

PHAROS SCHOOLS INFORMATION AND ENROLMENT PROCEDURE

Thank you for your interest in **PHAROS SCHOOL JEFFREYS BAY**. We trust that you will find this letter informative.

BACKGROUND- PHAROS SCHOOL

Since Fanie Vermaak started teaching in early 1990's, it has been his passion to discover that one thing in every child that makes him/her excited to learn and discover life. This passion to find each child's potential to achieve their God-given purpose, drives the foundation of the Pharos School environment.

During October 2015 Fanie and Hanlie Vermaak took the leap to start preparing for the opening of an independent (private) school in Jeffreys Bay, to serve the wider Kouga community.

Two senior experienced teachers who have worked with Fanie for more than 10 years, joined as the two phase heads. The staff grew to 9 well-qualified, suitable teachers by the time the school opened its doors in January 2016 to 59 children from Grade RR to Grade 7.

Since then, the school has grown to an excess of 91 learners (50% growth in 18 months) and a staff compliment of 17.

Vision, Mission, Values and Philosophy

Pharos School exists to support parents and guardians in their responsibility to provide opportunities for children to:

- discover their true **PASSION**
- unlock their intellectual, emotional, social, artistic, creative and spiritual **POTENTIAL**
- fulfil their God-given **PURPOSE** on earth

Our entire philosophy is built on the following **Core Values**:

- **Respect** - Honouring others highly by showing them courtesy and concern, and considering their views and opinions. Treating your own things and things of others with care.
- **Integrity** - Being honest and just in all that I say, think, feel or do.
- **Caring** - Displaying kindness and concern for others.
- **Service** - Work done for God or for another person. Willingly offering my time and energy to help someone else.
- **Excellence** - Doing the best that I can.

These Core Values drive our **Educational Principles**, which underpin all our planning efforts:

- A **foundational approach** to aid students' later achievements in life. Education is a lifelong process and we play a vital role in encouraging an ongoing **love of learning** in our learners, starting with Reading, Writing, Spelling and Mathematics.
- A **positive and caring environment** that will attract and grow outstanding experienced staff. Consistent focus on participative decision-making, good staff morale and continuous professional development opportunities.
- A **Christ-centred value system** to be instilled in our children to prompt wise decisions by using our own unique Biblically integrated syllabus and workbooks, plus all teachers modelling this.
- An **academic standard higher than the minimum level set by CAPS**. Our curriculum stimulates a learner to think and reason intelligently, rather than just memorizing facts.
- A **person-oriented** place where a learner's **individuality** is embraced.
- A **multi-lingual, co-ed** school, providing an **inclusive approach** that caters for children with a variety of backgrounds and learning needs.
- A more **collaborative learning** culture with a strong focus on **research/evidence based** teaching techniques to lay solid foundations for when they leave for high school.
- A strong **ethos of regular communication** with stakeholders via D6 Communicator Program, Facebook & Newsletters.
- A strong emphasis on **community service** to empower our children to work together in serving our local community's needs.
- A strong **social investment** approach whereby we continually sponsor a number of learners from previously disadvantaged communities.

Educational Philosophy of Progressive Learning

Pharos School provides a model known as **Progressive Learning**, which aims to prepare a child for the challenges of the 21st century by embracing:

- Balance between **teacher- and child-centred** approach that combines discipline and hard work with innovation and creativity.
- Emphasis on **active** learning, with the focus on a child's **individual** learning needs interests and potential, hence there is no single method of implementation in practice. It calls for agility.
- Students are encouraged to be **independent thinkers and creative beings**, fostered by a Projects-based Research Environment.
- Skills development to help students reach their **potential** and to become meaningful **contributors** to society.
- The model focuses on the Introduction of **iPad/tablets** as educational tools.

Pharos School Products and Services

Apart from our related support centres described earlier on, we holistically develop each child via the following formal curriculum:

<u>Intellectual development</u> Numeracy and literacy Mathematics Afrikaans (Home Language + First Additional Language) English (Home Language + First Additional Language) Natural Science Social Science Research and Projects Chess	<u>Physical, Artistic + Creative development</u> Physical Training Music Arts and Crafts Skills development Team sport – cricket, rugby Individual sport – athletics, gymnastics, dancing, MTB cycling
<u>Social development</u> Community service in various areas, e.g.: Joshua Project Pellsrus Clinic Beach clean-ups NSRI MTB Zuurbron Ithemba Amala Old Age Home Theresa Soup Kitchen Solidariteit – Helpende Hand	<u>Spiritual and Emotional development</u> Character development: Biblical values + principles Unique workbooks Focusing on individual strengths Teachers modelling living the Light of Christ Tolerance and Inclusion Constant focus on Values and Principles

ABACUS MATHS AND TINA COWLEY PARTNERSHIPS

From January 2018, the Abacus Maths and Tina Cowley Reading Centre programs will be included in the daily curriculum of the school, as follows:

- Abacus Maths for Gr RR/R
- Tina Cowley Reading Centre for Gr 1 to 6

ABACUS MATHS

Abacus Maths is an interactive and multi-sensory programme that makes use of the Japanese Abacus to:

- Provide a solid foundation for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Enable an all-encompassing brain development experience
- Teach the language of maths for children aged 3 to 13
- Develop a variety of other skills such as:
concentration, logical thinking, improved comprehension, listening skills and sound reasoning skills
- Increase confidence and self-esteem
- Increase problem solving abilities
- Enhance photographic memory
- Increase IQ up to 25 points
- Make maths fun and enjoyable

Abacus is also a Tool that Naturally Suits Both Brain Hemispheres.

