



Dear Yellowwoods Community

"I don't know the secret to success, but the secret to failure is to try and please everybody" (Bill Cosby).

There are many pressures that are brought to bear on any person or organisation that strives for excellence. There is a constant pull – much like gravity – towards settling for everything that is average. The surest way to become and remain average is to please everyone. Following your dreams and aspirations with passion will mean that you stand out and that you are exposed to the scrutiny of those who do not like to be reminded of their own lack of ambition. They will much rather pull you down than be inspired to join you in reaching for the stars. Yellowwoods strives for excellence in everything that we do. We will never settle for average. Excellence, however, requires resources. We cannot function without the buy-in of all stakeholders. We need parents to be diligent in paying their fees and taking a keen interest in what their children are doing at the school. We have an open door policy which I encourage you to make use of. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours Sincerely

Ignus Potgieter

A Word from the Yellowwoods Council

The Yellowwoods School Council is delighted to announce that Morag Painter, Ingrid Cockcroft and Clementine Fetting have joined its ranks. We look forward to their positive input on Council as we serve the school together. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to Yellowwoods School.

Mr Barry Mildenhall
Chairman



Well done to the Yellowwoods Mini Cricket team who have had an excellent season so far. They have enjoyed matches in Grahamstown and Somerset East. Thank you to all the Parents for their support and to the Coaches for their tireless work. Well done boys for your enthusiasm and sporting spirit!

IN THE CLASSROOM

At Yellowwoods, we pride ourselves in the fact that all our children are treated as individuals, with their own dreams and undeniable learning potential.

Joanne Lipman, author and former Wall Street Journal Editor, writes about her memories of a very strict music teacher. Mr Kupchynsky. Instead of focusing on what he did wrong, Lipman's article asks rather what he did right.

The latest findings on this teaching approach lead to a single startling conclusion: "It's time to revive old-fashioned education with strict discipline and unyielding demands." And here's the thing – it works. The study shows that moderate childhood stress has definite benefits and that praise can actually kill self-esteem and proves why grit and resilience are better predictors of success than any test scores.

Lipman also states categorically that her strict music teacher stems from the teachers genuine belief in the child's abilities to do better and demonstrates his/her absolute certainty that their pupils will learn and develop a whole lot of confidence along the way. A strict teacher demands self-motivation, discipline and a certainty that the pupils will, in the end, always benefit from their failures.

The good news is that we, as teachers at Yellowwoods, witness children demonstrating confidence and a positive and determined attitude towards learning which produces wonderful results from the children-every day.

Well done children on a great start to the year and (parents), if you are uncertain, choose to follow Lipman's advice and continue to support our dedicated and often strict teachers at Yellowwoods. Academics at Yellowwoods has been proved to be of a very high standard and with the support of our parents we aim to keep it so. Thank you to all – staff, parents and children, for making our remarkable school the privileged place of learning that it is. Enjoy a wonderful midterm break.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Wednesday 22nd February** – School closes for half term at 12h00.
- **Tuesday 28th February** – School opens at 7h40. U/11 Cricket match in Grahamstown.
- **Wednesday 1st March** – U/13 Cricket match in Grahamstown.
- **Thursday 2nd March** – Karoo Gala.
- **Friday 3rd March** – Grade 5 & 6 Bakerman.
- **Wednesday 8th March** – U/13 Cricket match in Grahamstown. Grade 3's visit the Science Festival in Grahamstown.
- **Thursday 9th March** – U/11 Cricket in Grahamstown.
- **Friday 10th March** – Senior Primary visit Science Festival in Grahamstown and Mini Cricket Festival at Kingswood. Grade 2 Bakerman.
- **Monday 13th March** – Grade 1-2 visit the Science Festival in Grahamstown. Inter Districts Gala.

