



No 2
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2015

Contact Details
CELL: 072 650 5666
TEL: 465 2422/3
FAX: 086 504 8511/467 3501
www.unity-college.org.za
www.unitycollege.org.za
Aftercare: 083 755 5968

Unity College Weekly Newsletter

Download the following documents from our website:

- ❖ [Term plan Term 1](#)
- ❖ [School Calendar 2015 \(UPDATED\)](#)

School closing times

Mondays and Wednesdays

(Extra-mural days)

School closes at 3.00 p.m. for ALL learners (but not for the first week of a school term).

Tuesdays and Thursdays

School closes at 1.30 p.m. for all Juniors School
closes at 2.00 p.m. for Intermediates and Seniors

Fridays

School closes at 1.00 p.m. for ALL learners

Please advise lift schemes of these times as some children wait for at least an hour after school before they are collected.

Why blame the mother

I've heard so many mothers say - "It's hard ... they look at my child thinking that I've done something wrong".

When something goes wrong, we often seek someone to blame. Having someone to blame is comforting, it allows our society to believe that by avoiding that person's "mistakes", everyone else will be spared their fate.

Historically it has been mothers who have taken the blame for anything going wrong with a pregnancy - miscarriage, preterm birth, still birth, baby with disabilities, baby with genetic disorders, a low birth weight baby and on and on and on. In earlier times it was believed that it was the mother's sins which caused the disability.

Women were blamed for not following doctor's orders or folk wisdom - carrying anything heavier than a frying pan would cause a miscarriage.

Today's belief is that women can prevent birth defects by what she does or doesn't do during pregnancy. Strong public health messages suggest that by taking good care of yourself during your pregnancy, you will prevent most defects - an unfortunate message to give to the healthy women who just gave birth to a child with a disability.

Louise Kinross (editor of Bloom Magazine) says it perfectly, "... in 70% of birth defects the cause is unknown. Let's speak the truth about how much we don't know about the causes of childhood disability and, more importantly, how to prevent it. Let's tell the truth about how a healthy mom can just as easily produce an unhealthy baby, or a healthy baby with a disability. Disability is not necessarily synonymous with poor health."

We really do have less control over this than we think. Disabilities are often random, due to genetics, and cannot be prevented no matter how healthy you were during your pregnancy. Let's protect women whose children have been born with disabilities from being blamed, and from blaming themselves. Every mother wants the best for her child, and in most cases it's not something that they did.

Nina Zylstra
Editor of Special Kids

Intermediate & Senior Gala

All the children have been practising in this heat, splashing around, correcting their strokes and above all having fun, to make sure they are ready for the gala. A letter regarding gala arrangements was sent home with your child. Please return the reply slip by tomorrow.

[Read more...](#)

Junior Social



On Saturday the 24th of January the Junior Department held their annual swimming picnic social.

Thank you for your continued support at our events.

[Read more...](#)



Remember to drop your empty glass bottles or jars into the bin at Unity.

Unity School Caps

The wearing of these caps is compulsory. By the end of this term, we would like every child in the school to have a cap. The caps will be kept at school in your child's register class. Please order your child's cap through Debbie at the office R55.00.

Occupational therapy department

Adri is looking for a mum or gran who will be willing to help her make weighted jackets and toys for the therapy department.

Aftercare

Aftercare is open daily throughout the term from 13:30 / 14:00 / 15:00 until 17:30.

FEES:

Regular - R1000.00 per month

Casual -R 100.00 per day

Please contact Hazel on 083 755 5968 should you require further information.

Entrance stickers for parent's / lift scheme cars

Please collect your 201/16 sticker from Debbie. If no sticker is displayed on your car, you will have to sign in with the guard as from today.

The sticker must be placed on the OUTSIDE of your windscreen on the bottom right hand corner (when sitting in the car).

A banner for MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet. It features a rainbow logo and text: "R15 000 CASH JUST FOR YOU", "Update your profile before 28 Feb & stand a chance to win.", and a red button that says "Update profile >". A woman is smiling on the right side.

A banner for "BACK TO SCHOOL WIN R5000 TOWARDS SCHOOL FEES". It features a shield logo with a red ribbon and a red button that says "Read how >". Text on the right says: "Win R5 000 towards your child's schools fees!", "Swipe your MySchool card at Woolworths, Waltons Africa, Toys'R'Us and kalahari.com before 31 Jan and stand a chance to win R5 000 towards your child's school fees!".

A banner with a yellow background. Text on the left says: "Get a MySchool Card now >" and "Only takes one minute". Text on the right says: "Senior Leavers to follow link below: please keep supporting Unity College".

