



Safe & Nurturing Environment

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PREPARATORY NEWS

Friday 24 June 2011

#20

Dear Parents, Staff and Pupils

Over the past few months, I have been in contact with parents and families who have been affected by crime. As a parent, I believe our greatest concern is the impact or potential threat it poses to our children, and what makes matters even worse is the amount of time we, as adults, spend talking about incidents of crime when our children are listening.

'Within earshot of your children' is an article written by Nikki Bush that illustrates my point exactly.

[Within earshot of your children](#)

Children today are exposed to all our conversations. You rarely hear parents applying the "not in front of the children" rule. Do be careful what you say within earshot of your children because the conversations they are exposed to have the power to both harm or heal.

The cellphone era has ushered in a more public approach to conversation because we take calls wherever we are and in the company of whomever we are with. Our children get to hear unfiltered calls, often on bluetooth, so they hear the whole conversation, not just our response. What they hear is shaping their brains, their values and their worldview — how they see the world. You can add what they hear on radio and see on TV to the equation and you have a lot of inappropriate information on steroids bombarding our children.

The conversations they hear should strengthen the following:

- Their confidence
- Their character
- Their worldview

This is not always the case, according to visiting clinical psychologist, Dr Sandy Gluckman. “Kids are faced with a very challenging world today and they need to believe that they have everything they need to be okay in it, but many are fast coming to the conclusion that they don’t have the resources to cope because they are often privy to disturbing information.”

Never forget that little eyes and little ears are constantly upon you. Let’s see what has been shaping your children — hurting or healing them in the past week — this is an exercise definitely worth doing (probably take you 15 – 20 minutes, you don’t need to make it a thesis, this is dipstick research):

- Think about all the conversations you have had in the past few days within earshot of your children. You may need to make a list of them — who were you speaking to and what was it about, e.g. your son overheard you talking about his low muscle tone to a friend, or your daughter overheard you talking about a hijacking incident.
- Think about how they have witnessed you living your life — just for the past few days e.g. how have you coped with stress, what was your personal organisation like, how present have you been, etc.
- Now divide a piece of paper in half and on one side write down the positive and negative values you are currently teaching your child based on what they have heard or witnessed above.
- On the other side write down what values you specifically want to be teaching them.
- Now have a critical look at the differences, which will give you a good idea of whether there is more hurting or healing going on. It would be rare to find one and not the other so don’t panic.
- Finally, you need to have the courage and the character to make the necessary changes to bring what is going on more in line with what you desire or what you would like your family brand to stand for.

In no way am I advocating wrapping your children in cotton wool and protecting them from the world. That would leave them in a very risky position. I am, however, encouraging a more conscious and aware approach to what your children are hearing. And when they do hear something that they shouldn’t, take the opportunity to turn it into a teachable moment. Potentially negative and harmful situations can be turned into unbelievably powerful, positive ones depending on the conversations you choose to have with your children.

Have a wonderful weekend.

D WEBB

Preparatory Principal
Dainfern College

- **Senior Preparatory First Semester Reports**

The Senior Preparatory First Semester reports will be issued on Friday 1 July 2011 at 12h00, just before we close for Half Term. These reports give a detailed account of pupils' performance in the first six months of the year. Our reports have the following features:

- A generic comment per subject giving an overview of what was covered this semester in relevant subjects.
- A symbol awarded to the pupil for their performance in the relevant subject. Please see the back of the front page for the percentage breakdown for each of the symbols. Symbols are only awarded in the key academic subjects of Mathematics, English, the Additional Language/s, Natural Science and Social Sciences in Grades 4 to 6.
- An Effort Symbol indicating the level of effort from pupils in the relevant subject. Performance indicators for these symbols can also be found on the back of the front page. These are important but often overlooked recordings.
- Assessment Standards, indicating levels of performance for specific criteria in each subject in the form of a tick box. It is worth taking careful note of the performance indicators in this table.
- A personalised comment on the performance of pupils in the key academic subjects of Mathematics, English, the Additional Language/s, Natural Science and Social Sciences.
- The teacher of each subject signs the page for which they were responsible.
- A rating of pupils' performances in two of the Critical Outcomes found in the National Curriculum Statement.
- On the last page each pupil will be set two or three specific targets on which to concentrate in the next semester.
- Extramural activities attended by pupils are also indicated on the last page.
- A general comment from the pupil's class teacher.
- The number of days absent is recorded on the last page.
- The class teacher signs the last page; as does Mr Webb, who takes great care to read each report.

Please feel free to make an appointment with the relevant teachers or with me if you have any queries about the reports. It is important that the reports are signed and returned to school after Half Term. I trust that you will find these reports to be the comprehensive documents that we have intended in their design.

