



NEWSLETTER

26 April 2019

ISSUE NO. 7

EDITORIAL

What are we teaching the kids?

Teachers are in the middle of a silent debate about what we teach the youth of South Africa. I believe the debate involves politicians, educational theorists, parents, teachers and students; yet there is not much dialogue among all these parties. In the end, the students are taught what has been decided by many different people and from many varying sources. What this may produce is students who believe what the government, researchers, parents, teachers and their peers believe. My question is: are these beliefs useful in today's labour market?

To answer the question, I will examine different sources of our educational content. One source comes from the Department of Basic Education. This is realised in the CAPS document which is distributed at provincial level and is then sent to the district level. At each step, the document is adjusted slightly to be more applicable to the circumstances of that particular province and district. Principals and their deputies are then entrusted to present the documents to the HODs of each subject. Finally, the document, as well as all its adjustments, is placed in the hands of our teachers.

Once in the teacher's possession, it is still not safe from manipulation, as we apply our own biases and time frames to keep in line with the amount of work we can do and with our deadlines. As teachers, we also carry with us our experience. This is not only our teaching experience but also what we went through in the classroom as a student. Using this experience, we set work that we believe the students are capable of understanding, and we create ways to present the content.

By the time the student is presented with the content, it has passed through countless hands and undergone many alterations. Moderation at all levels is supposed to ensure that the content has reached the student in an unadulterated form and that he or she can reproduce it. This all sounds logical and checks all the boxes at a political level but, in the end, what kind of student do we have?

Some concepts we teach have remained unchanged for more than 100 years. The "i" before "e" except after "c" rule is a case in point. There are far more exceptions to this rule in English; so why is it a rule? Science in high school still teaches Newton's laws of motion and gravity - yet Einstein's theories are far more accurate and contain a better explanation. More than 250 years separate the two great scientists; yet it is easier to teach Newton and not Einstein.

So, what kind of students do we end up with and what skills do they have to offer? I would say we produce a student who is perfect for a world that hasn't existed for over 50 years, and this is why students are not interested in what we have to teach. I believe that Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Page and Sergey Brin have had more of an educational influence on your child than I will ever have. How can I compete against these teachers from Facebook and Google? They are with your children more than you and I can ever be. They hear about all the personal questions and know more than we could learn in a thousand lifetimes. We preach about a time gone by and how it was better - but my students speak about the future and how it is going to get better.

For this reason, I feel that I fall in the middle of the debate and I agree with both sides. I hear politicians and educational specialists saying that there is a need to learn from our past and that some ideas are essential to live in our society. Similarly, I understand my students and their parents saying they need knowledge which is applicable to a rapidly changing world in the job market. In the past, we reproduced the same skills year after year to ensure the line worker could reproduce the same product day after day. Today, robotics and automation have made these skills obsolete; so why teach old content as if the world stood still in 1950?

In some instances, I see education in South Africa as a conveyor belt producing Nokia 3310s. These phones may be well built, and a lot of time and effort went into producing them but who would find them useful? In today's world, a Samsung S10 is better in every way than a Nokia 3310 and demonstrates the relentless progression of technology. When we compare the way students were taught in 1800 and today, we find that very little has changed. There is still a teacher at the front of the class, teaching students what they believe is important, correcting students if they deviate from the content, and eventually producing a set of numerical values to determine what job they are capable of doing. These numbers do not take into account the students' motivation, desire, creativity and ability to work; instead they pass judgement which the student carries for the rest of their life, the judgement that they are brilliant at making 3310s in a world which wants S10s. So, what should we teach?

I do not have all the answers as to what we should teach our students. I do, however, plan on finding out through my studies. In the meantime, I will stick to my annual teaching plan but keep in mind that jobs like cashier or diesel mechanic will not exist when my students send their children to school. I will prepare my students to think for themselves and be critical thinkers. I keep in mind the wise words of the eminent Pan-Africanist and sociologist, William Du Bois, "Education must not simply teach work – it must teach Life. "

D. Pratten

HOD Life Orientation

REMINDER ABOUT RECEPTION

Please do not leave articles for learners to collect at Reception. Learners are not to leave anything to be collected by parents/guardians. The Office Staff cannot be expected to facilitate this process, as they do not have permission to call learners out of class. The school will not take responsibility for the loss of such items.



IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 3 May EHS is performing at the GRADS festival at Edenvale High School, starting at 18h30

Monday 6 May English Creative Writing exam
Tuesday 7 May Afrikaans Creative Writing exam

These examinations form part of mid-year examinations. If a learner is absent for these exams, he/she must produce a doctor's note.

Tuesday 21 May Mathematics /Mathematical Literacy Test.

This is compulsory for all pupils. Learners who do not write will receive zero - unless a doctor's note is produced.

LATE COMING

This is a reminder to parents and learners that school starts at 07h50 every day and learners need to be on the property by 07h45. It is mandatory for all learners to attend registration at 07h50, as important information is disseminated and it ensures that our school records and statistics are correct. The high level of late-coming is totally unacceptable, and the disruption caused by learners walking into the first lesson late undermines the quality of those lessons. Parents are requested to assist in ensuring that learners are at school, on time, every day.

