Dear Summerhill Parents,

As promised, we have a high-energy, super wonderfully exciting and stimulating year planned ahead! We are ready for our students and we savour the wonderful “First Day Back At School” with shiny new school shoes and freshly sharpened pencils and renewed hope and curiosity!

What we have up our sleeve for this year:

Staff changes:

We welcome Ms Daniella Booysen to Summerhill with great excitement. Ms Daniella Booysen is the only new Senior Phase teacher for 2019 and hails from Pretoria. She will be teaching Afrikaans (Grade 5) and Visual Art (Grade 4-7). Ms Booysen also has a Diploma in Textile and Technology and has won a number of prizes and awards in the design industry.

We say a sad goodbye to Mrs Singh as she steps down from her position as Head of the Junior Department. She has served many, many successful years in this position and is now wanting to remain focussed in the Grade 2 department specifically. Mrs Singh will be retaining her position as Grade 2 teacher and Head of Grade Two.

We are very excited to welcome two very experienced and long-standing staff members to the positions of Head of Department at Summerhill Prep. Ms Fritz will be taking over the Junior Head of Department reins from Mrs Singh. Ms Fritz has worked alongside Mrs Singh and she has a super exciting 2019 planned filled with promise and excitement.

Mrs Pötscher has assumed the role of Senior Head of Department (in place of Ms Pieterse who left Summerhill last year). Mrs Pötscher has a proven track record in leadership roles at the school and has been working in a temporary capacity, alongside Mrs Rajeev, as HOD for Term Three. I look forward to seeing our staff and our students thrive and succeed under these two staff members whose primary focus is the growth and success of our school.

This year we are introducing two new I.T. programs Reading Eggs and PERLS to our students. These two programmes offer support (and extension) in Reading and Comprehension to add to our, already, successful Mathletics programme.

We will continue to enter the sought after “Tour de Maths” competition for our Maths students.

Traditions at the Prep:

We have some wonderful traditions that we will be continuing with this year: a bell ringing ceremony for our new Grade 1’s as they enter Prep school life; Grade 1 and Grade 12 Cupcake Fellowship to name a few.
Our eco-friendly and go-green ethos:
We continue to strive to offer this very important aspect to our students to ensure that they received a holistic and “well-grounded” educational experience at Summerhill: we are super excited to have introduced a Worm Farm this year that our Grade 2 students and teachers will continue to be in charge of. The precious compost that is made from the Worm Farm will be used to fertilise our gardens; we will be focussing on our compost heap that will also service our gardens; we will be growing veggies on the Prep School property that students will be asked to look after. Summerhill is currently working on our Green Flag WESSA status this year.

Sport:
Lots of plans in this department. I will leave this to Mr Bolton to communicate but one thing I can definitely share is that we have a swimming team who were extremely successful last year and Coach Kegan and Mr Bolton will be entering our teams into some “external” competitions. We are also excited to introduce our students to some very informative Sport’s Camps that are hosted by Camp Discovery for during the holidays.

Cultural:
We are proud to announce that following from the huge success of our Junior and Senior Montages this year we will be doing this again this year! Mrs Human, Mr Pötscher and Ms Willers are already plotting and planning another extravaganza that will showcase our students at their very best! Effectively the whole school will be involved and each child will have the opportunity to contribute! We also have a dynamic and musical team of teachers: Miss Dempster and Ms Doorsamy who will be offering the Tambourine Club this year (please see more details later in my letter).

Leadership:
We have revamped our current Councillor programme for this year. Our Grade 7’s will all participate in a focussed and meaningful Mentorship Programme. We created a number of different Committees and asked the students to indicate which committee they would like to be a part of for next year. Each committee will have a student head and Ms Visagie will ensure that there is support and guidance for each committee as they decide on their ongoing projects for the year.

Please see below for the extra murals that the school will be offering our students this year. We have ensured we have a good spread so that there is something for everyone and that there will be NO excuses for students to not participate in the extramural programme.

