

Union Preparatory School



4 DECEMBER 2019



Dear Parents

With 2019 on its back it is time to reflect and to start looking ahead.

STAFF NEWS:

We have said good-bye to our Principal, Ms Rich at the end of the 3rd term, and we would like to wish her well on a well-deserved retirement. As from Monday 28 October we have gladly welcomed Mrs Belinda Botha into the Prep School fold as our newly appointed Principal. We would also like to congratulate Miss Chanzelle Heunis who has been appointed as the Foundation Phase HOD. Miss Shellyn Butterworth accepted a post in Nieu Bethesda during the first term. Miss Amor Mey then took over the Learning Centre. We are saying good-bye to Miss Amie Tarr and we are grateful for a job well done by her. Mrs Robyn Bellingan will be joining Mrs Potgieter and Mrs Burger as from 2020 where she will be teaching the 3rd Grade 2 class. We are welcoming Miss Hetma Michau in the Grade 1 Class, and Mrs Valerie Lewack as the part time teacher, joining Mrs Botha and Mr van Rooyen, who will be teaching the Grade 4 learners.



ACADEMIC MATTERS:

In spite of all the extra activities, which includes cultural, sport and Centenary celebrations, Union Prep School has staged this year. We have worked very hard academically and I am very proud to say that we have achieved a 100% pass rate. This is excellent. Well done!



SPORT:



As the school strives to prepare our learners holistically, the Sport Department contributes tremendously towards our endeavours. A huge thank you to them, our parents, as well as to our learners who so willingly come on board when it comes to be on time for practices and matches. We would especially like to congratulate those UPS learners who received Special Awards in Sport. Interschools is always a highlight on our school calendar and although we did not win we all know that participation is key, and whatever the outcome, life lessons are always to be learnt.



CULTURE:



God has blessed us with learners who are enormously talented. Our school often showcases cultural activities, and this year was no different. The Music Hour, in which every single musician gets the opportunity to perform at a formal occasion, the Grandparents' Tea, and not to mention our concert, SHREK, which really was a huge success this year. The Carols by Candlelight evening was a huge success as well, and an amount of R 3552 has been collected for the Laszlo Maya Foundation for the Deaf, - NOT DEAFEATED. SCA is offered once a week and it is delightful to see how some of our learners embrace this time and how they grow as little individuals and in their Christian faith. Chess is a very important extra-mural activity where those who take part in chess learn about all the strategies and moves. We are excited to launch a UPS Art Club in 2020. It is part of our extra mural timetable and will be offered for grade one learners. This is an opportunity for our learners to explore their creative sides. We will also be celebrating Heritage Day on Monday 14 September 2020. More information will follow towards the end of the first term.

LIBRARY:

Our well resourced Library has been busy during the year. Education is a powerful tool and it all starts with reading. Our heartfelt thanks to the parents for all their generosity, whether covering books, or making donations, towards our library.



This jam-packed Centenary year has come and gone, and with this brings new challenges and excitement for the new year.

SPECIAL EVENTS DURING 2020 in TERM 1:

NEW PARENTS ORIENTATION:

- Date: 14 January
- Time: 9H30
- Place: Dome

We look forward to welcoming you into the Union fold and showing you around our school. You can expect to meet your child's teacher, learn a little about your new school, see what, how and where things happen and meet the other parents. Enjoy a cup of tea at the Union.

INTERHOUSE ATHLETICS:



Grade 1's and Grade 2's will be practicing during school on Thursday 16- and Friday 17 January. For Grade 3 and 4 practices, please check the term planner. New pupils will be divided into the two houses, ARNOTT (blue T-Shirts) and DALY (red T-Shirts). Once that is done, we will let you know which colour T-Shirts to purchase for the athletics. (T-SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CLOTHING SHOP AT UHS. These shirts will be worn on more Inter-House occasions during the year and are compulsory for a neat team presentation.)



FOUNDERS WEEKEND:

This is a fun weekend in celebration of the Union High School's founding day in 1919.

- Friday: Joint Assembly at the High School for Grade 2 – 4
- Saturday: Father/Son Cricket; Mother/Daughter Hockey, the Gisela Kingwill Mother and Daughter Garden Party as well as the Old Boys Steak Evening.



Coaches, Old Boys and Teachers will be in touch re this weekend with more information.



INTERHOUSE GALA:

Arnott and Daly will compete against each other. Please see the 2020 Term Planner. We will make sure that every single learner at UPS will be taking part at this event.

TENNIS:

Tennis will be coached to all those learners who would like to sign up for it. They will be divided into ability groups, and this will take most of the First Term to work out.



CRICKET:

Our boys have had a very busy year, playing cricket. They have learnt to persevere and show patience, as this is part of the game.



We would like to wish all of our parents and pupils a very Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous 2020. We pray for travelling mercies and joyful get-togethers.

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” *President Nelson Mandela*

God bless you all

Mrs Belinda Botha