



Laerskool Paardekraal

Registration Number (EMIS): 700250803

Pay Point Number: 902076 / School ID Number: 4028002050009

Newsletter 04/06 February 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians

This week I would like to bring the following matters to your attention:

CLUSTER ATHLETICS MEETING

Our annual cluster athletics meeting took place on 03 February at Laerskool Millenium. Our athletes did exceptionally well and a couple of them went through to the next round. Congratulations on your performance. More information will follow regarding the next meeting for those athletes. Good luck when you participate again!

Thank you to all staff members who were on duty on Tuesday to ensure the safety of our learners. Your hard work and dedication are appreciated. Mrs L Da Silva deserves a special "Thank You" for ensuring all arrangements were made properly. Your hard work is surely noticed.

DISCIPLINE

This year we started off with 1056 learners in the school. Classes are full and space is limited. The teachers will not have time to discipline any ill-mannered children while teaching a full class of children. Children who are rude or pose a threat to teachers and fellow learners will be removed from class and parents will be called to fetch those children from school. Please speak to your children about the importance of good manners and respect at school.

We have several children who are sleeping in class during formal lessons. The teachers must go and wake them up to continue with their schoolwork. A few minutes later the children are fast asleep again. Please make sure that your child goes to bed early enough to have at least eight hours of sleep. Please switch off all equipment that can keep the children awake. A child should be in a routine to know when it is bedtime.

Sadly, it was necessary to suspend three learners this week for "vaping" in the bathrooms at school. Parents, please explain the dangers of "vaping" to your children, as it is becoming an increasing problem at our school.

BULLYING

No form of bullying will be tolerated at all. Bullies will be removed from class and parents will be contacted to fetch those bullies. Immediate suspension will be instituted for bullying. That includes physical-, verbal-, mental- or any other form of bullying. Intimidation, name calling and taking another child's food, money or other belongings, is regarded as bullying. Please note that Laerskool Paardekraal is a bully-free school, and we are determined to keep it as such.

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Pretoria Street, Private Bag X2038, Krugersdorp 1740, Tel: (011) 953-1930, Fax: (011) 953-1390

HOMEWORK AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS

Many teachers struggle to get marks for certain children, because of incomplete class work, homework not done and children who are not prepared for assessments. Please remember that all work done by the children contribute towards the final mark at the end of the term. There are many children who will not meet the minimum requirements due to a lack of interest in their schoolwork. During 2025 some children claimed that they do not have to work, as it is *“pass one, pass all”*. With the number of children repeating a grade this year, it is evident that it is rather a matter of *“no work, no marks”*. Please encourage your child to do all work given to them to be well prepared for formal assessments that are happening throughout each term.

SIGNING OF ASSESSMENTS OTHER WORK AND FORMS

There is a tendency at school where many children sign their own assessments or other work, claiming that the parents signed the work. Once or twice, we have questioned children whose work was indeed signed by the parents, and I do apologise if that caused any inconvenience or stress on the parent' or children's side.

I can also assure you that we have caught out many children who sign on behalf of the parents. When phoned, the parents knew nothing about signing any books or documents. We can also confirm that older siblings signed the documents as they were covering for a brother or sister.

Please check your child's school bag regularly to make sure that all work or other documents were indeed signed by you.

SCHOOL TIMES

It is alarming to see the number of children still arriving late at school every day. Many children are late daily, some of them as late as 08:20 or even later. Please note that latecomers will not be allowed to enter the school premises and should be taken home again.

We are having similar problems in the afternoons with some children only being fetched long after 15:00. School comes out at 13:40 and all children must be fetched by 14:00. Parents, please understand that the school is not to blame when your child arrives late or being fetched late, and therefore the rude language some parents and transport drivers use towards our staff, is uncalled for. If we all take our responsibilities up seriously, then there should be no late coming or late departure to deal with.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please note that there will be no supervision after 14:10 for children who are not fetched on time. With this notice to the parents, the school indemnifies itself and cannot be held responsible for anything that happens to a child after 14:10, due to not being fetched on time, despite multiple requests made for children to be fetched timeously. The school gate will open at 06:50 for children to enter the school premises. No supervision is available for children before 06:50.

Most of the children who are fetched late, do not have an emergency number with them for us to contact the parents. Please ensure that there are always contact numbers in your child's diary. Should something happen on the way to school or on the way back home, at least parents can be contacted immediately when contact numbers are available in the diaries. I would really appreciate your assistance in this regard. Diaries can be left in the school bag for the children to use for writing down homework and for correspondence between teachers and parents.

Please make sure you know whether your child was dropped off and fetched on time. The children's safety is our priority, and parents should always know that their children are safe.

