we are saying goodbye to one of our Occupational Therapists, Brittany Spicer, at the end of April. We wish her well with her new venture and the preparations for her wedding. Another of our therapists, Amanda Swart, is also preparing for her big day! We wish her and her future husband all the very best for their future together!

KIDS CORNER



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 31 Mar: Science Show / **School closes 12pm**
- 19 Apr: **SCHOOL REOPENS FOR START OF 2ND TERM**
- 24 – 26 Apr Language week



Learners will take part in a variety of activities on these days. The highlight will be the fun day and variety show on **Wednesday 26 April** from **08h00 to 13h00**. Children will have the opportunity to take part in a number of fun activities and we will end the

day off with an open air variety concert.

All the learners will take part in the concert and we hope that the entire Orion family can join us on the day.

The school leavers of 2017 will be selling refreshments to collect money for their matric farewell. We trust that everyone will attend this day with us.

A GLIMPSE INSIDE THE CLASSROOMS.....



Grade R

Carlie Grobler

It is exciting times for us as our little Grade R class is growing in numbers. We have two new children who joined our class. Welcome to Hihlurile and Boipelo. We trust that your stay with us will be full of fun and learning!

During the month of March, we have explored **Sport, Summer. Shapes and Colours, Safety and Easter.**

The children had fun making little shape people. They played with paint making different colours. During our Safety week, we learnt the importance of not to play with matches and the consequences thereof. Amongst other safety measures we spoke of were electrical points, swimming pools, buckling up and strangers. The children loved these activities. We wish you happy holidays and a blessed Easter.

Grade 1

Liza-Marie Harris

In Life Skills we have been learning about healthy habits. Mathematics gets more interesting every day, we are learning about groups of ten and also how to count backwards. Learning number names from 1-10 is also part of our day. In English we are learning to read, soon we will be reading books. Zulu is so much fun, ask your children to greet you in Zulu.

Term 2 will entail much more work, do your best and God will do the rest!



Grade 2

Lesley Wilson



The Grade 2's are progressing well, and learning a lot in English and Maths. In Life Skills we discussed bullying and respecting one another in depth, and also made a bullying booklet. During Arts and Crafts, we have been having lots of fun painting, cutting and gluing and making some very creative pictures. Have a look at our dinosaurs and mealie rice mosaic patterns, as well as our Easter activities.

We all went on a very special visit to the Montecasino Bird Park where the children were able to see and touch all the beautiful, and strange, birds. The Ground Hornbill Conservation Project was particularly interesting to the children as were the crows and how they collected the money that was donated to the Project. How clever are those Crows!!

Grade 3

Sylvia Murray

The Grade 3's made funky Potato Men with concertina feet and arms. They were very skilled at making the feet and arms. This was such a fun activity.

Well done Grade 3's!



Foundation Phase Skills (F.P. Skills)

Tricia Sanssoucie

As part of our Practical Tasks, we did Flower Arranging. The learners thrived on this activity and produced some really beautiful arrangements.



Foundation Phase Pre-Vocational Class (F.P.P.V.)**Priscille Blake**

This past month saw the learners consolidate doubling and halving with fruit loops which made it more abstract for the learners the best part was eating them when all the work was completed. The funny part was when their maths didn't tally up I knew that one by one the fruit loops were falling in their little mouths instead of being on their desks.

Counting in 1s, 2s, 3s, 5s, and 10s continues to be a daily occurrence in the classroom and will play a big role in introducing the different tables into the classroom; most of my learners already know their 2x table. My learners have been working hard on expanded notation and place value. I have also introduced calendars to the learners which will benefit them by being reinforced at home for example: how many days in a week, how many days in a month. We also had lots of fun learning all about symmetry; the learners traced different shapes, they then needed to cut them up into as many pieces as they could but keeping in mind that each piece must be a mirror image of the other. In language my class are learning to answer questions in full

sentences when doing comprehension, which can be rather challenging. I have also introduced punctuation and request that all parents please check that your child uses the correct punctuation when completing homework especially when they write out sentences for me, like capital letters, question marks and full stops.

**Intermediate Phase Skills (I.P. Skills.)****Jodie Hallam**

Over the past month we have been focusing on Maths, English and Life Skills. We have extended Life Skills into Technology, Geography and History.

In Maths we have covered basic adding and subtracting as well as counting backwards and forwards in 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's up to 1000. We have been doing a lot of Odd and Even numbers in maths and will continue with that as it is a difficult concept to understand. We have started with time and the class has been doing AMAZINGLY well. They have really understood the concept and enjoyed it. I have done a lot of practical teaching with time and getting the children involved and doing some activities on the board themselves, which they have loved. I will continue to build on time and will make it a bit more challenging for them.

In English, we continue with our Weekend News orally. This helps the children to get their thoughts out and makes it easier for them to put pen to paper. Their sentences and writing skills are improving weekly. We have been working with Alphabetical order. This has been a challenge for most but we continue to work hard at it which makes the tasks easier and understandable.

In Life Skills we have been focusing on our Monthly Theme which is Respect, the learners explain to me what they think respect is and what it means. This allows them to voice their opinions and discuss with each other how they feel and how we can use Respect in our daily lives.

Technology is always lots of fun! We have been working on the basics of Conductors and Insulators as well as Positive and Negative Electrical Charges, the children have enjoyed this theme immensely. They are fascinated to see how electricity works. There are more exciting things to come in Technology and Science. Watch this space!

The class has really enjoyed their map work in Geography. We have learnt about direction both inside and outside of the classroom and of course outside being the highlight of their day. We plotted a whole Castle with just using direction which they enjoyed and did really well in too. I can't wait to introduce the children to more exciting geographical themes.

History was made extra exciting for the class as we learnt about the British explorer Henry Hudson and all of his Voyages. They asked lots of questions and a good discussion was had about how, when and why!

Intermediate Phase Pre-Vocational Class (I.P.P.V.)**Sandy-Lee Wouda**

This month in Maths we learnt how to do multiplication by using a magic square. We moved onto analogue time and how to tell the time on a normal clock. We also learnt how to read a calendar and how many years are in a millennium, decade and century. We continued to hone our cursive writing skills. In English the children shone as they presented prepared speeches on how to give instructions on making things. We did reading and a comprehension in Afrikaans as well as trying to do a speech. We moved onto History in Social Science. It was also the month of relaxing on camp and then working hard in our formal assessments.

Grade 4**Toinette Edwards**

The Grade 4's are working hard on reading the time and using both digital and analogue clocks. In Geography we are learning a little more about towns, cities, villages and farms and how different, or similar these are. We now know how to make use of a Venn diagram to show these similarities and differences. Our fluency in Afrikaans is improving every day with reading, counting and speaking activities.

Grade 5

Nicky Oswald

In March we moved on to a new reader, *Charlotte's Web*, a children's classic by E.B. White. The children are learning how human characteristics can be given to animals, and how, if you observe carefully, you will be able to find that certain people in your life are represented in this book! We are enjoying the unfolding of the plot and the humour that comes to the fore every now and then.

Mathematics saw the learners trying to come to grips with telling the time on an analogue clock as well as understanding the various units of time. Most of them found this a rather challenging experience, and we will take the next step later in the year. As usual tables and bonds have been practised on a regular basis. We are currently learning about 2D shapes.

The life cycles of plants and animals is our new theme in Natural Science and Technology and we will continue with this until the end of the term.

Grade 6

Sailas Hove

As the term comes to an end it would only be proper to reflect on what has occurred in the first quarter. It was a busy term for the learners as they started their final year in the Intermediate Phase. The learners found it exciting as they were introduced to experimental and discovery learning in various areas of the curriculum. They took part in research work so that they could be responsible for their own learning. The class had the opportunity to go on a school camp which took learning outside of the classroom where the learners were able to experience leadership and learn important life skills. Reading and comprehension skills were worked on extensively this term which will help with abstract thinking. It is very encouraging to note that through the monthly themes, the learners were able to further develop their social and emotional skills. Despite a few challenges, it was an action packed term and I hope the class will have a good rest. I look forward to another exciting term.



