



SAGEWOOD SCHOOL

GRADE 1 ORIENTATION DAY

INFORMATION BOOKLET

2012

Educating the whole child

School Song

Written and composed by Talita Graham

Verse 1

We're standing here
We're standing strong
Our feet are firmly on the ground
Our shoulders broad with pride
For everything this school has done for us.



Chorus

We are Sagewood
Together we shall stand
We are life
We are hope for this nation
We are proud to stand here today
And thank You God for everything
For a school, that's family to us all.



Verse 2

We are the proof of yesterday
The hope and promise of tomorrow.
We'll build cities, influence nations for a better tomorrow.



Calendar, 2012

TERM 1	
Start:	Wednesday, 11 January
Close:	Tuesday, 20 March
Public/school Holidays:	Wednesday, 21 March (Human Rights Day)
TERM 2	
Start:	Wednesday, 11 April
Close:	Friday, 22 June
Public/school Holidays:	Friday, 6 April (Good Friday) Monday, 9 April (Family Day) Friday, 27 April (Freedom Day) Monday, 30 April (School Holiday) Tuesday, 1 May (Workers Day) Saturday, 16 June (Youth Day)
TERM 3	
Start:	Tuesday, 17 July
Close:	Friday, 28 September
Public/school Holidays:	Thursday, 9 August (Women's Day) Friday, 10 August (School Holiday) Monday, 24 September (Heritage Day)
TERM 4	
Start:	Tuesday, 9 October
Close:	Wednesday, 5 December
Public/school Holidays:	Tuesday, 13 November (Diwali – School Holiday)

Sport and Afternoon Activities

Cricket; Mini Cricket; Soccer; Mini Soccer; Netball; Mini Netball; Athletics; Chess; Tennis – group lessons;

Paid Activities:

These are offered after school hours at very reasonable rates:

- ❖ Karate
- ❖ Ballet
- ❖ Golf
- ❖ Private piano and violin lessons
- ❖ Dance mouse
- ❖ Drama
- ❖ Decoupage
- ❖ Intro Golf
- ❖ UCMAS

Please familiarize yourself with the sport requirements and encourage your child to attend with the correct attire and bring the correct equipment e.g. tennis racquet.

We hope you find this information useful. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Appointments can be made via the message book or through Ria.

We hope we have a long and happy relationship as we strive toward fulfilling the Sagewood motto:

Educating the WHOLE CHILD

A GUIDE FOR GRADE ONE PARENTS

Practical skills my child needs to start GRADE ONE:



- ❖ Can follow instructions.
- ❖ Can write their own name.
- ❖ Can count to 20.
- ❖ Can recognize numbers 1 – 10.
- ❖ Can tell left from right.
- ❖ Can name basic colours and shapes.
- ❖ Can handle crayons, scissors and pencils.
- ❖ Can dress themselves and fasten buttons and zips.
- ❖ Knows how to use the toilet on their own.
- ❖ Knows how to wash their hands.
- ❖ Knows a contact number for a parent or guardian.
- ❖ Can identify their belongings – bag, clothes and lunchbox.
- ❖ Encourage your child to carry his/her own bag.
- ❖ At first, take him/her to the class, so you both feel secure.
- ❖ Be firm in your goodbye and don't linger.
- ❖ Show you are pleased to see your child at the end of the day.
- ❖ Listen to what he/she has to say.
- ❖ TRY NOT TO ASK "What did you do at school today?" The normal response is likely to be "NOTHING".
- ❖ NEVER unpack for your child in the classroom. He/she must get used to doing this on their own, and putting things in the correct place.
- ❖ Help your child pack the night before school. Don't do it for them.
- ❖ Help them remember the relevant books and clothes for the day.
- ❖ Be prompt and punctual!

- ❖ Your child does not understand the concept of time yet.
- ❖ Remember to fetch your child on time.

These are vital Life Skills to teach your child.

- ❖ Mark all your child's belongings!
- ❖ Use stitch-on or iron-on labels.
- ❖ Tipex works well to mark shoes.



How to cope with big school

- ❖ *Can my baby really be ready for Grade 1?*
- ❖ *Am I ready for my baby to start big school?*
- ❖ *What happens in the Grade 1 year?*
- ❖ *What must I expect during my child's first year at big school?*
- ❖ *What can I, as a parent, do to help my child have a happy Grade 1 year?*

Some general hints:

- ❖ Let your child pack their own bag, so that they know what is in the bag.
- ❖ Show them special notes and envelopes that must be handed in.
- ❖ Encourage your child to commit to an extra-mural and not give up after one or two lessons.
- ❖ Try and get your child to school on time.
- ❖ As a courtesy, let the office know when your child is unwell.
- ❖ A doctor's note is needed if more than 2 days of school are missed.
- ❖ Try not to keep your child out of school for insignificant reasons.
- ❖ Remember COMMITMENT!!!!!!

Uniform

The school uniform consists of the following:

- ❖ Tartan skirt
- ❖ Navy shorts
- ❖ White golf shirt with tartan trim
- ❖ Jersey with Sagewood logo
- ❖ Tracksuit
- ❖ Dry Mac
- ❖ Winter jacket
- ❖ School hat or cap
- ❖ Black school shoes
- ❖ White takkies (for PT)
- ❖ White socks for the girls and grey for the boys

Hair accessories should be blue or black

Also available are:

- ❖ Cricket kits
- ❖ Soccer socks
- ❖ Sports bags
- ❖ Netball skirts are provided when the girls participate

Contact details for uniform shop:

- Junior : Tel. 073 662 6046

Trading hours:

Mondays and Fridays : 07:00 – 09:00

First Saturday of each month: 11:00 – 12:00

Other activities done during a school day

Library – With a specially coded books to cater for your child's reading ability!

Music – With a specialist in Music Relaxation.

Physical Education – Where a lot of fun is had! Swimming is offered during the summer season.

Computers – Where children learn:

- How to use a computer;
- How to be computer literate in Microsoft Office packages.

Transport

The children leave school in the following manner:

- ❖ Parents collect their child personally.
- ❖ A driver collects the child and signs the child out.
- ❖ Children go by bus or taxi.

Your child's safety is our priority!

NB

A sticker for your car is available from the school office to facilitate the easy flow of traffic into and out of the school area.

School Hours

GRADE	DAYS	STARTS	ENDS
Grades 1 & 2	Monday – Thursday	07:40	13:05
	Friday	07:40	12:15
Grades 3 - 7	Monday – Thursday	07:40	14:05
	Friday	07:40	13:05

Orientation period for Grade One:

- ❖ In the month of January, the school day will end at 12:00.
- ❖ From the first Monday in February, normal school hours will resume. (See above timetable.)
- ❖ In the first term there is a waiting class available from 07:00 till 07:30.

Contact Details

Principal

Vasie Sewramulu

Contact No. – 082 326 2614

E-mail: vasies@sagewood.co.za

HOD – Foundation Phase

Marlo Naidoo

E-mail: marlon@sagewood.co.za

Ria Coetzee

Contact No. – 082 325 6877

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Accounts

Sandi Hancox

Contact No. – 082 324 6963

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Head of Sport and Culture

Tembu Tete

Contact No. – 083 327 6728

E-mail: tembut@sagewood.co.za

Your child's first day

What to expect

- Your child is to come dressed in full school uniform.
- Arrive by at least 07:30.
- Bring a healthy packed lunch in your child's school bag.
- You will be escorted with your little one to his/her class and introduced to your child's teacher.
- Each learner will receive a badge with their name so that all staff members and children can get to know and assist your child.
- You may wish to take a picture of your little one on their first day at big school.
- Once your child looks comfortable and settled, he/she will be given a fun activity to do.
- At this stage it is advisable to say a confident but reassuring good-bye
- Your child will be in the capable and loving care of their teacher.
- Go home and have a good cup of tea. Be assured all will be well.
- You can collect your child at 12:00 from their classroom.
- Children who are going to aftercare will be taken by their teacher to the aftercare teachers.
- Your child can be fetched at aftercare or signed out by their designated transport driver.
- Please note that aftercare ends at 17:30.

DEALING WITH ANXIETY AT THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR - By Claire Merketos

- “I don’t want to go to school,” your child tells you a few days before the start of the new school year. Disappointed you want to respond with anger, but take a deep breath and spend some time listening to what is troubling your child as it will provide you with the information you need to help her cope with feelings of anxiety.
- Listening means giving your child the space to express herself without judgment and criticism. Empathetically acknowledge her feelings and reassure her that she has your love and support.
- We all know how stressful change can be and for some children change is extremely nerve-racking. Children thrive on consistency and predictability, so not knowing who her teacher will be or what she can expect on the first day of school can be scary for her.
- While you cannot predict who her teacher will be for the year, you can give her coping techniques such as deep breathing, focusing on the positives, (what she likes about the new teacher), and effective note taking, writing down important things her teacher says on a note pad so she doesn’t forget them by the time she gets home). Stay with her on her first day until she has been placed with her new teacher and give her the thumbs up before you leave.
- If your child is worrying about being put in a class with a strict teacher, help her devise a plan for the year. Being helpful, kind, diligent and listening well are traits that all teacher’s value in children which can be beneficial in endearing her to a stern teacher.
- Ideally the teacher should be meeting the needs of the children, but teaching your child how to read a person’s body language and learning how to manage difficult personalities are useful skills that will be beneficial for her throughout her life... Obviously you should never subject your child to a teacher who ridicules or taunts children. This is bullying and is unacceptable.
- Children attach to friends and teachers during the year so being separated from a teacher they were fond of and their best friend can be like a death to them. They need time to mourn the loss and will want to go back and visit the teacher from the previous year. Be patient while your child works through these feelings and encourage her to meet up with her friends at break and after school as well as persuade her to make a new friend.
- Moving up a Grade can bring perceived pressure for children as they believe they will not cope with the harder assignments. Reassure your child by telling her that you will support and help she made need to do well. Explain that the school year usually starts with revision and she should let you know if she experiences difficulty. Knowing that she has your support will give her confidence to try new things.
- Help your child organize her school bag, files, books, and sports equipment as she familiarizes herself with a new timetable. Giving her clever practical tips you know that work to help organize herself will produce feelings of independence and empowerment.
- Most anxiety and stress in children comes from needing to meet the high standards their parents set for them and constantly wanting to please their parents. Reassess your expectations for your child, and find new ways of interacting with her especially when it comes to homework. If she tells you she is not enjoying a particular afterschool activity allow her to drop it, even if it means you have to give up your dreams. A childhood controlled is an adulthood destined for disappointment and misery.
- Comfort your child by telling her positive stories about how you coped with anxiety at school. Children love to hear stories and knowing you survived will give her strength to do the same.