

AGM Presentation Wednesday 25 October 2017

Foundation Phase Department Mrs Y Smith

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

Let's talk about the scholastic year of 2017.

There are 4 Grade 1 to 3 classes, thus making a total of 12 classes in the Foundation Phase Department offering Home Language English, First Additional Language Afrikaans, Mathematics and Life Skills as the teaching subjects. A Second additional Language, isiZulu, was introduced in Grade 1 in 2016 and in Gr 1 and 2 in 2017. This was done in an informal manner using songs and greetings. Our thanks go to Ms Mokgothu, who was appointed to teach this language, for making the language come alive for the learners. The learners enjoyed songs and the movements that went with them. Stories used in English and Afrikaans will be for Zulu as well. The last two years have been pilot years and as from 2018 all schools need to implement a Second Additional Language. We have made a decision to stick with Gr 1 and 2 in 2018, as the school day needs to be adjusted from Gr 3 onwards to accommodate an hour of Zulu.

Here I would like to pause to thank the educators for all their hard work they have put in and for the manner in which learners have been guided and supported.

Thank you to the SGB and the parents for allowing us to have interns to make our loads bearable. They have been of invaluable service to us. To the interns, thank you for being willing to do whatever was asked of you and for smoothing the rough patches for us.

Now down to academic matters.

1. The Foundation Phase report falls under me. I hope you have taken note that your child needs a 4 in HL, a 3 in both Maths and Afrikaans to progress to the next grade. I have put on the website and communicator an explanation of what outstanding, meritorious, etc. means. If you have not seen it, please go and peruse it and familiarise yourself with the requirements.
2. The educators have attended courses and talks in order to broaden their knowledge and refresh and enthuse them with new ideas. These aspects have then been successfully implemented in the classroom. Many Saturday workshops were attended. Thank you ladies for giving up your time to attend.
3. Grade 1 – 3 did a spelling challenge at school. Only the Grade 3's went through to Cluster level and competed against schools in our cluster. Matthew Bolé did us proud, but sadly did not make it to provincial level.
4. All our learners took part in a Mental Mathematics challenge at school level first of all. There was a time limit and many found it difficult to solve 30 sums in that time. Many learners did very well and we are proud of them. Njabulo Ncube in Grade 3 needs a special mention, as he won at school level and went through to Cluster level, but sadly did not go further as the competition was stiff. Our learner's biggest downfall is not knowing their bonds and tables and are using their fingers to work out answers. All our appealing to the learners to learn them, fell on deaf ears. Parents, please assist us here.
5. In August some learners in each grade were exposed to an external exam called Conquesta Olympiads. The questions are based on general knowledge and reading short paragraphs and answering questions. We are waiting with bated breath to see how our learners performed.

6. Each year we have a Life Skill celebration where an aspect is highlighted. This year Performing Arts was emphasised. A group of 6 learners performed at cluster level and have been chosen to perform at Provincial level. They go through to Sci Bono tomorrow. We wish them and Mrs Venter all of the best. Go and make us proud to be part of an amazing school.
7. Our Grade Threes will be writing Provincial papers in Maths and English in November.
8. A big thank you to the parents who ensure that homework is done on a daily basis. Thank you for the manner with which you received the news that no more homework sheets will be printed. If you are having trouble accessing the homework sheets, please update the communicator on your phone. Thank you to those parents who have supported our decisions and strengthened our hands regarding discipline. Your support is appreciated and valued as your child's education is a combination of teacher, child and parent working together to get the optimum performance from them.
9. This is my final year at CKPS. I have been a part of this school for the past 30 years and they have been rewarding ones.
10. After 42 years in the profession, it is going to be difficult to say goodbye, but all good things come to an end.
11. Thank you for entrusting the education of your precious ones to us. Hopefully we have met your expectations.
12. I thank you for listening attentively and I wish you and your family all the best for the rest of the year.