CAMP NELU – 2017

by Nicky Oswald

Early in March, the Intermediate Phase children had the privilege of spending three wonderful days and nights at the Camp NELU adventure centre. And what an adventure it turned out to be! Experienced facilitators were on duty almost 24/7 to make sure the children

were kept safe and busy with fun (and sometimes rather challenging!) activities, which mostly took place in the good old outdoors. They were given the opportunity to participate in volleyball, drumming, building a shelter out of branches and leaves, target shooting with a rifle, archery, a mountain hike, crawling through mud and many other things that they never get to do in the city. Four staff members from Orion College accompanied the group to see to the general well-being of their charges, to help motivate them and to acknowledge acts of kindness, helpfulness and team work. We all had fun into the bargain and got to know the children in a different environment and under circumstances far removed from the classroom. The name NELU stands for Nature Education Leads to Understanding. And indeed it does. The children all learned so much! About themselves, that they can be comfortable doing and discovering new things, about animals, about plants, about teamwork, about what it's like to be away from home with their peers, about how important it is to be able to get along with other people.

Apart from a few minor incidents and "casualties", our time at the camp was a happy and enjoyable experience. The camp songs in the evenings proved to be an absolute hit and the breakfast of pancakes and ice-cream on the final morning was almost literally "the cherry on the top". The children returned to their homes happily exhausted with memories that will probably live on in their hearts for the rest of their lives. **A huge thank to Mrs. Sandy-lee Wouda for the tremendous effort she put in to make this camp possible.** Just another "happy camper"!



READ DEAR Day: Orion College celebrated **READ DEAR day** with the rest of the world. The Intermediate Phase learners were paired up with a Foundation Phase learner. They chose a book from the library which they would be able to read to the juniors. We sat outside on our blankets in the shade and enjoyed our lunches while listening to a story.

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

On the 17th March, Orion held a “smashing” Softball Tournament between **Ruimsig Academy** and **Arrows of Destiny**. It was a lovely fun in the sun afternoon. All players brought their “A game” with them. There was much fun and laughter had by all and amazing support from all schools. At the end of our tournament we were all happy to announce that it was a tie between the schools. All the students participated well and had a “ball”. We had very good competition, and at the end of the day everyone was pleased with their efforts and all children were rewarded with a special certificate and a fizzer. They were all winners!!! **WELL DONE TO ORION COLLEGE, RUIMSIG ACADEMY AND ARROWS OF DESTINY.**



NOTICES

We have **PE kits** in sizes 6-7, up to 10-11 available **for sale at Reception.**

R50 for a shirt and shorts

R25 for shirts only.

REMINDERS

School closes at 12 on the 31st March

School reopens for learners on Wednesday 19 April

Extra murals will start the following week.

THE THERAPY ZONE

FROM: The Remedial Therapists



Talk to your child about the **many interesting meanings of words.** Take the word **“track”**. How many meanings can you think of for this word? What about train tracks, a running track, animal tracks, satellite tracking, tracking words with your finger, are you on the right track and what sort of things are important to keep track of? I'm sure you can think of more interesting meanings!

The more your child knows about a word, the faster it can be decoded, retrieved and comprehended. Oh, and it's fun too! **Tracking tracks along the tracks.**



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

We are introducing **themes around values** for each month. **March** has been **RESPECT** month. April will also be focussed on **RESPECT**. We encourage our learners to think about **RESPECT** in everything that they do and in every interaction they have at school and at home.

	<p>What does the dictionary say? (plural: respects)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.2. due regard for the feelings, wishes, or rights of others	
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Wishing you all a fabulous holiday and a much deserved break. We look forward to seeing all our learners refreshed and ready for another busy, fun-filled term.



Barbra Robinson

and the Primary School Staff



Classifieds

Amanda Swart

Speech Therapist / Audiologist
B-Communication Pathology (UP)

Pr no: 0225517

Tel: 072 248 2309

E-mail: amanda.swart@vodamail.co.za

Address: PO Box 2371
Honeydew
2040

LINDA HAGE

Educational Psychologist

B Ed (FET) (cum laude); BA (hons) Psychology
(cum laude);

M Ed Educational Psychology (UJ)

HPCSA no.: 0130591

Practice no.: 0618179

Cell: 0723818035

Email: hagelinda89@gmail.com

Fatima Sadien

Speech & Language Therapist

Tel: 0824804490

Email: fatima_sdn@yahoo.com

Practice No.: 0647896



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Email: christo@cmatt.co.za
www.mulderattorneys.co.za

Tel: 011 794 7909 / 10
Mobile: 083 448 9502

15 Dale Lace Road,
Randpark Ridge, Johannesburg

