

5 February 2021

Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of our 3rd week of the term, two of which have been Virtual and the end of our first Face-Face lessons this week, which was to all intents and purposes very successful.

Apologies for the slight glitch and inconvenience this morning with our internet connectivity, rather than a power failure, it was an electrical problem that was traced to a burnt out plug that was causing the trip to our school server which disrupted our internet connectivity.

There continues to be a new sense of renewal and energy in our schools and I hope this mood can prevail for months to come. It was a real delight to see so many of our students return to school for Face-Face learning this week.

We are extremely grateful to all our parents for the support and confidence you have shown in us by sending your children back to the International School of South Africa in such big numbers, despite the challenging times that still prevail out there.

I know we were off to a very tenuous start with some of you at the beginning of the year and I hope we have managed to smooth things over and all is forgiven.

I have managed to speak to some of you in an effort to mend those fences where we did not get it right in our communication with you, and thank you for your understanding in this regard.

Cleaning Service Company

We secured the services of a new cleaning company, Tsebo Cleaning Solutions, after a very rigorous tender process in December.

We are very pleased with the quality of their work thus far and I trust they will continue to maintain this high standard.

A few of our senior students have made passing comments to me about how clean the school is. I hope it is not a case of "new brooms sweeping clean". Whilst this is a compliment to the cleaning company, it is also a challenge for our students to ensure that they maintain those standards of cleanliness in their learning and living spaces.

Extra-Curricular Programme

Many parents and students have asked when this will begin. We are a bit restricted as far as this goes at the moment because of the Standard Operating Procedures under Level lockdown 3. We are not allowed to engage in sport at this point in time. I am however confident that these restrictions will soon be eased as the peak continues to decline.

Primary School

Thank you to those parents that braved the elements this week by attending the Grade 4-6 meetings that were led by Mr. Phillip Nheera our Deputy Principal in the Primary School. Thank you also to our teachers for their attendance, some of whom had to return for more than two nights in a row. This commitment is greatly appreciated. I trust as we continue to engage with parents on these platforms, it will improve our communication and strengthen our relationships going forward.

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Our team of Instrumental and Voice teachers from the University Potchefstroom visited us on Tuesday to give our students a sample of what they are about to experience in their additional music lessons this year. Please complete the required application form if you wish to sign up your children for these lessons.

Prefects

In our next Monday Assembly we will be revealing our Prefect body to the High School community in a Virtual Assembly. I am pleased and impressed at the caliber of students that have been chosen through a democratic process to provide leadership for the school in 2021. I look forward to introducing them to our community and also to be working alongside them as they share their new ideas, ideals and aspirations of leadership they may have for their school as they lead us into the new year.

Bereavements

This pandemic has spared nobody particularly in the second wave. Many of us have lost loved ones and close friends. As a school community, sadly we have lost four of our ISSA parents between December 2020 and January 2021. This is indeed a huge loss and a blow to those families and the school community.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the ISSA community and the Board of Governors to extend our heartfelt condolences to the affected families. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers as we navigate this difficult time together.

I trust that the arrival of the vaccine to our shores this week will inspire a new sense of hope towards an improved quality of life for the future, and also to assist the country in curbing the spread of the virus.

Conclusion:

Thank you again for all your support and please do not hesitate to call me if there is anything you wish to clarify.

Please remember to wash your hands, wear a mask and social distance.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa