

3 July 2020

Dear Parents

As we move onto the second half of Term 2, I wish to give you an update on the new developments within the school.

Our COVID Plan to re-open school is well underway and will be shared with parents in due course. We have already had more than one visit from the Department of Health to verify our COVID compliance and that has gone very well. I would imagine we will receive many more visits from the various government departments once we return to face to face learning in the 3rd Term. Detailed plans of that process will be published and shared with parents closer to the time.

Opening of schools

I look forward to my conversations with parents tomorrow as we discuss this topic.

The meetings links were sent out to parents via email on Thursday.

Boarding Parents

The Department of Home Affairs has granted boarding schools permission to do their own quarantining of students on their campuses once schools open. Our facilities will be subject to inspection by the Department of Health officials for approval before the students return to residence. The school will be meeting all flights flying into South Africa as and when that becomes possible and this will be informed by our discussions tomorrow with Boarding parents. One can only remain optimistic about this happening sooner rather than later.

Botswana students will be met at the Border to avoid parents having to quarantine in South Africa. Times will be confirmed closer to the time and these plans have already been approved in a special agreement between the Department of Immigration and ISASA.

Virtual Learning

Our online learning platform, while not perfect, has improved considerably during this period. We are fielding fewer concerns from parents and receiving more positive feedback which is encouraging.

Academic staff have worked extremely hard during this time and I wish to commend them for that. Equally I would like to thank our parents for your patience, partnership and cooperation you have formed with the school to enable us to achieve successes during our online learning.

The battle is far from over but let us strive to maintain the good working relationship we have developed, and I encourage our children to maintain their diligence and respect in the Google Classrooms.

We are counting down the days and cannot wait to welcome our students back for face to face learning.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

+27 18 381 0330 +27 18 381 0330 issaprimary@issa.co.za



"If it's important to the child, it's important to us."

SECONDARY SCHOOL

+27 18 381 1102 +27 18 381 1187 admin@issa.co.za



End of Term Reports

We have tried our best to ensure that our students continue to receive quality instruction while online despite some of the challenges that we have been collectively experiencing. Parents will receive a solid report at the end of term which will provide feedback on your child's performance.

School Fees

I wish to sincerely thank all our parents who have been able to sustain the payment of their school fees during these difficult times.

I have engaged certain sectors of the school community as honestly and transparently as possible about the challenges and dire consequences that it will have for the school if parents do not pay school fees. We do not receive any other form of funding other than school fees.

I wish to express my deep disappointment at this at this stage at the huge amount of outstanding school fees at this time of the year, despite the many reminders that have been sent out to parents. The Google Classrooms classes are full, and teachers and students are engaged in teaching and learning. As expressed in a recent correspondence to a parent group I engaged recently, my biggest fear during this time, apart from the sustainability of the school, was losing our teachers to other schools because we could not afford to look after them during this time. Our teachers deserve to be remunerated for the dedicated service they have delivered to our children thus far. I therefore kindly urge all parents that are not in good standing with their fees to settle their outstanding debt with the school as soon as possible. As has been previously mentioned, the offer to make payment plans to the school still stands if that kind of support is needed. I therefore urge parents to contact the school urgently for those payment plans to be installed.

Governance Issues

The Board held a virtual meeting with a group of local parents on the 10th of June to engage in strategic conversations around governance issues and about how the school can be taken forward in the future. I was encouraged by the level of transparency and engagement in this process and I hope these discussions will continue to take us forward as a school.

Strategic Planning

Our Strategic Planning that was put on hold in March as a result of the lockdown is back on track for a date to be confirmed in July. However, this will be done on a virtual platform once dates have been secured.

Farewell

This week we bade farewell to Mr. Nic and Mrs. Sue Goromondo and their family as they move on to start new teaching careers at Mitchell House High School in Polokwane, Limpopo Province. We wish them well and thank them for their dedicated and loyal 10 ½ years' service to the International School of South Africa.

Mrs Goromondo will be replaced by Fungayi Dendere who was at St Mary`s School for Girls Waverley in Johannesburg where she taught across grades in the Primary School before moving onto the Nova Pioneer schools as HoD in the Junior School. She will be joining us at the beginning of Term 3.

Mrs Dendere holds a Diploma in Education, Mkoba Teachers College (English Major), BSc in Special Needs Education, Zimbabwe Open University, Bachelor of Education Degree (Hons) E-learning University of the Witwatersrand.

An internal arrangement has been made to look after Mrs Goromondo`s classes until Mrs Dendere arrives at the beginning of Term 3.

On the IT front we are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Yongama Feni for a fixed term contract. He holds a BSc degree in Mathematics and Statistics (cum laude) and Honors degree in BSc Statistics, both from the University of the North West and he has recently completed his MSc in Computer Science from the University of the Witwatersrand and is currently completing his PGCE with the University of the Witwatersrand. He also joins us at the beginning of Term 3.

Mr Nic Goromondo has agreed to continue with his online teaching till the end of Term 2 and will support Mr Feni in the 3rd Term.

Parents, thank you again for all your support and I look forward to chatting to those of you that can make our online meetings that have been set up for tomorrow.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa