



Headmaster's Newsletter – Term 1 2015

Dear Parents and Friends,

As we reach the end of this first term of 2015 we are able to pause and reflect on what has been a very successful, incredibly busy and fulfilling 3 months. As a school we have a clear purpose that drives us daily: **'To inspire, educate and enable people to flourish.'** I believe that we achieve this daily. To do this requires dedication, energy, belief in one another, courage and patience. I wish to say 'Thank You' to all who have made this term a success.

Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, in his State of Nation Address in February, challenged the Bafokeng Nation to take time to reflect, to 'take a cold hard look at ourselves'. He asked this at a time when our community is recovering from the hardships of 2014. Could last year offer an opportunity to think differently about who we are and what we do? As a school we have asked ourselves similar questions. What has changed and are we well positioned to deal with the changes?

Recently we had two school days on which we had no water. What a challenge that was. But it highlighted a reality that we face in our world, one that is written about regularly – will we be able to sustain ourselves into the future? I have spoken to our school about the need to spend time and energy on developing new mindsets amongst ourselves and our community. It is clear that there are changes required in how we go about our daily lives so that we can meet the needs of our changing world. Not just a talk in an assembly, or a motivational video – we need to inculcate a new way of looking at the world.

The 4 mindsets that we are focusing on are: Wellness; Entrepreneurship; Service and Sustainable Environment. I will share thoughts on these throughout the year. What I ask is that as a parent body and as a community we engage deeply about these ideas. It will be helpful for us to know that what we are saying at school is supported by conversations and actions at home. An example might be: 'Research clearly shows the detrimental impact of high amounts of sugar on our health'. As such at Lebone we are choosing to educate our children to reduce their sugar intake, and we are reducing their access to sugar on our campus. If we are trying to change the way children think about health, sugar and diet, then we need their home environment to support this by making similar changes. I know that we all want what is best for our children and our world but we need to take firm action and be willing to go through the hardship of change. We can do this!



There are many projects under way at Lebone this year. I will report on these at our General Parent Meeting on Monday 13 April. Some of these are:

- The Pool project which has gained significant momentum. Our intention is to have a swim in the new pool in December!
- We are investing in the upgrade of our IT infrastructure at school with the intention of allowing much greater access to e-learning and to a blended learning approach. Our intention was for this to have happened in the first term. There have been a few delays which have slowed the process down. This will be resolved in the second term.
- We will formally establish our Parent Service Organisation next term. We will run a process of nominations and an election so that this body will be in place and functioning by the end of the second term.
- We intend to improve communication between the school and our community even further as the year progresses. We are aware of times when the communication is not as we would like and have invested much time to finding a sustainable solution.

There is much to be done. However, much has been done already this year and I believe that we all deserve a well-earned break.

I wish you a special time together as families.

Sincerely,

David du Toit



GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

I have chosen a few selected highlights from this first term that I would like to share with you. They represent the holistic breadth of our education and also the dual mandate of our school, which is to be a model of excellence and a resource to other schools in the RBN and more broadly.

- Our **New Student Induction Ceremony** on Friday 23 January was a special occasion in which we welcomed over 100 new students into our Lebone II family. New students lit their Lebone candle and received their truth bracelet, symbols of our values and purpose.
- I sent out information regarding our **Grade 12 results** for 2014, but they do bear repeating: **100% Pass, 89% Bachelor Degree** passes – we are incredibly proud of our students.
- If this school is indeed a place where bright young minds can enjoy a world class education that stimulates, inspires and allows them to flourish, and is a place that creates opportunity for these young people to qualify for further study, then our 2014 class bear testimony to that - 34 of the 38 graduates are studying further in 2015, in a wide array of interests. 26 are studying a degree at university, 5 are doing a degree in motion picture or sound engineering with 3 doing diplomas. Of the 4 who are not studying this year, three are taking a gap year with the intention to study at university in 2016.
- Our intention of creating **exchange opportunities** for our students in Grade 10 remains a priority for us. In March we hosted 13 students and 2 teachers from an international school in **Bilbao, Spain**. These students stayed in homes of our Grade 10 students. On Saturday 18 April 13 Lebone II Grade 10 students, together with Rre Cossa and Ms. Elmes will be travelling to a school in **France** where they will be hosted for 10 days.
- Our Lower School held a very successful fundraising and awareness creating '**Leap Frog Day**', as well as, **PIE (Parent Interactive Evenings)** for all grades from R to 6 with a wide range of interesting topics and discussions. These evenings were well attended by very involved and keen parents.
- Becoming a formally accredited school through the national **UMALUSI** accreditation structure is a mandated requirement for all independent schools. We are awaiting our site visit in Term 2 after which we will have completed all necessary steps of the process.
- We sent our **marketing** team to **Broadhurst Primary School** in Botswana to a large Boarding School marketing day. This was very successful and we hope to have many new boarders joining us from Botswana in the future.
- As a part of our drive to develop an **entrepreneurial mindset** in our students we have partnered with the Alan Gray Orbis Foundation. They are piloting an exciting mindset program which they hope to roll out in schools across South Africa. We are fortunate enough to have been selected as one of 8 schools in the country to pilot their '**Blue Helix**' program in one of our Grade 8 classes.