Unity's New School | Progress

Progress at the new campus has moved along even more than when you had the opportunity to view it in November. Mr. Botha is now permanently stationed there and invites all parents to visit and have a personalised tour of the facilities.

[Read more...](#)

Kids News Website Revamp

New theme, new articles, new videos, new sections & online shop. We have re-launched an exciting and user friendly new look. We have a new section on [Special Needs](#), and our [A - Z Listing](#) is now easier to use. We have our [KIDS NEWS ONLINE SHOP](#) where you can purchase books, playground equipment, and stacking cups, CDs etc. for your kids as well as items for mom and dad. Save time & money, **shop without hassle.**

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS? WE ARE EXPANDING THIS SECTION ON KIDS NEWS..... [CLICK HERE](#) FOR MORE INFO

Labelling of Items

A **reminder** to please mark your child's clothing and stationery items, lunch box etc clearly with a permanent marker.

We have a large amount of unmarked clothing which if unclaimed will go to our second hand shop.



School Uniform Orders

School badges are available from Debbie in the office White school badges are to be sewn onto all white school shirts or white golf shirts.

Blue school badges are to be sewn onto all Unity school tracksuits that do not have badges. The badges cost R25 each.

Tracksuits, sports shirts, school caps and ties should also be ordered through Debbie. She will be placing an order towards the end of this week for sports shirts, tracksuits and caps. Please contact her urgently for orders. She will measure your child for size.

Upcoming Events

Unity School Gala (Intermediates & Seniors)

at Heronbridge College
Wednesday 4 February at 17:00

Unity Junior Gala at Unity College

Saturday 7 February at 9:00

Senior Camp at Konka

9 - 12 February

HALF TERM

27 Feb - 2 March

UNITY SPORTS DAY

Saturday 14 March at 09h00

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 16 March at 18:00

PLEASE DIARISE THESE EVENTS

Note from Business Manager

A reminder that school fees are payable in advance on or before the 5th of each month.

A full term's notice is required should your child be leaving Unity College.

Please note Henry's new telephone number (011) 460 0017 or cell 082 801 1918

Unity Bus Routes

We have three bus routes to and from Unity.

We have spaces available on each of our routes. (Parktown, North Riding and Midrand)

Please contact Henry on (011) 460 0017 or on his cell 082 801 1918 should you wish to find out more about these routes.

DISCLAIMER:

Any advertisement placed in this newsletter is done as a service to the community Unity serves. This should not be viewed as an endorsement or recommendation of any product or service advertised.

Individual development planning meetings (idp's)

A personal invitation is extended to all parents to meet the "Unity team" (Principal, HOD, Class teacher and Therapist involved with your child) on an individual family basis.

These are special meetings held twice a year with parents to discuss their child.

For new parents - a full explanation of IDP's will be found in the "pack" given to you.

Your child's teacher will send a copy of your child's IDP home prior to your child's class IDP date.

If, after perusing the IDP, you wish to make an appointment with the team, please phone Debbie or Mads to book your half hour appointment.

Junior Tracey	09 February
Junior Monya	16 February
Junior Vicky	19 February
Intermediate 3, 4 & 5	11 February
Intermediate LO & Int 1, 2	12 February
Senior L/O	27 January
Senior 2/3 & 4	03 February
Senior 1	17 February

Parents are requested to please be considerate towards other parents and ensure that you are on time for your appointment so as not to cause a delay for the next appointment.

Cara celebrates her Birthday



From the Principal's Pen

Mundane Chores can teach us a lot.

Ever been faced with a large pile of ironing to chomp through on hot afternoon? A sink full of dirty dishes after a meal?

We are faced with these mundane tasks every day and often we don't want to complete them but ... we must.

Often we are not quite sure where we are going find the strength to complete them and are usually faced with challenges like load shedding or water cut offs. But, we somehow we manage to iron out the wrinkles on that dress or shirt or pack away a pile of gleaming plates and glasses.

When commencing with the task, we don't definitely know how long it will take. We are not exactly sure how creased that shirt is. We don't have the precise number of dirty glasses. But.. we manage the task as it unfolds. We instinctively practise those life skills of adaptability, tenacity and "on the spot management".

Just so, when managing a school move and development. We are also faced with a pile of fresh laundry and sometimes we are not sure or can't definitely quantify how long it may take to iron that stubborn creased skirt. We too must exercise those skills of adaptability to iron out the wrinkles during this process.

The effect of this? Sometimes arrangements WILL be altered and times will be stretched or shortened as we wade through our daily chore of bringing sense to this cluttered sink of dishes and overflowing basket of laundry we face during this fluid time.

Till next week
Bruce Lindsay