



THE JOY OF LEARNING

HEADMASTER'S NEWSLETTER

16 April 2014

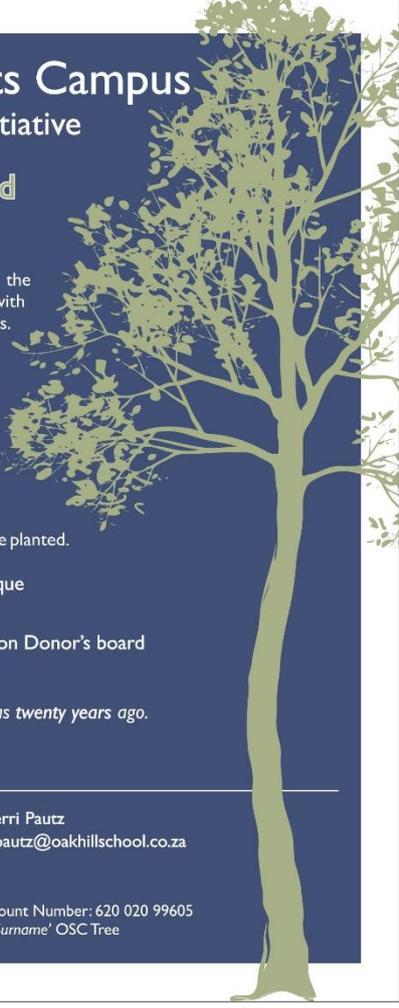
Dear Parents

The culmination of this term serves as a significant moment in our school history. Not only has it been a lengthy term, but it has also been a busy one on a number of levels. We have experienced music soirees, dramatic productions, art competitions and sport on our new Oakhill Sports Campus.

Your sons and daughters have been extremely busy in the classroom and on the extra-mural front and in the middle of all this activity, our Grade 10's have also embarked on the Odyssey, which has been one of the most successful ones thus far. My sincere thanks must go to all who have helped in this facilitation, but particular thanks needs to be given to Riaan van Straten who, as chief organiser and coordinator, has ensured that every young man and woman has had an experience of a lifetime. He has also had to run the gauntlet of emotional mothers when he returned to the campus and has endured all types of SMS and email correspondence from anxious parents. This is primarily a physical journey for him but emotions run high when it comes to our kids and I want to thank him for the manner in which he has dealt with parents, staff and Grade 10's over this three week period. I am sure that you all join me in congratulating him on another wonderfully successful facilitation – I know that I am personally grateful to him for his eye for detail and his obsession with safety. Nevertheless it is going to be wonderful to welcome these Grade 10's back into our community later this week. Once again, emotions will be running high but with these emotions comes the gratitude of kids who are home safely and the fact that we have missed them so. Like all our students, each and every one of them are extremely special and we will enjoy their presence again, once they are home!

I started this newsletter by indicating that the end of this term and the beginning of the next signifies a watershed in our history. It is significant because the culmination of five years of planning and strategizing has come to fruition. We are in the process of completing the last touches of the development of Phase 1 of our Oakhill Sports Campus. Our rugby posts, hockey goals and netball hoops are in place to facilitate hosting our own home fixtures (and who thought that we would ever be able to say that). Our Astroturf development is complete and ready to host the **Independent Schools Co-Ed Hockey Festival, which starts on 1 May**, and involves 22 boys and girls sides from around the country. Please feel free to pop in to support our teams or to see this wonderful new world-class facility in use! As we speak the construction of our new ablution blocks and clubhouse facility is also being completed and I would like to apologise, particularly to all our moms, who have had to endure the portable loos which have seen us through this interim period. These new facilities will certainly be far more comfortable for all concerned and I look forward to socialising with you in this new facility at the start of Term 2.

Those of you who have supported our cricket sides in the last few months will know that there is little or no shade around our new fields. **We would like to plant 230 indigenous trees on this campus and this is an opportunity for you to get involved in a fundraising exercise should you wish.** Just as we sold some young trees some years ago, which line the main pathway of the school, so too do we want to give you the opportunity to purchase a tree with a plaque on the new campus. Our school's first Matric group (1994) have been the first to purchase a tree and I have included the details below. **Please contact Terri Pautz for further information:**



Oakhill Sports Campus
Indigenous tree initiative

Purchase a tree and leave a Legacy!

Oakhill School will be enriching the Oakhill Sports Campus grounds with the planting of 230 indigenous trees.

This provides a wonderful opportunity for Oakhill staff, families, present and past scholars as well as other community members to be part of the Oakhill Sports Campus history.

A variety of indigenous trees will be planted.

