

# Unity College Weekly Newsletter

Download the following documents from our website:  
Term plan Term 1  
School Calendar 2015 (UPDATED)

## Junior Swimming Gala at Unity



The junior annual gala was a great success.

The school was buzzing with cheer and support through the morning. Our Red Bishops won the overall scoring although there was close competition with all the team houses.

The Yellow Weavers took the spirit cup after their great cheering and war cries.

Congratulations to the best swimmers on the day, Stephanie Pringle and Kaelo Wessie.  
Congratulations to our medal winners Joshua Noome, Zena Bodington and Sam Walsh.

## Welcome

We welcome Stefan Fourie and Jarrod van der Westhuizen to the Unity Family. Both boys have entered into the spirit of Unity by going on the senior camp. Well done boys!

## Unity Value - Loyalty

For the next few weeks we will be working on the value of Loyalty. What is loyalty?

**Loy·al·ty**  
[loi-uhl-tee] *noun*  
the *state* or quality, or an instance of being **loyal**; FAITHFULNESS to commitments or **obligations**.

**An ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.**  
~ Elbert Green Hubbard ~

Loyalty is essential to every relationship we have in life that matters - friendship, family, community, country, faith. The loyal person acts for and stays with and remains committed even when loyalty can be personally disadvantageous or costly for the loyal person to do so.

Loyalty means unswerving allegiance in what you do. It is in your mind and heart. Loyalty can be demanding and involve sacrifice. Loyalty is a form of LOVE. It is directed to another person or cause.

Loyalty is faithfulness or a devotion to a person, country, group, or cause. Philosophers disagree as to what things one can be loyal to. Some argue that one can be loyal to a broad range of things, whilst others argue that it is only possible for loyalty to be to another person and that it is strictly interpersonal.

## Senior Camp at Konka

Our Seniors certainly seem to be having a wonderful time on camp with fun activities like Ranauk trying to miss "land mines" whilst blindfolded, a walk in the dark, swimming and exploring nature within the camp. Jarrod pictured here fascinated by a snail.



The seniors are expected back at school around 12:00 noon, at which time they can be collected.

To view photos of camp visit our website

[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. The caps will be kept at school in your child's register class. We are expecting our next order of caps before sports day. Hurry to order your cap with Debbie at the office Payment of R55.00 will secure your order.

## Talk at Unity 20 March 2015

We are delighted to INVITE YOU to an informative talk by Clinical Psychologist Jeanine Lamusse who graduated Cum Laude at the University of Johannesburg when she completed her masters in Clinical Psychology.

[Read more...](#)

## 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 2015/16 sticker from Debbie. If no sticker is displayed on your car, you will have to sign in with the guard.

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

## Unity's New School | Progress

After the Junior Gala on Saturday, a group of parents and staff members went to view our new school premises. They were wowed at the progress of the new campus. Mr. Botha is permanently stationed there and invites all parents to visit and have a personalised tour of the facilities.

[Read more...](#)

## Kids News Website

Kids News is a portal site for South African parents, teachers, therapists and others involved with children.

Our website and newsletters will help to keep you up to date on events and workshops - educational and recreational - as well as holiday camps and entertainment, products and services for children, and other ideas to help you in your role as parent.

Register for the newsletter in your area (see left menu) and we will keep you informed. We don't share your email, and you may adjust your subscription

[Read more...](#)



## FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2015

### Unity mr & miss valentine & civvies day R5

With all the love in the air surrounding good old Valentine's day around the corner, it only seems fitting to get the red, pink and white outfits out and ready for our best dressed on Friday.

Click on the heart to read more about this exciting event:



We look forward to the support on Friday!

## Upcoming Events

### SENIOR CAMP AT KONKA

9 - 12 February

### VALENTINES COMPETITION AT UNITY

Friday 13 February

### HALF TERM

27 Feb - 2 March

### UNITY SPORTS DAY

Saturday 14 March at 09h00

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 16 March at 18:00

## Note from Business Manager

Please note 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

If making a payment by EFT, please remember to send proof of payment to [henry@unity-college.org.za](mailto:henry@unity-college.org.za). If it involves Debbie in some way i.e. uniform orders, please copy her in too.

## 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)

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 Mads to book your half hour appointment.

Junior Monya	16 February
Junior Vicky	19 February
Intermediate LO & Int 1, 2	12 February
Senior 1	17 February

## From the Principal's Pen

Children go to school to learn, of course. But parents of children with alternative educational needs often ask, "How will I know my child is learning and making progress?"

### A parent's guide to progress:

For most parents, there are two main areas that concern them about their child's education:

- Is my child happy at school?
- Is my child making good progress at school?

The first of these questions is vital to get right

- A happy child is more likely to make progress in their work. For most parents, it is easy to tell if their child is happy at school through discussion with their child and the class teacher. In recent IDP's, it was pleasing to note that the vast majority of pupils at Unity College do enjoy school, and parents are quick to inform us of any concerns so that they can be dealt with quickly.

The second question is often harder for parents to answer.

- All pupils progress at different rates, and some children who have particular difficulties with learning may progress at a slower rate than their peers. The child's IDP will break down the next steps in learning into achievable targets which will be worked on in school and shared with the parent and child. IDPs are reviewed regularly, with new targets added as a child makes progress in their learning.

But parents should not leave all the checking to school personnel. Parents need to be involved in making sure that their child is progressing. Parents can gain valuable insight into their son's or daughter's learning by carefully observing him or her at home and in the community. To get a complete picture of their child's progress, parents need to consider information from several sources.

Parents can gather important information by observing their child in settings outside the classroom, such as at home, at the supermarket, in the playground, or at the mall. These observations may reveal progress in a child's development, academic skills, social skills, or behavior. For example, parents may notice that their child can speak more clearly when ordering a meal in a restaurant, is more confident about reading a book, or can count change more quickly when purchasing an item in the supermarket. They may observe that their child has an easier time making friends or behaves more appropriately with his or her siblings. They may see that their child needs less help to complete homework assignments, takes less time to finish chores, or is able to stay focused for longer periods. Parents may find it helpful to keep track of this information by focusing on a few changes at a time. They can create a valuable record of progress by making a list of two or three areas in which they would like their child to improve and jotting down specific observations over a three-month period. This record can then be shared at teacher conferences or meetings to develop an IDP.

Parents should talk to their child about school, as appropriate. They should ask about how things are going, what subjects are most enjoyable, how much time is spent on particular activities, and which assignments are easiest or most difficult. These types of conversations not only provide parents with useful information; they also help the child develop a critical skill - the ability to monitor his or her own progress. Probably one of the most essential personal skills that make people successful is that ability to monitor personal progress.

So, there is no single test or measuring stick one can use to measure progress at school, it remains a science and art that must be regularly informed and updated by the school, the parents and the child. Let's join and walk fearlessly into the future.

Till next week

*Bruce Lindsay*