Computer Club is a space in which our students engage, through a social and competitive level, in worlds behind a computer. This teaches our students teamwork, strategy and communication skills. Teamwork - Certain games require immense team cohesion and synchronization to win games. Strategy - Our games require strong planning with specific tasks in order to out-think/smart opponents. Communication - Without the use of communication, teamwork renders unnecessary. Students consistently communicate with one another to achieve cohesion among each other.

Computer Club is a space in which students are able to explore their own and others creativity through a fun and educational environment.

Story Skirmish and Battle of the Books is a Reading Development programme run by the Library and Information Services division of the City of Johannesburg. It is a books-based quiz competition with preliminary rounds within schools, and against schools in the city of Johannesburg. Students are given a list of prescribed books and quizzed on them.

The extramural programme will involve reading the prescribed books, having discussions on the books and staging mini quizzes to select the teams that will represent our school. Loads of fun and learning to be had!

Jnr Beings Bible Club and Snr Beings Bible Club is a space set aside at second break to empower our Christian students with knowledge of Fruits of the spirit in their daily lives. Faithfulness, generosity, gentleness, goodness, joy, kindness, love, modesty, patience, peace and self-control. All students welcome!
Mathletics is an online math program that offers games questions and tutorial videos based on the CAPS curriculum. It is student specific and adjusts to the individual based on correct and incorrect answers.

**Chess** strengthens your brain muscles! This will be offered for both the Juniors and Senior students this year. Your move! What do Garry Kasparov, Knights, castles, Kings, Queens all have in common? Between Chess Grandmasters and chess pieces the world becomes a game. In Chess, you improve your logic skills, your maths abilities and strategic thinking.

**Public Speaking:**
Come one, come all.
Tired of not being heard?
Cat got your tongue?
Don't know how to communicate?
Well look no further, help is here! Join me at Public Speaking where you will learn how to inform, persuade and entertain all those non-believers. You will have them eating out of the palm of your hands. Come learn the secret to speaking with confidence and conviction. I can't wait to share this with you!

**Tambourine Club:**
Want to shake, rattle and roll with the tambourine? Come and join us for the new and exciting Tambourine Club. Bring your rhythm and beat, bring your smile and vibe and come and join us for a super fun and exciting tambourine class! Who knows what magical surprises await us?

May this year be your most successful and happy year yet. May you always remember that we are a team at Summerhill and we work together to ensure that the students enjoy a wonderfully stimulating, fun and happy time here with us.
Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2019 school year. This year the theme of the College is “Achieving Milestones”. The College celebrates 10 years and we are very proud of how far we have come. We started the College with 10 students in 2009 and this year we have a total of 188 students and 10 grades enrolled at the College.

Summerhill College is the only school in Midrand to offer both the Cambridge and IEB syllabus. 2018 was the first year that we wrote the IEB exams and our students did exceptionally well. Our CIE students continue to impress us and last year we have exceptional results from our A Level class.

Team work and positivity is the key to success in any organisation and at Summerhill we are fortunate to have a great staff of teachers who always got the extra mile to ensure that students work to their potential.

The new students have settled in well and we wish them a long and happy stay at the College.

Students who are in their final year of study are encouraged to make use of all the support available to them. We wish all our students and staff a successful 2019.

EXTRA MURALS/CYCLE TEST

Extra Murals began in earnest on Monday. Rosters have been emailed to all students and parents and has also been posted on the communicator. Please be reminded that the first hour of extra murals is academic and sport only starts after academic lessons are completed.

Cycle tests for Grade 9/IGCSE1 – Grade 12/AS Level also starts on Monday.

CHARITY DRIVE

We will be continuing with providing sandwiches to Nokupila Pre-Primary school and to Takalang. We appeal to parents to please donate Jam and Peanut butter so that we can continue to provide a meal to these children every fortnight.
From the College Principal’s desk ...

