



The Cotswold News

The Cotswold Country Montessori School
 51 Dickinson Rd, Benoni North
 Tel: 079 366 7772

Dates to note

- 30 January Preschool Parents' evening
- 30 January SISA Athletics
- 2 February Primary School Sport Day
- 7 February Preschool Show
Mini Science Lab
- 14 February Valentine's Chocolates
- 16 February Friendship Dance
Primary School
- 1 March Primary School Book Dress
up Day
- 1 March Preschool Sports Day
- 1- 6 March Mid-term Break
- 7 March Entrepreneurs Day
Wattle House
- 8 March Parents' Information Evening
- 9 March SISA Chess
- 12-16 March School Photographs
- 14 March Preschool Show
Healthy Body, Healthy Mind
- 16 March Camp Out Pre-primary -
Year 3

Welcome to 2018

Just as we have welcomed in the new year with exciting, positive expectations so we also extend a heartfelt Cotswold welcome to new pupils and warm greetings to all our returning families as we anticipate the great opportunities in store for us this year, 2018.

During the festive season maintenance of the Casa de Bambini environment was conducted. The rooms were painted and new lighting installed to brighten the classrooms. Extra grass was planted on the school's open fields and many trees were pruned, allowing more sunlight for the grass to grow. The school irrigation from the boreholes is been used to ensure the grass is well established before winter approaches. We are mindful of using this precious resource carefully as we

consider the dire water situation in Cape Town where limited water is available.

The school year began with the Governing Body meeting on 11 January for their first meeting of the

year. The school held a Montessori Information Day on the 13th January 2018 for interested parents in the greater Benoni Community. Staff and some pupils were on hand to share the benefits of this method with interested families who came.

We are pleased to see that pupils have settled into the school year and our younger children are getting into the routine of attending a Montessori morning of work. It takes time for children to begin to demonstrate their independence in being able to look at the variety of materials available in the classroom and to choose something they have been shown how to work with, to work with it in the correct way and then to return it to its place. This is the way to develop an organised mind and an independent child who is practising critical thinking skills each time they make a good choice of an activity.

Lastly, on behalf of all teachers I would like to express our gratitude to parents and pupils for the heartfelt messages and gifts received at the end of 2017. It was such a great pleasure to teach all of our special pupils last year and we wish them a wonderful educational journey in 2018.

Anticipating a great year of purposeful activity.



Bev Hilder
Principal Directress

2018 - Year 7's

The year 7 pupils have taken on their roles as the seniors of the school with gusto and responsibility. We wish them all the best for their Year 7 year.



2018 - Year 1's

Our year 1 pupils have impressed us with their good adjustment to the lower primary section of our school. They have been thrilled at the prospect of learning new things and getting to know their new environments, friends and teachers.



Extra Murals 2017 - Term 1

In-house extra-murals will take place between 13:45 and 14:30 from 12 February onwards. Pupils who participate in the wildlife club will be asked to pay R30 for the term to Jamie who will be able to accommodate 20 children on a first-come-first-served basis. Pupils who attend quiz are encouraged to bring a current newspaper along with them.

Parents will receive information about extra-murals provided by external providers directly from those providers – these activities will include dancing, tennis and Soccer Stars. Demonstration lessons will be held during school hours.

Day	Extra Mural	Venue	Time	Level	Person /Responsible
Monday	Musical Theatre Commences 29 January	Events' Centre	13:45 – 14:30	Primary	Xolani Zuma
Tuesday	Soccer Skills	Main Field	13:45-14:30	Primary Year 1 to 3	Sarah MacCarron
Tuesday	Wildlife Club	Tree House	13:45 -14:30	Primary Year 3 to 7	Jamie Connoway
Wednesday	Recorder Club - commences 31 January	Main Fields	13:45 - 14:30	Upper Primary	Xolani Zuma
Wednesday	Chess	Gate House	13:45- 14:30	Primary Year 3 to 7	Jane Engels
Thursday	Netball Skills	Main Field	13:45- 14:30	Primary Year 1 to 3	Barbara Merifield
Thursday	Quiz	Wattle House	13:45- 14:30	Primary Year 4 to 7	Heidi Fataar

Notices

E mail addresses

We would like to remind our parents that they are to update their email addresses. The school will continue to send monthly statements and other newsworthy items via the emailing system.

Aftercare

Parents have 15 minutes to fetch children after their school closing times, thereafter pupils will be sent to aftercare or homework class and parents will need to sign them out. This additional service will be charged for as per the school's fee structure on individual accounts.

Emergency Information

Information forms have been sent home to parents for completion. This information will be required by the school as soon as possible so that emergency contact information can be updated.

Reading parents

Our lower primary teachers would appreciate the assistance of any parents or grandparents who would be willing to give of their time to listen to the pupils reading during school hours. Please let Tersia Smit know if you are available to participate in this rewarding activity.

Pupil Lunches

Parents are reminded not to give their preschool child products containing nuts or peanut butter sandwiches, as there are preschoolers who are highly allergic to peanuts. Primary School children with allergies must be reminded not to share lunches. We also ask parents to pack healthy lunches for their children from Monday to Thursday. Fridays are a treat day and as such money may be sent to enable your child to purchase tuck. Please send a labelled water bottle to school with your child. Juices are not as refreshing and healthy as water and can also be very messy.

Parking Area :

There are four dedicated parking bays closest to the school gate, which are "DROP OFF ZONES ONLY" for PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ONLY. Please do not park in these bays. These are for primary school parents who drop their children off and don't get out of their cars. Please be very careful when driving through the parking area, drive slowly and keep an eye out for children.

Tuck Shop Moms:

Our tuckshop is in need of moms who can help on Friday mornings. If you are willing to volunteer your time, even if it is only once a term, please speak to Nicola Beech or Tersia Smit in the office. We really appreciate this help and remind parents that all tuck shop profits go directly towards our building fund.

Tuck shop :

Please note that increases in the prices of some tuck shop items were necessary this year. Sweets range in price from R1 to R6, chocolates are R5 each, chips and popcorn are R6 each, juice and water are both R6 each and pizza is now R15 per slice (half slices can be ordered by preschoolers for R8).

Governing body

We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a preschool parent. If you, as a preschool parent, would be willing to make yourself available as a member of the Governing Body, please inform the school office.

Hats

All pupils are expected to wear a wide-brimmed navy blue hat when playing or working outside. These may be purchased through your child's teacher at R75 each. Samples are available in the office to ensure correct sizing.

Schools new Website

A new website will be live in the coming months as we plan and are busy upgrading our current one. We are anticipating it will be easier to navigate and will be compatible with all electronic devices.