

Acting Deputy Principal's report for 2018 - S Jonker

As you can see, I have moved my cheese again this year. I am the acting Deputy Principal at CKPS. At our school I have a varied portfolio:

I am *a teacher* first of all; I am teaching Social Sciences to the Gr7's. Once again I am loving both the subject as well as the learners. I have proven to myself that if you are a dedicated teacher, you are able to teach any grade. The jump from Gr 1 to Gr 7 is no joke, but I still find it amazing when learners respond to my 1st instruction (unlike Gr 1 where you have to repeat everything at least 3 times).

At our school I am also in charge of *discipline* – a well-disciplined child is a child who is able to learn. This includes:

Late coming – The bad habits that you instill in your child now, will stay with them forever. Please don't teach them to lie – lying becomes normal and acceptable and you do want to raise a child who knows the value of honesty. When the 7:35 bell rings, learners who are late, go to the waiting area and are marked as a late-comer by Vusi. He takes the results to the office, and with our new system in place, parents receive a sms to inform them of this.

Absenteeism – I call or email the parents of learners who are regularly absent. These names are sent to our District, as absenteeism is seen as a huge negative factor in academic results of our learners. Once again you need to instill the message that school attendance is vital and staying off is not an option.

Bullying – Normal bullying incidents are handled by the educators, but if it becomes a serious problem, I deal with it in the office. Parents are informed and counselling is arranged for both parties.

Cell phones – Our policy states that the use of a cell phone is banned, which means that they are allowed at school if the phone is switched off and not taken out of the bag during the school day. If a child uses the phone in class, during break and in the waiting area, the phone will be confiscated and kept in the safe till the end of the term. I am of the opinion that no primary school learner should have a cell phone, as they are not old enough to deal with the dangers of social media. Just as a matter of interest, it is found that teenagers are developing closer bonds with their peer groups and, as a result, pushing away from their parents at earlier ages. Parents should have an App on their phones to monitor what internet sites your child is going on.

Uniform - I am not going to go into a lot of detail as the policy says it all. I would just like to mention that our biggest continuous problem has been the boys' haircuts. We have relaxed a bit on the soccer haircut – learners are allowed to shave the sides, but the top is not allowed to be too long, and your child will come home with a message, or you will receive a sms to notify you to cut their hair.

Code of conduct – A set of moral values and norms which must be complemented by the commitment and acceptance of responsibility by educators and parents.

Our new admin system once again will simplify this whole process. Warnings for various offences can be sent via sms. In future you will also be notified of a detention class, break detention or writing out via sms, as I am aware of the fact that my letters do not always arrive home. We do have our positive reinforcement in place and learners can earn merits for several different things. It is heart-warming to see how important that R8 tuck shop voucher is even for Gr 7 learners.

Councillors and monitors – I organize a leadership camp early in the year and I am in charge of their duties at school, as well as collections to be taken to the community.

Staff Development – I try to source courses and workshops that are directly related to, and will keep educators abreast of the latest trends and developments. I also manage the educators' IQMS and internal appraisals.

ICT – I share educational Apps and developments in this area with regard to extending learners and encouraging the development of higher order thinking skills so necessary for 21 century.

Last but not the least I would just like to make use of this opportunity to thank the educators in the Intersen Phase. We have a group of amazing teachers – support your child's educator; they do have your child's best interest at heart. I also want to thank them for supporting me 100% through all the changes in my career.

“Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and the thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see greatness in you, even when you don't see it yourself.”