



BPS MONTHLY NEWS

FINAL EDITION 2019

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Dates to Diarise 2020

- 13 Jan: Staff Return for 2020 Academic Year
- 13 Jan: Aftercare re-opens
- 15 Jan: Start of Term 1
- 16 Jan: New Parent Welcome
- 17 Jan: School dismisses @ 12:15 due to Staff Development
- 20 –23 Jan: Swimming Trials for Gala
- 20 Jan: Meet the Teacher Meetings
- 27 Jan: Start of 2020 Extra-Mural Programme
- 29-31 Jan: Grade 5 on Outdoor Ed Camp—Villiersdorp
- 29-31 Jan: Grade 7 on Outdoor Ed Camp—Franschoek

For more Term 1 Dates please visit the D6 Communicator

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of another busy, but exhilarating year at BPS, let us pause for a moment and reflect on all that has been achieved during the 2019 Academic Year.

The WCED declared this year, 2019, the 'Year of the Learner', and thus, every undertaking at BPS was geared towards giving our learners opportunities to explore and grow as individuals. BPS can be described as a school of opportunities, where we focus on the development of the whole child. While the delivery of the curriculum is our core function, we believe in granting our learners opportunities beyond the classroom walls, in the spheres of sport, culture and service. Our choirs and orchestra participated in prestigious outside events, learners participated in Mathematics and Language Competitions, the World Scholars Cup, various sports tournaments, poetry, art and drama events, and so much more. We certainly lived out our school vision of "Holistic education which inspires and nurtures extra-ordinary human beings".

Aristotle, the famous philosopher, said, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all". This statement sums up what BPS is all about.

I am sure we are all still basking in the euphoria of the Springboks being crowned world champions earlier this year. They were carried not just by the support of the nation, but by believing that they were "#stronger together". This can certainly be applied to BPS: we are stronger together when we are all working towards the common goal of keeping BPS at the forefront of educational excellence.

I wish to acknowledge every single staff member in every department of our school who, through his or her own skills and talents, contributes to the greater good of this organisation. I am certainly blessed to work alongside such remarkable individuals, whose servant hearts are committed to enhancing the lives of the learners in their care.

Thank you to our School Governing Body members, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the rest of the parent body. We thank Mr. Young, Mr. Freese, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Baumgaurt and Mr. Williams for their expertise and for always putting the interests of Bergvliet Primary first. Your time and efforts in serving our school community, including putting in some very long hours, and your shared vision for BPS, must be applauded.

To all our parents: Thank you for your continued commitment to BPS, for your belief in this school and for your unfailing support in all areas. Without the invaluable support of our parent body, the extraordinary would have been impossible!

We wish our Grade Sevens a special farewell: May you take with you all the lessons, life skills and values which have been taught to you over the years at BPS. Wherever you go, may your light continue to shine brightly, may you spread the Bergvliet Primary *joie de vivre* to all with whom you come into contact, and may you make a difference in the world, wherever you may be. Remember that life is what you make of it. You will discover the school of hard knocks, but how you bounce back from potential obstacles and stumbling blocks will be what defines you. Grab the new opportunities that will arise at high school, and remember to be the best you that you can be. We wish you every success and happiness in the years ahead. We will continue to chart your progress during your High School years and look forward to hearing your stories when we meet up at your reunion in 5 years' time.

May we continue to grow stronger together. May our motto, "Servimus", always define who we are, and may we always be inspired to create extra-ordinary opportunities.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday and safe travels! Thank you for contributing to the wonderful memories made this year, may you enjoy the summer break, and here's hoping that special memories will be made during the holiday season spent with loved ones.

STAFF FAREWELLS

The end of a school term is usually a joyous occasion, as we look forward to the holidays. However, it can also be a bittersweet time, as we often have to bid farewell to staff members and learners. At the end of this term, we bid farewell, but certainly not goodbye, to the following staff members, Mrs Mentor (Gr R), Mr Barnwell (Music) and Ms Smith (Music). We wish to thank each of them for their commitment, enthusiasm and dedicated service to BPS, and for enriching the lives of our learners, parents and staff. I'm sure every child who has interacted with these wonderful educators can echo the words of Bindi Irwin, who said "So many people have touched my heart and made an impact on my world. I'm thankful for every lesson and learning experience." We wish them every happiness and success in their future endeavours.



CONGRATULATIONS

The SGB is very pleased to announce that the WCED has appointed Mr. Brent Hill as the permanent Deputy Principal of BPS, effective as from 1 January 2020. After a rigorous process, which included 62 candidates, shortlisting, interviews and competency based assessments, Mr. Hill emerged as the most suitable candidate. We wish him every happiness and success as he continues to serve the BPS family in his new position.



