



16 January 2014

Oakhill Parents
BY EMAIL

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 1 of 2014 and we wish you every blessing as we embark on yet another year with your sons and daughters. We are delighted that we have managed to start the year in a positive and affirming way in every respect and I have no doubt that our staff team are ready and excited about what lies ahead for your children in 2014, both in and out of the classroom.

I am sure you have seen the press release regarding our Matric results and we are extremely proud of all the Grade 12's of 2013 achieved. What stands out most about these results is the fact that those young men and women who were engaged the most in the life of the school were the ones who produced the most outstanding results. Lulu Read, our SRC President, achieved 5 distinctions, whilst being committed to the Drama Club as well as playing Water Polo and Hockey right until the end of her career here. I would encourage all your sons and daughters to learn from her example and to ensure that they make the most of these moments in their school careers. I would also like to encourage parents to ensure that your sons and daughters are engaged in the process of learning about themselves, which will ultimately stand them in good stead when the time comes for writing their Matric examinations. Busy people are focused and motivated and always take the opportunity to learn something more about themselves and the world at large and I would urge you to ensure that your sons and daughters take advantage of the myriad opportunities on offer at our school.

Cheryl Wolf, the mother of our current SRC President, Fern shared a story with me which I encouraged her to put down in writing. It reminds all of us to savour the moments.

Thirteen years ago Fern started Grade R at Oakhill and then Grade 1....BIG SCHOOL. I cried, really cried, my child was going to big school, she was growing up so fast, boy did I cry!

*Today, 15 January 2014, Fern starts Matric and yes I cry, I really cry and I feel emotional but this is really what I want to be heard: **to all the new moms out there. Be grateful, be grateful that you have a school like Oakhill to love, nurture and teach your children but most of all cry, but cry tears of joy because when your child goes to Grade 1 you still have twelve wonderful years with them. Twelve of the best years of their lives and it goes fast, very fast. Then you wake up one day and suddenly you cry because its Grade 12 and you wonder if you left anything out.....If only.....***

And finally all this reminds me of the lyrics of a song I have always loved by Roger Whittaker:

*"No you won't believe in If anymore
Ifs an illusion
Ifs an illusion
No you won't believe in If anymore
If is for children
If is for children
Building daydreams*

*If I knew then what I know now
(I thought I did, you know, somehow)
If I could have the time again*

Headmaster: Shane Kidwell | BA (UP) HDipEd (PCE)

Telephone: (044) 382-6506 | Fax: (044) 382-5753 | International: +2744 382-6506
Email: s.kidwell@oakhillschool.co.za | Web: www.oakhillschool.co.za



*I'd take the sunshine leave the rain
If only time would trickle slow
Like rain that melts the fallen snow
If only Lord if only*

*With thanks Shane to all your teachers
Gratefully, Cheryl Wolf*

I'm sure there are many of you feeling exactly the same emotions and I would encourage you to share them, speak about them and encourage all of us to remember that time with our kids is precious.

As you are aware, our new fields are ready for use and we will be playing fixtures and practicing at this facility from the beginning of the year. Our Diary Card indicates that we will be opening this facility officially on 25 January 2014. We will be playing Cricket against Glenwood House on that day but we are going to **delay the official opening** until we have our clubhouse in place for the beginning of Term 2. You are more than welcome to pop in and watch the Cricket on the 25th but this will not be the official opening.

We opened our doors to 78 new pupils this year and our total numbers now exceed 500. Our young school is growing and it is fortuitous that we have the new land in place to facilitate this growth into the future. These are exciting times and as I said at the Celebration of the Joy of Learning: we cannot wait to see your sons and daughters running around and playing sports at this facility in the near future.

Please feel free to contact us directly should you have an issue you would like to discuss ,and on behalf of all the staff at Oakhill, I wish you a wonderfully warm and happy 2014!

Yours sincerely

Shane Kidwell
HEADMASTER