

Athletics 2011

Athletics 2011 Parent Information evening

Good evening everyone, and a special word of welcome to Lesley Anderson, our Sports co-ordinator.

First of all, I would like to thank you all for coming here on such short notice and for taking time out to listen to what we have to say to you. One of our goals for this year was to improve communication between us and you and we thought that this was a good time to show you our intentions!

I would like to introduce you to your new Head of Athletics for 2011 Mr Clinton Hill - I am sure that most of you know him and have seen him on the sports field many times. I am Miss Debbie Sayers and I will be assisting Mr Hill in the running of the Athletics code this year.

We aim to begin establishing athletics as a code to be reckoned with at Kenridge.

Each of you have already received notification that your child has been chosen for the 2011 team based on their performance during the 2010 Interhouse Athletics. We have included more athletes this year, to give children the opportunity to take part. As you may have seen on the letter, we view this as a very big honour, and something not to be entered into lightly. We also know that our school has such a wide variety of activities, and that many learners may not be at a time where they want to commit solely to one sportcode. For this reason, we have introduced an early morning practice over and above our two regular practices. As Athletics is a summer code, it is convenient enough for our athletes to have an early morning workout and take a quick dip in the pool before the school day starts. This leaves them free to participate in other sports in the afternoon. Of course it would be ideal that all athletes attend every practice in order to reach maximum readiness for meetings, but we also know that this is not always practical. That is why we have asked that team athletes to attend at least one of the three practices in a week in order to remain in the team. It doesn't have to be the same practice every week, and they are still welcome to join us for more, should they choose so.

Our other aim is to draw on the wealth of talent we have in our midst. Yes, there are many ex- and current athletes in the audience who have the expertise and knowledge that we need to give our athletes the edge. We provided you with some information forms at the back of the hall so that you can let us know if you are interested or able to help out. We will also be using these forms as a role call. So please do not leave without at least filling in your name and contact details.

Our season is starting with a bang in February. Before then, the WCED requires that all athletes be registered within their correct age groups. We request that you provide us with **2 certified copies of your child's birth certificate, with an ID photo attached. Please make sure that the stamp is valid for 2 years.** In other words, if you have a copy available, it must have been certified in 2009. We have given a deadline of this Friday, but we urge you to send this as soon as possible in order for us to process the information within the allocated time frame.

Athletics gear?

The best way to contact us is via e-mail. If something prevents your child from attending a practice, please let us know so that we can make a note of it. We try to bring you information regarding meetings timorously, but would like to request you to be patient. We often get very short notice of meetings or have to wait for programmes, maps etc .in order to provide you with adequate information. We appreciate your involvement in your childrens lives and therefore aim to keep you in the loop at all times. We have set up a sms group with numbers from last year. This will be a convenient way of notifying you should there be any changes in our schedule, practices cancelled etc. Please provide us with a current mobile number on the information form at the back to ensure that you are included in the messaging.

Most of the time, we ask that parents take athletes to the respective meetings themselves. We will also make sure that there is transport available for every meeting for those children who don't have a lift.

Rules? Follow the right channels should there be any complaints.

2011 is going to be a year of change on many fronts at Kenridge Primary. Our new principal has already challenged the staff to go back to basics this year – basics, meaning what is really most important: our learners. If I may quote Mrs Smith: we want to give **every child, every chance, every day**, to reach his/her potential academically, culturally and on the sport field.

Thank you for your time.

Questions – Mr Hill