GRADE 8 CAMP - CAMP KONKA

The Grade 8’s spent three wonderful days bonding as group at Camp Konka. They came back refreshed and ready to face the challenges of their first year at the College. Thank you to Mrs Dube, Miss Mbuyisa and Mr Mpofu for accompanying the students on the Camp.
The Term 1 Sporting Season has begun with a bang! The Softball players are pitching and catching up a storm in preparation for their first fixture against Acts of Education on Wednesday 30th of January and the swimmers are mastering their strokes and streaming ahead for their first gala on Thursday 31st of January at Fourways High.

Friday 25th of January saw a battle of epic proportions at the annual Inter House Gala. Martials were eager to defend their 2 year winning streak in what set out to be a battle of the strokes. Competition was fierce. Swimmers swam their hearts out in each race. War cries were sung with pride with the entrance sounds of motorbike roars still pulsating through their veins. From the 1st race starting whistle, to the final place touch of the last relay, swimmers pushed themselves to the limit as with every stroke they could be one gliding movement closer to victory. Despite giving their all, Martials were not destined to maintain their winning streak.

Congratulations must however be given to the Bateleurs for being crowned the gala and spirit cup winners for 2019. Martials are to be commended for their valiant effort. Thank you to the Staff Head of Houses - Coach Morgan and Mrs van Vuuren for supporting the Martials, and Mrs Vd Berg and Mr Nyatsambo guiding the Bateleurs to glory.

Congratulations to our new Victor and Victrix Ludorum of the Gala - Mikah Losch and Jenna-Lee Mota. We are very proud of you and expect great results from you this swimming season as our school’s swimming Captains.

Well done to the winning House and their captains - Bateleur Captains: Kabelo Mampa and Jenna-Lee Mota and Vice-Captains: Thabang Mafokate and Luyanda Masondo.

I am sure that the Martial House is already planning ahead for the Inter House Netball and Soccer as it is never to early to start for House of the Year domination.

Thanks must go to all staff who helped on the day with their various duties. Special thanks to Coaches Kenny and Morgan, as well as Coaches David and Kegan from the Prep for their assistance. Trevor and the groundstaff were as always on hand to help with the set up and we truly appreciate all you did to make this event successful. Last but not least, a massive thank you to Lara and her team for making sure the College Staff were fed and hydrated.

We are looking forward to an exciting and fast paced term for sport, if the first 2 weeks of school are anything to go by. Should you have any queries regarding sport, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Sport,
Marguerite Herbst
College Head of Sport
marguerite@summerhill-school.co.za
News from the Preparatory School...

GRADE 1 FIRST DAY

Our Grade 1 students experienced a fabulous start to the year, beginning their primary school career with the exciting Bell Ringing ceremony where they each got to ring the school bell as a ‘ringing in’ to this new chapter of their lives. Parents and students then made their way to their classes to meet their teachers. Selfies, over-sized stationery packages and shiny new shoes all added to the excitement of the moment. The grade 1 students were then shown around the school and given the opportunity to work in their new books, and play with the educational games. Break time saw them tucking into carefully packed ‘first-day’ lunch boxes and enjoying the Grade 1 play ground as they made new friends and re-acquainted with old ones after the holidays. The end of the day saw many excited faces waiting at the gate to share their first day adventures with their guardians.

Jess Fritz
jess@summerhill-school.co.za

GRADE 1 - BELL RINGING CEREMONY

On Wednesday the 16th of January, we welcomed the new Grade Ones for 2019 with our Bell Ringing Ceremony. The students were very excited, and nervous, to meet their teachers and to enter a new phase of their lives. Mrs. Locker welcomed the parents to Summerhill Preparatory and Mrs. Martins explained the significance of the ceremony to parents and students and welcomed the Grade One students. Each student’s name was called and they came up to ring the bell. Each student was given a certificate as well as a promise sealed with their thumb print on how to behave as a Summerhill student. Parents then walked their students to class to say a final goodbye and wish their children well for their first day. The Grade One students were excited to join their teachers in their respective classes and begin their school journey. It was a wonderful experience for the children, parents and teachers. Each student felt welcomed into the warm and loving environment that is Summerhill.