SCHOOL FEES

I am sorry to speak about school fee matters regularly, but some parents just do not take the paying of school fees seriously. Should your school fees be up to date, please stop reading and skip to the next heading.

A kind reminder that school fees are payable in advance on the *1st of every month*. Thank you so much to the parents whose accounts are up to date. We appreciate and value your positive contribution to the school. There are many parents who did not pay a cent on school fees so far this year. Please note that Laerskool Paardekraal is a registered "*FEE PAYING*" school which means that parents who enrol their children in the school *must* pay the school fees. There are still parents paying huge amounts to get the child to school, but do not pay school fees at all. Please note that should you pay for transport to get your child to school or pass any other school to get your child to Laerskool Paardekraal, you are liable for the payment of school fees, as there are schools closer to home where you can be saving on the transport money as well.

We have many parents applying for exemption of school fees, on the basis that their expenses (including school transport) are too high. The law only allows us to work on your *INCOME* before deductions and not on your monthly *EXPENDITURE* when you apply for exemption. Exemption cannot be granted to parents who live beyond their means and transport their children from outside the feeder area to Laerskool Paardekraal which is a fee-paying school.

Parents who did not pay any school fees yet, or are behind in the payment of school fees, will receive reminders from the school via SMS or email. Should there still be no payments made, accounts in arrears will be handed over on a quarterly basis and blacklisting for parents in default will be done by the collection agencies. The School Governing Body will also contact parents in default for scheduled meetings at school, where certain decisions will have to be taken about the lack of payment of school fees.

REFERENCES ON EFT AND DIRECT BANK PAYMENTS

Please do not use your own initials and surname as a reference when making direct bank- and EFT payments to the school. Currently we have several payments that cannot be allocated to the correct accounts due to incorrect references. Please use your child's name, surname and class or use the account number on your statement, starting with a 3, as the reference. For example: **Lucky Ndaba 5R** or **2NDAB01**. Should any of your payments made to the school not reflect on your account, please contact the ladies in the finance office to correct your payment profile. They can be contacted on the normal school number, or by email on the following addresses: Ms Heyns – louise@paardies.co.za or Ms Lynch – joey@paardies.co.za.

HPV VACCINATIONS

Medical consent forms were sent out to the grade 5 girls who will be receiving the HPV vaccination at school on the 17th of February. These forms are for parents to give consent for the vaccinations to be administered by the Department of Health, annually. Please fill the form in and send it back to school for filing.

PS: Please note that the HPV vaccinations are for grade 5 girls only.

FUNDRAISER

Thank you for your kind assistance with our Valentine's Fundraiser. Last day for the forms and the money to be paid in will be 13 February. Keep your eyes on the cash prizes up for grabs. You could be one of those winners!

Please do not allow any child to walk from house to house to sell tickets, as it is not safe. Please always put the child's safety first.

PREFECT'S SPUR EVENING PROJECT - 24 FEBRUARY

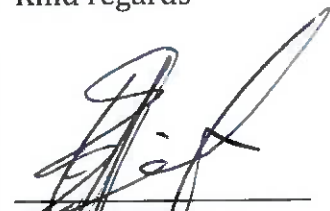
Our prefects will be shadow-waitering at SPUR Key West on the 24th of February in an attempt to raise much needed funds for the school. They will be receiving 10% of the takings at SPUR for that evening. To raise a substantial amount of money, we want to invite our parents and learners to make the 24th a family night where they go to spur and enjoy something to eat or drink.

Please diarise this date as we would really love to see our parents supporting the prefects.

GENERAL

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe weekend. Enjoy your family time and stay healthy. Best wishes for a great week ahead.

Kind regards



H.M. ESTER
Principal

"Every truth has four corners: as a teacher I give you one corner, and it is for you to find the other three." -
Confucius

VISION & MISSION OF LAERSKOOL PAARDEKRAAL

- Our vision is a smart delivery of quality public education, which promotes a dynamic citizenship for socio-economic growth and development in Gauteng and South Africa.
- We will be at the cutting edge of curriculum delivery and provide access to quality lifelong learning opportunities.

DANGERS OF VAPING

Vaping poses serious, often irreversible health risks to teens, primarily driven by high nicotine addiction and lung damage. Key dangers include impaired brain development, memory/attention issues, anxiety, depression, and severe respiratory problems like "popcorn lung" or EVALI. Many vapes contain as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

Physical Health Dangers

- **Respiratory Damage:** Vaping causes chronic coughing, wheezing, and asthma exacerbation. It can lead to EVALI (E-cigarette or Vaping-Associated Lung Injury)

and "popcorn lung" (bronchiolitis obliterans), which involves permanent scarring of the small airways.

- **Cardiovascular Issues:**

Nicotine raises blood pressure and impairs blood vessel function, increasing long-term cardiovascular disease risk.

- **Toxic Exposure:** Vapes contain harmful chemicals, including heavy metals, flavourings linked to lung disease, and sometimes substances like diacetyl.
- **Nicotine Poisoning:** High levels of nicotine can lead to poisoning.

Brain Development and Mental Health:

- **Addiction:** Nicotine is highly addictive, particularly to the developing adolescent brain.
- **Cognitive Impairment:** It affects the prefrontal cortex, leading to long-term issues with attention, learning, and impulse control.
- **Mood Disorders:** Vaping is linked to increased anxiety, depression, and irritability.

Gateway Risks:

- Teens who vape are up to three to five times more likely to start smoking traditional tobacco cigarettes.

Common Misconceptions:

- Many teens wrongly believe vapes are harmless water vapor, not realizing they contain addictive nicotine and harmful aerosols.
- "Kid-friendly" flavours and discreet, USB-like designs (e.g., JUUL) are targeted to appeal to youth.





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PRETORIA STREET
KRUGERSDORP 1740

GAUTENG EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

03 February 2026

Dear Parents,

Notice is hereby given that a meeting for the nomination of candidates for the by-election of **PARENT MEMBERS** of the School Governing Body for Laerskool Paardekraal will be held on **Wednesday 25 February at 14:00 in the School Hall.**

Please attend the meeting to nominate and elect **PARENT MEMBERS** for our School Governing Body. The Governing Body decides on Policy and Plans to improve our school and it is important for parents to take part in this process. Eligible parents of learners may nominate and vote for **PARENT MEMBERS** of the School Governing Body.

When nominating a parent to be a member of the Governing Body of the school, parents must consider a parent who shall add value to the functionality of the School Governing Body. (Regulation 22)

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

IF YOU NOMINATE A PERSON, PLEASE CHECK AND MAKE SURE THAT THE CANDIDATE IS AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS:

A person **WILL NOT** be eligible to be a member of a Governing Body if he or she:

- Is not the **biological** parent or **legal** guardian / care giver of the child. (**Court documents** are needed for proof of **LEGAL guardianship** over a learner.)
- Is mentally ill and has been declared as such by a court with competent jurisdiction.
- Is an un-rehabilitated insolvent.
- Has been convicted of an offence and sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine for a period exceeding six months, or has not yet served his or her full period of imprisonment; or
- Has been declared unsuitable to work with children, as provided for under the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005).
- Does not fall within one of the categories of members who make up a Governing Body.
- No longer falls within the category of members that he or she represented at the time of the election.
- Has been blacklisted.
- Has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty (Amendment of regulation 16)
- Has had his or her Governing Body membership terminated by the Head of Department in terms of The Act.

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A candidate may be nominated in two ways:

- a. By lodging a nomination form duly completed by the proposer, seconder and the candidate with the Election Officer not more than seven days and not less than a day before the nomination meeting: or
- b. By proposing a parent as a member during the nomination meeting, provided that another parent present seconds the nomination and a nomination form duly completed by the proposer, seconder and candidate is lodged with the Election Officer within the time allotted in the nomination meeting by the Election Officer for the purpose.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL ON REQUEST.


If more candidates are nominated than the number of **PARENT MEMBERS** to be elected, a **poll will be held on 25 February 2026 at 14:30 in the School Hall.**

Two eligible parents may vote per family. If you are the main person responsible for the child / children at the school, please make sure you will be able to vote by filling in the registration form and sending it back to school so that your name will be on the voters roll.

Please bring your Identification Document or Identification Card, Passport or other **LEGALLY** accepted form of identification to the nomination and election meeting.

Please note that there will be **NO Proxy Votes** allowed during the entire election process.

Date: 03 February 2026

Signature of Election Officer: 
Mr F Welkom

Address of Election Officer: Mr F Welkom, Krugersdorp Town School, CNR Buiten – and Gerrie Visser Streets, Krugersdorp North, 1739

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SGB VOTER REGISTRATION FORM FOR 2026 PARENTS BY- ELECTIONS

GAUTENG EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

To register for the School Governing Body voting and be included on the voters roll, please complete this form and return it to the register teacher at least seven (7) days before the nomination and election meeting. Only 2 parents / legal guardians may vote per family.

Children's Names: _____ Class: _____

PRIMARY PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN:

SECONDARY PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Surname: _____ Surname: _____

ID Number: _____ ID Number: _____

Occupation: _____ Occupation: _____

Company: _____ Company: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Cell number: _____ Cell number: _____

Marital Status: _____ Marital Status: _____

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:

**ALTERNATE GUARDIAN
(EMERGENCY CONTACT) 1:**

**ALTERNATE GUARDIAN
(EMERGENCY CONTACT) 2:**

Full Name: _____ Full Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____