CHRIS STEYN

SP Head of Academics

- **Change of Dates: InterHouse Athletics**

Please be advised of a change of date regarding our InterHouse Athletics:

- JP InterHouse athletics will take place on Tuesday 02 August at 10h00.
- JP & SP Field events will take place from 12h30 (JP) and 13h30 (SP) on 02 August.
- SP Track events will take place on Wednesday 03 August at 13h00.

Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

- **From the Bursar's Office**

To Debenture Holders:

Replacement Debentures in the name of Dainfern College relating to the recent Property transfer are now available for collection. Please bring proof of identity when collecting these documents.

If you have any queries in this regard please contact Mr Mike Lee.

Overdue School Account Policy

Parents are advised that the College Overdue Accounts Policy has been updated and posted onto the College website.

Please follow this link: <http://www.dainferncollege.co.za/the-college/about-the-college/dainfern-college-policies/400-dainfern-college-overdue-accounts-policy>

MIKE LEE

Bursar-Business Manager

- **From our Tuckshop Manager**

Dear Parents

Due to an increase in tuck accounts, we can no longer supply credit to children with tuck accounts. Please ensure that children with accounts have positive balances, as we will not be able to provide food etc should funds be used up. In essence they should operate as debit cards. If you would like to cancel any existing account, please email me at gboffelli@dainferncollege.co.za.

Much appreciated, and thank you all for your ongoing support.

GIANMARCO BOFFELLI

Tuckshop Manager

Dainfern College

- **Traffic on Campus**

Please be reminded that the speed limit within our school grounds is 15 kph and we ask that extreme caution be taken when approaching the stop street at the High School block behind the Amphitheatre, before the ascent towards the JP block. Please heed the pointsmen's instructions and take cognisance of our pupils trying to safely cross the road.

- **Value Award:**

Grade 7: Nicholas van der Meulen - Accountability: For always taking responsibility and initiative to get things done promptly.

- **SP InterHouse Speech Competition**

This will take place on Wednesday 29 June from 18h00 to 20h00 in the Auditorium. All Grade 6 and Grade 7 pupils are expected to attend so as to support both their peers and respective Houses. Representatives from Griffin, Kraken and Phoenix will deliver both prepared and unprepared speeches. Pupils are expected to wear school uniform.

MARGIE PETTIT

Head of SP English Department

- **Natural Science Expo**

The Natural Science Expo for the Senior Primary and High School will be taking place in the Media Centre on Wednesday 29 June. Projects will be on display from 10h00-14h00. Parents are welcome to attend.

NIKKI CANDY

Head of Natural Sciences

- **Music Notes**

1. **JP Music Matinée**

There will be a JP Music Matinée on ***Friday 24 June*** in the Auditorium at 14h00. All children who are involved will have been told by their teachers.

2. **Expo at Fourways Mall**

Dainfern College will be exhibiting at Fourways Mall on ***Saturday 25 June***. A number of individual music students will be performing. This is a wonderful marketing opportunity for Dainfern College. Please support and come and see our wonderful children perform.

3. SP Music Soirée

There will be a SP Music Soirée on ***Monday 27 June*** at 18h00 in the Auditorium. Again, those involved will be notified by their teacher.

Please remember that applications for lessons are never closed. If you would like your child to learn an instrument or, indeed, would like to learn an instrument yourself, please take this opportunity to follow your creative dream. Please feel free to pop in at any time, or email me on pvanderploeg@dainferncollege.co.za

PATTI VAN DER PLOEG

Director of Music

- **PA News**

Which class will win McDONALDS??

Start collecting outdated telephone directories... and it could be yours!!!

My School Card

EVER WONDERED HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE YOUR CARD REALLY MAKES?

Receive your monthly e-statement from MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet. It shows you how much your beneficiary has raised and all your transactions. To receive your e-statement simply update your profile online or call us on 0860 100 445.



WWW.MYSCHOOL.CO.ZA

As a **My School** cardholder, you can enjoy the benefits of Woolworths WRewards programme, including savings on selected items throughout the store - and all you have to do is swipe your card at the till. With the latest list of offers, you can now save on nearly 200 everyday food and household items - like 10% off men's knitwear, 20% coats and jackets, 10% off all Women's gowns and up to 30% off fabulous utensils and gadgets. Every card ordered and used also gets 1 House point! **Apply online at www.myschool.co.za or email Jacqui Pitt on Jacqui.pitt@mweb.co.za. Every swipe counts.**

The inter-House points are close so try and get all relatives to get a MySchool Card so your House can win. For a new card send... name, I.D. no, contact number and class / grade to Jacqui.pitt@mweb.co.za.

