



Jireh School Newsletter

27 March 2014

Dear Jireh Parents

I would like to thank all those who attended our bi-annual Parent meeting and think it is expedient to recap some of the main points discussed.

Education systems around the world are in a radical state of change in keeping with the exponential changes we are experiencing in the 21st Century. There are few times in history where the world has known so much change in so short a time, with increasing velocity. The world in which our students and children will enter into when they leave school is very different from the one we know. It is vital, therefore that we ensure that the educational platform from which they come, prepares them to be competent, confident, successful and godly people in the 21st century. The skill set required for this is quite different in some aspects from the one we needed when we left school. Some will be working in jobs which do not yet exist and will be required to solve problems which have not yet arisen. One of the most obvious changes are the changes technology is going through and bringing to the world. We therefore recognise that the classroom has to be a place where the students engage and interact with technology in their learning experience. To that end we are exploring the possibility of introducing BYOD, (bring your own device) optional. There are two main concerns in this regard; the first is the capacity of the infrastructure. This would not be difficult to prepare. The second consideration is a more important one and one which requires careful thought, planning and implementation so that our students learn how to use media in a responsible and safe way. Before BYOD becomes possible we will run a programme which has been designed for primary Schools by a Christian School in Australia. The students will go through a series of age appropriate lessons which will involve looking at five broad areas; Learning Use, Responsible Use, Balanced Use, Safe Use and Christian Use. They will learn that their device at school is a learning tool and not a toy. They will learn to take practical steps to minimise the possibility of theft and damage to their device and how to look after it responsibly. This will involve being familiar with and signing a cyber-agreement which will be up in the classroom as a constant reminder. The students will learn to regulate the amount of time spent on media each day through various means. There

will be five practical steps to take. They will be required to keep a log of the time spent on media and to recognise the negative effects of too much time spent on media. On line dangers will be explored. They will learn how to keep their personal information protected on line. The final section has to do with guarding our hearts against what is harmful. We will look at how to do this and what it means to guard our hearts, looking at what is good for us and what is not. There is no way we are ever going to prevent our children from being exposed to the internet. But we can teach them how to use it safely and responsibly and why this is so important. We will keep you posted as to how and when BYOD optional will be introduced at Jireh School. The management is still exploring the possibilities.

Yours in partnership, *Sandra Bosman*

Howick Historic Village



The New Entrant and Junior Primary students enjoyed a visit to the past....!



To educate children from a Biblical perspective to become servant leaders

Property Person

Jireh School needs a general handyman to work 2-3 hours as needed on an on-call casual basis; payment on invoice. This person would need to have good communication skills and be comfortable using the computer/internet/telephone for research, quotes and follow up. If you know anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact the office.

Teacher Only Day

Please note the next Teacher Only Day is this coming Monday—**MONDAY 31ST MARCH**.

Asia Day

Asia Day is now happening on **Tuesday 15th April**—please amend your calendars!

Entertainment Books Orders

The deadline for orders has been extended until Tuesday 1st April. That is still very soon—next Tuesday! Get your orders in fast—you don't want to miss out!

New Enrolment Applications

Owing to roll growth, our spaces at Jireh are very limited. If you know of anyone who would like to enrol their child(ren) at Jireh for 2015, please urge them to submit their applications as soon as possible; this includes any younger siblings of current students. Applications for 2015 need to be submitted by the end of Term 3 i.e. 26 September 2014 at the latest.

SCHOOL DATES—Term 1, 2014

31 March—TEACHER ONLY DAY

4 April—Swimming Lesson (7)

7 April—Parent/Teacher interviews
School Closes at 2:00

9 April—Museum Trip (Middle & Senior)

11 April—Mufti Day/Swimming Lesson (8)

15 April—Asia Day

17 April—School closes 2pm/End Term One

2014 School Terms

Term 2: 5 May to 4 July

Term 3: 21 July to 26 September

Term 4: 13 October to 11 December

School Office Hours

Garden Club

Jireh students gardening and selling the produce to support Benimana, our TEAR fund child. Thank you for your support we raised \$28. Keep an eye out for the next day of harvesting.



Movie Night

“Mr Peabody and Sherman”

Tickets can be ordered from the office for the exciting night lined up on **Friday 11th April at 6pm**—West City Cinema, \$10 per ticket, under 2s free. Get in quick!

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