Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to our parents, staff and students who are all special members of our Summerhill family!

December always goes by in the blink of an eye and before we know it – we are back to school with shiny shoes and renewed energy and enthusiasm! As always, we do our very best to build on the previous year to continually enhance and improve your child’s school life at Summerhill.

What do we have up our sleeve for this year:

**Academic:**
1. This year we are introducing an I.T. program called Purple Mash to the Grade 1’s, 2’s and 3’s. It comprises of numerous programs that relate to all the subjects we are currently teaching in our curriculum and more. Such as: Coding, Animation, Story writing, Emailing, Blogging, Typing, Basic literacy and numeracy, Music and Art, Mind mapping.

2. The Grade 7’s will be introduced to some of Shakespeare’s works this year. We are super excited with this development and look forward to our students being exposed to another genre of literature.

**Traditions at the Prep:**
We have some wonderful traditions that we are introducing 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 be introducing a Worm Farm this year that our Foundation Phase students and teachers will 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 proud to announce that we have been promoted to Silver status by the WESSA Committee. We are an eco-school with a difference and are very excited that all our hard work has been recognised. We are going for gold in 2018!

**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:**
An absolutely exquisite plan scheduled for this year! We are proud to announce that following from the huge success of our Junior Montage we have the seniors joining in as well. 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: Mrs Mutambiranwa, Mrs Knott, Mrs Human and Ms Pramraj, who will be offering a Percussion and Tambourine extra mural to our students (and Marimba will be joining this amazing offering a little later in the year).

**Leadership:**
As outlined in my communication sent out at the end of last year – we are revamping our current Councillor programme at the end of this year. Grade 7’s of 2019 will all participate in a focussed and meaningful Mentorship Programme.

May 2018 be your most successful and happy year yet. May you always remember that we are a team at Summerhill and we all work together to ensure that the students enjoy a wonderfully stimulating, fun and happy time here with us.

*Clare Locker  MDP (UNISA) B.Ed. (Wits)*
*Executive Principal*
*Email: clare@summerhill-school.co.za*
Happy New Year! Welcome back to school. The motto at the College this year is Perseverance, Kindness and Passion for learning. If you Persevere you will be ensured of success. Keep working hard and always doing your best. It does not take a lot of effort to be Kind to people. A smile or a first hello goes a long way.

Always endeavour to look to those who seem sad or alone, for everyone has a burden to bear and a story to tell. If you approach anything you do with Passion, then success is assured!

With these basic principles in life I am certain that our students will be on the path to a successful and happy 2018! We have had an exceptional increase in the number of enrolments at the College this year. We currently have a total of 200 students at the College this year. We hope that both the new parents and students who have joined us this year will have a great experience at the College.

Please ensure that you have the D6 communicator installed so that you can keep in touch with what is going on at SUMMERHILL SCHOOL (MIDRAND).

**Grade 8 Camp**

The grade 8’s attended a bonding camp at Camp Discovery. They had a great time and have come away as very close group.
We are very proud of our AS Level students of 2017. We had a total of 20 students who wrote for Bachelor passes and 18 of those were successful.

We are proud of our 100% pass rate in Accounting, Afrikaans, Art and Design, Biology, History and Chemistry and our 98% pass rate in Mathematics AS Level. Our Business Studies students produced 5 distinctions and the Maths Students 3 distinctions.

Our IGCSE students also received amazing results across the board and we are very proud of them. The students performed exceptionally well in Economics and English Language. In Economics there were two A*'s (>90%) and one A. In English there were four A*'s and one A.

These students can now progress to the AS Level with the confidence that they will be able to cope with the standard expected.

**CIE (CAMBRIDGE) RESULTS - AS LEVEL**

Summerhill conducted a Skype interaction of our grade 9 students with Grade 9 students of Richmond School New Delhi India. The topic of discussion was Carbon Footprint. These students discussed the environmental issues in our country with issues in their country. It was a great learning experience for all the students.

**OUR DUX SCHOLAR**

**LIANNA KAPP**

Achieved distinctions in **BIOLOGY, ENGLISH LANGUAGE, MATHEMATICS & PHYSICS.**

She is currently enrolled at Stellenbosch University for a BSc degree.

