

ELKANAH HOUSE

Weekly Newsletter



Weekly Newsletter - Pre-Primary

Bible verse - prior to the elections

3 May 2019

1 John 5:14-15

14 *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

15 *And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

Dear Parents

To date we have introduced two of our Global Competency crew members to our pupils and parents; 'Management Mia' (self-management skills) and 'Social Siya' (social skills). Another crew member that has been introduced, and is now being explicitly taught this term, is 'Kylie Comms' who represents our COMMUNICATION SKILLS. These are the skills we need when we interact with the people around us in different contexts.

Personal interaction and communication skills relate to our ability to connect with others where social rules and relationships are created, communicated and often changed in both verbal and non-verbal formats. These skills can be tricky to navigate, especially when pupils need to complete an activity that involves group work and each individual's possible contribution needs to be taken into consideration. We need to guide our pupils to be flexible in their thinking, to motivate others and to encourage respectful participation.

By familiarising ourselves with Kylie Comms, our children will learn to:

- * Listen in order to understand
- * Communicate effectively with their peers
- * Encourage group communication
- * Express their opinions clearly

DATES TO Diarise

6-10 May
Pre-primary
Photographs

13 May
Sibling Photographs

13 May
One Day Without Shoes

18 May
Open Day

22 May
Cross-country

4-12 June
Extra-mural Bookings

21 June
Break up Day



Recycling Duty
6 May
Alligators

At a Junior Primary level, digital literacy is beginning to play a role in how our children communicate in various contexts. Pupils are learning to work together creatively to design and prepare different types of presentations and products. This means that a pupil needs to be able to draw from different tools and platforms, choose an appropriate one and use it effectively. Through these platforms, pupils then inform, instruct, motivate, persuade and communicate to a specific audience in an appropriate, clear and articulate manner.

Sharing messages and information through digital, interpersonal, written, visual, oral and nonverbal communication are essential in the day and age we find ourselves. Learning these at a young age and being able to successfully apply them in a required context, and to the audience they find themselves dealing with, will stand our pupils in good stead for the future.

Open Day

Elkanah House Sunningdale and Blouberg campuses are very proud to be hosting another Open Day on 18 May. We would like all the Elkanah Blouberg Community to join us for a morning of enrichment and fun. There will be various learning stations, linking into our Global Competencies which will be available for your child to explore. This will provide our pupils and our parents with a deeper understanding of how we are equipping each child with the necessary and relevant skills to embrace their futures.

World Book Week

We have celebrated World Book Day in several formats over the years. Our objective is always to promote reading and the love of books. We also aim to provide an enriching book experience with deep, focussed learning and not just a dress-up day. In our experience, we have found that the most successful way to achieve this, is to have a focus either on an author, as we did last year, or focus on a particular story.

We chose Cinderella this year because our concert, which will take place early next term, is a version of Cinderella. This means that the focus can be sustained and that the learning can be even greater. Naturally, we gravitate to the story that we know, either the Grimms Fairy Tale, or the adapted Walt Disney version. However, we discovered that there are a great many different versions of the story of Cinderella from many parts of the world. Some are factual and some are fiction, some have an element of magic and some don't, some are ancient and some are modern and some of them have completely reversed characters.

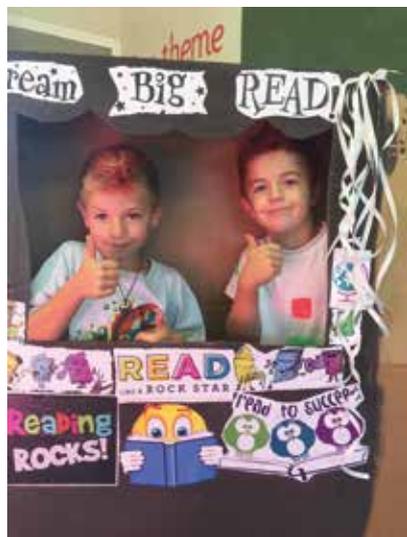
In keeping with the global movement to provide Inquiry Based Learning, we used the story of Cinderella and explored the different versions (of which there are many). We compared the stories, created a deeper understanding, questioned what could be different, investigated if there are any historical connections, made predictions, discussed similarities and differences, morals and values, real or make-believe and viewed the story from different aspects. These critical skills are essential in the education of this generation.

A simple fairy tale can certainly be so much more.



Report from Gr R

Our Cinderella theme for book week brought about wonderful inquiry based learning opportunities. The Grade R's visited the library where we found such interesting versions of the story such as "Glass slipper, Gold Sandal – a worldwide Cinderella", "Cinderella, an Islamic Tale" and "Cindy Ellen a wild western Cinderella" to name just a few. A common thread in this story is "the clock strikes 12" - and so our Grade R's began their journey of clocks and time. It is super cute how every morning someone will look up and say "Pack up time everyone, the big hand is on the 12 – it's 8 O'clock! Time to start school". The cherry on top was a fun day on Friday where the children were encouraged to come dressed as their favourite character from the many versions of the story we had covered that week.



One day without shoes

"One day without shoes" is a wonderful initiative which helps to bring the community together to raise awareness and collect shoes for the millions of people around the world who grow up and go to school without shoes.

On Monday, 13 May Elkanah House students will have a day without shoes and we encourage the children to come to school barefoot on that day! Because it's a cold time of year, it highlights the importance of shoes. For the collection of shoes, we would be grateful if each child could bring a donation of any pair or pairs of shoes to school on that day. Please can each pair of shoes be tied together or have an elastic band placed around them and we request that the donated shoes are still suitable to be worn again and are in a reasonable condition. The shoes will be distributed, via SALT Ministries, to people in the Joe Slovo and Dunoon area. Please note that this is an Elkanah House initiative and the whole school will be involved. We thank you for your support. Junior Primary children are requested to wear their sports uniform on this day.