

BACK 2 SCHOOL Savings

It's January and many of us are feeling the pinch as 2014 begins. If you are a parent and your children are heading back to school, there are lots of ways to make this month a little easier on your pocket.

WHY NOT TRY SOME OF THESE CLEVER SAVINGS TRICKS THIS JANUARY?

SHOP AROUND



If you can't find second hand books, have a look at online book retailers. Often they'll have better deals, and nowadays most of them deliver free of charge. Also, remember that buying readymade book covers is very expensive, and brown paper works just as well. Your kids can even use old newspaper, with interesting articles and pictures that appeal to them, to cover their books.

BUY QUALITY IN BULK AND SAVE



If you buy things like notebooks, files and pens wholesale, you'll spend a lot less. Find a family with children your age who will be willing to share these things with you. And with certain items, it doesn't pay to buy the cheapest option you can find. So when it comes to shoes and school bags, spend the extra cash. It will mean that you won't need to replace the items for a good long while.

ORGANISE A SCHOOL JUMBLE SALE



If your child's school does not have a second-hand shop, why not get together with other parents and make it happen? You can save hundreds, if not thousands of rands, by buying textbooks, uniforms and sports equipment second-hand. And remember to buy uniforms a little bigger, so that your child can grow into them over the next year or two.

AVOID THE TUCK SHOP!



Not only is it usually unhealthy, but it's also terribly expensive to have your kids buy their lunch at school every day. Homemade sandwiches, or leftovers or fruit, are much healthier, far cheaper and definitely more delicious. And you could even suggest they make it themselves!