**Claudia Nair**

2 A*'s in Economics and English, A's in Maths, Computer Science and Accounting and B's in Physics and Afrikaans.

**Jamilla da Costa Dah**

3 A*'s in Accounting, Economics, English Language, A in History, B in Maths and French and C in English Literature.
News from the College...

A LEVELS 2018

This year we have a record number of students who will be studying for their A Levels. A levels are post Matric and equivalent to first year university. Local universities reward students handsomely with additional entrance points for A level subjects when applying. We have 6 students writing these rigorous and challenging subjects this year.

Well done to all of our students!

INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING GALA

The College held its first Inter-house Swimming Gala on Friday. A great atmosphere prevailed and the houses were as competitive as always. Thank you to the staff who made this event a very successful one!

Martial house was victorious over the Bateleurs.
Well done to all the swimmers who participated.
A warm welcome to all the Grade 8’s and new students at the College. I am sure that you will all enjoy the exciting sporting programme we have throughout the year.

Term 1 Sports include Swimming and Softball for the Girls. The fixtures for the 1\textsuperscript{st} term are on the Term Planner but are also communicated on a weekly basis via the Communicator.

**Softball Results**
The first Softball match of the season was played on Wednesday 24\textsuperscript{th} January against Pecanwood at Summerhill School.

The players were very excited about testing out their skills on the pitch and with the bat. Despite their best efforts, Summerhill narrowly lost by 3 runs.

**Swimming**
There will be morning Fitness training with Coach Kegan from 6:00 – 7:00 every morning. Students are encouraged to attend this session.

Both the Swimming and the Softball seasons are fast paced, with all fixtures being completed by the end of February.

In March, we start with trials and pre-season training for Netball and Soccer so there is lots to look forward to in the Months ahead.

Please remember that all Sporting Uniform is available at Mac Schoolwear.
Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Wishing you all a very sporty Term 1!

**Marguerite Visser**
College Head of Sport
collegesport@summerhill-school.co.za
Wow! Our Eisteddfod success is still rolling on, with the momentum gained in September 2017 speeding us into 2018 and the 15th annual National Eisteddfod Academy YOUNG PERFORMER AWARDS COMPETITION.

This is a very prestigious event to which several of our students and classes have been invited to compete. Minimum standard to achieve during 2017 Eisteddfod to receive an invitation is a Diploma – meaning 90% or higher.

The following students and classes have received invitations to compete for prizes to the value of R100 000 in total (Gold R35000, Silver R10000, Bronze R5000 shared prizes):

2017 Classes  -  Grade 2S Miss Robinson
              Grade 3G Mrs Naidoo
              Grade 4S Mrs Doorsamy
              Grade 5G Mrs Knott & Mrs Ngcobo
              Grade 5S Mrs Pillay
              Grade 7G Mrs Pötscher
              Grade 0 – Blue Cranes, Green Dragons and Silver Dolphins

Individual contestants in alphabetical order:
Diya Bheema    Kavita Daya    Luben Human    Mphuti Manyathela
Liam Martins   Megan Moonsamy Thea Naicker    Liam Oates
Uzayr Paruk    Priyanka Pillay Chloë Prins    Issa Ramanotsi
Katleho Ramanotsi

College Contestants:
Kiasha Chetty and Kgotlello (TK) Kutama

Well done to all of you! Your dedication and hard work will take you far. Further information will be supplied to parents of each invitee.

Teressa Oates
Email: teressa@summerhill-school.co.za
Cheer and excitement filled the air at Summerhill Preparatory School last Wednesday. It was after all the first day of the new academic year and in true “Summerhill” style a new tradition was about to begin...

Looking dapper in their brand new uniforms, our adorable Grade 1’s bravely made their way to “big school” for the first time. The atmosphere was overwhelming with many mixed emotions in the air as parents nervously straightened uniforms, tugged onto school bags and flashed big smiles at their little ones. The nerves and anxiety soon disappeared when the Grade 1’s took centre stage to partake in a Bell Ringing Ceremony!

