

5 August 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

Who would have thought that we would reach the end of this term operating under the “New Normal”?

Here we are at the end of it all with reports distributed and virtual parent meetings completed to discuss some of the Academic challenges our children have experienced during the virtual online learning. By all accounts, our children have done exceptionally well in this space. We should endeavour to provide more support for those who found it more challenging, so they too can realise their true potential.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and admiration to parents for the support you have shown the school during this trying and testing period. I wish to express my pride and appreciation to all our teachers and the other staff across departments for rallying together so brilliantly in the face of the daily challenges we experienced this term. And finally a big thank you to our boys and girls that have had to adjust to so much in a very short space of time, from connectivity challenges, data challenges, gadget challenges, power outages and the list goes on. I appreciate the tenacity and resilience that you have had to develop in such a short space of time. You can be proud of your achievements.

I am also conscious of the new bonds that have developed between father and son, mother and daughter, grandparents and grandchildren as you worked as families to support each other as we dealt with the challenges of online learning and the invisible virus.

As we work towards preparing the school for Face to Face and Hybrid Live Streaming next term, I trust that the good relationships and the open lines of communication will still prevail as we continue to navigate the difficult spaces.

You will be receiving an online COVID-19 Operational Guidelines document that will stipulate how we intend returning to Face to Face learning next term. The guidelines are in keeping with the protocols as stipulated by the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Health.

Please read this carefully and drop me an email if there is anything that you need to clarify or wish to add as we move forward.

This is going to be another steep learning curve for us all as we move into this new space of face to face learning which will call for an incredible amount of self-discipline and commitment as we embrace a completely new way of living and learning on the school campus. I again ask for your patience and understanding as we work through this together.

We will also be inviting parents for a walk through the school on published dates that are indicated on the COVID-19 Operational Guidelines.

Staffing

At the end of this term we bid farewell to Mrs Nicky Leeuw, who tendered her resignation at the beginning of Term 2. Mrs Leeuw has been at ISSA for 5 years and has taught across a few grades both in Junior and Senior Primary. She will be remembered for the many positive contributions she has made to the ISSA community.

We also bade farewell to Mr John Nyamunda who tendered his resignation at the end of June. We also extend our thanks to Mr Nyamunda for his positive contribution at ISSA during his 18 month tenure where he was responsible for teaching Geography and Physical Education.

I received an unexpected notice of resignation from Mrs Naseema Karodia on the 4th August 2020, which I have accepted.

We wish all these colleagues well in their future endeavours.

Sadly, Mrs Fungayi Dendere who was officially appointed as the new Grade 5 teacher to replace Mrs Goromondo at the beginning of Term 3 later declined the offer after we had formally published her acceptance of the post.

We have completed a round of strong interviews for the respective vacant posts and I am confident and wish to reassure parents that we will make strong appointments into these positions for the beginning of the 3rd term.

Deputy Principal

Mr. Phillip Nheera will be redeployed to the Primary School as of the beginning of Term 3 in a full time capacity to manage the administration of the Primary School as has been recommended by the Board. The school management structure will function with 2 deputies, one at the Primary School and the other at the High School and one CEO. We wish Mr. Nheera all the best as he assumes this new position and I ask for your support of him in this role. He has already stepped into this role during Term 2 of online learning.

Let me take this opportunity to wish all our mothers, grandmothers and our daughters a restful and peaceful Woman`s Day.

Please expect some updated communications as we go into the holidays. Please stay safe and enjoy your well-deserved holiday with your families.

In conclusion, I would like to leave you with a reflective message.

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood.

Now is the time to understand more so we can fear less.”

Marie Curie.

Thank you again for all your support.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa