



# WOODRIDGE

*Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon. ~ E. M. Forster*

## From the Headmaster's Desk



This year, one of the areas we are focussing on is the development of communication skills in English. Mrs Pienaar passed this interesting article on to me:

### ***“Reading to children has long impact, says OECD study***

*Parents and children reading together at the start of school makes a long impact, says study. Children who parents frequently read with them in their first year of school are still showing the benefit when they are 15, say an international study.*

*The OECD analysis, based on teenagers in 14 developed countries, found that active parental involvement at the beginning of school was a significant trigger for developing children's reading skills that would carry through until they were teenagers.*

*On average, teenagers whose parents had helped with reading at the beginning of school were six months ahead in reading levels at the age of 15.*

## ***Reading with parents 'improves children's exams results'***

*Parents can improve their children's academic performance by the equivalent of up to six months' schooling by reading together, singing songs and even sharing family meals, according to international research.*

*Often, too, parents are reluctant to offer to help their children with school work because they feel they lack some of the skills that would make a difference to their children's success in school.*

*The good news [is] that it does not require a PhD or unlimited hours for parents to make a difference. In fact, many parent-child activities that are associated with better reading performance among students involve relatively little time and no specialised knowledge.”*

***“It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.” — Mark Twain***

Thank you to all the parents who attended the information evening. I hope you found it worthwhile. The family camp was well attended. If you do have any suggestions on how we can improve it, please email me.



We are still waiting for the mid-week cricket fixtures to be published. Once we have this, Mr Phillips will pass them on to you. Saturday cricket fixtures begin on 4 February.

The WOW Moms have some exciting projects lined up for this year. Their first request is for floor tiles for the "Prep Tuck-shop". If you can assist, please contact Mrs Tanya Lapersonne. Thanks to all the moms who have volunteered to be the class representatives.

Some of music pupils are still awaiting individual music lessons. Timetables have not been finalised yet as the Campus Music Department is in the process of appointing someone who can take lessons in both the Prep and the College. I apologise for the inconvenience this has caused - all lessons lost will be made up.

On a sad note, one of the grounds and maintenance staff, Sydney Puwe passed away recently. Sydney had worked at Woodridge for 10 years. Many of the Preppies will remember him as the driver of the Uitenhage bus. He will be sadly missed.

Please note that I will be away on a marketing trip to Gauteng & Zambia from 1 – 4 February.

**TREVOR VON BERG**



**Ruben van Breda receiving his Golden Medal From Grand Master Pablo LaFuente.**



**Jordan Caraher successfully completed his Scuba diving Open Water 1 course. He is now a qualified scuba diver**

## PREP GALLERY:





<b>SAT, 4 FEBRUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cricket vs Herbert Hurd (u13A &amp; u13B and u11A and u11B) Home and Away</li> <li>• Herald MTB Bike Race – 30 km</li> </ul>
<b>SUN, 5 FEBRUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herald MTB Bike Race – 40 km</li> </ul>
<b>SAT, 11 FEBRUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cricket vs Graeme (u11A &amp; B, u13A &amp; B, u9A)</li> </ul>
<b>FRI, 17 FEBRUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inter-house Gala</li> </ul>
<b>SAT, 18 FEBRUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cricket vs Kingswood (u11A &amp; B, u13A &amp; B) <b>(u9A – TBA)</b></li> </ul>
<b>THURS, 23 FEBRUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual River Race at van Staden's River Mouth</li> </ul>
<b>MID-TERM BREAK</b>	
<b>INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' CRICKET FESTIVAL – U13S</b>	