- Our **Upper School** staff and students have had a busy term with a wide array of events including highlights like the social with the theme; 'Unlucky in Love'; inter house athletics and dance, whilst the Grade 7 and 8 students enjoyed camps at the beginning of the year.
- Our Grade 12 Design students had the privilege of travelling to the **Design Indaba Expo** in Cape Town.
- Finally, our Grandparents Day (Gr 1) and Mom and Dad days (Gr R – 2) were also enormously successful.

SPORTS NEWS

I wish to extend a sincere 'thank you' to all of the staff at Lebone II who drive our sports programme. I also wish to thank parents for attending many of our sports events – I look forward to this continuing into the next season. And lastly, to our students who practice tirelessly to get the excellent results they do, or just to enjoy being fit and competing. Ke a leboga thata!

- As a new initiative our Upper School staff and students co-ordinated a Derby Day with the **African Leadership Academy** and **Maru-a-Pula**. Schools competed in soccer, basketball, chess and public speaking. This was an exciting new set of relationships that we have built with two outstanding African schools who share very similar visions and beliefs about young people on our continent.
- The Upper School participated in an athletics triangular competition with **Fields College** and **Selly Park**. This was hosted at Lebone II and was a significant success. Lebone won the competition on the day!
- Our **Lower School** participated in an inter-schools athletics event with Selly Park, AOG and Kroondal.
- **Grenville** hosted a Sports Day to which we were invited – hockey, netball, soccer and cross-country fixtures were enjoyed against Grenville and Fields College.
- Many of our **hockey** players were selected for the **Bojanala Regional** Hockey teams. They will now play in the final North West trials. We had 3 students (**Joshua Fourie, Leruo Mmutle, Nikita Graetz**) in the u12 teams, 5 (**Luke Dungan, Kico Manjinja, Omphile Kgasoane, Keamogetswe Romoroo, Keoratile Segoe**) in the u13 teams and 8 (**Jack du Toit, Timothy Richards, Munaka Sefanyetso, Inga Titus, Kea Spooner, Lexine Price, Remofilwe Moseki, Entle Nuku**) in the u14 teams.
- Our swimmers have excelled this season, on a personal level and as a team. Congratulations go to the individuals who have qualified for SA Level 2 (**Malachi van der Merwe**) and SA Level 1 status (**Benjamin and Grace Stubbs, Kirsten Rankin, Keryn Maynard and Georgia Dungan**).
- On the **athletics** track many students enjoyed success in our inter-schools events with many medals won by Lebone students. **Hlolelo Rampete** excelled, reaching the last round of trials for SA Champs.
- **Georgia Dungan** did Lebone II proud when she won 2 Bronze Medals at the SA **Road Cycling** Championships in Mpumalanga.
- We congratulate **Mohammed and Zara Amanjee** on their excellent performances in the SA National Championships in February where they both won **Gold Medals** in **Judo**.



