

NEWSLETTER 1 - 11 January 2012

Dear Parents

*I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.*



*One was a teacher:
the tools she used were books and music and art;
One was a parent
With a guiding hand and gentle loving heart.
And when at last their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had worked into the child
Could never be sold or bought!
And each agreed she would have failed
if she had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
and behind the teacher stood the home!*

Unity by Cleo V. Swarat

I welcome you to St Martin's. May 2012 be a year in which we share in the pleasure of "our" children - may they learn and grow, enjoy and flourish this year.



Firstly, some introductions:
I am Miss Barbie Daniel (no s!),
the Principal.

Mrs Michelle Els is the Red Group (Grade R/Older Group - 5/6 year olds) teacher. 2-I-C in this class is Miss Nikki Rich.
Mrs Phillipa Dowey is to be

found in the Blue Group (Grade 00/Middle Group - 4/5 year olds). Miss Tiny Majola is her "right-hand woman"!

Mrs Carry Paterson educates the Yellow Group (Grade 000/Younger Group - 3/4 year olds) with her assistant Miss Lauren Norton.

Mrs Kate Baker teaches in the Purple Group ((Grade 000/Younger Group - 3/4 year olds). Miss Lungile (Lungie) Nxumalo is her "sidekick", as well as teaching Zulu to all of the classes.

Miss Caryn Matthews is the After-Care/Holiday-Care teacher. She works with Miss Rachel Sithole. Miss Sizakele Mhlongo is the After-Care/Holiday-Care assistant.



Mrs Dee Visser is our Secretary, Bursar and "School Nurse"!

Mrs Bobby Gardner is the Office Assistant who helps us on Tuesdays.

Miss Celiwe Mngoma is our helpful and cheerful school helper.

Mr Vusi Mngoma is our efficient caretaker, groundsman, "juice man", cleaning assistant, etc.
Mr Justice Ntlai is our gardener.

Dee and Celiwe are both pregnant - it must be in the water! Sandy Holton (ex-Chelsea bursar and ex-parent) will fill in for Dee in the 2nd Term and Chrissie Jili (our helper of 36 years and just retired!) will step in for Celiwe in the 3rd Term.

We invite you to address us informally by our Christian names; the children should call us Miss, Mrs or Mr!

This first Newsletter is always rather lengthy, in order to provide an overview of the year/term ahead. I beg your indulgence and your close attention to the "fine print"!



PLEASE NOTE, today and in the future: All parents should complete and return all of the forms and Reply Slips, regardless of whether they are negative returns or not. Please assist the School by returning Reply Slips timeously.



ALL NOTES AND ENCLOSURES SENT HOME IN THE NOTEBOOK SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED; this way we will know they did not get lost in transit!

The "Term At A Glance"/School Calendar is attached for your information - for the fridge maybe?

PROGRAMME ORGANISERS

An educational theme is selected each term and this is explored in various ways in the Programme: in lessons, creative activities, outings, etc.

Three displays relating to the theme are mounted every two weeks.



Parents are encouraged to help with the Programme Organiser displays - with the collection of materials, the loan of appropriate books, or with a little expertise. The staff await your contributions eagerly!

Our umbrella theme this term is "All About Me".

DATE	LITERACY/ DISCUSSION	LIFE SKILLS	NUMERACY/ DISCOVERY
10 Jan	New Life	This Is Me	Sequencing
26 Jan	My Body & How It Works	Care Of My Body	Body Image
9 Feb	Healthy Food	Shopping	What's Inside?
23 Feb	School Pets	My School	Group Colours
8 Mar	Easter Animals	Easter Garden	Touch

OUTINGS

Each term, with the exception of the fourth term, we go on an outing to consolidate and extend our Programme Organisers. The outing sites are carefully researched and parents help with lifting to these venues, being responsible for the care of a small group of children.



Friday 9 March

Our outing to the Hypermarket will allow us to experience shopping in a very tangible way!

If you would like to assist with this educational jaunt, please fill in the attached Reply Slip.

Unfortunately, younger siblings are not allowed on outings - every hand/eye/SENSE(!) is needed to supervise "your" children. Each adult is responsible for a group of 3 or 4 children made up from pupils of each age-group. Dads are, especially, very welcome - a manly touch does wonders amongst our more energetic boys!

Further information about "Outing Procedures" will be circulated before the first outing ...

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment and educational drama add to our learning each term:

Tuesday 7 February

Mim and John will present an educational show on "The Body And Family".

