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Dear Parents

Welcome back to what I hope will be a wonderful year for each and every one of you. I especially extend a warm welcome to all our new families. I think we all feel a sense of anticipation, optimism, enthusiasm and hope about what we are going to do, what we can achieve, the people we will meet and 2012 in general. It is a wonderful opportunity to start afresh.

Welcome

I take great pleasure in welcoming the following new staff members to Sweet Valley this year :

- Grade R.2—Miss Shani Fuller*
- Grade 1.4—Mrs Karen Burger*
- Grade 2.4—Miss Tamryn Atherstone*
- Bursar—Mrs Charlene Irwin*
- Learnership—Miss Frances Ernstzen*
- Learnership—Miss Kirstin Vink*
- Part-Time Music—Mr Byron Carr*

We also welcome Mrs Tessa Horn-Botha (Music) and Mrs Debi Parkinson (Head of Music) onto our permanent staff. Both were with us part-time last year. We also welcome back Mrs Merryl Preston who has now joined our part-time music staff. Mrs Wendy Blyth has also made a move from Grade R last year to Grade 1 this year.

We wish you all so much happiness here at Sweet Valley

E-Mail Policy

Attached to this newsletter is an E-Mail Policy for parents. Please read through and take note of the contents.

School Fees

A reminder that the first of 11 monthly instalments of R1,389.00 is due by 31 January. Statements will be sent home in early February.

Encourage Responsibility

We ask that you would encourage your children to be responsible with regards to ensuring that they have packed everything they need for each day (sports clothes, lunch, homework, etc.). Where possible, please try to keep office interruptions to a minimum.

**IF YOU WISH TO BE
IN YOUR CHILDRENS
MEMORIES TOMORROW
YOU HAVE TO SPEND
TIME IN THEIR LIVES
TODAY**

**Allergies / Medical Conditions of
Learners**

It is imperative that the school staff are made aware of any allergies or medical conditions that your children may suffer from. If your child needs special attention and / or medication for a medical condition, please contact Sandy in the school office. She will give you a form to complete and you will be asked to supply 2 sets of medication : 1 for the teacher and 1 for the sickroom, so that medication is readily available in case of an emergency. If your child is registered with the school already, please make sure that the medication supplied has not expired and replace with new medication if necessary. Please regard this matter as urgent.

Applications for Grade R and 1

Please be aware that when applying for your child to be enrolled in Grade R or Grade 1, it is the year that they turn 6 that they begin Grade R and the year they turn 7 that they begin Grade 1. We accept application forms 2 years before they are due to begin.

Distribution of Newsletter

Once again, in an attempt to save costs, the newsletter will only be sent home as a hard copy at the beginning and end of each term. It is sent out fortnightly and is available on our website. We are hoping to be able to e-mail the newsletter to parents in the near future.

School Communicator

We encourage each and every parent to make use of the School Communicator. Instructions to download this onto your PC are available on the website under 'What's The Buzz'.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 18 January**
Grade 1 Orientation Evening
- 19 January**
Grade R Orientation Evening
- 20 January**
Interhouse Athletics
- 23 January**
Extra-Murals begin (Gr 2-7)
- 23 January**
Living Maths begins
- 24 January**
Grade 4 & 5 Orientation Eve
- 25 January**
Grade 6 & 7 Orientation Eve
- 30 January**
Extra-Murals begin (Gr 1)
- 1 February**
Individual & Class Photos
- 2 February**
Gr 1-3 Classroom Visits

INTERHOUSE ATHLETICS—FRIDAY 20 JANUARY

U8, U9 and U10 Team Swimming Time Trials

The U8, U9 and U10 Team Swimming Time Trials will be taking place on Thursday morning, 19 January at 07:00.

New Sports and Phys Ed Uniform for Girls—2012

The new girls' sports uniform, maroon top and matching shorts, must be worn by girls from Grades 1 to 7 for Phys Ed lessons as well as for sport practices and matches. The old sports uniform, maroon quantec shorts and white golf shirt, may be worn for Phys Ed lessons and sports practices until December 2013.

Please note : *The new girls' uniform is compulsory for all matches as from January 2012. This uniform will be on sale from Sweet Valley Primary and not our school stockist. This sports uniform will be on sale from the hall foyer during second hand shop opening times as well as from 18:00 to 19:00 on Thursday 2 February 2012.*

Photographs

Class and individual photos will be taken on Wednesday 1 February. A letter will go out to parents should you wish to request a sibling photo to be taken on this day.

Phone Cards

If your child is not in possession of a phone card, please ensure that you purchase one. The office phone is only available in the case of an emergency or if your child is unwell.

Extra-Mural Programme and Year Planner (Calendar)

Both of the above are available on the Sweet Valley website. In order to control extra expense we have not printed hard copies of these as they are both easily accessible on our website. www.sweetvalleyprimary.co.za

Consideration to Neighbours

Please be considerate of our neighbours and do not park on the pavements or yellow lines, particularly those parents picking up children from the aftercare in the afternoons.

Congratulations—Spotlight Drama Studio

We would like to make mention of two of our pupils, Lia Schwendinger and Aimee Affleck (from Spotlight Drama Studio) who achieved the highest marks in the Western Cape for their Grade 2 and 3 Trinity College London Drama Exams respectively. This is a great achievement and they will both be receiving bronze medals from the college. Congratulations to you both.

Fundraising News

We have a very active fundraising department at Sweet Valley and endeavour to fit in four different events during the course of one school year. This year these will be : 1) The Campout on 17 February, 2) the Big Concert on 21 March, 3) the Walkathon on 21 April and 4) the Golf Day on 21 September (date to be confirmed). Should you be interested in getting involved in any of the above-mentioned events, or if you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact [Debbie Slabbert on 084 582 5822](mailto:Debbie.Slabbert@sweetvalleyprimary.co.za).

We have various ongoing fundraisers happening at Sweet Valley, namely :

Recipe Book

Towards the end of 2011, Sweet Valley put together a recipe book, compiled by many of our learners, parents and staff at the school. We also included the various wine farms and restaurants in our beautiful valley, and many of the restaurants gave their signature dishes to us for print. Our recipe book has been selling very well. We do have more copies available and these will now be with the Bursars from 08:00—15:00 every day. For any enquiries in this regard, please call Debbie Slabbert.

My School Card

If you are a frequent shopper at Woolworths, it would benefit your school enormously if you were in possession of a My School Card. The My School Card is accepted at various other retail outlets as well. If you have recently moved from another school, you would need to make sure that your beneficiary school details have been changed to Sweet Valley. My School forms are available from Sue Evans at the front Reception. Please leave your completed form in the Events Box in the passage alongside the office foyer.

Stationery Labels

Signaprint currently make our labels for us. These are a stick on label for stationery, lunch boxes, etc. Please take an envelope from the display in the foyer, complete the necessary details and place in the Events Box in the passage alongside the office foyer together with your money. Sweet Valley do receive a percentage of the proceeds.

Advertising at Sweet Valley

We do have various options available for advertising of businesses at Sweet Valley. Should you be interested in discussing this, please contact Debbie Slabbert. We do encourage an open door policy at our school, so if you feel that you have some valuable ideas or comments to make, Debbie would be more than happy to chat to you.

Recycling

Mondi collect our bins of recyclable paper on a regular basis. Each of the bins are assigned to one of our houses, namely : Erica, Disa and Protea. Please allocate your paper to the appropriate bin. Competition runs high between the houses at the end of each term!

We have recently obtained a glass recycling bin. This is a very exciting addition to our backyard! If you are unsure of where to find these bins, Lawrence and Simon (our very helpful security guards) will be more than happy to direct you.

Kind regards

Mr I G Ryan
Headmaster