CULTURAL NEWS

- Our **Chamber Choir** has been invited to perform at a number of events in this first term where they performed to their usual very high standard and brought great credit to themselves and the College.
- It has been very exciting to hear the sounds of our **School Orchestra** wafting up from the Music Centre into my office. This is the first year in which we are formally running an orchestra and we look forward to wonderful entertainment from this group under Mr. Oosthuisen's guidance.
- Our Music Staff performed their annual **Staff Concert** earlier in the term, once again showcasing their enormous skill, and modelling best practise to our students.
- On Friday 20 March we were privileged to host the **Joburg Ballet Company** for a gala performance in our School Hall. They performed to a full house of 600 people who thoroughly enjoyed the spectacle of world class dancers performing in Phokeng. This will hopefully not be the last time we see the Company at Lebone II.

We also worked with Joburg Ballet on a project aiming to **introduce ballet into schools** in our community. Together with 10 of our own Lower School dancers and our ballet teachers, 4 dancers from the Company performed at 4 primary schools in Phokeng. These performances were an enormous success and we now hope to provide a dance teacher for those schools so that we can maintain the momentum generated by this first immersion into ballet.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF

Our General Parent Meeting will be held on Monday 13 April at 17h00. Information regarding this meeting has been posted on D6. I sincerely hope that many of our parents will be able to make it to this meeting.

Our admission applications for 2016 close on Friday 29 May. Please spread the word. Remember that our parents and staff are our best adverts for our school.

We host a 5km parkrun every Saturday morning at 08h00 on our campus. The numbers are growing but we do want to see more people enjoying a morning walk/run on our beautiful course followed by a tea or coffee in our Phatsima Café. See you there!



STAFF NEWS

We have welcomed a number of new staff to our Lebone II team, all of whom are adding great new energy and insights into what we do here at Lebone II:

- Mrs Nicolene du Preez (Grade R class teacher)
- Ms Philisiwe Mawhayi (Grade 1 Classroom Assistant and Teacher Intern)
- Mrs Michele De Matos (Grade 2 class teacher)
- Mrs Adine Antonio (Grade 4 class teacher)
- Mrs Heidi Graetz (Grade 6 class teacher)
- Mr Kgomotso Lebakeng (Lower School Setswana teacher)
- Mrs Leanne Winnan (Lower School Art teacher)
- Ms Tshepang Khumalo (Lower School Phys Ed teacher)
- Ms Oratile Tshoma (Grade 5 and 6 Classroom Assistant)
- Mr Chitwanga Harawa (Upper School Mathematics teacher)
- Mr Tatsunga Kovakane (Upper School Mathematics teacher)
- Mr Thero Modisagae (Upper School History teacher)
- Mr Stephen Kotze (Head of Drama)
- Ms Dineo Sibiyi (Upper School Design and technology Intern and teacher)
- Mr Luciano Antonio (Upper School English teacher)
- Mr Mike Boyd (Upper School English teacher)
- Mr Andre Oosthuisen (Part-time Music teacher)
- Ms Juliette Fourie (Upper School English Class Assistant and Intern)
- Ms Sarah Rijs (Upper School English Class Assistant and Intern)
- Ms Neo Mmutle (Receptionist)
- Ms Lebogang Koopa (Finance Department)
- Ms Kelebonye Phalane and Ms Tshireletso Mahuma (Marketing Interns)
- Ms Martha Lethoba, Ms Lesego Ramaboa, Ms Judith Moleleki and Mr Amos Mokgatle (Finance Interns from Thuto Pele RBH)

We have also bid farewell to three staff members during this term:

- Ms Alicea Magano (PA to Operations Manager)
- Mrs Thapelo Masemene (Upper School Mathematics teacher)
- Mrs Bridget Nkuna (Admissions Administrator)

Mrs Richele Quinton (Grade 3 Class teacher) will be on leave next term.



I would like to thank Mrs Jacomi du Plessis, Mrs Jane Bourhill and Mrs Verona Dietrich who came in to assist us in the long term absence of some of our teachers.

Two of our staff had their traditional wedding in December. We celebrate with them:

- Ms Lesang Legopelo and Mr Kgomotso Lebakeng

We recently received the exciting news that Mr (Upper School Science teacher) and Mrs Murungweni celebrated the birth of a healthy boy.

