



Union Preparatory School



NEWSLETTER – 24 NOVEMBER 2017

Dear UPS Parents

With 2017 on its back it is time to reflect and to start looking ahead

STAFF NEWS:

We are very sad to say good bye to Mrs Abrahamson and Mrs Venter. Both of these veterans were a great asset to our school and will remain very special to us. We were fortunate to have had the pleasure of their company and their professional expertise.

Mrs Abrahamson is one of the best educators I have had the pleasure of working with.

She was committed to excellence, much loved by the children and revered by her colleagues.

Mrs Venter was equally loved and revered for her calm and friendly demeanour as well as her ability to perform her tasks, sometimes under pressure, without ever a hint of drama. What a pleasure to have had her on our staff!

Miss Ann-Marie Rossouw will begin her studies in Port Elizabeth next year and will be missed by all.

We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

We would like to welcome Mr Marchant van Rooyen, new Grade 4 educator, to the UPS fold next year.

We are confident that our boys will enjoy having a man around and we know that Mr Van Rooyen will add a special flavour to our personnel.



ACADEMIC MATTERS:

Our teachers and children worked very hard this year. Congratulations to all the pupils who are ready to progress and thank you to the parents and hostel matrons for the part you played in their success. I know that the teachers are proud of their pupils and tried very hard to prepare every child for the next grade. Thank you very much for your dedication and commitment.



SPORT:



The Sports Department deserves a big thank you for their effort in ensuring that as many players as possible were exposed to matches. We are very grateful to the parents who supported at the matches and inspired our boys and girls to give of their best every time. Our sincere thanks to the men from the High School for

adding their special touch to our boys' development and very thankful to Mrs Wendy Venter for all the phoning and organising she did in order for things to go smoothly at our matches.

Please see our annual magazine for news of our boys and girls who made it through to district and provincial level.

CULTURE:

Once again we had a bumper year packed with many arts and culture events and we are sure that 2018 will be no different. Thank you very much for your involvement and your excellent attendance and support.

There was the serene Music Hour, the trailer of Peter Pan at the Grandparents' Tea, followed by the big concert, Peter Pan and numerous appearances by individual musicians and our choirs at our weekly and special assemblies. Not to mention the fact that many little children who had no clue about a piano can now play scales and arpeggios and beautiful little pieces on a large instrument and a recorder. What a privilege!

MONEY MATTERS:

- The Annual School Magazine will be included in your final report pack of 2017 **provided that all your school fees and other payments to the school are up to date.**
- Please make your educational fees a **top priority** in your domestic budget for 2018. We find it very difficult to provide quality service without every parent contributing what is due.
- Our government subsidy (as a Quintile 5 school) **is a mere 1%** of our running costs.
- From January 2018 the clothing shop at UHS should be able to facilitate card transactions.

SPECIAL EVENTS DURING TERM 1: (mainly for the new parents)

NEW PARENTS ORIENTATION

- Date: 16 January 2018
- Time: 9:30
- Place: The Dome at UPS
- We look forward to welcoming you into the Union fold.
- You can expect to meet your child's teacher, learn a little about your new school, see what, how and where things happen, meet the other new parents and enjoy a cup of tea with us at The Union.



INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS:



We practice from 7:15 – 8:00 during school time for the two weeks leading up to the event – (coolest time of the day) 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-shirt to purchase for the athletics. (T-SHIRTS 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) We join the Middle School for the two –day event which takes place on the UHS field (see Term Planner for dates).

A programme for the day will help you to plan when to come and watch your child participate.
Further information to follow.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS:



(See Term Planner for date.)

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

On the Friday the Preppies join the High School for a joint assembly, where we exchange good wishes on 'birthday cards' and receive a slice of birthday cake.

On Saturday morning the moms and daughters play fun hockey matches against each other on the Astro, while the boys and dads play cricket.

There is also the customary **Gisela Kingwill Mother and daughter garden party**. Moms and daughters gather in the front garden of UHS and are entertained with music and a guest speaker while they have delicious tea and cake in the shade of the trees. Gisela Kingwill was a much loved mother and principal of a farm school, whose own daughter attended our schools not too long ago. She sadly passed away in 2012 and this morning event is held in her honour.

On Friday and Saturday evening **The Union** is transformed into a steakhouse. You can bring your friends along, buy your steak packs there, enjoy drinks from a cash bar and watch and smell, while your steaks are grilled to perfection. The side dishes are catered for (chips, rolls and salads) and a dessert forms part of your package at a very reasonable price. It is an informal evening where you can watch the sunset from **The Union** balcony and be sociable with your friends.

The high school pupils, parents and corporate teams will be taking part in a Triathlon on Friday afternoon, and the idea is for spectators and participants to just linger on until the steaks start sizzling on the coals, and then to repeat the process on Saturday after the sports events of the morning. It is just a week-end of family fun to celebrate the school's birthday.

INTERHOUSE GALA:

Arnott and Daly will splash and swim against each other on a school morning (or evening) Final decision will be communicated to you. We are considering the temperatures in the pool area (usually a hot box at that time of year) and possible shading facilities to be put into place, as well as the best time for parents to be able to attend.



Every child will get an opportunity to participate, whether they can swim or not. **Do not be concerned** about safety. **That is our first concern! And a big one!** Much of the event will be dedicated to having fun in fishing for tokens in the baby pool or flapping their way across the width of the pool noodle. There has to be a section for serious swimmers as well, as we have to enter forthcoming events against other schools, districts, and hopefully, provinces. **In these events strict qualifying conditions and rules apply.**



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Further information will follow.

SWIMMING PRACTICE: TERM 1

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TENNIS:

If your child has chosen to play tennis, he or she will be divided into a group of players with equal ability. Obviously the coaches will need a few sessions in order to assess each child's ability, so practice times might be flexible in the beginning, until the groups have crystallised. **Please be patient.** The coaches will be in touch with you as things develop. Tennis practice takes place over all four terms of the year. If your child has chosen tennis, he or she cannot disappear from practices for the two winter terms to play hockey and rugby, then try to come back in term four, because by that time the remaining players have developed too many new skills for the 'beginners' to join them again.



Tennis players must attend practice the whole year. They can add hockey and rugby during the winter terms, but **must commit to come to practice from January to November.**

CRICKET:

Male coaches from the high school help us out with this. Please bear in mind that these men are also high school teachers who have high school teams to coach and other after school hours commitments on some days. (Teacher training, workshops, parent meetings etc) If a coach cannot make it to our coaching session, he is supposed to try to find a replacement, or inform us in time to make a plan. Sometimes it works and sometimes it just does not, mostly due to time and human resources constraints. We honestly try our best to work around sudden changes in their programmes and ours, so that the little ones are not left unsupervised. If it happens that the children end up being unsupervised, it is not because we are negligent or lazy. Please tell them to gather on the grass in front of the secretary's window if their coach does not arrive, so that it is clear to us that they need supervision. **If we do not see them, we cannot help them.**



COMMITMENT TO SPORT PRACTICE

IF A CHILD HAS MISSED A PRACTICE WITHOUT A NOTE OF EXCUSE FROM THE PARENT THERE WILL BE A WARNING AND THE NEXT TIME THE CHILD WILL RECEIVE A DEMERIT. DISCIPLINED ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY IN ALL SPORTS PRACTICES.

I would like to wish you a Happy Festive Season and a Prosperous New Year!

Kind regards

Mrs L Rich

PRINCIPAL

