



BERGVLiet PRIMARY SCHOOL

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BPS NEWSFLASH - 16 of 2021 23 September 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

On 24 September, our country celebrates Heritage Day. For many of us, Heritage Day seems to be synonymous with Braai Day. However, in our "Weekly Values" message to our learners this week, we emphasised that Heritage Day is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the cultural wealth of our unique country. Our BPS value of **Embracing Diversity** speaks very strongly to this ethos. Although we come from different cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds, our school and the broader community must continue to acknowledge and respect these. As we prepare to celebrate Heritage Day on Friday, I have challenged our school community to practise the following:

- ❖ **Be Kind in your Actions towards others** – watch what we say to others who are different from us.
- ❖ **Use Kind Language** and not hurtful language to others – don't use language that creates exclusion.
- ❖ **Have Multicultural Experiences** – seek to understand why different people celebrate different festivals or special days.
- ❖ **Practise Unity** - do not separate yourselves from people based on gender, age, disability, race or ethnicity, religion.

I believe that if we keep practising some of these tips, we will live out our BPS value of **Respect for Others**, making our school, our community, our country and our world a place where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

Wishing you all a happy Heritage Day!

KEEPING FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

These past few months so many families have been impacted by the devastation of Covid-19. We have lost family members, friends, colleagues and acquaintances. Faces have turned into names we know and have left deep wounds and scars. Recently, we were informed that a past pupil of Bergvliet High and a friend of BPS, Achmat Hassiem, aka Sharkboy, is critical in hospital. We urge you to keep him and all our parents, guardians, families and friends in your thoughts and prayers. May all impacted by bereavement, sickness and health issues, continue to feel our love and support at these trying times.

TERM THREE ACADEMIC REPORTS:

This has been one of the most challenging terms in living memory. Many learners and families have been impacted by the devastation of the third wave of the pandemic. Daily schooling and learner performance have definitely been affected. However, where possible, learners who were unable to complete formal assessments will have the chance to do so at the start of Term 4. Term 3 Academic Reports will be sent home via email on 1 October. Please ensure that we have updated email addresses to avoid any delays in receiving these.

BPS BOOK WEEK: 27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER:

Book Week will be celebrated during the last week of the term. Various inter-class activities are planned and learners may participate in the "Design a Book Cover" competition. On Thursday, 30 September, learners are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character to bring the week to a celebratory close. A link for a short video describing our plans for Book Week is as follows: <https://www.powtoon.com/s/fRT487XJ8sL/1/m>. As part of our Spring Day celebrations, FP classes have all received a link to our latest Virtual Library all about Spring.



BERGVLIET PRIMARY SCHOOL

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This can be seen at: <https://bit.ly/FP-SPRING>. We appeal to parents and guardians to foster a love for reading in the home. As Dr Seuss so aptly said, "*The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.*"

RAISING RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL CITIZENS:

As the school holidays approach, parents and guardians are reminded to create awareness around the *responsible* use of social media. Please ensure that children engage with age appropriate content and media and practise *responsible* social media etiquette. We would urge you to enter into a contract with your child around the *responsible* use of devices. Put secure boundaries in place, and monitor these carefully. Our school counsellors sent a valuable resource letter to parents and guardians last week around this very issue. Please take the time to read through it.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022:

The National Minister of Basic Education has communicated the dates for the Coastal Provinces School Terms for 2022.

Duration	Number of weeks	Number of days	Number of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
(17) 19 January - 25 March	10	48 (50)	1	47 (49)
05 April – 24 June	12	59	5+1	53
19 July – 30 September	11	54	1+1	52
11 October – 14 December (15) December	10	47 (48)	0	47 (48)

Nelson Mandela once said, "In Africa there is a concept known as '**Ubuntu**' – the profound sense that we are human only through **the humanity of others**; that if we are to accomplish anything in this world it will in equal measure be due to the work and achievement of others." As we celebrate Heritage Day, may we realise that, through our daily interactions, words and deeds, we have the power to make our school, our communities, our country and our world a better place for all.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful and blessed long weekend.
Please take care, stay safe and remember to live the Five Golden Rules daily.

Sincere regards

MR BLP PAULSE