Sam Martins
samm@summerhill-school.co.za
News from the Preparatory School...

Gr 1 VISIT THE FOREST CLASSROOM

During their first lesson in the Music Class, Junior students were introduced to what Music is, how sound waves travel through the air, how the ear works and how echoes are formed. We visited our Forest Classroom and Students had to listen carefully to Nature's music. They identify as many different sounds from nature and all the different birds they could hear.

BRAG BRACELETS

Teacher Liezel introduced a new reward system in her Art and Music class this year to encourage a positive mindset, good behaviour and to encourage students to take responsibility for keeping a neat and well managed space. Students who show outstanding behaviour in certain areas will be rewarded with a "Brag Bracelet" which they can wear for the rest of the day. There are 9 different bracelets they can collect.

Along with collecting the bracelets there is a challenge in each grade where the child who collects the most each term will get a surprise and the children who collect all of them during the year will also be rewarded an additional prize. Our first recipient was Zoleka Mpala Grade 3S!!! Congratulations on setting an excellent example to your peers Zoleka! We are proud of you.

SPECIAL GRADE 7 ASSEMBLY

On the 21st January 2019, the 2019 Grade 7 register teachers held a very special assembly where we welcomed our new students into Grade 7. Each student received a beautiful cupcake with the school's logo welcoming them into Grade 7. We encouraged each Grade 7 student to make this year their very best as it is their last year at Summerhill prep. We hope that they strive and blossom in Grade 7 and make many beautiful memories with lasting friendships. Good luck for the year to come!
News from the Preparatory School...

GRADE 7s AT CAMP DISCOVERY

Summerhill’s Grade 7s had the most wonderful time at Camp Discovery. Most importantly they are learning things which are useful in everyday life. The students actively participated in group dynamic courses, leadership games and developing project management skills.

Day 1: Students attended various activities that allowed them to use their navigation skills and tracking abilities and tied this in with meaningful group activities that lead to developing and enhancing each and every student’s leadership skills and team work.

Day 2: Students woke up slightly more tired after late night talks and midnight snacks. Breakfast was very delish. Today was a very eventful day. Students tackled the obstacle course and really enjoyed getting down, dirty and very muddy. Many students overcame their fears as they took on the daunting zip-line into muddy waters. The students had lots of fun playing water polo and ending the night off with a couple of games of stalk the lantern.

Day 3: Our last full day of activities. Students are showing more signs of tiredness as the business of the day tackles them. They started the day off with archery, showing us that we have many students who are a really good shot. They continued to wonderful team activities which showed what great spirit our Grade 7s have. Lastly we ended off the night with a wonderful camp production from our talented Grade 7 students who showcased their beautiful voices and dancing. This very busy day saw students heading off to sleep early.

Day 4: Students had a bitter sweet moment as they are happy to be going home but sad to leave the wonderful place called Camp Discovery.

As a teacher it was so wonderful to see each and every student part take and face their fears. Every one has been given an opportunity to have an amazing life-time experience. I am proud to say each and every student has grown so much from this camp and has learnt valuable life lessons.
The date 15th January 2019; the time 10:10am; the place Camp Discovery. Dun-dun-duuuun! The newly anointed Grade 6 students disembarked from the cool interior of the luxury liner and were greeted by the blistering heat of Limpopo. Luckily, excitement for the refreshing, inviting swimming pool reigned supreme. Bags were offloaded, rooms were allocated and the fun began.

A race in the bush, followed by a scrumdidliyumptious lunch set us off to an exhilarating start. Teambuilding followed by a leisurely game drive prompted a hearty dinner in the after-glow of a log fire. The pitter-patter of light summer rain lulled the campers into a deep slumber.