A NOTE TO OUR PARENTS

One of the school's projects is to feed the sterilised feral cats that live on the school property and which help to keep our premises free of rodents. We would appreciate any donations of tinned or dry food. Donations may be handed in at the front office. Thank you to those parents who help us feed these cats. All contributions are gratefully accepted.



SPORTS/CULTURAL RESULTS

Derby Day vs Benoni:

Well done to the following teams who participated against Benoni over the weekend:

Hockey girls:

U14 won 3-0
U15 drew 1-1
U16 lost 0-5
2nds drew 0-0
1st team won 2-0

Hockey boys:

U14 won 2-0
U15 won 2-0
2nds won 8-0
1st won 5-0

Netball Girls:

U14A won 17-13
U14B lost 5-7
U15A won 34-5
U15B won 25-18
U16A won 22-11
U16B drew 11-11
U17A lost 5-11
2nd team won 25-5
1st team won 34-16

Rugby:

U14 lost
U15 lost
U16 won
1st team lost



Netball super league result vs Alberton High

1sts team won 27-19

Hockey Girls League vs Alberton High:

U14 drew 1-1
U15 won 5-0
U16 won 1-0
2nds lost 0-2
1sts won 3-1

Hockey Boys League vs Reddam:

U15 drew 0-0
First team won 4-0



Hockey Boys League vs Springs:

U14 drew 0-0
U15 lost 0-4
2^{nds} drew 0-0
1st won 4-0

Rugby League vs Hoërskool Tegnies Sasol:

U14 won 24-12
U15 lost 5-33
U16s lost 14-28
1st team lost 22-35



Cross country at James and Ethol Gray's Park

(2nd league)

Junior boys:

Joshua Mackeand 13th

Senior boys:

Leonard Brits 24th

Junior girls:

Taylor-Ann Berkovic 6th

Renita Adendorff 10th

Ciantha Mulziro 15th

Senior Girls:

Kerrin Burgess 16th

Megan Wade 17th

Netball Trialling Results:

Seven names per age group were submitted for Gauteng trials

D6 representatives:

U15

Anya Jonker

Skye Gray

Maria Anev

Natasha Simoes

Tia Solomon

Maree Pratt

U17

Tayla Simpson

Raquel Weigl

Gabriella Di Bucci

Keabetswe Lesufi

Robyn Bull

U16

Sinead Scott

Alexandra Meimaris

Saskia Rabie

Ashleigh West

Cailyn Hill-Vollmer

Megan Holland

U18

Erin Broskie

Christine Maackenzie

Paige Welgemoed

Ekurhuleni representatives:

U15

Anya Jonker

Maria Anev

Natasha Simoes

Maree Pratt

U16

Sinead Scott

Alexandra Meimaris

Saskia Rabie

U17

Robyn Bull

GSS Squads Round 1:

U15

Maria Anev

Maree Pratt

U16

Alexandra Meimaris

U17

Robyn Bull

Good luck in your final round

on 1 May 2019.

Good luck also to the hockey and rugby players who have just started their trialling process.



Congratulations:

- ◆ Congratulations to Temicka Tessner (10H) who has completed the Level 1 coaching course in 15-a-side rugby coaching and is certified by World Rugby. She is also the youngest female qualified Gauteng Union Lions Referee and is also qualified to do the line refereeing at school.
- ◆ Congratulations also go to Kaede Naidoo and Kayla Jacobs for being included in the combined schools team to play in Holland later in the year.
- ◆ Good luck to the players competing in their various leagues. Please note that the derby against Birchleigh at Birchleigh will take place on Friday 26 April and NOT on Saturday 27 April 2019 (Freedom Day).

CULTURAL

Public Speaking:

- Senior house winners: Kestrel.
- Junior house winners: Kestrel.

Congratulations to the Junior Journalists called EHS Stringers, who have published their first newspaper articles in THE GREAT GUIDE. Well done to Danielle Furman, Caitlyn Ross and Tanner Mundie, all in Grade 10!

ANNUAL GOLF DAY 2019

Date: 1 August

Venue: Germiston Country Club

Format: 4 Ball Alliance



Edenvale High School will be hosting their annual Golf Day which will be taking place on the 1st of August. For more information please visit our school's website.





Need Extra Maths?

Master Maths Edenvale offers tuition using an interactive computer system. Continuous assessment and support are provided. Learners are able to work at their own pace.

Grades 3 - 12 are welcome!

We strive to make learners independent and make learning maths fun!

For queries, please contact us on: (011) 453 8866

edenvale@mastermaths.co.za



MATHS TUITION 2019

- Maths Core offered for Grades: 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12
- Cost = R300 for 2 hours
- Lessons on Saturdays and Sundays

Contact Sue on: 074 180 2097 / sue@confidentteens.co.za / www.confidentteens.co.za

Qualifications: BA(Honours); UHDE (University Higher Diploma in Education);
PDA (Personal Development Analyst); Assessor / Moderator

Experience: Over 20 years

