



## Increasing Parental Interest in order to Raise Standards

While considering how to raise educational standards and achieve measurable targets at Rhenish Primary, an interesting website caught my eye. The Canadian Education Association has based a study on how parental involvement in children's education has a direct impact on their children's progress at school, as well as the knock-on effect of raising standards generally.

### So how do we increase parental interest in learner support?

Three specific areas of involvement whereby parents can engage with their child's school have been identified. The studies suggest that parent involvement affects the actual test scores of their children, as well as their school-based behaviour.

- ▶ **Behavioural involvement:** Parents who are behaviourally involved at school attend the music concert, get their hands dirty at the PTA Day of Action, help with sport functions, serve tea, apply makeup at the production and help with hundreds of practical and necessary tasks around the school. The children's reaction is one of heightened awareness of mom and dad's involvement. They see their parents investing in something that must be worthwhile and so the children's attitude reflects their parents' of commitment to the task. Children are great imitators!
- ▶ **Cognitive involvement:** This involvement is not necessarily taking place at school but rather on the home front. Children are taken to concerts, on outings, to exhibitions. They are provided with books and other stimulating material. They are read to, encouraged to debate, to think for themselves, and to express their views. It is always clear to teachers, which pupils have parents engaging with their children on this level. Usually these children have a broad general knowledge and an enthusiastic, natural love of learning.
- ▶ **Personal involvement:** Parents who are personally involved in their children's education, communicate positively with their children about school to emphasise that they value education. When they talk about school, they accentuate the constructive aspects of the worthwhile process of education. They declare themselves to be life-long learners, where the skills of learning are yours forever – nobody can take away your education! They are excited about opportunities for expansion and enrichment and reinforce the idea that school teaches, not just facts, or better still, skills, but that it teaches about life.

Knowing their parents are interested in their schooling, have a genuine love of learning, desire to know more, explore concepts, talk about ideas and events (rather than people!) and have their child's best interests at heart – as well as the interests of Rhenish Primary as an institution – will put us all on the road to achieving desirable standards.

*Ref. Ca*

Canadian Education Association [www.cea-ace.ca/facts-on-education](http://www.cea-ace.ca/facts-on-education)

**Janet Chapman**  
**Chair of SGB Academic Sub-committee**



**REMINDER : An Hour with the GB .....**

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



# flustered

(verb)

to become agitated or confused



## RHENISH HISTORY CORNER

(Series no.56)

A table is an important piece of furniture!

### Oak Table

For years a tiny, non-descript old table brought across from the old school, was used in the staffroom to serve tea during break. Even the best of table cloths could not disguise its rickety state. Eventually, as staff numbers grew, and the table grew less dependable, a new table was purchased.

Bought in April 1998, it was described on the invoice as “an oak table with an antique finish”. The sturdy legs are known as “elephant legs”.

How grand it seemed to have tea served on such an elegant table! We must remember though, that an investment is for the future, and this beauty will surely be with us for many years to come. It is now used in our Conference Room.



### **MONDAY 24 AUGUST – SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2015**

Monday 24 August		Tuesday 25 August	Netball matches vs Rietenbosch Primary, J J Rhode and Eikestad (home)
Wednesday 26 August	Rugby matches vs A F Louw and Cloeteville Primary (home)  19h00: An Hour with the GB in the school hall	Thursday 27 August	10h15: Grade 5 English Public Speaking  Hockey matches vs Gordon's Bay (away)
Friday 28 August	15h30 – 17h30: Environment Club  15h00 – 19h00: u/13 Top Schools qualifying tournament at Maties astro	Saturday 29 August	08h00 – 13h00: u/8 to u/13 A and B teams netball tournament at Bridge House

### More Gr.7 poetry: List poems entitled...

#### **I come from...**

I come from white sandy beaches  
bikinis, sunscreen and surfing  
church bells and psalms, God and hope.  
I come from camping and adventures  
farms and loud families.  
I come from horse riding  
and chicken feeding  
and more than enough pets.  
I come from good meals  
and Sunday braais: meat and only meat.  
I come from reading  
and creativity, rain spiders  
and robberies.  
I come from 12-hour road trips  
on a mattress in the back of a *bakkie*  
with a twenty-two year old sister.  
I come from climbing trees,  
wild gardens and rainstorms.  
I come from sweet dreams and soft serve,  
tons of love and friendship.  
I come from a world where life is  
what it is.

***Kiera van Heerden***

**I come from** the sound of music  
from nature and curiosity  
I come from a town  
of old Dutch buildings  
historic oaks and verdant vineyards.  
I come from the ocean  
the roaring waves and endless beaches  
from roadtrips and adventure  
I come from the scent of the Karoo  
Sunday lunches, horse rides  
and intriguing books.  
I come from strategy and sport  
from pride, knowledge  
and preferred silence.

***Amy-Lee Hobson***

### "I COME FROM..."

#### **I come from...**

I come from a lifetime of sport  
new tastes, food cooked  
on the braai.  
The way the waves  
crash into the rocks  
and sand slips between your toes.  
I come from family holidays  
in nature  
seeing new places  
and meeting new people.  
I come from  
the region of South Africa  
Western Cape and  
Stellenbosch.  
I come from wine farms  
long motorbike rides  
building forts  
and finding the perfect spots for  
the perfect picnics.  
I come from watching  
the sunset over Table Mountain  
and then the moonrise.  
I come from tractors  
harvests and cellars.  
I come from home.

***Connor Evans***

**I come from** Africa  
the beautiful beaches along the coast  
the awesome taste of *braai* broodjies.  
I come from Portugal  
the country of laughter  
and humour.  
I come from Stellenbosch,  
the family of Rhenish,  
the red house that never gives up.  
I come from a family  
of both academics and culture.

***Brian du Toit***

## **Grade 7 English Public Speaking Competition**

On Thursday 20 August, twelve Gr.7 contestants delighted their audience of peers, parents and teachers, with their wit, enthusiasm, knowledge and originality. To stand before a sea of faces and deliver not only a prepared, but also an unprepared speech, takes a huge amount of courage and daring.

Our adjudicators, Mrs Pam Wyness (internal) and Mrs Sandie Malan (external) had a tough call, selecting via a rubric of criteria, who would be the ultimate winners. Our thanks go to these two ladies who made a great team. We are always appreciative of those who give their time to extend and enrich our learning experiences. Thanks too to all the parents who came in support of their children's big day. We teachers, as well as your children, appreciate your show of solidarity!

### **Ron Underwood and Janet Chapman (*Grade 7 English Educators*)**

#### **Competition Participants:**

(l-r) **Back row:** A Cornelissen, H Reid, A Hobson, M Kelbrick, D Hoffmann, E Brand, M Miller, B Morton

**Front:** M Lochner, E Cutler, L Rissik, E Spotswood



#### **Competition Winners:**

(l-r) A Hobson (3<sup>rd</sup>), L Rissik (2<sup>nd</sup>), E Brand (1<sup>st</sup>), E Spotswood (4<sup>th</sup>)



**We are extremely proud of the Rhenish Primary Orchestra and marimba band that took part in the Artscape Schools Arts Festival last week.**

