

KING'S CONNECT 05/ 2023

August 2023

Dear Parents,

Last week we had our 20th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service.

It was a very special occasion. We were privileged to have Pat Voss, the first Principal of King's School, send us a message of encouragement, all the way from England. It was also great to hear from Cole Davids, one of our first Gr 7 graduates, currently in Gr 12 and preparing for his final school, matric, exam.

We welcomed our guests, school heads from across the greater Cape Town area as well as colleagues from Franschhoek and Somerset West and of course our parent community.

We were royally entertained by our fledgling choir who showed no signs of being nervous at all. It was a very special morning indeed.

Thank you to all who made the event so special.

The Principal's 20th Anniversary Thanksgiving Address.....

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, dedicated faculty, and cherished students,

Good morning,

Today, we gather here with hearts full of pride and nostalgia to celebrate a remarkable milestone in the history of King's School Goodwood. It is an immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each one of you as we come together to commemorate King's Schools' 20th Anniversary.

As we stand here today, we are not merely marking the passage of time. We are celebrating two decades of excellence, resilience, and a profound commitment to education. Our journey has been one of unwavering dedication to nurturing young minds, fostering a love for learning, and instilling values that go far beyond the confines of these walls.

Over the years, King's School Goodwood, has evolved into a beacon of knowledge, character, and community. It has been a place where countless dreams have taken root, where friendships have blossomed, and where the seeds of leadership have been sown.

Today, as we reflect on our past achievements, let us also look to the future. Our journey has just begun, and there are countless chapters yet to be written. The challenges may evolve, but our commitment to providing a loving, caring, nurturing and inspiring environment for our pupils remains steadfast.

In celebrating this momentous occasion, we not only honour the legacy of those who have guided us through the years, but we also reaffirm our commitment to the values and principles that have shaped King's School Goodwood. It is a time to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our exceptional teachers, the unwavering support of our parents, and the boundless potential of our pupils.

Today's anniversary service is not just an event; it is a testament to our shared values and our collective vision for the future. It is a reminder that we are part of something much larger than ourselves—a thriving educational community that touches lives and leaves an indelible mark on the world.

As we move forward, let us continue to uphold the spirit of King's School Goodwood with pride, integrity, and a deep sense of responsibility. Together, we can ensure that our school remains a place where knowledge is cultivated, character is built, and dreams are realized.

Thank you for joining us today to celebrate this milestone. Your presence here is a testament to the enduring spirit of King's School Goodwood. Let us cherish this day and may the next 20 years be filled with even greater achievements and a lasting legacy that future generations will be proud to inherit.

Once again, a warm welcome to all of you, and let the celebrations begin! Thank you.

BOK FRIDAY



As from 8 September until the end of the Rugby world cup tournament, we will be celebrating Bok Friday.

This is a wonderful, fun, sporty spin to teach some important academic themes. Some will be talking about the geography of France... the important rivers and mountains, others will be teaching about the culture and cuisine and languages and religion of all the participating nations and of course talk about the Springboks being the defending world cup holders.

So, there will be real teaching and learning taking place in a fun-filled atmosphere. The Food Fridays – will continue as usual with a twist of green and gold.

The children may come dressed each Friday from next week, 8 September until the end of the term in, preferable Springbok World Cup Rugby gear, or their favourite team's apparel.

PARKING

We are aware of the congestion in the parking area, especially when there are exams being written at the church.

We are continuously engaging the Body corporate facilities manager to see how we can best serve you, King's School community, to facilitate an easier process.



We therefore appeal to you to comply with the guidelines as previously communicated. [* Insert that news brief].

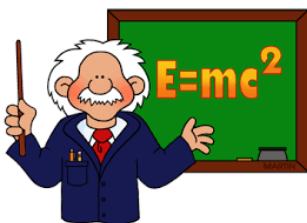
The main gate is closed permanently. This is to contain the risk of vagrants and scammers coming onto the parking lot.

We will also issue each family with a King's School parking disc. This will help to identify your vehicle when coming onto the parking lot, especially during those busy times. And we are heading towards the end of the year when there will be blocks of time when exams will be written at the Every Nation Church.

A second disc, if required will cost R 10.00. the first one is at no cost to you as parents.