Thursday 1 March

Rico The Clown will entertain with "My Brilliant Body".



EDUCATIONAL TALKS

We also invite guest speakers to address the children on topics explored in the Programme Organisers. This term we will be informed on three occasions:

Monday 23 January

Sharon, Mum of Amelie in the Blue Group, will bath Reuben, the newest member of the Aldous family.

Friday 3 February

Selwyn Rautenbach, a personal trainer from Physical Impact, will tell the children all about living a healthy lifestyle and then he and two colleagues will lead the School in an aerobics session.

Monday 12 March

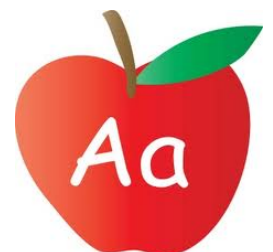
Felicity Vonmoos of Sunshine Chicken Farm, will come and show us some of her chickens and share about farming chickens organically.



SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMME

The School Readiness/Grade R Programme we offer explores all of the emergent, pre-school skills in an age-appropriate yet extending environment, filled with lots of varied, educational opportunities and active participation.

The Language Programme includes elements of Thras, Rhyme World, Jolly Phonics and other pre-reading and pre-writing experiences.



The topics that will be covered in the School Readiness Programme this term are:

All About Me

Body Image

My Five Senses

Your Grade R child needs to be allowed to sort out his/her belongings, greet friends and settle quietly before the **Reception Class Programme starts PROMPTLY at 8.00 a.m.** Please do not be late!

School closes at 12.30 p.m. for Grade R pupils. If you have younger siblings, please leave your children to wait in their Home Bases until just before the Red Group dismissal. This will alleviate congestion and noise in the Patio Area.

The Grade R class also go on two **LIFE SKILLS OUTINGS** a term, as an extension to the School Readiness Programme.



The children will visit the Entabeni Hospital, on **Thursday 16 February** and Milldene Retirement Home on **Thursday 15 March**, as part of learning about people, health and life cycles.

INFORMATION EVENING

Come and "unpack" the mysteries of your child's St Martin's experience!

An Information Evening will be held on **Thursday 26 January** at 6.30 p.m. **FOR ALL PARENTS.**

Following some opening remarks, each of the teachers will meet with "their" parents to discuss the programme, developmental milestones and expectations for each age group, as well as answer any questions.

These informal chats will be followed by tea. Please complete and return the attached Reply Slip.

BIBLE STORIES

Ben Aldous, the Assistant Minister of St Martin's, or the teachers will tell Bible Stories to the children five times this term. We thank Ben for his preparedness to serve the School in this spiritual role.



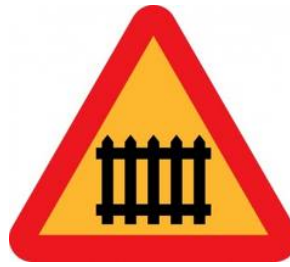
FEES

Fees must be paid within the first two weeks of the term/month.



In the event of School Fees being more than 60 days in arrears, your child will be asked to leave the School.

Please note that, given the economic downturn, this rule will be strictly enforced.



THE SCHOOL GATE

Please ensure that you **FIRMLY CLOSE** the School Gate when coming into the School independently (i.e. outside of Arrival or Home Times).

Failure to do so places all the children at risk and their safety is paramount.

Under no circumstances leave the gate ajar, not even if you have sight of a following parent. This particularly applies to early arrivals and After-Care parents. **MOTHERS, PLEASE INFORM FATHERS AND GRANDPARENTS OF THIS ESSENTIAL RULE.**

EARLY ARRIVALS

Early arrivals are only allowed for the children of parents who *both* work.

Written permission to come early needs to be made to the Principal. Please ask Dee in the Office, or via the Notebooks for the necessary form, i.e. ALL parents who wish to come early have to fill in this form, even if you were at the School last year. The Principal will respond in writing.



Vusi or Celiwe will admit parents from 7.15 a.m. onwards. They shall be buzzed through both the Church and the School Gates and shall bring their children into the Big Room adjacent to the Office.

The gate will be closed between 7.40 - 7.45 a.m. There is no access during this *five minute period* as this is when the teachers take the early arrivals to their own Home Bases, allowing them to unpack and settle in an orderly manner.

AFTER-CARE

We offer After-Care and Holiday-Care, under the supervision of Caryn Matthews and Rachel Sithole. Please complete the After-Care Enrolment Form, if you would like to enrol your child or send in a nil return otherwise.

