Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the fourth and final term of the year! We have a busy, exciting term ahead, with the build up to our End of Year Celebrations. Detailed information will be provided once all arrangements are finalized - see dates to diarise.

As we move into the final weeks of the year, please could I urge parents to arrive on time for the start of school, as valuable teaching time is being disrupted with late arrivals. For Grade 0 children progressing to Grade 1, their school day will begin at 07:30 with formal teaching. It is imperative that your child is on time.

Our intra-mural swimming programme, has begun, and the Grade 0 children will be completing the year with a GALA in our 25m pool! Please remember that ALL children must wear SWIMMING CAPS for their lesson. Julia will assess the water temperature each day and will make the decision as to whether the lesson continues. Please encourage participation in this critical Life Skill.

I hope you took the time to wander through our wonderful “COLOUR OF MAGIC” Art Exhibition. This year we connected with the concept of conservation and the impact of plastic in our seas. The children were exposed to stories of sea creatures who suffer from the plastic and video clips of turtles who consume plastic bags as jellyfish and consequently do not survive. We used our SEE THINK WONDER and P4C thinking strategies to explore this devastating problem of plastic and discussed solutions we could try to make a difference.

Sarah Ferguson spoke to our Grade 0 children about her organisation, BREATHE and her project to ban straws at restaurants in Durban. Sarah explained to the children that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the sea than fish. The children were fascinated as she spoke of her 46 km open water swim, as the first South African woman and woman from the continent of Africa, across the Kai’wi Channel between the Hawaiian islands of Oahu and Molokai. This 18 hour swim was achieved to create an awareness of how we are destroying the 70% of our Earth, which are the oceans, with PLASTIC! Our children showed tremendous interest and empathy and we would like to ask our parents to support this drive by refusing to use straws in the local restaurants.

The art exhibition reflected the children’s delightfully expressive visual representation and exploration of colour, pattern and texture to express their creative and meaningful ideas. Let’s save Our World Together!

All the children’s art will be sent home as soon as possible.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Dee Simmer, who continually inspires our budding artists. Her passion for visual expression is reflected in our children.

This week, I attended the Valedictory Assembly at the College, which is the last formal meeting of our Matric students before they commence exams. What a wonderful celebration for the Class of 2017 who displayed such diverse and creative talents. I sat in awe of the students who spoke to the audience, revealing a focus on gratitude, the reality that College is an experience with both challenges and good memories, the need to set goals with the understanding they will require effort and resilience to achieve, the celebration of leadership qualities and that one must not to be self-absorbed but community based. These thoughts were expressed with much humility, reflecting depth and insight. Dr Bhagwan, the dux of 2009, was the guest speaker who is completing his Internship, as a top achiever in the Medical field, at King Edward hospital and he too spoke with humility and the need for sacrifice and hard work while giving back to the community. He was indeed a most inspiring young man who believed his biggest achievement has been the opportunity to improve the health of a desperate patient. As I listened to these young people, I was reassured that our campus focus on the Core skills and our Values is indeed what we should be teaching.

A true celebration of young people leaving school with hope! We wish them GOOD LUCK as they begin the final stretch of their school career and write their formal IEB exams.

To those students we have watched grow and develop from Grade 000 to Matric - all 33 of you, we are so very PROUD of the fine young people you have become and we will continue to trace your educational journey through our alumni organization.

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I have attached an article on Developing Number Sense in children. Here I urge parents to please not over schedule their children by placing them in after school activities they believe will extend their learning. They are developing splinter skills which is most evident when watching children solve a problem practically and there is little understanding of what the numbers actually represent.

Hopefully the sun will continue to shine—have a great week!

We wish all our families who celebrate Diwali a Happy Diwali. May this special festival of light bring you health, wealth and prosperity!

Thank you to everyone that took part in the “I WISH” raffle, we managed to make AIVA’S wish come true and she got to watch her mother dance on stage. She not only got to see her mom dance but she also got to dance with her on stage.

Cindy Tribe and Leah Shillaw from the Pre-Primary were also lucky enough to both win a prize in the lucky raffle draw!

THANK YOU!
DEVELOPING NUMBER SENSE

Watching the Grade 0 children complete their number computation activities recently, I noted with concern that some of the children were battling with problem-solving and the recording or decomposing numbers in a computation.

Children must understand the meaning of number as a quantity by internalising, condensing and making number a tangible quantity. Problem-solving is one of the best ways to teach maths as children have an innate need to make sense of their learning. We want children to respond with automaticity and efficiency when working with numbers by teaching them multiple ways of doing things. The child’s brain responds to patterning and so we teach children to look for the patterns while exploring and playing with numbers to make sense.

e.g. Find ways to make up the number 10:

\[8 = 2 = 10\]
\[4 + 4 + 2 = 10\]

Many parents have enrolled their children in after school educational institutions that focus on mental maths which requires providing the answer without working out the computation. When asked to show different ways of how to compute a number, some of these children struggled. We are finding our children often battle to count on or count down the number line.

The five and six year old child is still very much in the concrete operational stage where the understanding of the number value as a quantity is crucial before moving into the more abstract activities of mathematics. Children are required to work practically with maths concepts and solve problems showing thorough understanding of number and not simply rote memorisation.

I urge parents to not fall into the trap of believing their child will be more advanced by practicing skills in isolation. We do not see the transfer of these skills into the classroom. Please allow children to develop holistically and to build the blocks of foundational learning in the correct order to ensure solid understanding and strong intellectual development.

When a child has not fully understood and internalised a concept in the concrete, they will be unable to apply it in the practical. Our children are often being pushed into the paper driven activities when not ready for this level of application. This can result in in foundational cracks in their learning. Active concrete exploration is therefore imperative, not only in developing the essential perceptual skills required for learning, but in facilitating perseverance, creativity, attention span and problem-solving.

NUMBER SENSE is a combination of understanding/representing numbers, combining numbers, the number’s magnitude, and the skill set to work with the numbers.
# Dates to Diarise

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**ART EXHIBITION @ Pre-Primary**

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**World Adoption Day**

World Adoption Day | November 9th

To raise awareness and celebrate adoption, celebrate with us #WorldAdoptionDay

World Adoption Day takes place on Thursday 9th November. Simply buy a R5 tattoo and wear it on the day to help raise awareness and celebrate the special gift of adoption. All proceeds go towards the daily running costs of The Baby Home Durban North.

jo@peaceagency.org.za 062 7730 781

**Temporary Tattoo R5**

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Issue: 15/17
Thank you to all our parents that spent time with their children viewing all their masterpieces. The children were very excited about “buying” their art. Thank you for all your generous donations, we managed to raise R3 000.
To our AMAZING Principal, SUE PILKINGTON-WILLIAMS,

You empower us with the power of knowledge,
You motivate us with the best tutelage,
You help us move ahead with unending motivation,
As a Leader and a Human Being,
You are a true INSPIRATION ...

In support of WORLD RHINO DAY, we have **2018 CALENDARS** for **SALE** in Reception for **R50**. All proceeds go to **PROJECT RHINO** (www.projectrhinokzn.org/)

Please place your name on the order list at reception or email ktrennery@crawfordschools.co.za to place your order

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**TERMS NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

A reminder to parents that should your child be leaving us at the end of the year, one term’s notice is required. It would be appreciated therefore if you could forward a letter to the school indicating same to our Principal, Mrs Sue Pilkington-Williams, as soon as possible.

Much as we hate to say goodbye to our special Crawford families, we do have waiting lists for admission for 2018, and your notice will assist us in our calculations for our 2018 admissions.