



Dear Newberry Parents and Staff

Kindly go through the information below as it pertains to this week, changes in the calendar, events, and happenings at school:

1. Calendar Items

- Newberry House is hosting a 3 month Montessori Mathematics Enrichment Programme on our premises each Saturday - offered by AMI qualified Michelle Graham. We have 3 staff members attending the course - Gava Cloete, Zain Cassiem and Mariana van Niekerk.
- **POSTPONED:** *Lower and Upper Elementary* have requested that the Parent Social/Meet and Greet which was scheduled for Thursday 18 May 17:30 - 19:30, be postponed until Thursday 25 May 2017. More information will be mailed to the parents concerned.
- **Fire Marshall Training and Fire Training** - 6 of our staff will be attending a day at the Sustainability Institute where they will receive necessary training from MEC (Medical Education Centre) in the aforementioned. This will take place on Friday 19 May 2017.
- **CANCELLED Friday 26 May** - School Drama/Music evening
- Cambridge exams continue this week and we ask for quiet in the area around our Breeze/staff room environment which is the designated exam centre over this period.

2. Open Day - 13 May 2017

Our OPEN Day was a huge success - words like organised, professional, beautiful classrooms, great vibe, wonderful staff - all this and more could be heard around the school as the morning progressed. Thank you to each and every person who contributed in any way - children, staff, parents, PA. In particular, however, a very special thank you to Marten, Talana, Tinashe and his team for the hard work and effort it took to get the new path finished - along with the countless other small (and not so small) things that needed attention before the weekend. We had a record number of families visiting the school.

Please visit our Facebook page and/or website for photographs and other interesting information.

3. Use of Polo field and other areas on the farm

It has come to our attention that there is confusion about the use of the polo field and surrounding areas of the farm.

The polo field is available through the week to Newberry House for sports, school events, fitness fun etc. From time to time there are external events that might make use of this space, but the farm management informs us of these in advance. For fishing, trail running and nature awareness, we may use the area up to and around the first dam, but we may not access any other part of the farm. The main issue is that of safety as this is a working farm with tractors and other heavy equipment often in use, as well as



multiple people working on the farm. Currently, we may not use any trails or areas of the farm for mountain biking.

We are in regular communication with the farm and should anything change with regard to any of the above, you will be informed.

4. Closure and Locking of Main Gate

Because of the work on the front gate and main path leading into the school near Aftercare, this gate has not been locked as regularly as it was in the previous term. Teachers have been extra vigilant with regard to the comings and goings of the children, but now with the completion of this project, we will re-institute the closure and locking protocol this week. As a reminder, the main entrance to the school will be locked at 08h10 just after the start of school (08h00) every morning, and only opened again 10 minutes before each plane leaves. The main reason for this is safety. Because the gate opens directly onto a road, it is unsafe to keep it open and unmanned while there are children nearby. This should not impact on you significantly as the office gate will remain open – our front-of-house looks directly onto the pathway so we are able to man this gate more effectively.

Again, we encourage parents to please ensure your children are at school on time as we have noticed that many students are arriving late again - some as late as 08h30. This has a serious impact on the first work cycle as it disrupts the children. Please also be reminded that parents or family are not, under any circumstances, allowed into the classrooms during the work cycles. Please come to the office if you have an emergency and we will take it from there.

5. Newberry House Community Project - Winter Warm-Up Drive

Thank you very much to those who so quickly responded to our request for donations for our "**Winter Warm-Up Drive**". For those who may have missed the request - please see the following:

Our Newberry Community Service committee (Marina, Chantall, Deidre, Katie, Noline, Urlene and Evette) are driving a project called "**Winter Warm-up Drive**".

There are many in our community who are struggling in various ways, and as winter cold and wetness approaches, so things seem to get more difficult. With this in mind, Newberry House will be collecting scarves, jackets, blankets and jerseys for donation to two causes:

- Rape Crisis Helderberg - Rape Crisis Helderberg is a non-profit organization committed to help survivors of rape and abuse overcome their trauma through caring counseling amongst all the people in the Helderberg basin and surroundings. They are in regular need of personal items for those who come to them for help, and as winter approaches can really make use of donated warm clothing items. They have been very touched by our willingness as a school to assist.
- We have many families on the Estate (behind our school) who are in desperate need and barely make it through each month. For the upcoming winter, in addition to any blankets and warm



clothing we manage to collect, and in keeping with our Winter Warm-Up theme, we will be collecting canned or packet soup for distribution to these families. Your donations would be so appreciated.

If you are willing to get involved, kindly make donations of the needed clothing and other sundry items by dropping them at the office. We would like to gather as much as possible as quickly as possible so that we can donate the items to these two causes early in June. Let's warm up someone's winter!

6. General

Lost property grows in leaps and bounds each week, with very few parents collecting what might belong to their child/ren. The lost property is currently in the office - kindly come have a look. We will donate unclaimed items to charities or needy schools at the end of each term. To assist with the growing pile of lost property, we encourage parents to mark their children's clothing - teachers can then place items in lockers and/or bags when found.

All the best for a wonderful week.