LEARNER ACHIEVEMENTS: BPS ORCHESTRA

Our BPS Orchestra struck the right chords, tugged at heartstrings and played amazing notes as they brought the house down in collaboration with Bergvliet High at the BHS Final Music concert recently. We are proud of our talented musicians. Thank you to our Orchestra Director, Mr. Barnwell, Mrs Gordon, Ms Smith and the rest of our Music Department staff members for their amazing efforts.



WORLD SCHOLARS CUP

Ruby Shargey, a Grade 7 learner, competed in the World Scholar's Cup Tournament of Champions held at Yale University, USA from 8 - 13 November, with 2800 scholars from around the world. She was placed with a team of two girls from India, and did BPS proud by winning gold and silver medals in the Junior Section. Congratulations Ruby, what an outstanding achievement!



CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION—WHISPERS FROM THE HEART

We were thrilled to receive the results from the "Whispers from the Heart" Creative Writing Competition, 2019

The following learners received awards in the **Fourth Prize Category, which entails having their work published in the book:** Haylee Cloete, Emma Higgins, Michael Shannon, Simonne Meyer and Hannah Esterhuizen. Congratulations, we are very proud of your achievements!

SCHOOL TERMS 2020

TERM:	STARTS:	ENDS:
First	13 January (Staff) 15 January (Learners)	20 March
Second	31 March	12 June
Third	07 July	18 September
Fourth	29 September	02 December (Learners) 04 December (Staff)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2020

DATE	TITLE
01 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
10 April	Good Friday
13 April	Family Day
27 April	Freedom Day
01 May	Workers' Day
30 May	Ascension Day
16 June	Youth Day
09 August	National Women's Day
10 August	Public Holiday
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill

IMPORTANT DATES TO DIARISE FOR 2020

The **SCHOOL CLOTHING SHOP** will be open for purchases on:
Monday, 13 January 2020 & Tuesday, 14 January 2020, from 09.00 – 12.00 on both days.



.START OF TERM 1: 15 January 2020 for learners

SCHOOL DISMISSES FOR ALL GRADE 1; 2 & 3 Learners at 1:15pm on Wed 15 Jan and Thurs, 16 Jan 2020.

New Parents' Welcome Evening Function: Thursday, 16 January 2020 @ 18:30 (BPS School Hall)

School dismisses @ 12:15 for all learners due to Staff Development on **Friday, 17 January 2020**

Swimming Trials for Inter House Gala: 20; 21; 22; & 23 January 2020

The first and very important **Parent-Educator Meeting** of 2020 will take place on **Monday, 20 January 2020**

18:15 – 18:45 Parents of Grade 4 — 7 learners will meet the educators in their respective classrooms

19:00 – 19:50 General Meeting for ALL PARENTS (Reception Grade to Grade 7) in the Hall.

20:00 – 20:30 Parents of learners in Reception Grade, Grade 1, 2 and 3 will meet in their respective classrooms

START OF TERM 1 EXTRA-MURAL PROGRAMME: 27 January 2020

WOOLWORTHS AND MY SCHOOL CARD:

Thank you to all family and friends who continue to swipe their MYSCHOOL card and have BPS as a beneficiary. Every swipe helps BPS, no matter how big or small. Please swipe during the holidays. If you need a new card, please contact Mrs Bettie Shaban who will gladly assist you.



Find us on Facebook for latest news!



<https://www.facebook.com/BergvlietPrimarySchool/>

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

On Thursday 22 November, Grades 5, 6 and 7 enjoyed a fun day of innovation and creativity, engaging in activities related to becoming an environmentally friendly school. Matt Baker from Waste Ed, showed our learners how to build furniture using the eco bricks that they have so faithfully collected since the second term of this year. They created 8 stools and 2 tables that will be used for outdoor education, giving learners a space to collaborate and discuss schoolwork in the midst of a beautiful green space. There were many other activities that took place, giving our children the opportunity to learn new skills. They enjoyed the day thoroughly, and learned that recycling has many benefits.



SERVIMUS

BPS once again lived out our motto, Servimus, and demonstrated that we are a community serving humanity. The Grade 7 class of 2019 decided to collect gifts for the residents of the Douglas Murray Home for the Aged. These were duly distributed, and learners took enormous delight in visiting with the elderly folk. Thank you to our Grade 7 Class of 2019 for their generosity.

Learners were asked to donate their school shoes to the Vusa Academy in Langa, an NGO which cares for learners after school. There was an amazing response and over 25 black bags full of shoes were donated. We echo Vusa Academy's thanks to all of you for your wonderful spirit of giving, ensuring that many learners around the Cape and beyond will make a good start to the school year in 2020 with shoes on their feet.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - 2020

We are always in need of volunteers to assist in various areas of the school. We wish to strengthen our BPA, with more parents being involved in fundraisers and the planning of events. In addition, we require volunteers to help with reading, tuck shop, uniform shop and recycling. please call the office or e-mail secretary@bergvlietprimary.co.za. If you have an hour to spare, we would be extremely grateful. Together we can achieve more!