Finally, a few quick snippets of news to celebrate regarding our staff:

- Ms Herme Visser and Mrs Leanne Winnan will be doing the Iron Man triathlon in Port Elizabeth next week – we wish them strength and success.
- Mr Richard Sibeko and Ms Portia Mahuma have been in San Francisco for the last 5 weeks on a teaching exchange.
- Ms Charlene Jacha will be heading to Austria for a conference in April.
- Mrs Martinette Ronquest was offered the opportunity to perform on stage with Michael Buble for 3 shows in Durban and Johannesburg.
- Mr Kgomotso Lebakeng received his Honours Degree in Linguistics.



LOWER SCHOOL INFORMATION REGARDING TERM 2

Winter uniform:

All Lower School students are to wear the winter uniform from Tuesday 14 April.

- The Grade R to Grade 3 students will wear the blue tracksuit with white socks and white takkies.
- All students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 are to wear the existing Intermediate Phase winter uniform. The blue tracksuit with white socks and white takkies to be worn on sports days.

Marvellous Moms:

Gr R-4 Moms are invited to spend a wonderful morning with their children on Saturday 9 May. Letters with further details will follow early in the new term. Please diarise this date.

Lower School Library:

Please pop in early next term with your child to appreciate the revamped Lower School library.

Clear lines of communication:

Parents are encouraged to meet with their child's class teacher if they would like to raise any issue concerning their child. Parents are respectfully requested not to address other children on our school grounds with their concerns. Please consult your child's teacher with your concerns.

If the need arises, please take up the concern with the relevant HOD: Grade R - Miss Hamilton; Grades 1 and 2 - Mrs du Toit; Grades 3 and 4 - Mrs Venter; Grades 5 and 6 - Mrs Marais; Setswana - Mrs Molejwane.

We take all concerns raised seriously.

Aftercare – SHERPA KIDS:

Aftercare will be outsourced to SHERPA as from the 1 May 2015. **ALL** Grade R-6 children on our school grounds after school ends in the afternoons will need to be enrolled in Aftercare.

Children not collected on time will be placed in Aftercare at a daily rate and this will be charged to your school account. However, if you or the transport is running late please contact Mrs Gumbo to inform your child and the teachers accordingly.

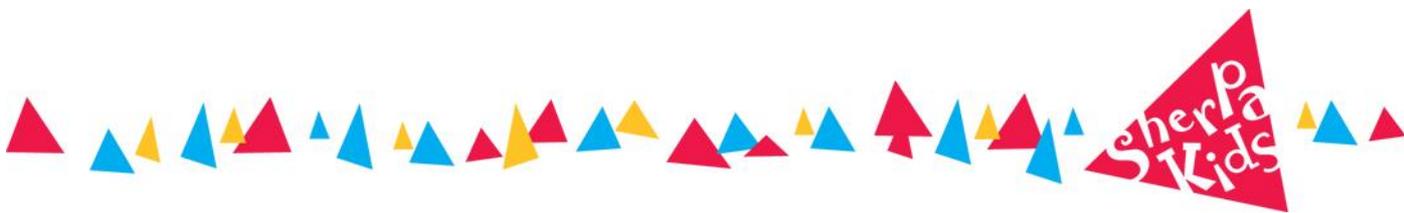
Parents are invited to an aftercare meeting at 18h00 on Thursday 16 April to meet with SHERPA. From 1 May, Aftercare will run until 18h00. The monthly rate is R 650 x 11 months and Ad hoc at R50 per day. Late fees apply for collection of children after 18h00 at the rate of R 50 per 5 minutes, or part thereof.

Please read the attached information at the end of this newsletter for further details regarding SHERPA.



