

Orion College
Grade R – 12 and Vocational

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Dear Primary School Parents

30 January 2018

Thank you to those of you who attended our Information Evening on Tuesday 23rd January. It was a fabulous opportunity to meet the teachers, see the new school and the classroom where your child/ren will be spending the year.

I'd like to thank you all for your patience throughout 2017, while we were building and were in a state of transition.

To those who were unable to attend the meeting, the following is a summary of what was discussed. There's a lot going on this year to look forward to:

- We are aware of the **traffic issues** and are working closely with SPARK to find solutions. Thank you for your patience and courtesy.
- The playground and field have **new grass**, which will take a few weeks to take root. **Playground equipment** will be put up as soon as possible.
- A range of **extra murals** are on this term, which don't require use of the field, such as swimming, Zumba, yoga, chess, computer, art and Lego clubs. Please encourage your children to participate.
- An international accreditation is being introduced in the SKILLS STREAM this year, called **ASDAN**. This is an exciting time for the SKILLS Department.
- We are also introducing the **BEAT DYSLEXIA phonics programme** into the Foundation Phase. It is a multisensory programme, which will help all learners, dyslexic or not.
- **Playball and Dance** will be on Thursdays. PE kit must be worn.
- **Uniform and hats:** Reminder about bringing hats to school. The sun is harsh and we don't want learners getting burnt.
- **LATES:** Children arriving late to school must sign in at the office and get a late slip with the reason before going to class. Repeated lates will be followed up.
- **GALA change of date:** The gala has been moved to the **16th February**. Please come and give your support.

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- **Fundraising:** we will be doing a lot of fundraising this year, such as the Orion Golf day (24 August). Please support us in whatever way you can.
- **Therapy Department:** The Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists will be working on a 3:1 model of intervention. This was trialled last year with great success. They are also introducing changes to their reporting this year. Ongoing progress will be reported through the Therapy Communication books. Every child receiving therapy in the Foundation Phase will be re-assessed each year and one comprehensive report per year will be provided following this. In the intermediate Phase, children receiving therapy will be re-assessed every other year, with a report being provided. In the alternate year a progress report will be issued. Therapy will be given on a needs basis determined through assessment, observation and the clinical judgement of each therapist. Parents will be involved in all the decisions regarding therapy.

Lastly, we have brand **new website**. Please take a look - and if you are a Facebook follower then please like our **Orion's Facebook page**.

We are looking forward to a fabulously successful year in our new premises and we look forward to seeing you all at the various events and parent's evenings planned for the year.

Yours in education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbra Robinson', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Barbra Robinson
Principal: Primary School