

5 September 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you for entrusting us with your children during these uncertain times.

We have started Term 3 with a great deal of enthusiasm and optimism. It was a very energizing and delightful experience to meet our students face to face again as they arrived immaculately dressed in their ISSA uniform after so many months behind the screen. We thank our students for showing a great deal of resilience during these challenging times and encourage them to stay focused on the task at hand as we returned to face to face learning.

We have come to the end of a very successful week, not without its glitches, as can be expected. However, we endeavour to address the niggles that have revealed themselves in the first week. The numbers of students returning have been much higher than the returned survey data, resulting in adjustments being made to accommodate returning students in the Primary School.

We are pleased that many parents are opting to return their children for face to face learning and we are also very excited to have the children back at school.

Our Boarding students were sorely missed this week, with another two weeks to go; we hope to welcome them with as many students as can possibly travel to Mahikeng, with open arms.

The vacuum left by their absence was immediately felt this week and we cannot wait to welcome them back into the community.

What is equally encouraging currently, is the recovery rate of the pandemic being currently recorded at above 90% in the North West Province. I do hope that we can continue to maintain the discipline as a region so that the infection continues to decline.

Staffing Matters

Parents it is with sadness that I inform the community of Ms Yukesha Makhan`s departure from the International School of South Africa. She leaves the school on the 16th of September to take up a post with the Aga Khan group of Schools in Tanzania as Education-Director, a position she has long engaged since 2019.

I would like to thank Ms Makhan on behalf of the parents, staff and students of ISSA for the sterling job she has done in leading the Academic programme at ISSA. We wish her all the success as she moves on to start a new professional life in East Africa.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL

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With Ms Makhan leaving and Mr. Nheera formally having taken up the role of Deputy Principal in the Primary School, I have approached Mr Tinashe Makudu who will fill the role of leading the Academic programme as well as Mrs Lucille Gabriel who will fill the role of leading the Pastoral and Discipline programmes of the School. These are temporary positions. I am confident in both their abilities and confident that the school will remain in good hands under their leadership in these respective roles until formal appointments have been made.

Dress Code

Just a reminder to parents that we have opted to alternate the dress code in our schools for health reasons until such time that the students have developed a rhythm of changing into a fresh set of clothes on alternate days.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday will be formal uniform in the High School, Tuesday and Thursdays will be civvies days. Parents please support us in this regard. I have again reminded students to dress appropriately on non-uniform days.

Primary School students will alternate between formal uniform and their P.E. Kit.

School Fees

Parents, another gentle reminder to please pay your school fees. If you are having challenges in this regard, please make an appointment to see myself or the Business Manager to discuss a way forward. It would be discourteous to send your child to school if you are not in good standing with your fees and I invite you to come forward to have that discussion with the school as many parents have already done.

Thank you again to those Parents that have managed to honour your contracts with the school, it is highly appreciated during these trying times.

Conclusion

I complete one year at the International School of South Africa at the end of this month. Whilst it has been a daunting and challenging journey in some instances, there have been some many sweet spots that inspire me to continue the journey of leading our community into the future.



Our first Strategic Planning meeting begins on the 19th of September after many postponements, with the Members of the Board and our facilitator Mr Craig Carolan. We are all very excited about designing a new road map for the future of the school and all stakeholders will be invited to participate in the process as it unfolds.

Once again, I would like to thank the Parents for your unstinting support during the last 12 months.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa.

