



BELLAVISTA

NEWSLETTER

A SAFE HARBOUR SCHOOL

09 January 2023



Dear parents

Welcome to Bellavista 2023

Greetings to the 2023 school year one and all! On behalf of the staff, the Parents Association and the Board of Governors, a warm welcome to all the new families who are joining the Bellavista School community. We trust that you quickly feel that you have found your place in the sun!

New to the staff are Mrs Trish Attlee (Gr2), Mrs Christine Humphries (Gr3), Mrs Mari Bibby (Gr5) and Mrs Lauren Leiberthal (Gr1). Miss Cammie Behrens, well known and loved at Bellavista, joins our staff in the Arts and Culture Department. Mrs Lindy Cooke begins her journey as an Intern Educational Psychologist. We are privileged to have educators and therapists of such high calibre join our team and look forward to their input. Welcome back from maternity leave to Mrs Dani Gluckman (OT). Our dynamic Parents Association will be steered by Mrs Kerry Harrison in 2023.

Bellavista School is truly a community school. It is our firm belief that schools are places for recovery after the torrid times recently endured. Here, we all get involved to create an environment and school experience that says to each and every child, "We see you and you matter."



Practical matters as we kick start the year

For a detailed *Bellavista Handbook for parents*, please see our website:










<https://bellavista.org.za/admin-for-parents/>

Communication 'lowdown'

Ironically, in our '24/7-always-on-content-loaded-information-bombarding' world, it is often communication that lets us down. We try not to overwhelm you as parents but we have important logistical notices as well as thoughts and ideas to share with you through the year. Please consider your options in terms of accessing the information.

Where not to get it the class mum or class Whatsapp group!

Where to set your alerts or retrieve notices:

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Newsletters from myself monthly; usually a 5 min read</p> |
|  | <p>Head's Up notices will arrive in your inbox weekly, highlighting the key communications of a given week. We keep these 'snappy' as body text within the email.</p> |
|  | <p>The Bellavista School app is your information mainstay. On it you can access the calendar, uniform lists, school times, the <i>Head's Up</i> or <i>Newsletter</i> notices, blog entries and order forms or surveys, etc. Please download off the Google Play Store or Apple Store. Remember to switch on "allow notifications" for this app.</p> |
|  | <p>www.bellavista.org.za has expanded information as well as links to content for your own learning as a parent on Bellavista SHARE.</p> |
|  | <p>Whatsapp class or grade groups may be set up in the parent body by the class mum and should be used respectfully for the business of the PA and not for everyday 'chit chat'. These forums can be a powerful tool of community organisation and the dissemination of critical information, so must remain uncluttered. <u>Respectfully, please do not set up 'alternate' groups.</u></p> |
|  | <p>Whatsapp school wide broadcast will be set up in the first few days of the year. Please accept the invitation to join the information stream. It will share any alerts (like lightning) and alert you to other key notices.</p> |
|  | <p>Each teacher and therapist has an email address: firstname.surname@bellavista.org.za. Remember, whilst email is quick and easy, it doesn't replace the relational value of a voice conversation! Emails will not necessarily be attended to immediately but within 24-36 hours. Emails for my attention should be directed to secretary@bellavista.org.za</p> |
|  | <p>Bellavista School and Bellavista S.H.A.R.E. send out news, photos and encouragement on our Facebook and Instagram pages - pop online and "like" our respective pages to stay in touch with all the good news.</p> |
|  | <p>In Grades R-3, the children have a school issued 'Communication Book' for day-to-day matters and homework. In Grades 4-7, we strive to teach the children to use Google Classroom to organise their lives.</p> |

Timetables

Your child's teacher will issue a timetable to your child on return to school. In the next week, therapists involved with your child will schedule personal therapy slots into this timetable. We continue with three breaks in the day. Two for free play and one ad hoc short session for a quick snack or a brain break. Please pack healthy snacks and lunches!

Sport

- Cocurricular activities are compulsory for Grade 3-7 children and happen twice a week: on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cricket match fixtures, when these commence for our league, will be on Wednesday afternoons.
- The children in Grade 3-7 will continue to choose their preferred activity for the term, as they always have done. They will do this in class, with their teacher, this week.
- In Grade R-2, their children's sport needs are met in the school day in Physical Education lessons and in the Integrated Day.
- Timetabled sport sessions across all grades remain on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays so the children will be in sports attire and no changing is required.

Enhanced Opportunities

Upstage Concepts is the top performing arts institution for the National Eisteddfod of South Africa and we offer classes at Bellavista!

**BELLAVISTA
DRAMA CLUB**

Mondays

Grade 2 and 3 - 13h30 to 14h00
R1400,00 per student per term

Grade 4 to 7 - 14h00 to 15h00
R1800.00 per student per term

Join us for improvisations, theatre sports, public speaking, castings, competition preparation for the National Eisteddfod, accent work, musical theatre and much more!

Email us to book your space!
donnaleey@upstageconcepts.com

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Weekly Library Book Accessioning

The class teachers do the weekly library book exchange with your child, exposing them to different genres and you to the Paired Reading approach.

Parent Orientation Evening - school hall

Our Parent Orientation Evening is the ideal way to connect at Bellavista, especially your child's class teacher and therapists. Please diarise *17h30 on Monday 16th January* for this important contact time. I would like to use my opportunity to greet you to 'fill your parent tank' and set the intention for our year together. Thereafter, we will head to classrooms where you will meet your child's class teacher and be orientated to the routines of the class.

General Admin for you to do ASAP

- Fee Payment Option forms should be returned to the accounts office per Adobe Sign if not already submitted.
- If you provide your child with internet access *on any device*, you are required to complete a **letter confirming your responsibility as a parent to monitor your child's online activity**. Please complete the form here: [ITC Declaration by Parent](#)
- Please note that it is an occupational health requirement that we receive an updated **Medical Form** from you each term. This will follow via Adobe Sign.

Has anything changed from your side?

If anything has changed on your contact details or pertaining to your residential address, contact numbers or emergency contact numbers, please remember to let us know. This is an imperative and a priority. For changes, send an email to: secretary@bellavista.org.za.

Of importance too, if we are carrying any medication for your child, e.g., anti-histamines, please drop by the office at some point to check that the stock has not expired! The onus is on the parent. Visitor access protocols will apply. Any medication for the new term can be handed to the staff member on the morning gate, with your clear written instructions.

Calendar

A school calendar for the first term is available already on the Bellavista School app. Please diarise important events. Please endeavour to plan all holidays etc. around the school term dates. **EVERY DAY counts at Bellavista**. Our community is very diverse and we attempt to distribute weekend activities evenly over Saturdays and Sundays to accommodate all.

Support Group for parents walking the autism spectrum journey with their child

Each Wednesday at 08h30, at the Rose House on 32 Wingfield, Leslie Rosenthal (Psychologist) runs a support group for parents who walk a journey with ASD and their child. The strength, encouragement and learning is invaluable. Please join the group if you would like to.

Dates to diarise: Bellavista S.H.A.R.E.

Bellavista S.H.A.R.E. is our professional development arm. It is an active and well subscribed hub offering training and knowledge sharing to parents, educators and health professionals across the Southern Africa region. Talks and webinar events are offered at no charge to registered Bellavista School parents.

Please do hop online to register and receive monthly updates about what opportunities lie ahead: <https://bellavista.org.za/bellavista-share/>

Uniforms

Please consult the webpage: www.bellavista.org.za/uniforms or the uniforms tab on the app for an updated list describing the school's dress code for formal wear and sportswear. You can also reach Romy Ancer on 082 465 4461

Into 2023 we revert to our previous (pre2020) pattern of attire:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday: formal uniform
- Tuesday and Thursday: sports uniform

The dress code will be strictly enforced – pride of appearance is a good start to ‘best foot forward’. Thank you to Romy for holding prices so reasonably even into this year to support parents. Thank you to Julie-Ann McIntock and the PA for creating an inventory of quality second hand items that we call “Seconds”. The “seconds” shop is located at Rose House.

Coming and going

Please note that Wingfield Avenue access is **strictly a ONE WAY** system. Further, the road is narrow and, in the interest of the safety of every child, I must urge drivers to be courteous and mindful of other road users and of our neighbours.

- Please drive slowly, don’t double park and walk a few meters if the road is congested.
- Please do not obstruct the school driveway or the access of any residential property, even for a ‘quick drop off’.
- Our staff at the gate are the people who work to look out for your child and courtesy towards each and every staff member is appreciated.

Please note the gates for your child:

| Grade | Morning Gate | Afternoon Gate |
|-------|----------------------------|--|
| R | Wingfield Avenue Main Gate | Wingfield Avenue Main Gate |
| 1-2 | St Andrews Gate | St Andrews Gate |
| 3 -4 | Wingfield Avenue Main Gate | Wingfield Avenue Main Gate |
| 5-7 | Wingfield Avenue Main Gate | Pedestrian Gate on Wingfield (off Pridwin Field) |

Please have your child at school **between 07h20 and 07h40 to be settled and ready for our early morning CEA line up**. One gift the COVID protocols gave every child was to be very independent at the point of drop off separation. Don’t unstitch this positive behaviour: say a warm, loving goodbye, remind your child where you will meet them at the end of the day and wave farewell.

Textbooks, stationery and bags

You should have equipped your child with all textbooks and stationery before the first day. If not, please reach out to Romy Ancer on 0824654461 to arrange. Exercise books and workbooks that are additional have been ordered for you and will be invoiced on your school fee account. Please be sure to make manual payment on receipt of the statement if you paid your fees upfront.

Calendar

There have been some changes to the 2023 term dates. Please click on this link: <https://bellavista.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Bellavista-School-Term-Dates-2023.pdf>
Please discard any old copy you may have saved.

We set about the start of the year with better lightness than we did in the last two perhaps. May 2023 be kinder to everyone and when it presents its inevitable challenges, may we have grace and grit to face these together.

We look forward to seeing you from Wednesday!

Alison M Scott (Mrs)
Executive Principal