Rise and shine to the breakfast of champions! On the menu: oats, scrambled eggs, fish fingers and toast were gobbled before embarking on the mysterious Letteria course and competitive Boeresport. Who would be the victor? The night culminated with disco-time and a heated pool-party.

Survival of the fittest: water-play, archery and an obstacle course to boot were the order of the day. A good spray-down was needed after a visit to the exfoliating mud-bath. After just two hours of intense rehearsal the Grade 6’s put on an extravagant camp production featuring dancing, singing and a variety of performing arts.

Reluctantly, the campers dragged themselves to bed as they knew that the next day they would depart for home. See you in 2020 Camp Discovery!
News from the Preparatory School...

GRADE 5s AT CAMP DISCOVERY

As we stepped on the bus, “Fun” was the name of the game! Upon arrival we were greeted with such enthusiasm. Our students thoroughly enjoyed their meals and tuck shop was a blast.

To remember all the different animals we saw on the game drive I would be listing them a mile long - loads of different buck, warthog, giraffe, zebra, etc. The zip line was a little messy with all the mud greeting them at the end.....splash ! My favorite time was when we all swam together - huge fun, thank you Grade 5. Leaving was sad, but the memories made everlasting!
News from the Preparatory School...

GRADE 4s AT CAMP DISCOVERY

The day had finally arrived - for 47 excitable and more than well-prepared students, to have their first school camp experience. After many rather hasty (and a couple of long drawn out) good byes, the bus journey began...

Driving through the gates of Camp Discovery one and a half hours later, brought with it gasps and shouts of: "Wow!" ... "We’re finally here!" ... and "Awesome!" We were met by the fantastic facilitators, Blackie and Zanay who welcomed the group and set the tone for the fun-filled day ahead.

Within the hour the students had settled in their rooms and were assembled in the hall, all wide-eyed and enthusiastic, to kick off the programme. Fun icebreaker activities were followed by the rotation slot where our children either went off on a Game Drive, or were guided through the Bundu Race.

The students had this to share after the Game Drive: "It was so awesome seeing such cool animals close up!" ... "We learnt lots of facts about the 20 types of buck on the farm." ... "We were so lucky to spot the extremely rare black impala!" ... "The animals looked happy!" ... "I loved that there were so many different types of horns in the bush!" And of the Bundu Race: "Now I know why it’s important to stick together as a team." ... "We must always have our friend’s back." ... "We must listen to each other if we want to succeed."

After a yummy lunch, it was time for the Obstacle Course activity. This included crawling through the mud which for many, was "totally gross." The more favourable comments gleaned were, "Mud is fun!" ... "It taught us that camouflage is important." ... "That was one way to learn survival skills!"

The rest of the day saw the students swimming, eating, dancing and partying to their heart’s content. Lights out at 22h00 was only an actuality for a handful. The majority of the students preferred to not end their day at such an early hour! All in all, a great experience was had and the Grade 4 students of Summerhill are the richer for having gone on this super-organised and very successful adventure camp.

The Grade 4 Teachers
Welcome back sport fans! Term 1 is jam packed with exciting extra-murals. We start the year off with Cricket, Softball, Tennis and Swimming. On our cultural side we have Chess, Drama, Public speaking, Computer club and the ever-popular Art club.

Parents are always welcome to join us at all our sporting endeavours here and around Johannesburg. Please check below for upcoming fixtures.

