

# THE KING'S KEN – 25 JUNE 2009

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### WRAPPING UP OUR DISCUSSION ON BULLYING

I have devoted the whole term's lead articles in The King's Ken to a discussion around bullying. I hope you have benefited from some of the thoughts that have been expressed from different sources – many of them have helped us here at school.

In wrapping up, let me start by saying that The King's School cannot claim to be immune from bullying or abusive behaviour between students. It is also not something we will eliminate this side of Christ's return. However, we are committed to creating a safe and secure environment for all of our students and to provide an education that includes teaching Christlike responses to our children. Our school's approach to bullying is hinged on 3 aspects :

1. Supervision
2. Reporting lines
3. Assertiveness skills

### SUPERVISION

Secrecy is always implicit in every bullying incident. That's why these things tend to happen so often in bathrooms or at break time when supervision is limited. We have introduced a 'tea and wee' time for the Foundation Phase this year, and tightened up on our playground duty roster in an attempt to increase the adult eyes during these times. If your child is complaining of being treated roughly at break, it might be useful to tell him to play close to the teacher.

### REPORTING LINES

Children are encouraged to report inappropriate behaviour to their teacher, HOD, Counsellor, Vice Principal or Principal. Part of being empowered is simply knowing that you can report an incident to someone who will listen with empathy and confront the bully. We are aware that the different age groups respond differently to the reporting lines – our little ones are often only too eager to 'tell' on their friends for minor infringements while our teenagers are sometimes reluctant to 'split' on classmates, even when these classmates are clearly out of line. However, we manage the process and children are made aware of the reporting lines.

### ASSERTIVENESS SKILLS

While supervision and reporting lines are necessary, assertiveness skills are the most vital component for any child to survive a bullying situation. Please, help your child to confidently state – "No! Stop that," and then "I said stop that. I don't like it," and "If you don't stop now, I will tell the teacher." Sometimes bullying continues because the victim laughs or feigns enjoyment or just fails to convey how unacceptable the behaviour is. Please remember that assertiveness skills, like any other skills, need to be practised to be mastered. Role-playing with your child is immensely valuable.

Finally, let us as adults all be committed to model Jesus for our children.

*"Let us make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." " Let your gentleness be evident to all." " Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

**Mr. Ken Langley**

**Principal**

**HOMEWORK HABITS THAT HELP**

Homework is one of those necessary evils. It reinforces the work done in class, it alerts the teacher to work that is not fully understood and it teaches independence and self discipline. Yet it is also the source of conflict and many tears in most households. For some children, homework may be seen as torture, an extension of an exhausting day.

Good study habits are the foundations for successful work habits as an adult, so it is important to develop a positive attitude and build good habits early in your child's school life. Here are some tips to reduce tension around homework.

**MOTIVATION**

- Help your child set realistic and attainable goals for himself. If he is studying for a test, ask him what result he thinks he can achieve. Make sure that his goal is within his reach, that he will be able to achieve it. As he becomes more confident in his abilities and experiences success in the goals he sets, he will gradually extend himself and set higher goals.
- Together, decide on a reward and then help him work towards his goal. Rewards don't have to be material – extra TV time, cook his favourite meal for dinner, an afternoon at the park, etc.
- Goals need not only be limited to tests and exams, but can be set for individual homework tasks as well. For example to finish a task within a set time, to learn all his spelling words by Friday, to write as neatly as possible for the whole week, to get a smiley face for a task from the teacher, and so on.

**ENCOURAGEMENT**

- Give lots of praise, noticing even the smallest effort, letting her know that you're proud of her for trying.
- Acknowledge the difficulties she experiences with, for example, Maths, and sympathize with her, but let her know that you have confidence in her determination to overcome her problems. Make sure she knows that you're available to help her when she needs you.
- Brag about her and comment on her progress to others, when she is within earshot. This will boost her self-esteem enormously and motivate her to keep doing her best.
- Show an interest in her tasks and ask her questions about her work, discuss likes and dislikes, problems and achievements.
- Younger children often like someone to be in the room with them when working on their homework. Be close at hand and available to help when needed.

And lastly, remember the aims of assigning homework tasks. By encouraging your child to work to the best of her ability on her homework, you are helping her to develop independence, self discipline and a good work ethic. But she must take responsibility for her homework. Do not do the work for your child. She may need your assistance and guidance, but she does not need your homework.

#### **WE PRAY FOR .....**

- All those recovering from surgery and other illnesses.
- Protection over all our school families during the holidays.
- The Memani family who have a brand new baby girl called Shana, sister to Yolisa.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Well done Natasja Williams on being selected to represent the Province at the National Winter Ball Games to be held in Kwa-Zulu Natal from 12-15 July 2009. **PHOTO TO BE PLACED HERE PLEASE**

#### **CLOSING TIMES FOR BREAK UP DAY – 26 JUNE 2009**

**Grade RR and Grade R - 11:45**

**Grade 1-3 : 11:45**

**Grade 4-7 : 12:00**

**Grade 8-12 : After exam, waiting class till 12:00**

**There will still be waiting class and Aftercare on break-up day, but Aftercare will be closed for the duration of the holidays.**

#### **STARTING TIMES**

Many of our students are late in the mornings, some of them almost on a daily basis. Parents, please ensure that your child is at school on time. At 7:30 the bell rings and they need to be on the premises by then.

#### **Important dates for the 3<sup>rd</sup> term**

- Winter School - 29 June to 3 July 2009
- School Starts - 21 July 2009
- Grade R school readiness assessments - Individual Dates to be advised (start 27 July 2009)
- Clearwater Exhibition - 24-26 July 2009
- Parents evening : 17:30 – 20:00 - 28 July 2009
- Group Photo Day (Sport, Culture and Prefects) - 21 August 2009
- Gr 9 Subject Choice Evening - 27 August 2009
- Prayer Day and Worship Evening - 28 August 2009
- Prelims start - 31 August 2009
- Golf Day - 1 September 2009

Winter uniform is to be worn during the 3<sup>rd</sup> term. Please ensure that all children arrive at school on the 1<sup>st</sup> day in the correct winter uniform, inclusive of the correct dress and hair.

### **TELEPHONE LINES OUT OF ORDER**

During the school holidays our school's telephone lines were all stolen. This means that we have no e-mail, fax or telephones available. Should you need to contact the school, please phone us on our cell phone number:

**079 512 1287/8 or (011) 958 5188 or (011) 958 5189**

### **THE SCHOOL WEAR SHOP**

**Operating hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 07:45 – 12:00

If parents need assistance or to make alternative arrangements, please contact Liza on 072 108 3670.

#### **Please take note :**

- Winter uniform is still to be worn when school re-opens for the 3<sup>rd</sup> term.
- There are a number of accounts outstanding and you are requested to settle these as a matter of urgency. Any accounts that are not settled by Thursday 25 June 2009 will be handed over for collection.
- Thank you to the parents that have honoured their commitment to pay the amounts owing.

### **FOR FRIENDS FRIDAY**

Collection for **Friday 26 June 2009** will be **SUGAR**.

In addition to the above, any warm clothes for children from 3 months to 9 years old will be greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT!**