Parents and teachers alike, beamed with pride as each student was given the opportunity to ring the bell signifying their introduction into school. The ceremony holds great importance and symbolism for the school as it represents an acceptance of and a commitment to the values that come with being part of the Summerhill family. As students were rung in, they each received a certificate accompanied by the “Summerhill Promise”. Students will only ever ring this bell again upon their exit in Grade 7.

The new tradition indeed marked the start of a new era with great momentum. Students embraced the love and enjoyed the spotlight as they were welcomed with a huge applause from the crowd. It was a memorable day indeed with no tears, just smiles and laughter all around! Further information will be supplied to parents of each invitee.
Sixty energetic ten year olds, laden with sleeping bags and carefully packed suitcases boarded the bus while their anxious parents looked on nervously. Their visible enthusiasm grew with every turn of the bus wheels as we left the school gates. The ninety-minute trip found the eager campers eating, singing, contemplating and giggling gleefully in anticipation of what lay ahead.

On our arrival at Camp Discovery, we were met by Karabo and Lungile who were assigned as our facilitators. The students were led to their dormitories and were taken through to the hall for the rundown of the much needed rules and regulations for a successful Camp. We then had a birthday ring and cupcakes for Aaryan’s well-timed tenth birthday. The Ice-breaker activities followed…what fun it was watching our young charges get to know each other; try to beat the odds and emerge victors at the many games; work hard at impressing Lungile and Karabo; and applaud and encourage their mates in raucous cheer.

Before lunch it was time for a cooling down session in the pool. What absolute fun! They were the envy of us teachers as they splashed and splished and flipped over and slid and paddled and splattered and played happily.

After a not-so-quick visit to the tuck shop, there was a session of water activities alternating with the much-awaited game drive. The children had been prepped for this and were really looking forward to the trip. Unfortunately for them, not all the animals had received the memo to show themselves between 3 and half past 4; or had they? Perhaps they had meant to but just lost track of the time? We were fortunate enough, though to sight a few springbok, sable, eland, oryx, blesbok and some beautiful bird-life.

The obstacle course session saw the children literally get down and dirty! Not everyone enjoys swimming through muddy waters and our pretty princesses and fairy children were no exception. (However, it is worth mentioning that we did have a fair share of the group who could have been mistaken for elephant calves who lived for muddy baths.)

Time for a shower and change…and then off to the dance room. No one looking in would have imagined that the dancers on that floor were the same muddy grubby lot a half hour earlier! The dance moves and the steps that looked like polished performances off a music video had us in awe! And everyone knew all the words to all the songs? “At least we won’t have trouble getting them to memorise facts at school!” we thought.

Supper time came round and our group was less rowdy and dwindling in energy. It looked like the busy-ness and excitement of the day was taking its toll on them. By the time they were lining up for pudding they seemed ready for the sack. Lungile and Karabo even cancelled their night walk! We relaxed in the coolness of the evening for a while…and then announced bedtime. The children got into their pyjamas and made their way to their bunk beds. “Yes,” we teachers thought out loud, “we’re going to be in bed by half past 10.”

But that was not to be! It appears pyjamas/nightclothes have powers. The power to re-fuel and revitalise the tired bodies of fatigued children. We looked on helplessly as they giggled and fidgeted; shared forgotten stories and were as far away from shut eye as we could have imagined. We switched off the lights and hung around for at least an hour before the large majority decided it was a good idea to try and get some sleep after all.

The first blush of the new day was a beautiful one…as beautiful as watching our little charges stir in their sleep, tumble out of their bunks, wake each other up gently, share their dreams or complain about the noises that had kept them up. Time was soon upon us: time for breakfast, time to clean up, time to pack up and not long after…time to board the bus and make our way back to school.

We can safely say that a wonderful time was had by all!
Hooray! Everyone was so excited to go to camp. We were all packing our bags rushing to get into the bus. The grade 5 students were all sitting next to their friends and waved at their parents as we departed. Everyone was chatting and nibbled on their snacks whilst sipping stories about their holidays. The bus was even more electrified as we arrived at Camp Discovery.

We hopped off the bus and followed our facilitators, DK and AKA to our dormitories. Waiting in anticipation, we all ran into our dorms to choose bunks. We changed and went into a small conference room and received the dorm keys. After that we changed into our swimming costumes and had a refreshing swim.