Blue Carpet Smurfs Movie Première

WIN 4 VIP TICKETS TO THE BLUE CARPET SMURFS MOVIE PREMIERE WITH MYSCHOOL

Register to win - Simply SMS the word "Smurfs", your full name and MySchool card number to 43220, or visit www.myschool.co.za/smurfs.



Swipe your MySchool card at least 4 times during July and August (8 times in total) at the participating partners to qualify for the lucky draw.

ALSO UP FOR GRABS 1 OF 3 PRIVATE SCREENINGS FOR YOU AND 40 FRIENDS



*Terms & Conditions apply. Visit www.myschool.co.za/terms for details
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PA Raffle - Win a Solar Water Heating System worth R26 000

The PA is selling tickets to win this amazing prize. The funds raised from this will go towards upgrading facilities at our school as well as supporting our outreach initiatives and feeding scheme. If you would like to buy a ticket they are on sale at the three school receptions at R20 a ticket.

For further information please contact Joanne on 083-3088828

- **SP Lost Property**

There is lots of unmarked clothing.

Lunch boxes

Matthew Bradford
Kyla Clintworth
Brandon Valjalo
Taneil Naidoo
Harry Staples

Jerseys

Paige Westwood Brady
Nina Kisbey-Green

Tracktops

Monique Teixeira
Jewel Deftereos

- **SP Outreach**

Thank you for the knitted squares. You are welcome to send more. The Grade 7 Outreach group join these knitted squares together during their outreach hours.

MAMA MNCUBE

SP Outreach Coordinator

Dates to Diarise:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Fri 24 June	14h00	JP Music Matinée	Auditorium
Sat 25 June	09h00 - 17h00	Schools Expo with individual DFC music students performing	Cardies Court (outside Checkers) at Fourways Mall
Mon 27 June	18h00	SP Music Soirée	Auditorium
Tues 28 June	07h30	SP Assembly Grade 5R	Auditorium
Wed 29 June	10h00 - 14h00 18h00 - 20h00	Science Expo Grade 6 & 7 InterHouse Speech Festival	Media Centre Auditorium
Fri 01 July	07h40 10h00 12h00 12h00	JP Music Assembly – Mrs Patti van der Ploeg Grade 3 Theme Day SP First Semester Reports issued School closes for Winter Break	Auditorium JP Block
Mon11 July	07h30	School re-opens	

SPORT

- SP Sportsman of the Week:** Antonie Muller: Improvement in Golf.
SP Sportswomen of the Week: Itai Dzinotywei: Dedication to Golf.
 Isabella Kekana: Dedication to Golf.
JP Sportsman of the Week: Robin de Lorm: Outstanding performance at Cross Country.
JP Sportswoman of the Week: Jenna Smart: Outstanding performance throughout the Cross Country season.

Extramurals

Please note that next week, we will continue with our conditioning programme as we approach the Athletics season. As the Soccer season has come to an end, all the U10–Open Soccer boys are invited to attend these sessions (along with the Netball girls who are already participating,) which will continue until Half Term, after which we will commence with the formalised Athletics programme. (This programme will be available to all pupils next week, which will give them time to familiarise themselves with venues, days and times over Half Term).

JP Soccer and Netball, Cross Country, Tennis, Hockey and Golf continue as per normal until Half Term.

Conditioning

Days: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
 Time: 13H45 – 14H45
 Venue: Main Oval

Interschools Cross Country

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who participated in the Cross Country event held at HeronBridge on Monday. Well done to the following athletes who achieved 'top 3' places.

U9:

Jenna Smart – 1st place girls,
Robin De Lorm – 1st place boys, Michael Gait-Smith 2nd place boys,
Marcio dos Santos – 3rd place boys.

U10:

Kelly Fairon – 1st place girls

U11:

Alexis Tensfeldt – 1st place girls

U12:

Kyle Johnson – 1st place boys

Opens:

Kyle Harvett – 3rd place boys

Sports Results

DATE	SPORT	RESULT
Tues 28 June	Soccer vs Rivonia	U9: Team 1) won Team 2) lost Team 3) drew Team 4) drew U10A won U10B drew U11A won U11B lost U12A lost U12B lost Open A won Open B lost

Hockey Clinic

Ms Candy and Mr Egbers will be running a hockey clinic in the July half-term break. The details are as follows:

Date: Monday 4 to Wednesday 6 July

Time: 9h00-12h00 Venue: Bottom hockey fields

Cost: R110 per day or R300 for the clinic.

Age Groups: Grade 3 – Grade 7 boys and girls. Players of all levels are welcome to attend.

Letters and reply slips will be handed out at the next Hockey practice. If parents of Grade 3 children would like their children to attend, they may email Ms Candy on ncandy@dainferncollege.co.za