Important dates for Term 2

Monday 13 April	Boarders Return Parent meeting Staff Return
Tuesday 14 April	Students in class
Saturday 18 April	Grade 10 students depart on exchange to France
Tuesday 21 April	PIE Grade 5 – 6: Follow up on previous PIE meeting
Monday 27 April	Freedom Day – no school
Friday 1 May	Worker’s Day – no school
Saturday 9 May	Marvelous Mom’s Breakfast (Grade R – 4)
Saturday 16 May	Open Day (Grade R; Grade 7 – 10)
Thursday 21 May	PIE Grade R – 6: Maths evening
Saturday 23 May	Sagewood Soccer and Netball tournament (US) (away at Sagewood)
Friday 29 May	Admissions close for 2016
Fri. 29 – Sat. 30 May	ISSA u11 and u13 Soccer and Netball tournament (in Mafikeng)
Saturday 30 May	Upper School sports day with ISSA and Sol Plaatjie (at Lebone)
Thurs. 4 – Fri. 19 June	Upper School Examinations
Monday 15 June	School holiday – no school
Tuesday 16 June	Youth Day – no school
Friday 26 June	School closes for end of Term 2
6 – 10 July	Lebone Leadership Festival
12 – 16 July	Aspiring Teachers Summit and Leadership Workshop



SHERPA KIDS

Background

- Sherpa Kids is a commercial provider of out of school hours care services and offers a complete management package for out of school hours care services
- Founded in 1996, we operate in over 155 schools in New Zealand (as sKids), Australia and the United Kingdom. Late in 2013 Sherpa Kids South Africa was launched and our team spent time in Adelaide (Australia) receiving intensive training from the Sherpa Kids International Head Office.
- In 2014 Sherpa Kids expanded into Ireland and Canada
- We believe by engaging with Sherpa Kids, school management teams and governing bodies can add substantial value to the offerings they provide their communities
- Currently we are liaising with professional bodies such as FEDSAS, ISASA (we are a corporate member) and SAPA

After Care will make up the bulk of the Sherpa offering - where a structured afternoon schedule is in place. A typical afternoon runs as follows:

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Recharge with a light lunch
- Supervised homework
- Daily Structured Themed Activity
- Tidy Up, Quiet Time
- Parent Collection

The theme for the week is explored each day via planned, fun activities that are designed to link with the National Quality Framework outcomes of ACECQA (Australians Children's Education and Care Quality Authority)

The weekly routine will incorporate the following categories of activities as seen below:

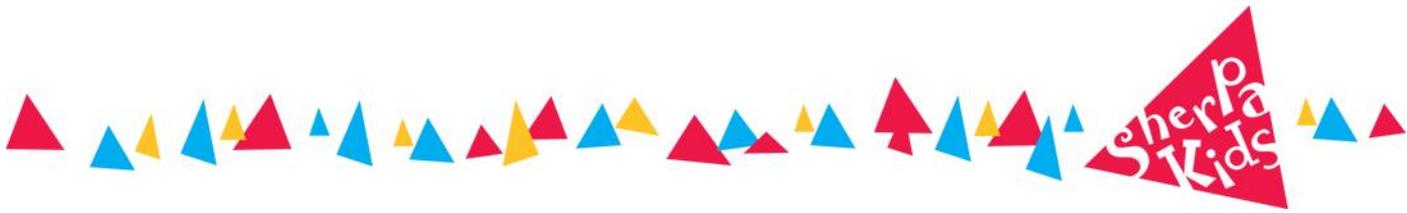
- Arts & Crafts
- Music & Drama
- Sport & Games
- Cooking & Technology
- Fun Activities

REACH ENGAGE CHALLENGE

SHERPA KIDS SOUTH AFRICA | CO. CIPC REG 2013/174014/07 | INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

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BEFORE SCHOOL CARE | AFTER SCHOOL CARE | HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES



The 7 quality areas:

1. Educational Programme and Practice:
2. Health and Safety
3. Physical Environment
4. Staffing Arrangements
5. Relationships with Children
6. Relationships with Families and Communities
7. Leadership and Service Management

Compliance

Sherpa Kids continually strives to improve the quality of its services by observing best practice methods. Sherpa Kids' qualified staff conducts planned and unplanned compliance checks to ensure each service is adhering to Sherpa Kids protocol

SHERPA service staff

Sherpa Kids' operational staff and employees in services are required to have a Police Clearance Certificate.

All staff will adhere to the Policies and Procedures developed by the service in collaboration with the school applying best practice principles and providing a child safe environment.

REACH ENGAGE CHALLENGE

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