We were then split into two teams and the first team went on a game drive. It was so interesting learning about different types of animals, especially since we all live in the city. After that it was lunchtime. Everyone was waiting for this…the food was nothing but delicious!

After lunch we finally went to the tuck shop and it had everything a child could ever dream of…lots and lots of sweets! We then went into the conference room and were taught about leadership because it is after all a leadership camp. When we were done we split into our teams to do both intellectual as well as physical challenges.

Dinnertime, amazing food yet again! After a few more mental challenges in the conference room, it was time for the activity most of us were dreading…the infamous night march. Turns out, it wasn’t bad at all. The best part for me was staring up at the stars. When we got back to the camp, it was lights out. However, our facilitator said we could talk to our friends and eat our snacks. Eventually we all fell asleep.

After a restful night’s sleep, we bathed and had a hearty breakfast. Off to the tuck shop to load up on sugar and our last swim. Next was our personality test to determine what kind of person we really were. Lunchtime…more yumminess! The Bundu race sounds exactly as enjoyable as it was. Here we had to follow directions in the bush, write descriptions of the camp, write the activities, write the lessons we learnt and compose a song all from scratch!

Ahhh! Mud my old friend. There is no camp without mud. We waded through muddy water, crawled through mud, swam under a net covering and survived an obstacle course through mud. It was such an amazing activity. After a well deserved shower, we had a delicious dinner with dessert as a treat. After dinner was our preparation for our big production. This was the perfect platform to showcase our talents. The program ranged from acting, singing, dancing all the way to a fashion show. Wow! We are such a talented group. Lights out!

Our last morning at camp. We bathed, packed our bags, ate breakfast and went to the tuck shop. We went on our last game drive and thoroughly enjoyed that. We sadly loaded our bags onto the bus and with a heavy heart said a fond farewell to our facilitators and beautiful Camp Discovery. This was an experience we are most certainly not going to forget in a hurry.

Written by: Mufaro Mangwanya 5G
Preparatory Sport

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. Please refer to the communicator for the sports and cultural extra mural timetables.

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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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPORTS</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29-Jan-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Under 10 Cricket vs Jubilate @Summerhill</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-Jan-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Under 11 Cricket @Building Blocks</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-Jan-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Opens B Cricket vs Reddham House Waterfall @ Summerhill</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-Jan-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Opens A Cricket @Reddham House Waterfall</td>
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<td>01-Feb-18</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Senior and Junior Softball vs Saheti</td>
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<tr>
<td>03-Feb-18</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Grade 3 to 4 Gala</td>
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<td>03-Feb-18</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Grade 5 to 7 Gala</td>
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<td>04-Feb-18</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>THE PLATINUM MILE AT BUFFELSPOORT</td>
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<td>05-Feb-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Under 10 Cricket vs Buccleuch Mont.</td>
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<td>05-Feb-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Mini Cricket vs Crawford Fourways @Summit</td>
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<td>07-Feb-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Opens B @Kyalami</td>
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<td>07-Feb-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Opens A Cricket vs Kyalami</td>
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<td>08-Feb-18</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Under 9 Cricket @Building Blocks</td>
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<td>08-Feb-18</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Senior and Junior Softball @Heronbridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>09-Feb-18</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Gala @Dainfern College</td>
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Summerhill will be sending 8 swimmers to the The Platinum Mile at Buffelspoort. Our team will be competing in the 600m fun race on Sunday, 4 February at 14:00. Good luck to all our swimmers!
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, Suzette and also Rosa. Screening forms will be sent out within the 6 week assessment period for all grades.

**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 PTA AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**

Saturday morning, the 27th of January, saw the start to our PTA and Class Representatives meetings for the year. All class moms were required to attend as well the class teachers.

**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

**MY SCHOOL**

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

Sonya Toet
email: sonya@summerhill-school.co.za
SUMMERHILL TUCKSHOP

OPEN FROM 7am - 3pm

SEE THE FB PAGE FOR DAILY SPECIALS

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS AVAILABLE DAILY

TEA/COFFEE/CAPPUCCINO/HOT CHOC

ON THE GO - SIT DOWN OR TAKEAWAY

SERVING FOOD BOTH BREAKS!

For more details whatsapp Lara 083 484 1443