AGM

The AGM will take place on **Tuesday 19 September** at 6:30 pm. In the school hall. This meeting is for parents only.



ANNUAL SCHOOL MUSICAL

The school musical – **The Formula** – will take place on the 28 September. The concert this year will be in the form of a revue which is a sort of musical show that mixes several genres of entertainment into a single presentation, including song, dance, and drama. It is often presented as a collection of unrelated acts, ideas, or performances, frequently with a unifying theme.

The concert's plot is based on a scientist who was motivated to look for a unique formula that might address all the problems in our South African society. The scientist is working with a team of lab assistants and Agents of

Good to identify the unique components that, when combined, will yield "The Formula." The Good Agents are dispatched to gather the formula's various components from their various locations. They face a variety of obstacles along the way that must be overcome to succeed.

The concert will take place at Every Nation Church. Tickets will be sold once again through Webticket - Adults R80 and children under 12 - R40.00.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can pose specific dangers for primary school children, who are generally younger and less experienced in navigating the digital world. Here are some of the key dangers and concerns associated with social media use among primary school children:

1. **Inappropriate Content Exposure:** Primary school children may come across age-inappropriate content on social media, including explicit images, violence, or discussions about sensitive topics. This exposure can be distressing and confusing for young children.
2. **Online Predators:** Children are often more trusting and less discerning online, making them vulnerable to online predators who may pretend to be their peers. These predators can groom children for exploitation or harassment.
3. **Cyberbullying:** Young children may not have the emotional resilience to handle cyberbullying, which can lead to severe emotional and psychological distress. Cyberbullying can take the form of hurtful comments, spreading rumours, or sharing embarrassing content.
4. **Privacy Risks:** Children may not fully understand the importance of privacy online. They may inadvertently share personal information or engage in unsafe online behaviours, making them more susceptible to identity theft, scams, or other risks.
5. **Addiction and Screen Time:** Excessive use of social media can lead to addiction and interfere with a child's daily routines, including schoolwork, physical activity, and face-to-face social interactions.
6. **Negative Impact on Mental Health:** Social media can contribute to feelings of low self-esteem and inadequacy in young children, who may compare themselves to others and feel left out if they don't have as many online friends or likes on their posts.
7. **Distraction from Learning:** Social media can be a significant distraction, affecting a child's ability to focus on schoolwork and other important tasks.
8. **Lack of Digital Literacy:** Many young children lack the critical thinking skills needed to assess the accuracy and reliability of information they encounter on social media. They may believe false or misleading information.
9. **Physical Health Impacts:** Excessive screen time, often associated with social media use, can lead to physical health issues such as obesity, sleep disturbances, and eye strain.
10. **Strain on Parent-Child Relationships:** Monitoring and setting boundaries for a child's social media use can lead to conflicts between parents and children.

Parents may struggle to keep up with the rapid pace of technological change and the risks associated with various platforms.

To address these dangers, parents, guardians, should take an active role in guiding and supervising primary school children's use of social media. Here are some steps to consider:

1. **Educate:** Teach children about the risks associated with social media, including privacy, cyberbullying, and online predators. Encourage open communication about their online experiences.
2. **Set Boundaries:** Establish clear guidelines for when and how social media can be used. Limit screen time and ensure it doesn't interfere with school, sleep, and physical activity.
3. **Monitor Activity:** Be aware of the platforms and apps your child is using and periodically check their online interactions. Use parental control tools if necessary.
4. **Encourage Responsible Use:** Emphasize the importance of kindness, empathy, and respectful behaviour online. Teach children how to report any inappropriate or harmful content they encounter.
5. **Model Healthy Behaviour:** Children often learn from their parents' behaviour, so demonstrate responsible and balanced use of technology yourself.
6. **Promote Offline Activities:** Encourage children to engage in offline activities such as sports, hobbies, and spending time with friends and family.
7. **Stay Informed:** Keep up-to-date with the latest trends and developments in social media and technology to better understand the platforms your child is using.

Remember that each child is unique, and what works for one child may not work for another. It's important to tailor your approach to your child's maturity, understanding, and individual needs.

Yours faithfully

N. ONTONG
PRINCIPAL