After-Care fees are as follows:

Permanent attendance:

12.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. R 975.00 per term

12.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. R 1170.00 per term

Casual attendance:

12.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. R 32.00 per afternoon

12.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. R 35.00 per afternoon

Casual After-Care Fees are debited on a termly basis.

Holiday-Care will be available during the school holidays at the following rates:

7.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. R 35.00 per day

12.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. R 35.00 per day

7.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. R 71.00 per day

Holiday-Care is open to pupils of the School and their siblings, up to the age of 9 years. However, numbers are limited in the holidays and it is necessary to book your child's place as soon as you receive the relevant notification.

It should be noted that the Holiday-Care facility will be closed for the first week of the July Holidays and from mid-December to mid-January.

EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES

Extra-mural activities add a further dimension to our curriculum and are available to all pupils. These are offered in the afternoons at an additional cost to interested parents. Documentation will be distributed via the Notebooks shortly. Extra-mural activities will commence on **Monday 23 January**.

Mondays: Playball

Teacher: Hydie Vigg and team

Time: 12.45 p.m. - 1.15 p.m. or
1.15 p.m. - 1.45 p.m. or
1.45 p.m. - 2.15 p.m. or
2.15 p.m. - 2.45p.m.

Cost: 3/4 year olds R340.00 per term
Grade R R360.00 per term
Also R100.00 joining fee/
R50.00 annual fee

Tuesdays: Pottery

Teacher: Corrie Hook

Time: 12.45 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Cost: R360.00 per term

Tuesdays: Ballet OFF SITE

Teacher: Minette De Klerk and team

Time: 1.45 pm - 2.30 p.m.

Venue: Chelsea Prep - Northway Campus Hall

Cost: R400.00 per term

For boys and girls, 4 yrs and older, limit 12 to a class
Transport available for After-Care children;
departure 1.15 p.m. from School

Wednesdays: Speech And Drama

Teacher: Kathy Nugent

Time: 1.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. or
2.00 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Cost: R340.00 per term

Thursdays: Drumkidz

Teacher: Samantha Lee

Time: 12.45 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Cost: R310.00 per term
R 95.00 registration



Please note:

- *The extra-murals do not offer "watching facilities" - Playball, Drumkidz, Ballet and Drama will invite you to special Watching Days from time to time.*
- *Children should be collected directly from the extra-murals teachers or the 2.30 p.m. After-Care charge will be levied. There is a 10 minute ONLY grace period. (N/A to Ballet.)*

SMS MESSAGES

From time to time the School may send you a message via SMS. This system is used for anything from emergencies to reminders



So, if you receive an SMS from the number 082 2007033244 - it is from St Martin's Pre-Primary School. And, please could you action whatever the request is ASAP. Don't forget to include your name if you reply to an SMS. Thanks!

CARING AND SHARING



We like to care for those in need, i.e. if there is a death, illness or just a little cheering needed in one of our school families. We do this by providing a meal, as and when required.

If you are prepared to make and donate a meal, please indicate this on the Assistance To School Form, which will be sent home shortly.

One of the PARENTS 4 PRAYER group will contact you if your help is required. Please contact Natalie Naude (Tel 031 5635835 or Cell 084 9093585), Sharon Aldous (Tel 031 5631651 or Cell 076 605260) or Barbie Daniel if you become aware of somebody who needs our support.

We also invite you to join the **PARENTS 4 PRAYER** group, who meet **EACH FRIDAY MORNING** from 7.50 - 8.10 a.m. in the Cry Room at the back of the Church.

At this time we pray for our School and all of its concerns, trusting God for His guidance, counsel and blessing.

**GOVERNING BODY/
PARENTS'
ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE AFFAIRS
Annual General
Meeting**



The AGM will be held on **Thursday 9 February** at 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. in the Hall. (See attached notification.)

I encourage all parents to attend and I hope that a vibrant and enthusiastic Committee will be elected on this evening. Please submit nomination forms by **Wednesday 1 February**.

If you would like to stand for the Committee but do not know anyone to propose or second you, please speak to me.

Please complete the attached Reply Slip, indicating if you will be attending the AGM.

This will be held on **Thursday 15 March** at 6.30 p.m..

Details will follow closer to the time, once the new Committee has been elected.

"OTHER"

It is with such regret that I note that the installation of the rubber matting under the jungle gym is incomplete - the "bricks" never arrived from Cape Town before the builders' lay-off.



