



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

- On Wednesday 3 May there will be a **Toddler Information evening** for new and existing toddler parents. This will start at 18h00, with parents meeting in their child's environment. They will be addressing daily classroom routines, as well as independence in the home and Montessori environment. Tea and coffee will be served. Please indicate whether you will require Aftercare on the evening.
- **The Awareness/Education evening scheduled for Thursday 4 May has been postponed** as a result of a clash in the schedule for our guest speaker (Occupational Therapist). We are exploring a new date and potential speaker for later in May and will communicate this with you as soon as possible.
- **Lower and Upper Elementary** have a combined class activity planned for Friday 5 May - this will take place at the school. Arista Burke, a Science/Laboratory Technician, will be doing some fun and exciting science presentations/demonstrations with the children. This correlates with the Five Great Lessons which is the Cultural curriculum for Elementary. She will be at school from 09h00 - 11h00. The cost will be R 10.00 per child which will be added to your invoice for June.
- High school students start with **Cambridge IGCSE and AS/A exams** this week, commencing on Wednesday 3 May through till 8 June. We wish them all the best!

2. Aftercare

Kindly note that regardless of arrangements in the past, all children are to be signed out from Aftercare by parents/guardians or any person officially designated to collect the children each afternoon.

3. Cleaning of Environments

A large part of the Montessori philosophy focuses on the independence of the child and their integration and role in their class, school and the greater community. Much of this is fostered in the class environment by way of specific activities and forms part of the Practical Life curriculum in Pre-Primary, which develops hand-eye coordination and muscle development, grace and courtesy, logical order to complete tasks, independence and more. This should also be carried through into the Elementary and Middle/High School environments, with children independently assisting in the cleanliness and preparation of their environment each day. In the Elementary and Middle/High School environments, it's not just about independence. It is also about self-pride. Contributing to a community. Doing a job/task well. Completing a job/task from start to finish. About being a responsible person. It is also about respecting a child enough to allow them to clean up after themselves.



With this in mind, and with the approbation of the Advisory head of School, Jo Mostert, please note that children in all environments will participate in cleaning and preparing their classes each day.

4. Freedom Day Celebrations

Rain (albeit very welcome) hampered the celebrations planned for last week, but children gathered today to read poems and stories, sing songs (including the anthem) and celebrate the special weekend just passed. Special thanks to Stephanie and the Cultural committee who planned and organized this special event.

Photographs will be posted on Facebook later today.

5. SAMA Conference 2017

With support from management, four Newberry staff members attended the annual South African Montessori Association Conference in Gauteng this weekend, namely James Prain, Stephanie Calitz, Mariana van Niekerk and Marina Athanasopolous. They are back at school, energized and excited to share their insights and experiences with the rest of the team. Well done to James, who presented at the conference on "Mindfulness in the Montessori Environment" and held the Newberry flag high. Marina and Mariana also attended the 2-day Storytelling workshop by Michael Dorer attached to the conference and in their words - it was "magical"!

6. Open Day - 13 May 2017

Newberry House will be hosting an Open Day on Saturday 13 May 2017. Open Days are always a wonderful time to showcase and promote our school and we would appreciate if our parent body could assist us by mentioning the day to friends, colleagues, and family. In addition, an invitation/event has been posted on Facebook on our page and at least three other Helderberg/Somerset West community pages - kindly also promote this far and wide, sharing with friends and family for maximum impact. It has also been advertised on our website. We will have a radio spot on Radio Helderberg in the next 2 weeks and will let you know exact dates and times. Radio Helderberg is also running 20 Live Read ads commencing today through to 12 May - let us know if you hear one of them!

So much of the success of this day lies in the hands of our parents, particularly as you talk with friends and share posts on Social Media and we kindly ask for your heightened awareness and involvement of this upcoming event. The PA also play a big role and will be contacting parents for input and assistance prior to and on the day.

All the best for a wonderful week.