



Western Province Preparatory School

15 April 2016

“Awakening Possibility”

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Thanks to the Grade 4 moms who covered our new books.

Family News



Congratulations to Mr Pringle (Head of Music) and his wife, Didi, on the birth of their second son, Harry Thomas, on Monday, 11 April.

The Kagan Experience

During the past weekend, the founders of WPPS would have been proud to see the Stansbury Hall transformed into a 21st century classroom. Sixty-seven delegates, representing more than twenty-eight schools, attended the internationally acclaimed Kagan Workshop presented by the dynamic Texan, Jeff Dane. The school grounds were abuzz with inspired and excited teachers discussing endless possibilities and positive outcomes for their students, schools, education and the country as a whole. Whether from Grahamstown, Stellenbosch, Athlone or Khayelitsha, whether they had three or thirty years' experience, teachers found the course not to be yet another programme, but a better way to teach any programme.

Bruce Probyn, Simon Weaver and 12 of our teaching staff were privileged to attend. Here are some of their comments:

Experiencing the principles of inclusivity, equality, accountable learning and brain-friendly structures embedded in the Kagan system of learning was a gift. The potential of what it will do for the boys' learning, social skills and emotional well-being is both motivating and inspiring. *Jane Bird*

Jeff was an inspiration. I found this course nothing short of brilliant! I immediately set up my classroom Kagan-style, and I have used at least three strategies by the end of the first day! Thank you to WPPS for allowing us to be exposed to this phenomenal way of teaching our boys. *Jade Davies*

An inspiring tool to enrich and enhance teaching by engaging the boys in all aspects of learning. It is not a gimmick or a fad, but rather a solid set of principles with which we are able to grab and hold the boys' attention, help them to retain knowledge and be immersed in the learning experience. *Simone Becker*

The Kagan experience has been nothing short of inspiring. The processes and procedures will act as a catalyst, resulting in a resurgence of socially responsible gentleman, who interact respectfully and are accepting of all. If seventy strangers can be turned into a cohesive classroom unit in two days, I cannot even begin to imagine what we can do in a year with our boys. *Ryan Geddes*

Kagan is not 'group-work'! The course gave clear detail of how to implement co-operative learning activities effectively and create a safe, inclusive learning environment – the delegates experienced it first-hand – leaving them inspired. The values and skills required for working cooperatively in order to achieve success for all, are certainly ones that our broader society/world needs. *Lisa Harris*

I am inspired and refreshed. The Kagan structures and tools have been designed to engage and influence every boy in a meaningful, holistic and inclusive way. More importantly, is the potential it has to impact every boy in every lesson, to unlock and achieve to his potential in a safe, kind environment. *Kaylene Henriques*

The Kagan course was fun, most inspiring and well worth it! *Ria Pretorius*

This was without a doubt the best conference I have attended. For me, even more exciting than the course itself was walking into classrooms on Monday morning to the sounds of laughter and happy boys working together. We have been able to use the structures we learnt straight away, with our boys really benefiting from day one. *Meg van Heerden*

Kagan has changed the way I see my classroom and my lessons. It's the way I wish I had been taught and the way I'm going to teach. *Warren Viljoen*

The Kagan strategies have empowered us to do 'group work' in an incredibly effective way. The biggest plus factor is that relationships are formed, and respect is earned in a positive, vibrant environment. To witness boys engaging positively and with purpose while learning, has never been so exciting. *Jackie Wilter*

The Kagan workshop was truly inspiring. Not only has it influenced my own perception of what it means to be a 21st century teacher, but it has also reinforced the values and principles on which I base my teaching. *Tamryn Saunders*

In conclusion, a final thought from our Head of Academics, Sharlene Whitty, without whose vision and determined effort this course would not have taken place, "I share Jeff Dane's belief that the Kagan course has the potential to empower every teacher with practical strategies to mould dreams, build bridges and change lives in every classroom".

Compiled by Nanna van Zyl

Chaplain's Corner



I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4

Parents' Prayer Group – All welcome

Wednesdays from 08:00 – 08:30 in the WPPS Chapel
Send prayer requests or get reminders to Kath Malan
jkmalan@webafrica.org.za

Wednesday Chapel Services

All parents are invited to attend the Chapel service on **Wednesdays** in the Stansbury Hall at 07:40. Please join us.

Thought for the Week

"Real life is messy. We all have limitations. We all make mistakes. Which means, hey, glass half full, we all have a lot in common. And the more we try to understand one another, the more exceptional each of us will be. But we have to try. So no matter what kind of person you are, I implore you: Try. Try to make the world a better place. Look inside yourself and recognize that change starts with you."

The closing words of the animated movie "*Zootropolis*" (2016)

Eden Road Notes

School Uniform

Please remind your boys to wear their uniform with pride. Shoes must be worn when leaving school.

The tracksuit must be worn as a full garment when entering or leaving school.

Aftercare

Please note the new number for Mandy & Aletta at Aftercare, 081 497 6347 is available from 12:30 onwards. Please call directly.

Sandwiches for U-turn

Please note that we are still collecting sandwiches every Wednesday.

"U-turn is a Christian non-profit organisation founded in 1997. U-turn believes that the world will be a better place for EVERYONE, if homeless people are assisted to become whole again! Wholeness, not merely in financial or physical ways, but also in relational, spiritual and self-esteem. This is possible with the right help."

For more info go to <http://www.homeless.org.za/>

Weekly Riddle

Riddles are known to develop thinking skills, perseverance and lateral thinking. Encourage your son to work through this riddle. He may solve it in one go, or have to try a few times.

Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the tallest mountain in the world?

Look out for the answer to this riddle in next week's newsletter.



Grade 4 Art Talk with John Pace



Cross Country Practices

Grades 1 - 3

Please note that we have had to change the time and venue for Grades 1 - 3 cross country. We felt that it would be more beneficial for these boys to train at school, as they would be more confident in the school environment.

The new time is 16:30 - 17:15 on the Mount Royal field with Mr Tuswa. Grades 4 - 7 will carry on as usual at the Alphen Green Belt (Ave le Seuer entrance) from 17:00 - 18:00.