



E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

E-mail communication is unquestionably the easiest and fastest form of communication between parents and the school. In many cases it replaces a hand-written note that was once common practice. It enables us to keep in touch with one another on important matters affecting our children. However, are e-mails the best form of communication all the time? Are they being misused at times?

Parents and teachers often use e-mails as a direct form of communication. However, it remains the preference of the individual teacher whether or not he/she would like to use it. This needs to be respected in the same way that we need to understand teachers opting not to share their cell-phone numbers. It is very unfair for teachers to be interrupted at all hours of the day. They too need a well-deserved break and to spend private time with their families.

What is occurring lately, however, is that e-mails are seemingly being used as opportunities to vent, criticize, insult and demand often in a negative and destructive manner. One must remember that there are always two sides to a story, and it would, more often than not, be advisable to arrange a meeting with a teacher, rather than continuous to-and-fro e-mail communication, which often has a counter-productive and undesirable result.

We, as teachers, are very happy to arrange a meeting (rather than e-mail communication) through the school secretary, so that we can sit around a table and have a productive and constructive discussion in the best interests of your child/ren.

Remember that if you would like to talk, the following channels of communication are open to you:

Academic Matters:

1. Always start with the class teacher first or the person with whom you have an issue.
2. If a satisfactory conclusion was not reached, please make an appointment to see the Grade Head.
3. If it needs to be taken further, you can see the Phase Head. In the Foundation Phase it is Mrs Boyes and in the Intersen Phase it is Mr Underwood.
4. If necessary it can be escalated to the Deputy Principal.
5. On very rare occasions will it be necessary to go as high as the Principal.

99% of issues are resolved by engaging in discussion with the class teacher.

Extra-Mural Matters:

1. Always start with the individual coach first.
2. If necessary move up to the code head.
3. The next step would be the Extra-Mural Administrator, Mrs Simoné Marx.
4. The Deputy Principal and Principal should only be brought into the discussion if the situation warrants it.

99% of issues are resolved by engaging in discussion with the individual coach or the person conducting a particular session if not sport.

Cultural Matters:

1. Always start with the individual music teacher first.
2. If necessary, the Head of Music, Mrs O' Reilly can be included.
3. The next step could be the Head of Phases as mentioned above.
4. Lastly, and if necessary, the Deputy Principal or Principal may be included.

99% of issues are resolved by engaging in discussion with the individual music teacher.

Financial Matters:

You can contact Kerri Janse van Rensburg or Marion Pina in the Finance Office.

Please follow the prescribed channels and help us to re-establish good, positive, helpful and constructive communication. We are, after all, on the same team.

Consider the acronym below as food for thought. This was taken from a newsletter of another school. **THINK** carefully before sending an e-mail:

T – is it accurate and **T** rue?

H – is it **H** elpful?

I – is it **I** nspiring?

N – is it really **N** ecessary?

K – is it **K** ind?

Try to “get your point across without stabbing someone with it” (New York Daily Mirror).

Here’s to more constructive discussion.

Neil Pretorius
(Acting Principal)

There’s excitement in the air.....

On Saturday the Governing Body is going to be involved in the interviewing of 5 high-quality candidates for the Principal’s post. Judging by the credentials of these individuals it would appear as if the biggest challenge will be to decide who the preferred candidate will be as it will be difficult to separate them.

What I can assure is that the GB will not take its decisions lightly and that, after consensus has been reached, we will be confident that the correct choice has been made. We can then look forward to the next exciting chapter in the history of our fine school.

Spare a thought for the members of the panel as they apply their minds and energy, from early morning until the evening, in the best interests of the school.

We invite you to share in the excitement, anticipation and eventually the delight at what we hope to be a positive result at the end of the process.

On the subject of staffing, the GB is delighted to inform you that it has secured the services of Miss Carmen Roos who has been nominated in the place of Mrs Wyness (Grade 6), who is sadly due to retire at the end of 2015. Miss Roos will assume her position on 1 January 2016. She obtained her qualification at Stellenbosch University and has three years teaching experience. We believe that she will be a wonderful asset to our school and look forward to welcoming her to the Rhenish family.

