

NEWSLETTER 1 - 9 January 2019

Dear Parents

We are ready to have a great year!



New Beginnings

A new year, a fresh start -

The past forgiven and forgotten

Opportunities for discovery and learning

The growth of independence and maturity

Friendships forged and fostered

The innocence of childhood

The promise of blessing....

Welcome to you all! May 2019 be filled with laughter and learning, fun and friendship!

Firstly, some introductions:

I am Miss Barbie Daniel (no s!), the Principal.

Mrs Kate Baker is the Red Group (Grade R/Older Group - 5/6 year olds) teacher. She is assisted by Mrs Goodness Moyana.

Goodness also teaches Zulu to the Grade R classes.

Miss Tiny Majola is in charge in the Orange Group (Grade R/Older Group - 5/6 year olds) with Miss Simone Davids by her side.

Miss Paola Yenga is the Blue Group (Grade 00/Middle Group - 4/5 year olds) teacher. Miss Tayler Gild is her "right-hand woman"!

Mrs Melanie Kendall-Ball directs operations in the Green Group (Grade 00/Middle Group - 4/5 year olds), with the aid of Miss Sanele Blose. Sanele also teaches Zulu to the Grade 00 classes.

Mrs Nina Davis is the Yellow Group (Grade 000/Younger Group - 3/4 year olds) teacher. Her assistant is Miss Nozipho Mhlungu, who is also the Zulu teacher to the Grade 000s.

The Purple Group (Grade 000/Younger Group - 3/4 year olds) is in the care of Miss Claire Panagiotopoulos (Miss Pan) with the helping hand of Miss Cindy Moore.

Miss Senzekile Mashinini is the After-Care/Holiday-Care teacher. She works with Miss Rachel Sithole.

Miss Sizakele Mhlongo is the After-Care/Holiday-Care assistant.

A very warm welcome to our "newbies" on the staff -may God bless you all, as you share your talents and gifts with us



Mrs Dee Visser is our Bursar and the "school nurse".

Miss Serina Govindsamy is the Secretary.

Miss Celiwe Mngoma is our School Helper.

Mr Vusi Mngoma (Celiwe's brother) is our Caretaker, Groundsman, School Cleaning Assistant, etc.

Mr Mdu Mngoma (cousin to Vusi and Celiwe) is his assistant.

Mr Lucas Cele is our Gardener.

We invite you to address us informally by our Christian names; the children should call us Miss, Mrs or Mr!

And congratulations to those teachers who finished or passed some more exams at the end of last year, on the road to their B Ed degrees! Well done!



Wedding Bells are ringing for Paola on Saturday 26 January, when she and Siya celebrate their "white wedding". And "diamonds are forever" as Simone and Wade celebrate their engagement. Blessings to you all.

This first Newsletter is always rather "hefty"! I beg your indulgence and your close attention to the "fine print"! The "Term at A Glance" is attached for your information - for the fridge maybe?

PROGRAMME ORGANISERS

An educational theme is selected each term and this is explored in various ways in the Programme - in lessons, creative activities, outings, etc. Three displays relating to the theme are mounted every two weeks. Our umbrella theme this term is "Flight".



Parents are encouraged to help with the collection of materials, the loan of appropriate books, or with a little expertise. The staff await your contributions eagerly! Dads, we especially need help with our "Engines" display!

Date	Language	Life Skills	Mathematics
8 Jan	Flight: Bees	How We Use Feathers	Texture
24 Jan	Flight: Bats	How We Hear Sounds	Sound
7 Feb	Flight: Bees	Things We Make With Honey	Taste
21 Feb	Flight: Butterflies	Perfumes & Fragrances	Smell
7 Mar	Flight: Man	Engines	Sight

ENTERTAINMENT

On **WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY**, Mim and John will present a musical, educational show on **The Five Senses**. On **WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY**, Skhumbuzo the **African Storyteller** will entertain us with folk tales. Drama World and their show **Our Solar System** will visit on **WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH**.

EDUCATIONAL TALKS

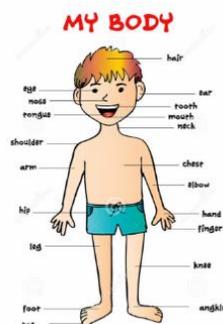
We also invite guest speakers to address the children on topics explored in the Programme Organisers. This term we will be informed on two occasions:

On **FRIDAY 18 JANUARY**, Ariel Schloms will be talking on **Birds**.

On **WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY**, we will be learning about **Bats**.

SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMME

The School Readiness/Grade R Programme we offer explores all of the emergent, pre-school skills in an



age-appropriate yet extending environment. It is filled with lots of varied, educational opportunities and active participation. The Language Programme includes elements of Time to Read and Jolly Phonics and other pre-reading and pre-writing experiences.

The topics that will be covered in the School Readiness Programme this term are:

All About Me

- Body Image
- My Five Senses

We ask especially that pupils in the Red and Orange Groups arrive timeously. Your child needs to be allowed to sort out his/her belongings, greet friends and settle quietly before **the Reception Class Programme starts PROMPTLY at 8.00 a.m.** Please do not be late!

NB: School closes at 12.30 p.m. for Grade R pupils.

If you have younger siblings, please leave your children to wait in their Home Bases until just before the Red and Orange Groups' dismissal. Parents should wait quietly in the **Church Patio Area** until the doors open; please do not congregate outside the classrooms or on the Cycle Track. This will alleviate distraction, congestion and noise.



GRADE R OUTINGS

Each term, with the exception of the fourth term, the Grade R classes go on outings to consolidate and extend our Programme Organisers and to teach the children life skills. The outing sites are carefully researched and parents help with lifting to these venues, being responsible for the care of a small group of children.

This term, the Red and Orange Groups will visit The Bird Park on **TUESDAY 22 JANUARY**.

If you would like to assist with this educational jaunt, please fill in the attached Reply Slip. Further information about "Outing Procedures" will be circulated before the outing

MEET AND GREET - FOR ALL PARENTS

Come and "unpack" the mysteries of your child's St Martin's experience, meet your child's new teacher and

share a sociable meal with other parents.

This will be held on **THURSDAY 24 JANUARY** at 6 - 9.30p.m. An invitation will come home shortly. Please respond ASAP thereafter.

We look forward to having you with us. *Please note, this is an information AND social evening.*

BIBLE STORIES

Kevin Robertson, the Minister of St Martin's, will visit the School every month to tell the children a Bible Story. We thank him for his preparedness to serve the School in this spiritual role.



TUITION FEES

FEES

You may make arrangements to pay fees monthly (FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER) or by term. In each instance, they are payable within the first two weeks of each month/term.

Fees must be paid IN FULL by the end of October.

Should payment for the whole year's school fees be received by mid-February a discount of 5% will apply. Your payments will be reflected on your termly statement.

NB. Cash payments for fees, or any other expenses, must be handed *directly* to the Principal, Barbie Daniel, or Bursar, Dee Visser, IN A CLEARLY MARKED ENVELOPE. The amounts paid over must also be recorded in your child's Notebook.



In the event of School Fees being more than 60 days in arrears, your child will be asked to leave the School. *Please note that, given the economic downturn, this rule*

will be strictly enforced.

The School's banking details are as follows:



STANDARD BANK
DURBAN NORTH
Branch Code
042826
Account Number
051409283

(Please state your child's

name as a reference.)

THIS MEANS YOUR FIRST FEE PAYMENT IS DUE IN TWO WEEKS TIME!

THE SCHOOL GATE

Please ensure that you **FIRMLY CLOSE** the School Gate when coming into the School independently (i.e. outside of Arrival or Home Times).

Failure to do so places all the children at risk and their safety is paramount.

Under no circumstances leave the gate ajar, not even if you have sight of a following parent. This particularly applies to early arrivals and After-Care parents.

MOTHERS, PLEASE INFORM FATHERS, GRANDPARENTS, LIFT-CLUBS AND TAXIS OF THIS ESSENTIAL RULE.

EARLY ARRIVALS

The School Gate is open between 7.30 - 8.00a.m. each morning.

Please do not allow your child to run around the Patio Area whilst waiting for admission. Excitable and over-active children make a productive and calm start to the school day **VERY** challenging!

Certain children may need to be admitted to School prior to 7.30a.m. in the morning, *if both of their parents work*. Permission for such an early arrival is to be sought from the Principal. **SUCH CONSENT IS REQUIRED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.** A charge is levied for this supervision.

The "teacher-on-duty" arrives at 7a.m. Parents shall be buzzed through both the Church and the School Gates and shall bring their children into the Big Room/Purple Room classroom adjacent to the Office.

The School Gate will be closed between 7.25 - 7.30a.m. There is no access during this *five-minute period*, as this

is when the teachers take the early arrivals to their own Home Bases.

