



23 November 2017

Dear Parents

10 Reasons why we are taking learning outside at Elkanah House through our animal enclosure and aquaponics vegetable project.

1. Make learning more engaging

Taking Mathematics and Literacy outside and making it more hands on through our children's interaction with animals and plants makes learning the concepts and skills our children need more practical, engaging and hands on.

2. Make learning relevant

By taking learning beyond the classroom you'll find dozens of opportunities to make learning concepts real and relevant by putting them into a more realistic context. Many concepts which seems to be difficult to get a grasp of in the classroom, are a lot easier to understand outside in a more practical environment.

3. Nurture creativity and imagination

Taking kids beyond the classroom is like un-clipping their wings. Suddenly their minds are free to explore and you can often end up with some very creative results no matter what subject you're teaching them. Interaction with animals often enhances creative thoughts and leads to more exploration of creative play. Interacting and looking at plants grow creates ownership in a child and builds confidence. This in turn leads to more expressive and creative play.

4. Develop learning through play and experimentation

We all know that children learn more when they're happy and engaged. It's amazing just how much they can learn through their interaction with animals and plants. I have heard countless stories from children and parents on how their interaction with the animals have lead to a change in their children's general behaviour and attitude to school.

Dates To Diarise

6 December
Swop Over Day

7 December
Break up day
JP finish at 11h15

15 December
Aftercare Closes



Recycling Duty
Monday
27 November
Hippos
Wagtails

5. Improve attendance

If you're able to build outside play and interaction into your curriculum and engage and motivate your pupils to learn from nature, you'll inevitably find that they're more motivated to come to school.

6. Reduce behaviour problems

Whilst learning beyond the classroom certainly means implementing a whole new set of behaviour management processes, on the whole it can often mean a general improvement in behaviour – yet another consequence of children being happy, engaged and motivated.

7. Develop interest in the environment and wider surroundings

Learning outside gives us a great opportunity to teach children about the environment and about our local area. This is an important part of developing them as responsible citizens, which can be difficult to convey in the classroom.

8. Expose children to new opportunities

Imagine the knowledge gained through work and dealing with our animals and planting our own vegetables would bring to expanding the children's worldview and self esteem. It might lead to more creative and entrepreneurial thinking.

9. Keep healthy

Even if we're just going to work a few feet from the confines of our classrooms, well directed outdoor learning opportunities through our outdoor projects can offer a great opportunity for fresh air and exercise.

10. Enjoy almost limitless resources

One of the key benefits of learning outside is that we have the most amazingly well resourced stock cupboard you could hope for. So many things to see and learn from. Nature is one of the best teachers we can ever hope to introduce our children to. As a school we are committed to engage with nature to better educate our children.

Aquaponics Project: Parents work day

Please join us for our first work day to kick off the vegetable garden project. We are looking at 2 December from 07h30 to 11h00. Our plan for this day will be to literally "break ground".

We will dig tunnels to lay piping and move sand from our hill as well as set the greenhouses in place. If you are interested in joining, please let Monique know at moniquev@elkanah.co.za

We would also like to call on all of our parents as you spring clean this holiday, to set aside all unwanted gutters, pipes and fittings, water containers or empty plastic 20l paint buckets that you don't use anymore. We will recycle all of these into our aquaponics system. Any working fountain pumps and accessories are also welcome.

We have already received 3 bath tubs, thank you so much to those parents who donated these to this project.



New pinafore for JP girls

Please note that the design of the new JP pinafore will only be available from the Uniform Shop from Monday next week. We apologise for this inconvenience but there was a design fault in the first batch which needed to be remedied.

Support Staff Contributions

We are approaching that time of the year to show our appreciation and thanks to our support staff workers.

This year we are trying something different and are collecting small cash donations from our families to put towards buying our support staff gift vouchers from Pick n Pay. If you would like to contribute towards this, please send your donation to school in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it.

We thank you for your support and know that our support staff will be very appreciative of this kind gesture!

Please place your contribution in the post box in the foyer or send the contribution to your child's class teacher.

Health Tip of the Week

Be Sunwise



1. **Limit outdoor playtime** between 10am. and 4pm. Avoid unnecessary exposure when the sun's rays are at their strongest. Even on cloudy or cooler days, ultraviolet (UV) rays remain strong. Shady spots can be just as tricky because of reflected light. If your child is playing outdoors during these hours, make sure to apply sufficient sunscreen.
2. **Apply sunscreen properly.** Generously apply sunscreen 30 minutes before your child goes out in the sun. Choose a sunscreen with SPF (Sun Protection Factor) 30 or higher. Reapply sunscreen every 2 to 3 hours, or after sweating or swimming.
3. **Cover up.** Wearing protective clothing and hats is one of the most important ways of warding off UV damage. Protective clothing, hats with brims, and sunglasses are just as important for babies. At the beach, bring along a large umbrella.
4. **Keep watch on medications.** Some medications increase the skin's sensitivity to the sun, so make sure to ask your doctor whether your child may be at risk. Prescription antibiotics and acne medications are the most notorious culprits, but when in doubt, ask.
5. **Set a good example for your kids.** If your child sees you following sun-safety rules, he or she will take them for granted and follow suit. Skin protection is important for every member of the family, so team up with your children to stay protected when venturing out in the sun.



Brain Buster of the Week

Last week's answer: You draw a shorter line next to it, and it becomes the longer line.

Can you guess this week's brain buster?

Q: A man was outside taking a walk, when it started to rain. The man didn't have an umbrella and he wasn't wearing a hat. His clothes got soaked, yet not a single hair on his head got wet. How could this happen?

Please place your answers in the post box in the foyer by Tuesday morning.



TEACHING CHILDREN COPING SKILLS FOR LIFE

"I highly recommend the KWC course. The skills they learn will help throughout their lives. We teach our kids to read, write, play sport, dance, do maths etc - yet so much of their success in life also depends on their emotional development and skills. The course provides great practical input and will help with their confidence." - parent of KWC participant

KIDS WHO CAN is an 8 week course for 7 - 10 year old boys and girls (Gr1 to 4), designed to equip them with tools and techniques that will help them deal with feelings and life's challenges and empower them throughout their lives. Includes a parent and child workshop after the final lesson.

Some of what the course covers:

- How to deal with bullying
- Tools to cope with anger and other uncomfortable feelings
- Tools to help reduce stress and anxiety
- Self calming techniques
- Self protection and body awareness
- Self esteem and self confidence.

When: Every Thursday for 9 weeks from 25 January 2018

Time: 3:30 to 5:00pm **Where:** 3 Starfish Close, Blouberg **Facilitator:** Louise Roos

Cost: R2400 (Includes 8 lessons, 1,5hours long followed by a 2 hour parent & child workshop)

* Payment plan over 3 months available

Parent & child workshop: Thursday 22 March from 3:30 to 5:30pm

FOR MORE INFO:

Michelle Schoon: 082 3444231 | Email: admin@kidswhocancommunity.co.za

www.kidswhocancommunity.co.za  Kids Who Can





ELKANAH HOUSE

Christmas
MARKET

Delicious food stalls | gift stalls
Grade 7 entrepreneurial gift stalls

FRIDAY EVENING
01 DECEMBER 2017 @ 17:30

85 Sunningdale Drive, Sunningdale