Neil Pretorius
(Acting Principal)

REMINDER : An Hour with the GB

26 August 2015 at 7pm in the Bruce Niland School Hall.

Please send questions to the SGB email address at sgb@rhenishprimary.co.za by **Friday 14 August 2015**.

Please note that in order to ensure constructive, structured and effective engaging we will only be able to discuss matters sent to the email address and certain other matters of general concern that have been identified.

SAD NEWS

It is with much sadness that I share with you that Miss Nequita Spoon (Grade 3) has tendered her resignation and will be leaving our school at the end of the year.

She has been offered an opportunity to work in The Netherlands in 2016 and decided to grasp this wonderful chance to broaden her experiences. Fortunately we will still retain her services until the end of this current year. We wish her everything of the best as she makes all her preparations.

Neil Pretorius
(Acting Principal)

Table tennis table for sale: R1,500 (new 2,500).
Contact sanelle@hhcorp.co.za



perseverance

(noun) to keep doing something, even when it is hard



RHENISH HISTORY CORNER

(Series no.55)

A very precious piece of memorabilia moved with us from the old school on the Braak to our new premises...

Our Rhenish Motto: EBENEZER

The word, "Ebenezer", comes from the Old Testament Book of 1 Samuel, 7:12. It means "The Stone of Help" because a stone was positioned between two landmarks to show that: "Hitherto has the Lord helped us", in other words, "thus far/ up to now God has helped us".

Our motto was written as an acrostic in calligraphy as a gift to the school. It was handwritten by Mrs Olga Baumbach (née Weber), who was a pupil at Rhenish, starting school in 1898. She was the granddaughter of Rev. J Weber. Mrs Baumbach was later a member of the School Board, secretary of the School Committee and secretary of the Old Girls' Union. The Weber family was not shy when it came to commitment!

She presented her gift on the occasion of our Centenary Celebration in 1960. Mrs Baumbach's daughter, Lydia, did the lettering in red, Weber House's colour.

This beautiful treasure is on display in the History Corridor outside the Rosalye van Dijk Media Centre.

"Ebenezer is our watchword, for our school our hearts beat strong!"



EVERYONE CAN WRITE POETRY!

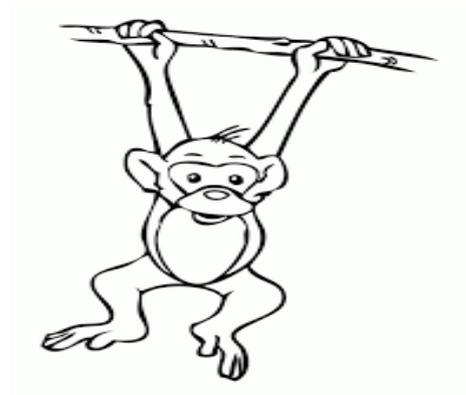
*While still making use of the Word of the Week as a resource,
the Grade 7s needed a good grasp of grammar to be able to
follow the formula for these poems.*

FORMULA:

- #1: Participle, participle, participle
- #2: Noun
- #3: Adverb
- #4: Verb
- #5: Adverbial phrase (time or place)

The Monkey

Climbing, jumping, gliding
the monkey
obnoxiously
destroys
the fruit trees in the orchard.
Conley Seigels



The Intoxicated Man

Undulating, savouring, swallowing
the drunk man
obnoxiously
crashed
to the floor.
Brenton Coombe-Davis



The Surfer

Desiring, relishing, delighting
the surfer
rapidly
paddled
into the rough sea.
Sophia Joubert



MONDAY 17 AUGUST – SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2015

Monday 17 August		Tuesday 18 August	Hockey matches vs St Charles College (touring team) – Boys u/12 and u/13 Chess matches vs St Charles College touring team
Wednesday 19 August	Netball matches vs Weber Gedenk Primary (away) – u/10 to u/13 Rugby matches vs Somerset West Primary (home) Helderberg Choir Eisteddfod at Beaumont Primary (Senior Choir)	Thursday 20 August	10h00: Grade 7 English Public Speaking Hockey matches vs Somerset College (away) Hockey matches vs Outeniqua Primary (home) – boys and girls u/13A
Friday 21 August	14h30: Number Ninjas Maths Festival at Bridgehouse	Saturday 22 August	Water polo tournament at Paul Roos Gymnasium – Boys u/12 and u/13