AFTER-CARE

St Martin's offers both After-Care and Holiday-Care facilities, under the capable supervision of Senzekile Mashinini and Rachel Sithole. Please speak to me or Dee, if you would like to enrol your child. Casual attendance is also possible.

It should be noted that the Holiday-Care facility is closed for the first week of the July Holidays and from mid-December to mid-January.

EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES

Extra-mural activities add a further dimension to our curriculum and are available to all pupils. These are offered in the afternoons at an additional cost to interested parents. Documentation will be distributed via the Notebooks shortly.

Extra-mural activities will commence on **MONDAY 21 JANUARY**.

Mondays : Playball
Tuesdays : Pottery
Wednesdays : Experi-Buddies (Gr R only)
Thursdays : Speech & Drama



Please note:

- *The extra-murals do not offer "watching facilities". Please do not come into the School until pick-up.*
- *Children should be collected directly from the extra-murals teachers or the After-Care charge will be levied.*
- *Children are NOT PERMITTED to attend other extra-murals during school hours, e.g. swimming lessons or karate. Please schedule these for after School.*
(The same applies to Intervention/Therapy/ Remedial sessions, e.g. occupational therapy or speech lessons.)
- *Hereafter (in Terms 2-4), extra-murals will start in the SECOND week of term and go until the FINAL week of term.*

SMS MESSAGES

From time to time the School may send you a message via SMS. This system is used for anything from emergencies to reminders
So, if you receive an SMS from the



number 060 5717553 - it is from St Martin's Pre-Primary School.

And, please could you action whatever the request is ASAP. Don't forget to include your name if you reply to an SMS. Thanks!

CARING AND SHARING

We like to care for those in need, i.e. if there is a death, illness or just a little cheering needed in one of our school families. We do this by providing a meal, as and when required. If you are prepared to make and donate a meal, please indicate this on the Assistance to School Form, which will be sent home shortly.

One of the **PARENTS 4**

PRAYER group will

contact you if your help is required. Please contact

Fran Kuhn (Tel

031-5632955 or Cell

0722152017), Hannah Edy

(Cell 0737483548) or Barbie Daniel if you become aware of somebody who needs our support.



We also invite you to join the **PARENTS 4 PRAYER** group, who meet **EACH FRIDAY MORNING** from 7.50 - 8.10a.m. in the Cry Room at the back of the Church or in the Gold Room at the back of the Hall.

At this time, we pray for our School and all of its concerns, trusting God for His guidance, counsel and blessing. We also pray for our school families and their needs. There is also a WhatsApp Prayer Chain - please keep an eye out for a letter from the **PARENTS 4 PRAYER** group.

GOVERNING BODY/PARENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on **THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY** at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. in the Hall. Notification is attached. Please fill in the Reply Slip.

I encourage all parents to attend and I hope that a vibrant and enthusiastic Committee will be elected on this evening. If you would like to stand for the Committee but do not know anyone to propose or second you, please speak to me.

Please submit nomination forms by **MONDAY 4 FEBRUARY**.

Snacks will be served and there will be a cash bar.



GB/PA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The first PA Committee Meeting of the year will be on **MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY**. (For parents elected to this Committee at the AGM.)

The first Governing Body Meeting will be on **THURSDAY 7 MARCH**. (For nominated Church Representatives and Office Bearers of the PA Committee.)

POPCORN FRIDAYS

A new PA Comm initiative We will sell popcorn on three Fridays each term - see the Term Calendars.

The dates this term are **FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY**, **FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY** and **FRIDAY 15 MARCH**.

CAN YOU HELP?

- Travellers, please collect hotel toiletries for us. They make fabulous prizes at the Family Fiesta, so more is better!
- We need magazines for cutting and sticking activities.
- We LOVE washed eggshells for creative work.
- We always use icecream tubs for storage - any sized tubs would be welcomed!
- Please, please bring your Purity Jars!
- Does anyone have a good second-hand washing machine for Celiwe? She would like to purchase one for her elderly mother.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barbie' with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Hope you can join in all the fun this term!
Yours

B J DANIEL
Principal

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- Share your compliments, concerns or constructive criticisms via admin@stmartinspreprimary.co.za or place an anonymous note in the Communication Box under the Patio Noticeboard.
 - Prayer requests may be submitted in the Prayers' Box in the Office.
 - Visit our webpage at: www.stmartinspreprimary.co.za.
 - GB & PA Committee Minutes are available for perusal on the Noticeboard in the Big/Blue Room.
 - Find us on Facebook.
 - Member of ISASA:
 - We support MySchool: