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It doesn't get easier.  
you just get  
stronger.

## From the Office

Dear Parents

We aim to make 2024 the year of "Taking Control over Cellphones". The onslaught on our children has only become more severe. It is considered unnecessary to expose primary school learners to cellphones, as it may pose more challenges than benefits. The primary school environment should prioritise focus on education, social development and the promotion of a safe atmosphere for young children.

One prominent concern is the potential for cyberbullying, an issue that has become increasingly common in the digital age. Young children may lack the emotional resilience needed to handle the complexities of online interactions. Cyberbullying incidents can cause significant harm, affecting a child's mental well-being and academic performance. Without proper control, a primary school learner can, for example, be subjected to hurtful messages, exclusionary tactics or even the sharing of inappropriate content among peers.

In addition, the use of cellphones in primary schools can create an environment where children become susceptible to distractions, hindering their ability to focus on learning. Social media platforms and instant messaging programmes can distract them from educational activities, harming their academic progress. By maintaining a cellphone-free environment in primary schools, educators can create a more controlled and supportive space for learning. This approach allows schools to more effectively address potential cyberbullying incidents as they can closely monitor interactions between students.

The integration of cellphones in primary schools may not be necessary, given the potential risks. Prioritising the development of a safe and focused educational environment is crucial to the overall well-being and academic success of young learners.

Following many conversations with Dr Marita Rademeyer, I would like to share the following with you:

Your child is too young to have his or her own cellphone. The contract is in your name and by law, you as a parent, remain responsible for the content on the phone.

By law, a child under the age of 13 may not be on *WhatsApp*, *Tiktok*, *YouTube* or *Instagram*. (There are several other platforms). The law states that the owner of the contract is responsible for the user and what goes wrong. If a learner shares indecent information, he is seen as a distributor and since he or she is too young, a parent can be charged.

(Continue on pg 2)

## From the Office (.....continue)

I kindly yet urgently, request you to implement the following practical arrangements in your home:

1. No child goes to sleep with a cellphone in his/her room.
2. If you give him/her a cellphone, you should aim to check his/her phone once a week to see what information is on it.
3. Talk to your child, and know what is going on in his/her life. Turn off phones and create time around the dinner table to discuss events.
4. Be mindful and know who his/her friends are.
5. If he/she cannot talk to you about the things of life, he will surely hear it from peers who might/may give him/her incorrect information.
6. Download an app on your phone that alerts you if your child accesses inappropriate sites.

We are happy to list a number of "nanny sites" that can be downloaded onto your child's phone to block certain content and also to control what they watch:

- Qustdio (free)
- mspt.mobi
- ClevGuard
- Quora
- Bark ([WWW.BARK](http://WWW.BARK))

Please do sufficient research to protect yourself and your child.

From Monday, 4 February, *Midstream Ridge Primary School* is a cellphone-free area. If your child brings a cellphone to school for use after school, we request the learner to hand in his/her phone to Aunty Vera to keep in the safe. It can be collected from her again at the end of the school day.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this regard.

**VERNON HARMSE**

## INFORMATION


### GRADE 1 APPLICATIONS FOR 2025


We kindly request parents to submit Grade 1 applications for 2025 before 20 March 2024. No hard copy or email applications, please.


Follow the link below to reach the Admissions page to complete the application. If you have another child or children in MRP, please ensure you use the parent code link to the application for your current child(ren) in the primary school. For any enquiries, please contact Corrie Burger at [corrieb@midstreamridgeprimary.co.za](mailto:corrieb@midstreamridgeprimary.co.za) or telephonically on 012 940 9122.

**[MRP ADMISSIONS](#)**

Please click on the links below for information regarding:

 [Calendar ~ February 2024](#)

 [Library Newsletter](#)

 [BLMG Study Methods Course](#)

# @ Ridge



.....is in the air

- I ♥ Midstream Ridge
- I ♥ my community
- I ♥ my parents
- I ♥ my teachers
- I ♥ my friends

### Be part of the Valentines celebration by:

- ♥ wearing something pink or red with your school clothes
- ♥ donating R10: hand in to your register teacher
- ♥ purchasing a raffle ticket to win amazing prizes
- ♥ donating stationery when you enter the school gate:

Ridge ♥ you!

- Books (Scripts)
- Exam Pads
- Pens
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Glue
- Crayons
- Paint

## Valentine's Day 2024



Mieke Combrinck, the deputy head girl of *Midstream College*, has launched a joint charity project for the benefit of disadvantaged schools in Olifantsfontein and Olievenhoutbosch. From 14 February to 23 February, MRP will be collecting stationery.

The following stationery (old/new) can be donated voluntarily:



Writing Books / Exam Pads / Pens / Pencils / Erasers / Scissors / Rulers / Glue / Crayons / Paint



From 14 February, items can be donated in containers placed at our gates. Thank you for your caring heart.

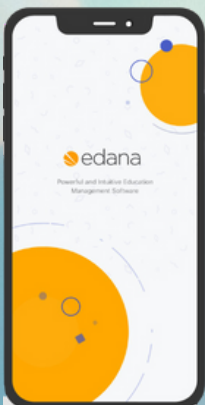


## COMMUNICATION AT MRP

It is of crucial importance that parents are registered on all the communication platforms of the school. Important academic, sports and general information is daily posted on these platforms. To avoid disappointment due to missed information, it is extremely important for parents to register on the **EDANA Smartphone application**, as well as **GOOGLE CLASSROOM**.

We find that regular e-mails get lost and therefore, we unfortunately cannot rely on this way of communication only. Please find the links below for your attention and action.

### EDANA SMARTPHONE APP



Please click on the link below to download the smartphone application on your mobile phone. For any queries or problems, contact Vera at [verav@msrp.co.za](mailto:verav@msrp.co.za)

**EDANA APP**

### GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Please click on the links below to register on **Google Classroom**. You can register on your computer or mobile phone or both. Links to both these options are listed below.

For Gr. 1-3 inquiries and assistance, contact Mrs Tina van Wyk at [tinav@msrp.co.za](mailto:tinav@msrp.co.za)  
For Gr. 4-7 inquiries and assistance, contact Mr Hanno Tromp at [hannot@msrp.co.za](mailto:hannot@msrp.co.za)

**GOOGLE CLASSROOM (COMPUTER)**   
**GOOGLE CLASSROOM (CELL PHONE)**