It is common knowledge that the left and right hemispheres of our brain process information differently. To briefly summarise, the left-brain is dominated by analytical thinking and verbal information. The right brain is non-verbal and intuitively processes information from the “bigger picture” that is being experienced. When children engage in learning how to solve mathematical problems with an abacus, the tactile, visual and interactive parts of the brain are used in conjunction with a range of brain functions that are trying to compute and visualise an answer. In other words, the left and the right brain have to be engaged in order to solve a problem.

Teaching children how to do simple left brain – right brain “warm up routines” is not only fun to do, but also very important to help prepare students on a mental and emotional level for any exam situation. By presenting Abacus Math as part of our Grade RR/R curriculum, we will lay a solid foundation in Numeracy for our 5 to 6 year olds to build on when they progress to grade 1.

In Gr RR, they will focus on the NUMERACY MODULE WHICH INCLUDES:

- number concepts (1 -10)
- terminology ; addition, subtraction, equals, larger than, smaller than
- Brain gym (increases concentration levels)
- Bonds of 5 and 10
- Using the 10 bead abacus to add/subtract
- Relationships (spelling)

In Gr R, they will begin with the ABACUS MODULE WHICH INCLUDES:

- bonds of 5, 10, 100
- Brain gym
- Terminology – addition, subtraction, equals
- Using rainbow abacus up to 9M
- Do calculations

They will receive one lesson per week at a preferential rate that is included in their monthly school fees.

TINA COWLEY READING CENTRE:

Tina Cowley is a scientifically developed reading programme that address all the basic skills of reading. Most of the times, a learning problem is a reading problem. Some of these issues are related to Phonological processing, letter recognition, deciphering the alphabet, speech and language problems. These are some of the issues we address at our Reading Centres. Tina Cowley Reading centres guarantee an 8% to as high as 40% improvement in a student's average performance at school.

What makes Tina Cowley unique?

1. **Eye kinetics:** Focus on the strengthening and improvement of the eye muscles. Strengthening the eye muscles lead to smooth muscular movement that is necessary for reading.
2. **Laughter therapy:** We combine breathing exercises with laughter exercises to improve the flow of oxygen to the brain. Laughter therapy causes positive changes in the body, brain and emotions.
3. **Brain gym:** Is a series of small body movements used to integrate all parts of the brain to enhance learning. Brain gym focuses on the physical and not the cognitive aspects of reading and learning. When the physical working of the brain is strengthened and improved, the reading and learning process will also be strengthened and improved.
4. **Reading skills:** There are different ways of reading, used for different reasons or purposes. We focus on scan, search, recreational and intensive reading skills.
5. **Handle therapy:** Includes several exercises that strengthen the underlying microsystems in order to make the bodywork optimally as a unit. Human functioning is of eco systemic nature, in other words, all systems in the bodywork together as a whole and form a unit.
6. **Study course & NBI brain profiles:** Each student's ideal study method is unique and will be explored. Learn how to summarise, plan ahead and remember easily. Knowing your personal brain profile is the key to success and happiness. The NBI brain profiles are instruments used to identify thinking preferences.

Pharos School aims for its learners to reach a reading and comprehension level of at least 2 years higher than expected for their particular age, in both home language and first additional language, thereby significantly improving the probability of scholastic and academic success. On average, this can be achieved within three years of following the TC reading programme.

Grade 1 – 6 will receive one lesson per week at a preferential rate that is included in their monthly school fees. (To be reviewed by end 2020)

HOW TO ENROL

All forms are available on www.pharosschool.co.za. Please complete the following:

- Application for Admission form
- Debit Order Instruction form (if applicable)
- Aftercare Application form (if applicable)

PLEASE NOTE: It is important to thoroughly complete the Application for Admission form and to attach ALL the necessary supporting documents. No capturing of applications will commence without the relevant supporting documents.

A learner must benefit from Pharos' curriculum and it is therefore necessary to assess each Application for Admission. Applicants are assessed according to the normal entry requirements and, if necessary, personal interviews are requested. Pharos Schools do not make provision for learners with special educational needs, but a slow learner should not necessarily be regarded as having special educational needs. Such a learner's admission is considered after an interview has been conducted and admission tests have been completed.

- Attend an open-day tour or visit the school by appointment (Email: info@pharosschool.co.za or phone 042 940 0167).
- Download the application-for-admission form (or collect an application form from the school's reception desk) and complete a form per learner.
- The learner and parents will be requested to attend an interview with the Principal, Mr Fanie Vermaak.
- Registration fees are payable before admission and assessments are done.
- Learners are required to complete diagnostic proficiency assessments (reading assessment for Gr1 to 7, or school readiness assessment for Gr R).
- Should the result of the assessments indicate that the learner might require extra assistance in class, the learner and parents will be requested to attend an interview with the Principal, Mr Fanie Vermaak.

Completed forms and supporting documents must be submitted in one of the following ways:

BY HAND: Pharos School, SASSA Building, 16 Woltemade Street, Jeffreys Bay

BY EMAIL: info@pharosschool.co.za

Proof of payment to be emailed to finance@pharosschool.co.za

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform at Pharos Schools is governed by a basic Dress Code. Uniforms can be purchased at the School once your application has been received and you have your account code. Fittings can be arranged with our Admin Office.

WHO CAN PROVIDE FURTHER ASSISTANCE?

Head of Intermediate Phase: Marenda Venter

Head of Junior Phase: Carla Smit

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PharosJBay/>

Website: <http://pharosschool.co.za/>

We look forward to WELCOMING You to our Pharos Family

