

## Minutes of the Parents' meeting held on 7 March 2015 at Kitsong

### Welcome

Mr Krige welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for making the time to attend.

### Introduction

Mr Krige spoke about the difference between being clever and being wise and read a short passage from Proverbs chapter 1. The basic message was that being wise is knowing the difference between right and wrong and choosing to do right. He spoke about the importance of home in a child's education and of a strong partnership between home and school. He said that, on the whole, it was clear that Kitsong children had been brought up with a strong sense of values at home.

Mr Krige also commented on how much the children have learnt in the few weeks they have been at Kitsong and congratulated the parents on their children.

### Reports

The Interim Academic Feedback document was briefly explained and the feeling from parents was that it is a helpful document and greatly appreciated.

The end of term report will be issued on the last day of school and will only reflect a mark for each subject, the class average for each subject and a tutor comment. This report will be used for promotion purposes.

### Tablets

Any new technology has advantages and disadvantages. Kitsong is a forerunner in our use of Tablets and is being recognised as such. We all need to help the children look after their tablets and be aware of what they have loaded onto their tablets. Children are sharing games, which are being brought from home as they are not able to access the internet at school. We reserve the right to delete games, and any other software, from their tablets and ask parents to do likewise.

### Homework

Children always have work they could be and should be doing at home. They have access to novels which they can download onto their tablets and they should spend time reading every day. They also receive homework in other subjects and parents' views on homework were called for. The issue of parents not knowing what homework was given for the following day was raised and there was a brief discussion on recording homework for parents to check. Mr Krige pointed out that these children would be in Matric in 3 ½ years time and that they need to transition into being independent learners. This may result in some work not being done, but it is part of maturing and taking control of their learning. Hopefully the Interim Academic Feedback will be an indicator of children who are not doing their work.

### Moodle

The Moodle site was briefly demonstrated. Moodle is proving to be a success in the number of questions each child does in a day and for which s/he receives immediate feedback. To date 54 000 questions have been answered and marked, which is staggering considering there are only 40 students at Kitsong.

### Uniform

The winter uniform was discussed and pictures shown. Please see the post on uniform. The question was asked why we have stayed with the royal blue and not revisited the question of colour as parents liked the idea of a purple shirt when asked in November 2014.

### Sport

Mr Krige re-iterated that sport is compulsory as it is good for children. The quantex short which will be our sport uniform (to be worn at practice) was demonstrated. Match kit and colours still need to be discussed. The point was made that it is essential that children wear sport shoes or takkie for sport and not ruin their school shoes.

#### Tuckshop

The person who was selling food seems to have stopped which is not surprising given our small numbers. Parents were encouraged to provide suitable food for packed lunches so that their children can make and pack their own food for school. This is a healthier and cheaper option than sending money to school.

#### Parent Functions and Structures

Parents play an important role in any school. Mr Krige encouraged parents to connect and organise functions (bring and braai etc.) It was suggested after the meeting that a 'whatsapp' group be formed.

#### Website

The website [kitsong.co.za](http://kitsong.co.za) is our main means of communication. Please visit it regularly to see posts on what is happening in the life of Kitsong.

Another means of communicating is via bulk sms. One is able to reply to an sms if necessary but cannot initiate a conversation.

#### Question time

- A question was asked about spiritual input. Specifically, there was a request for more spiritual input along the lines of a church school as suggested on the website and at previous meetings. Mr Krige replied that assembly focussed on a message but that stronger bonds in this area are being looked into.
- There was a request for the gate on the side opposite Luka Road to be unlocked before and after school to allow children who live that side easy access. This will be followed up on.

The meeting closed and tea was served.