

22 September 2020

Dear Parents,

This week we welcomed some of our boarding students back to boarding. We look forward to receiving more boarders during the course of the term as more borders and airspaces open. Parents please ensure that your children have the relevant letters and documentation required so they can cross immigration seamlessly.

We also welcomed the Grade 5 and 6 students onto the high school campus on Monday as we continue to increase the capacity for face to face learning in the Primary school.

Following the classroom reallocation, we ask that parents drop-off the Grade 5 and 6 students outside the fountain at the high school. With the increased volume of cars as off tomorrow, I would appeal to parents to drop and go. So far it has been going very well on both campuses and thank you for your co-operation in this regard.

Mock Examinations

Mock Examinations have gone very well and we expect all Form 5- Upper 6 students to all be back in lessons from Monday, albeit for a brief spell before they sit for their final CAIE examinations. Parents, please continue supporting your children as they prepare for the final examinations.

Heritage Day

On Thursday we celebrate Heritage Day in South Africa. On this day we celebrate and embrace our cultural diversity. This day has become renowned for enjoying the traditional South African 'Braai'. I wish you a Happy Heritage Day with your families and please maintain your social distance as we celebrate and mark this important day on our national calendar.

Our President has called upon us to put on our Jerusalema dancing shoes as we celebrate this day. I trust you enjoyed the staff and students rendition of Jerusalema which has become a hit on social media with almost 9000 views.

Parents just reminder that Friday is a normal school day. All students will be allowed to wear traditional attire to school on Friday. The senior students will be asking for a small donation of R5 from all students to support one of our community service projects, 'Chasing Red'. Some students have opted to bring a pack of sanitary towels to support this project. Parents should not feel pressured by this request, however we will welcome whatever support you can afford.

Strategic Planning

The Board of Governors (BOG) and members of SME concluded what I thought was a very exciting and inspiring Strategic Plan for the School over the weekend. It was an exciting day of planning, deliberating and dreaming big for the future of ISSA with a clear road map for the school for the next 3 years, **ISSA Vision 2023**. Once Mr. Craig Carolyn has completed distilling the strategic conversations from the weekend, the blue print will be passed onto the (BOG) as they are the custodians of the Vision and Mission of the school, and this

will then be shared with members of SME to operationalize the plan. The Strategic Plan will be posted on the School's website once the process has been completed in its entirety. This will be a working document whereby all stakeholders will be invited to participate as it is rolled out.

Master of the High Court

Yesterday saw a landmark meeting at the school between the Master of the High Court, Concerned Parents, Mr Gaarekwe Penyenye representing the Board of Governors and myself as the CEO of the school to address some of the prickly issues around governance, that often plague most schools. I firstly wish to extend my thanks to the Master of the High Court for the conciliatory and transparent way in which he chaired the deliberations for the day, I also extend my gratitude to the 'Concerned Parents' for taking time off their busy schedules to engage in these matters in a frank and civil way. Finally a big thank you to Mr Penyenye for travelling from Johannesburg to represent the Board.

I am confident that the outcome of this meeting will take us forward as an organisation.

School Fees

I wish to express my gratitude to all those parents that have responded positively to my call to come forward to discuss outstanding school fees. Let us continue to strengthen the partnership as we continue to build a supportive community.

Conclusion

Please don't hesitate to call me if there is anything you wish to clarify and thank you for your support of our staff and students.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa