



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

TERM 4 — 11 OCTOBER - 8 DECEMBER 2011

It's hard to believe that a whole year has gone just like that! This will be the last newsletter for the year. The children and staff will be putting up Christmas trees and decorating their classrooms very soon. Great enjoyment will be had by all, as we all get into the SPIRIT of Christmas.

Reports

Our end of year reports will be going out on 5th December 2011.



Goodbye

We would like to wish all our children and parents who will not be returning to Rainbow Montessori school in 2012 all the very best for the future and thank you for sharing a part of your lives with us. Thank you for supporting Rainbow Montessori School, we will miss you and you are quite welcome to come and visit us next year.

Fabulous news

Ginnie has returned to Rainbow Montessori and we are all blessed to have her back at our school. The power of prayer is so amazing.

Photos

Safra has completed the last of the photographs this week and we look forward to receiving the proofs soon. Safra has taken a group photo of each class too, unfortunately quite a number of children were away with various illnesses. We hope and pray that they will be returned to full health soon.

Book People

As per the notices, the Book People will be coming on the 17th and 18th November. Come and look for those Christmas gifts.

Market day

The junior and senior primary children will be selling very exciting wares at their entrepreneurs market on 18 November 2011. The children will be allowed to buy items from 11:00 and the parents from 12:00. You might pick up a bargain!

Stop and drop

Thank you to all the children and parents who are doing stop and drop. I have even seen some of the Toddlers doing stop and drop, well done! Please continue to come in on the left side of the semi circle and exit on the right side or please follow the arrows.



School hours

Our school hours are from 7:30 to 18:00. Thank you to the parents who ensure their children are in class by 7:55.

Aftercare/Holiday care

Please remember that our aftercare closes at 6.00 p.m. Our Holiday care forms will be going out soon, please remember to complete the form in advance so that your child's place will be reserved in plenty of time.

We will be closing holiday care on the 15th December at 4.00 p.m.

Web site

We are excited about our new website, take a look at www.rainbowmontessorischool.co.za. We hope to have some photographs of the upcoming outings soon. Some of the items on the web site still have to be tweaked.

Newsletter and notices

We apologise for the spelling mistakes in our newsletters and notices, we hope to improve this from now on.

Food

Thank you to our parents for understanding that artificial flavourants, preservatives and colourants are very, very harmful to all of us, especially growing minds and bodies.

I would be willing to send you some information on the harmful effects of artificial flavourants, preservatives and colourants, also the harmful effects of microwave cooking.

If your rice cake/rice crackers/biscuits have a flavour on them unfortunately the children will be told to send them home. If your child has yoghurt that is allowed but does not have a spoon the yoghurt could be sent home too.

Concert DVD's

I would like to know if everyone is happy with the quality of the DVD's. Our children were amazing again in our recent concert. Thank you, to our children for entertaining us again. Excellent work!

New staff

Carissa McGhee will be joining our staff from January next year. She has a lot of experience in the 6-9 environment at another Montessori school in Durbanville.



Class reps

Thank you to our class reps for all their hard work during the year.

PTC

We have some new members who have joined our PTC this year. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the PTC.

Tim Bruce - Chairperson

Syda Greyling - Treasurer

Emilia Smuts - Secretary

Zita Tardrew - Fundraising

Berni Neveling - Fundraising

Yvette Palm - Fundraising

And the newer members

Loren Julius

Lynn Risi

Mercia Janse van Rensburg

Children moving up to the primary school (Grade 1-3/age 6-9yrs)

The children have been visiting for a number of weeks and we have had time to assess them. An invitation will be going out shortly to the parents to talk about "what happens next year" on Thursday 17th November at 6.00 p.m. You will have an opportunity to meet the teachers and to have all your questions answered.



Christmas Party/picnic

Bring your chairs, blankets, cutlery, etc. come and sing carols. We are looking for someone to be Father Christmas and his helpers to hand out gifts to the school children. A gift for your child of no more than R70 can be handed in at the office before 30 November. If your child will not be attending please could you let the office know no later than 2 December 2011. Could you please fill in the form, to be sent home shortly; indicating how many adults and children will be attending. Please enclose the correct money with the form.

We will be donating stationery, toiletries and non-perishable food to House of Grace for outreach this term. More information will follow shortly.

High school premises

I have looked at quite a few premises but have not found the right premises as yet. The search will continue.

Primary children-uniforms

We still have a number of uniforms that are left at school with no names on. We are prepared to sell the uniforms back to the parents for a small cost which will go into the fundraising account.

New uniforms for High School Children Grade 7

The uniform is as follows:-

Navy blue blazer

White shirt

Navy blue skirt (girls) grey pants (boys)

White socks

School shoes

Recorder

We will be offering recorder lessons again, as an extra mural next year.

Hand books

The school has a hand book of policies and rules for children and parents which can be downloaded from our web site www.rainbowmontessorischool.co.za.

Needs

Recycled paper-for use in our art section of the classrooms.

Recycling

Thank you to all who support our paper recycling.

Have a safe, happy Christmas and New Year

God Bless

Christine and staff



Notes from the Chairman of the PTC (Tim Bruce)

Food crisis

We understand the parent's reaction regarding the rules about lunch boxes, but we have a heavy responsibility to provide our children with the most nutritious food possible while in the school environment. Parents are therefore asked to adhere to the following: food must be free of sugar, artificial colourants, flavourants and preservatives as far as possible. Please read food labels carefully. All food must be able to supply the child with essential nutrients for optimal development. The decision regarding lunch boxes has been necessitated by a noticeable rise in unruly and over-active children after lunch and this is not conducive to the learning environment.

It has been decided that parents will be allowed to send nuts, peanuts and peanut butter sandwiches to classes where this was previously impermissible. Children with nut or other allergies will in future be seated at a separate table while eating lunch. **Parents of allergic children are asked to press upon them not to share food ever!**

The school will look into getting a supplier to serve hot lunches at school. In the meantime, food may not be heated at school and parents are urged to send hot food to school in suitable containers.

O, come all ye faithful

This year's Christmas Party will be a great family affair and will take the form of carols by candlelight and a picnic on the open field just below the school. The date is 7 December. Please bring the whole family to share in an enjoyable evening. Picnics for both adults and children may be pre-ordered from the school (it will be really yummy...). More details will follow later. **We need empty 2 litre plastic cool drink bottles to convert into candle holders. Please bring to school and drop in the designated container at the entrance.**

Monkey business

There has been a query from a parent about a song which is sung in assembly, with the first line: "*There ain't no monkeys in my family tree...*". A concern has been raised that this might have bearing on the contentious issue of evolution. The standpoint of the school in this regard is that evolution is taught in the school as it is part of the prescribed curriculum, but the school balances this with the teaching that we believe that God is the Creator of all living things.

Shake it all about

This year has seen a number of changes in classrooms of the 6 - 9 year olds and 9 - 12 year olds with Ginnie's illness and Emma's resignation which may have impacted on children. The school will try its utmost to keep changes for the rest of the year and 2012 to a minimum

Spit and polished

The school uniform that was shown to parents at the AGM, is only applicable to those pupils going to high school next year (Grade 7's).