So, we are not looking our best right now but this project will really enhance the Garden. We will just have to "vasbyt" in the meanwhile.

DURBAN NORTH PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE

I will be attending this gathering of School Heads on the **23 - 24 February**.



GB/PA Committee Meetings
The first PA Committee Meeting of the year will be on **Monday 20 February** at 6.30pm. (For parents elected to this Committee at the AGM.)

The first Governing Body Meeting will be on **Thursday 1 March** at 5.30pm. (For

nominated Church Representatives and Office Bearers of the PA Committee.)

Sales Tables

Each term we have a "flea market" in the Bottom Garden - an opportunity for a little retail therapy! A yummy lunch is also served. This term the date is **Friday 2 March**.

Margo Rosettenstein (Cell 082 8770314) is the person to contact if you would like to take a table. You will hear more about this later in the term



©bnpdesignstudio * illustrations01.com/74366

CAN YOU HELP?

- Travellers, please collect hotel toiletries for us. The children LOVE getting these as prizes at the Family Fiesta in the 4th Term, so more is better!
- Do you have any handbags and/or hats for the House Corner? Yay! Dress-ups!
- We ALWAYS use icecream tubs for storage - any sized tubs would be welcomed! Anytime!
- Please collect 2l plastic cooldrink bottles for us - bring them to School on Mondays with your anti-waste, throughout the year.
- We need two 2012 desk calendars.



Well, I hope that you are now fit and raring for the new term! (And not too cross-eyed, with all that reading!) Please diarise all the dates so that you can join in the fun!

Yours

Barbie

B J DANIEL
Principal



Parents' Social
Join us at our first term "getting-to-know-you-social"!

Visit our webpage at:
www.stmartinspreprimary.co.za

Member of:



ALL PARENTS SHOULD COMPLETE AND RETURN **ALL** OF THE REPLY SLIPS,
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE NEGATIVE RETURNS OR NOT.
PLEASE ASSIST THE SCHOOL BY RETURNING REPLY SLIPS **TIMEOUSLY**

INFORMATION EVENING

Return by Friday 20 January 2012

I/WE WILL / WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE ABOVE EVENING ON **THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2012 AT 6.30 P.M. SHARP.**

NAME/S OF PARENTS: _____

✂ _____

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Return by Wednesday 1 February 2012

I/WE WILL / WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE AGM ON **THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7.15 FOR 7.30 P.M. SHARP.**

NAME/S OF PARENTS: _____

✂ _____

WHOLE SCHOOL OUTING - HYPERMARKET

Return by Friday 17 February 2012

NAME: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____

OUTING TO HYPERMARKET BY THE SEA To consolidate and extend our educational theme of "Shopping"		
DATE: FRIDAY 9 MARCH DEPARTURE TIME: 8.30 a.m.		
My child will go on the Outing	YES	NO
I wish to Lift on the Outing	YES	NO
I will send a CLEARLY MARKED booster seat pad	YES	NO
I wish my child to remain at School for supervised play with Miss Mngoma	YES	NO
I will keep my child at home on this day	YES	NO

I have _____ (number) 3-point seat belts in the rear of my car

Type of Car _____

GRADE R LIFE SKILLS OUTING - ENTABENI HOSPITAL

Return by Friday 3 February 2012

NAME: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____

OUTING TO ENTABENI		
To consolidate and extend our educational theme of "Care Of My Body"		
DATE: THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY		
DEPARTURE TIME: 8.30 a.m.		
My child will go on the Outing	YES	NO
I wish to Lift on the Outing	YES	NO
I will send a CLEARLY MARKED booster seat pad	YES	NO
I will keep my child at home on this day	YES	NO

I have _____ (number) 3-point seat belts in the rear of my car

Type of Car _____

✂ _____

GRADE R LIFE SKILLS OUTING - MILLDENE

Return by Friday 2 March 2012

NAME: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____

OUTING TO MILLDENE RETIREMENT HOME		
To consolidate and extend our educational theme of "Sequencing"		
DATE: THURSDAY 15 MARCH		
DEPARTURE TIME: 9.45 a.m.		
My child will go on the Outing	YES	NO
I wish to Lift on the Outing	YES	NO
I will send a CLEARLY MARKED booster seat pad	YES	NO
I will keep my child at home on this day	YES	NO

I have _____ (number) 3-point seat belts in the rear of my car

Type of Car _____