**UPCOMING FIXTURES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29-Jan-19</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Under 11 Cricket vs Curro Midrand @Summerhill</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-Jan-19</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Open Cricket vs Crawford Fourways @Summerhill</td>
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<td>31-Jan-19</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Senior and Junior Softball vs Beaulieu @Beaulieu</td>
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<td>1-Feb-19</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Swimming Gala vs Cooper College and Saheti B @Summerhill</td>
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<td>3-Feb-19</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>The Platinum Mile @Buffelspoort</td>
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<td>4-Feb-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Mini cricket vs Crawford Fourways @Summit</td>
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<td>5-Feb-19</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Under 11 Cricket vs Carlswald House @Summerhill</td>
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<td>6-Feb-19</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Open Cricket vs Steyn City</td>
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<td>7-Feb-19</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Under 9 Cricket vs Christ Church</td>
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<td>7-Feb-19</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Junior and Senior Softball vs Pecanwood Prep @Summerhill</td>
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<td>8-Feb-19</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Swimming Gala @Crawford Fourways</td>
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<td>11-Feb-19</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Mini Cricket vs Kings' College Bryanston @Summit</td>
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<td>12-Feb-19</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Under 11 Cricket vs Buccleuch Montessori @Summerhill</td>
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<td>13-Feb-19</td>
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<td>Open Cricket vs Acts H. of Education @Summerhill</td>
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<td>14-Feb-19</td>
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<td>Under 9 Cricket vs Carlswald House @Summerhill</td>
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<td>14-Feb-19</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Junior and Senior Softball vs Carlswald House @Summerhill</td>
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Summerhill will be sending our swimmers to the The Platinum Mile at Buffelspoort. Our team will be competing in the 600m fun race on Sunday, 3 February at 14:00. Good luck to all our swimmers!

David Bolton
Head of Sport
email: david@summerhill-school.co.za
Dear Parents,

A big welcome back to our existing parents and a special warm welcome to all our new parents. May you enjoy our school as much as we enjoy teaching in it!!

**MEET-THE-TEACHER:** Thank you for the excellent turnout at our Meet-the-Teacher Evening. This year we introduced you to our specialist Team; Michelle Martel, Lauren Ferraris, Nadine Kuyper, Suzette from Little Bubbles and Brett from Buzzy Bodies.

**PAID EXTRA-MURALs:** This week all our children tried out the paid extra-mural activities we have on offer at Summerhill. Karate, Ballet, Pottery, Young Engineers and Little Kickers. Please remember they are still very little and in this case 'less-is-more'. They will want to do everything!!

Please note Young Engineers starts in Grade One only. All application forms are on the school communicator.

**FIRST NURSERY PTA COFFEE CHAT MEETING:** Wednesday morning at 7:00am the 30th of January, will see the start to our first Nursery PTA Meetings for the year. All class moms are invited to attend as well the class teachers. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee with us.

**FUN-WORK SHEETS:** Next week we will start sending out our weekly Fun-Work sheets. Many of the games and activities are instrumental in assisting your little one achieve milestones for his or her age group. It is a fun way of improving their fine and gross motor skills, auditory processing, co-ordination etc. Try them and most importantly have fun!!

**SCHOOL COMMUNICATOR:** Have you downloaded the school communicator? The link is [http://www.school-communicator.com/download.php](http://www.school-communicator.com/download.php)

**GRADE 0 SCIENCE FAIR:** Our Grade 0 Science Fair will be held this term on the 15th of March. As promised I will start sending out information from next week guiding you through this exciting project. This year’s theme is making something from recycled materials for “Birds, Bees or Butterflies”.

**MY SCHOOL**

Please support our My School Card Fundraiser for the school. Should you require a card please let us know.

Sonya Toet
Principal
email: sonya@summerhill-school.co.za
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AUTUMN 2019 LEAGUES

ACTION. SPORT. LIFE.

10-WEEK DOODGEBALL
12 FEB 2019

15-WEEK CRICKET
12 FEB 2019

12-WEEK SOCCER
29 MAR 2019

12-WEEK NETBALL
1 APR 2019

ENTRIES DUE
25 JAN 2019

ENTRIES DUE
31 JAN 2019

ENTRIES DUE
18 MAR 2019

ENTRIES DUE
15 MAR 2019

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