“Leaving Nothing Undared for the Kingdom of God”

Minutes of the St Benedict’s Grade 4 Meeting
Wednesday 21 January 2015 in the School Hall

Grade Head: Mrs. Constable 4C (English, Art)

Grade 4 Teachers:

Mrs Roberts 4R (History, Media, Life Orientation, Literature, Comprehension)
Please note that Mrs Roberts Email address is Robertsk@stbenedicts.co.za
Mrs Bissict 4B (English, Mathematics, Afrikaans, History, Geography)
Mrs Pinker 4H (Mathematics)
Please note that Mrs Pinkers Email address is pinkerg@stbenedicts.co.za
Ms Schulman 4S (Afrikaans, Geography)
Dr Sanders (Mathletics)
Mrs Goncalves/Leong. (Religious Education)
Mr Mathye (Zulu)
Mr Flude (Computers)
Mr Strijdom (Music)
Mrs Kaufmann (Remedial)

We ask you to be a little patient. It’s quite an adjustment in Grade 4 and the boys need time to settle. Homework will take a little longer until a routine has been established. Grade 4 Teachers have to be tough to set the tone for a successful academic year.

- Thank you so much for making sure your sons have proper school regulation hair cut as per school policy.
- Blazers are worn to and from school with the summer uniform. Check names are clearly visible on blazers PLEASE
- No jewelry except a wrist-watch and cross on a chain.
PT days – MONDAYS boys wear PT kit to school

1. DROP AND GO. Parents are requested to take their sons to the classroom safely and then please leave rather than hover.

2. LABEL ALL ITEMS PLEASE. It is essential to mark clothing especially BLAZERS and stationery CLEARLY with your son’s name. This helps identify the owner immediately and saves on replacing items regularly.

3. HEALTHY EATING. It is important to send pupils to school knowing they have eaten BREAKFAST. PLEASE pack a healthy lunch for first break. PLEASE ensure that your son has no fizzy drinks at school (nor frozen lemon juice, messy and makes your son more thirsty) – pupils may not buy this from Tuck either. Chips and sweets are allowed at second break – please try and limit to once a week and not Fridays – the queue is long and often boys don’t get a chance to eat! Protein shakes cannot be sent in place of a healthy lunch. A hungry child cannot focus on learning.

TUCK
Try and limit Tuck money. We cannot be held responsible for children carrying large amounts of cash. If possible please make sure your son has lunch on a Wednesday as there is not enough time after assembly to go to tuck.

4. ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS. Please help your son pack his case for school. Ensure that he has ALL the necessary STATIONERY – scissors, Pritt glue, 30cm ruler, blue pens, sharp pencils, eraser, sharpener and coloured pencils. Borrowing creates insecurities and having left these items at home unsettles your son for the day.

5. ROUTINE. Instill good habits now to last your son throughout his school years. Boys especially thrive on routine. When your child gets home, let him eat, have a break, then do homework (Mom must please sign book, even if your son is at aftercare) and check what is required for the next day. Pack cases, get uniform out for the next day and then watch TV (limit time and screen programmes and computer games). Boys should be in bed by 20h00 as they need ten hours sleep.

6. ENGLISH. The boys now know what is expected of Homework. Mrs. Constable did the homework with the pupils this week. There are clear examples of what is expected. PLEASE go back and look in the book. Homework and Spelling Books are handed in every Friday – not negotiable. (A red entry will be given because Mrs. Constable would not have seen FOUR DAYS homework!)
THRASS and Spelling. – Please see every boy has a red and blue pen for Thrass spelling. Mrs Constable has formulated a new spelling programme to try and assist boys with their spelling.

COMPREHENSION - PLEASE see your son has a set of three highlighters. These are used for Cycle Tests too. Questions are always answered in FULL sentences.

CORRECTIONS – Pupils use a green pen or green pencil crayon.

7. AFRIKAANS. A Spelling test is written every alternative week on a Thursday! Ask your boys their words daily. Let them write them on your back, do press-ups while they spell. Make this time FUN!!

When the pupils are given Afrikaans Readers, please make sure that daily reading is completed and that parents sign the reading record sheet.

8. MATHEMATICS. Please see B&T (Bonds and Tables) is completed and handed in every Friday! No excuses. Practice tables in the car on the way to school, while you waiting in a queue, in the bath...

9. CULTURAL SUBJECTS. Very little homework is given. Boys usually have ONE WEEK until their next lesson to complete tasks. PLEASE help and encourage your sons with time management – Don’t leave anything until the last minute!

10. ART. Thank you for the Art boxes. They are awesome. Please could you send along an old T-shirt and two plastic, clean, empty yogurt cups for painting? These will be kept in these boxes with Carlton paper for any accidental spills.

11. PROFILES - Grade 4 Teachers are very generous with BLUE entries but will not hesitate to write a red one if deserved. Note: RED entries are given when B&T and English homework are not done or handed in on Fridays!!! PLEASE return on a MONDAY, signed and kept safely in the plastic cover.

12. PAIRED READING. Grade 4R and 4S please diarize Wednesday 4 February 18h00. Every pupil and at least one parent is required to participate in this compulsory component of the Reading Program. (4B, 4C and 4P please diarize 20 May).

13. COMMUNICATION. The best way to advise teachers is in the Homework Book. These are checked daily and matters can be attended too quickly. Write a note and we will get back to you as soon as we can. HOMEWORK must PLEASE be checked and signed EVERY DAY.

You are also welcome to email the teachers. There is a 24 hour reply policy!
14. GRADE 4 OUTING. Watch this space!

15. RITALIN. Should your child be on medication PLEASE buy a cheap watch and set the alarm so that he can be reminded to take his tablet. In this way the child does not become agitated trying to remember time and medication.

16. AFTERCARE. Mrs Constable is responsible for Grade 4 aftercare homework. Please make sure you sign the homework diary even though Mrs. Constable monitors the work.

17. HOMEWORK CLASS

Should boys be waiting to play sport they are expected to join homework class rather than wander around the school grounds. This is not safe and ensures the homework is done so no night fights to do Homework!

Monday – Mrs Pinker
Tuesday – Mrs Bissict
Thursday – Mrs Roberts

Should you wish your child to attend Homework Class, PLEASE send Mrs. Constable a letter so that registers can be formulated for the respective days. Homework class commences Monday 26 January.

Reminder: PLEASE check and sign homework diary every day. There may be an important message for you.

Extra Lessons are provided for English, Afrikaans and Mathematics. Your boys will receive formal notification - but any boy may attend if parents feel extra support is required.

18. LINES. ALL lines are drawn using a ruler, in ALL subjects.

19. CYCLE TESTS. The boys write their first English Cycle Test on Friday 23 January. These cycle tests will take place in the cycle test periods as per attached timetable EVERY FRIDAY morning in the first two periods. Should your son be absent, a doctor's note is required. The test will be written on the following Monday from 13h30 till 14h30 in Mrs Bissict's classroom.

20. STUDY SKILLS - During the second term a Study Skills course will be provided for the Grade 4 pupils. An official letter will go out nearer the time with details and cost.

21. PLEASE BE PUNCTUAL. School commences at 07h15. Please see that your son arrives at school on time (07h10). This prevents unnecessary stress. Late pupils receive a “LATE” stamp in their homework book. Three “LATE” stamps and pupils are given a red entry. Not really fair – PARENTS should get the red entry!!!
22. ABSENTEES. Please inform the office telephonically, or email the teacher if your son is absent. When he returns please ensure that you send a letter/email with reasons. The children are invited to go to homework class to complete and catch up work missed. Please remember a doctor’s note is required for three days absence or days absent attached to a weekend.

23. TEACHER MEETINGS. Please don’t panic when you set up a meeting and all four Grade 4 teachers are present. This gives a holistic overview of your son’s performance and shows you that we have your son’s best interests at heart.

24. St Benedict’s is a BULLY-FREE SCHOOL – there is Zero Tolerance. The NBA is a very active group. Please advise class teacher immediately of any incidents.

25. CLASS MOMS. We had super class Moms last year but were told this year we can expect AMAZING SUPPORT. The Grade 4 moms are responsible for catering at the Speech Evening (Gr 4R and Grade 4P), Cater for our Annual Art Display Opening (Grade 4S, 4B and 4C) as well as for organizing the Cake and Candy Sale to raise funds for classroom, educational equipment. Class moms also assist with communication where necessary.

The Class Moms are as follows:-
4B – Mrs Vrey
4C – Mrs de Klerk, Mrs Odgers
4P – Mrs Walsh, Mrs Emmet
4R – Mrs Hinckley
4S – Mrs Koen, Mrs Lahner

Please let us know if you are willing to assist.

THANK YOU for sharing the evening with us
We look forward to a wonderful 2015

Good night, travel safely

Grade 4 Teachers

REPLY SLIP - Return to class teacher by Friday 30 January 2015

I, ______________________________________, parent of ____________________ in Grade 4__ have received and read the minutes from the Grade 4 Meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2015.

Signed____________________________