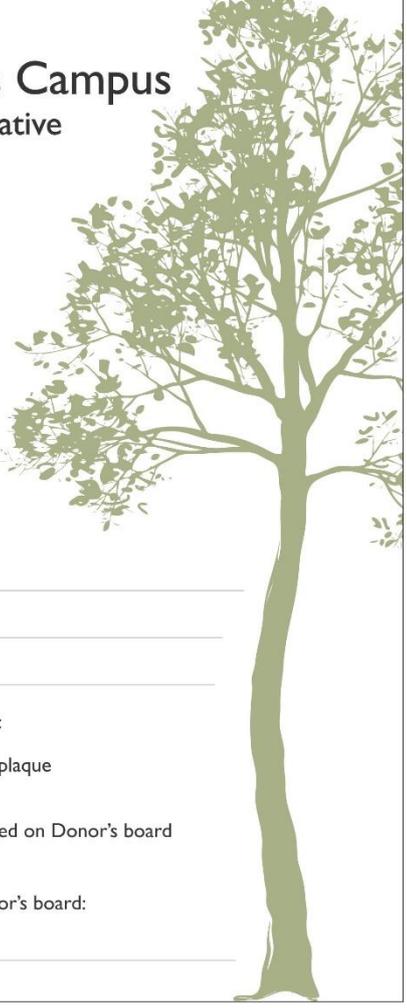
Indigenous tree with name plaque
R2500 (50 available)

Indigenous tree & name listed on Donor's board
R1000 (180 available)

*"The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.
The second best time is now."*
- Anon

For further information, contact Terri Pautz
Tel: +27 (0)44 382 6506 • Email: t.pautz@oakhillschool.co.za
www.oakhillschool.co.za

BANK DETAILS:
Oakhill School | FNB - Knysna | Account Number: 620 020 99605
Branch Code: 210 214 | Reference: 'Surname' OSC Tree



Oakhill Sports Campus
Indigenous tree initiative

BOOKING FORM

Please complete the form below and submit to confirm your option.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I hereby confirm the purchase of:

Indigenous tree with name plaque
R2500 (50 available)

Indigenous tree & name listed on Donor's board
R1000 (180 available)

Name to appear on plaque/ Donor's board:

There are also many other opportunities for donations should you feel you would like to contribute something to this new facility. We would like to purchase the following in due course:

- Grandstands
- Benches
- Furniture for the Clubhouse
- Television for the Clubhouse

Please also note that our entire community is going to have to get used to the etiquette pertaining to Astroturfs and their use. This is a facility that has cost R7 million to build and we will all need to take responsibility for looking after it:

- Only players who have cleaned and washed their shoes are allowed on the facility.
- The Astroturf may only be used under the supervision of an Oakhill teacher/ coach.
- The technical area is out of bounds for parents and spectators.



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Lastly, on the new Sports Campus: **please can we make it clear that the OSC is a dog-free zone.** We will not be allowing parents or guests to bring their dogs to the campus as this has already caused angst and controversy. I know that you may have strong feelings, either way, regarding this decision, but we ask that you please respect this request. Staff have been instructed to ask you to leave the campus should you arrive with a dog and I appreciate your cooperation in advance, on this prickly issue.

Not only has our new Sports Campus been a construction site but our current campus is also undergoing a significant change to our academic facilities. When we start Term 2, the music department will have relocated to their new building and the major upgrade to the old art block will have begun. Once this building is complete it will give the Preparatory School six new classrooms, which will include Art, Drama and Science, and the College will gain a state-of-the-art Drama and Art studio, which has been a long time coming. We will also be building a new library, which will allow our students a 21st century area for research, collaboration, reflection and study. Many of the discussions regarding the use of this and other key areas in the school will be discussed in the next six months, and if you would like to participate in these discussions please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am also pleased to announce that we have welcomed **Louise Fourie** as the new Head of Department: Afrikaans in the College and I look forward to her wise and experienced input as we progress. We also welcome **Alexa Frost** as the new Academic Director: Foundation Phase and her experience over many years will also give us the capacity for change and development in this area. I communicated earlier in the term, that **Terri Pautz**, who used to be our Graphic Designer, has now started as our new Events Coordinator and Fundraiser. After a rigorous selection process, I am pleased to announce that we have appointed **Melanie Vogt** to the vacated position of Graphic Designer and I look forward to working alongside her as we continue to build the Oakhill brand.

Unfortunately, **Ettiene Sonqayi** leaves after 7 years' service as a bus driver at the end of this term and to cope with our increased logistics we have appointed two new drivers in his place. I would like to welcome **John Kriel** and **Christiaan Skey** to the team.

Barbara Finch, who has been working in the College Academic office since January 2012, has resigned in order to join her family in Cape Town. Barbara also helped out in my office on and off before that. We will miss Barbara and wish her all the best.

Finally, thank you for your patience after a long and arduous term. As in any institution which deals with kids, there have been some mountain top experiences and some valley lows but I am excited by the energy, commitment and compassion I experience here on a daily basis. It enthruses me, but for now I need a break and I wish each and every family in our community a wonderfully refreshing time with family and friends.

Kind regards

Shane Kidwell
HEADMASTER