

QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CLASS REPRESENTATIVES ON 25 FEBRUARY 2010

Da alle schriftlich eingegangenen Fragen auf Englisch gestellt wurden, sind die entsprechenden Antworten ebenfalls in Englisch gehalten.

School Uniform	<p>If the school insists on being the exclusive and sole provider of school uniforms, then the prices should be far more fair and not so horrendously high.</p> <p>We have discussed this issue with members of the School Uniform Committee : The school is quite aware that this is a burden on parents. Several ways in which the cost of school uniforms could be reduced, have been investigated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Less expensive suppliers have been used from time to time but their products have always been of an unacceptably poor quality. The school therefore uses McCullagh & Bothwell, suppliers that are more expensive but which deliver consistently good quality. 2) McCullagh & Bothwell have been approached: would it be more cost effective to sell DSJ uniforms at one or more of their outlets? Unfortunately not. Their mark-up would be higher than that charged by the school to cover salaries, insurance and banking charges. 3) Some school uniform items (grey pants, coloured T-shirts) are available at very competitive prices from chain stores such as Woolworths and Edgars. Other items purchased at one of these shops (white golf shirts, blue jerseys and cardigans) are acceptable as part of the school uniform if the letters DSJ are embroidered (correctly) in the appropriate place. This may reduce the cost of these items depending on purchase price and the cost of embroidery. <p>If members of the school community have ideas what else could be done, the school uniform shop and the school uniform committee are always open to suggestions!</p>
	<p>Please consider the way in which the school uniform is worn by the senior school children. Short skirts and big earrings do not make a good impression ! Thank you (Petra Gaylard, 2A)</p>
	<p>According to our school uniform rules, the general appearance of the student and his/her school attire should be neat and a credit to the school even though there are no specific rules regarding hair styles, jewellery and make-up. Interestingly, many learners as well as parents and teachers feel this way. Last year there was a "campaign" aimed at spotting and correcting school uniform infringements and it may be useful to repeat it this year. However, we believe that the ongoing efforts to strengthen school pride and identity will go a long way towards improving the situation.</p>

<p>Pre-School Jungle Gym</p>	<p>Last year the parents of the Vorschule were given the impression that money collected during the Osterlauf would go towards a jungle gym to be put up in the Vorschule grounds. It turned out another jungle gym was added to the Grundschule playground. There is very little to do during the waiting class hours for the Vorschule. There is a lack of playing equipment etc. A sandpit and two slides is completely inadequate.</p> <p>We have taken this issue up with Frau Helmrich, the pre-primary school principal. Frau Helmrich advised us that the Osterlauf fund raiser last year generated some R30.000,00. The costs of the envisaged jungle gym is about R160.000,00 and there is still a big deficit of funds before any purchases can be made. New fund raising initiatives are planned for the near future. The R30.000,00 have not been used for the jungle gym on the primary school grounds but have been banked for later use in the pre-primary school area.</p>
<p>Class Get-Togethers</p>	<p>Would it be possible to draw up a list of possible venues where classes can have class get togethers. There are wonderful places out there, but I find it much more personal if other classes have attended venues and can talk from experience. If a list is drawn up, would it be possible to publish it on the website? Thanks (Angela de Vallier, 9A)</p> <p>Lovely idea – will require a bit of organisation, so please bear with us, Angie.</p>
<p>Extra-Murals</p>	<p>The extra-mural activities offered this first half year, in particular for the Grade 1, was very disappointing. Firstly, only 6 were offered, 3 of which were in the exact same day and time. Secondly, 2 offered specifically for Grade 1 turned out to be inappropriate for this age and many kids were disappointed who attended the first lesson and were turned away. The school should not offer extra-murals that they actually can't commit to, time-wise or age appropriate-wise.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. badly organised – many clashes 2. not enough AGs for Grade 1 kids 3. poor communication, eg. Theater AG not for Grade 1 but this wasn't stipulated on circular. Ditto for Ballspiele. <p>We have put these comments to Mr Binn who replied to us as follows:</p> <p>“When we put together the timetable for the new school year we always first have to ensure the obligatory subjects and lessons have been covered. Only then can we see how many free periods are available for the teaching staff to be involved in extra-mural activities. In 2010 there were not so many hours available as in previous years. There were several reasons for this, which I can't go into detail on here. If we could maybe find parents for instance who would be prepared to become involved in supervising extra-mural activities, then we could offer more.</p> <p>At the moment children from the 1st Grade are offered 8 extra-mural activities;</p>

	<p>last year they were only offered 6. You are quite correct to say the theatre class was originally offered to grades 1-4, but we subsequently realised it was unrealistic for the little ones to learn texts off-by-heart, when they can't even read yet. The teacher did however reassure me that no child was turned away from the ball games activity, even those who were somewhat scared by the older kids throwing them the ball (these kids then didn't come back for that reason). However there were some Grade 1 kids who stayed. Perhaps we should formulate the activity description and requirements more carefully next time."</p>
<p>Co-operation of Class Reps</p>	<p>The list of all class reps should be distributed to all reps on the list. It would be helpful to be able to contact (and know who they are) each other to discuss mutual issues or initiatives.</p> <p>This would require a written agreement of all class reps to have their contact details distributed amongst the other class reps. We would rather suggest that contact details of class reps be exchanged between grades. The PRC member in charge of your grade could contact all of "his/her" class reps to obtain their agreement so that you would be in possession of the information pertaining to your immediate group of interest.</p>
<p>Steve Hamilton</p>	<p>May I please ask that you would consider the emotional maturity of the child when you next get somebody like Steve Hamilton to talk to the children. My daughter is a very young and innocent Grade 6 and was very shocked by what she heard. She and a couple of other kids, some in Grade 6, had to go and lie down in the sick room for four periods after the talk. She felt nauseous and very disturbed. I have tried to preserve my childrens' childhood for as long as possible hence my daughter's shock. I realise that some children are more streetwise, but could I please ask to bear the above in mind? Kind Regards</p> <p>Yes, a provocative presentation by Steve Hamilton. He hit a nerve with all of us, children and parents alike. Your concerns are surely understood and shall be considered and borne in mind.</p>