

Dear Parents

There is an excitement amongst the Grade 10 group that is palpable – they have finished exams, received their results, they know their Epic groups and they have a hike to look forward to! The focus from this point on into next term, will inevitably be on Epic and the build up to Epic. In your discussions with him, I do hope that you will emphasise how important it is that he maintain a strong academic focus – I know that much of the work done in term 4 is important for Grades 11 and 12. One of the many advantages of a private school is that we have a large degree of flexibility with the curriculum and you will see this in action in the coming term as the boys move into Epic gear whilst keeping their work and tests up to date (and no end of year exam to worry about...).

Please click on the link to see the groups for Epic. These groups are final and the message I give to those who say they are unhappy is for them to see me at the end of Epic to tell me if they are still unhappy! It works out in the end and one of the lessons of life is to make the best of a situation. As soon as I can (I'm hoping by the end of term) I'll give names to the groups (Apex, Sneeuberg, Tafelberg, Wolfberg and Krakadouw). The list is also up on the School's web page.

The School Shop tell me the deadline for orders of clothing and equipment is this Friday. A number of you have popped in but they have received fewer orders than in previous years. If you are going to make use of this facility, please ensure you get your order in on time. The document is available on the website at: <http://college.bishops.org.za/epic/Documents.aspx>. In addition to this, we've uploaded the Outdoor Warehouse discount voucher.

You can also click on the link for the arrangements pertaining to the practice hike this Thursday. Please note that boys must wear a proper wide brimmed hat – no caps. If your son is not able to make the hike, please email me if you have not done so. Roll call is taken and the house directors will be following up on absentees.

Next term I'll be doing a presentation to the boys on what food they will require for their two hikes and their 24 hr solo. I know there are some of you (particularly those whose sons board and who live far away) who would like this information sooner than later. If you click on the two links (General info about Hiking and Solo boxes and Recommended food list for hiking and solo boxes) you will see that there is some info that is highlighted. I've yet to go to the shop to do a costing of what we recommend and will append this document when I do. Last year worked out to around R215 per day for the hikes – which was only 7% up from 2015! Those who pay boarding fees will be credited with an amount on their fee account (it was R1200 last year and I'm expecting it to be no more than R1300 this year) – this in lieu of the food that would otherwise be eaten if your son were at school. Those who are hosting exchange boys will also be credited with the same amount because the boys you host would otherwise have been in boarding if they were to have been at school. The boarders who have bursaries, must contact their house director as plans have been made for you to get all the items on the recommended list plus things like sun screen, batteries for torches etc.

Trudy Hoefnagels has made contact with those of you who volunteered to help with the crafts – thanks so much for taking this on. I know you will have fun preparing and putting together the activities.

I'm told that 65 of the Grade 10's have completed the medical and Dietary update. We have to ask you to do this please. Go to:

[Medical Details Form](#)

In addition to this, please also go to MyBishopsLife and click on Parent Details. If the information is incorrect, there is a link at the bottom which allows you to enter the correct information. I am the one who has to make a phone call to you if I have reason to whilst Epic is on the go and there is nothing worse than finding information is not up to date – it slows things down immensely and there have been times in the past, where these delays can result in problems.

Your son might have told you that I've been around to the classes this week and they've tried on their rain jacket and Active top – they receive these in the Epic preparation week. I've not yet got the sizes for around 15 of the group and I'll mail you separately on this count. If per chance, you have bought a rain jacket from Hi-Tec, please return it. These items are part of the Epic package that you have paid for.

Have a wonderful (albeit short) holiday!

Kind regards

Graham