

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

I trust you had a very relaxed mid-term break with your families.

I am pleased to share that those boarders who chose to remain for mid-term, enjoyed a very full programme, and had no time to miss home.

To this end I would like to thank our House Parents, Mr. Peter Chitashu and Mrs Grace Makudo, and their teams for planning an energy packed and fun filled weekend for our residential students.

### **Catering Team**

A special thank you to our catering team for looking after our boarding students so well over mid-term.

### **Extra-Curricular Programme**

We return to a very busy second half of the term. We kick off our extra-curricular activities both in the Primary and High School this week with a carefully planned activities programme which will comply with the standard operating procedures of COVID -19.

### **Theatre and Music**

This afternoon our aspirant thespians will be involved in Drama Production led by Ms. Shaakira Soorjee, and our music students will be involved in individual music lessons led by our teachers and visiting Music teachers.

### **Science Fair**

This Friday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, the Grade 4 – 6 students will be engaged with a Fun Science Fair Day, celebrating different scientists through time which will be led by the High School students. Students will be encouraged to design their own Science experiments and come dressed as their favourite scientist. Thank you to Mr. Phillip Baka (HOD) of the Sciences in the High School and Ms Katlego Moamogwa Science teacher in the Primary School for driving this initiative.

### **Music Lessons**

The Music lessons have taken off with a bang and we are currently oversubscribed in this department, which is always a good problem to have. Thank you to Mr. Jaco Jacobs and Mr. Lerato Sebelebele, and their team of Music teachers from Potchefstroom University for driving this programme. It is really delightful to hear music being played as you walk through the corridors in the Primary school and past the Music practice rooms in the High school.

### **Academic Awards**

A very big thank you to our parents who were able to join our Honours Awards ceremony online, and the face to face ceremony in the Theatre. It was a proud moment for the school community to be able to honour and celebrate those students that still managed to achieve excellent results despite the challenges we experienced

in 2020. Equally important is to acknowledge those students who also managed to improve their grades despite the challenges.

It was also a special to honour past students that had excelled in their external Cambridge examinations for the past 10 years. The purpose of the exercise was to demonstrate ISSA's consistent excellent academic footprint of high achievement both in South Africa and the world for the last 10 years.

We were privileged to host our guest Dr. Andrew Johnson, Chief Learning Officer at Eskom who turned out to be a dynamic and interesting speaker. Dr. Johnson left us with lots of food for thought as we continue to pave a new roadmap for the International School of South Africa

I share a quote from his address which makes for good reflection.

"The range of what we think and do is limited by what we fail to notice. And because we fail to notice that we fail to notice there is little we can do to change until we notice how failing to notice shapes our thoughts and deeds." Goleman, D (1985). Vital lies, Simple Truths.

Simply put, our world view is limited by being blind to our own blindness in our perception of what happens around us in our daily lives.

### Swimming

Our swimmers acquitted themselves very well in a qualifying North West Swimming Levels gala held in Sasolburg over the midterm.

We congratulate the following swimmers who improved their times to qualify for the South African Regional Championships, which we will be held at the following venues.

#### Level 2

Kimberley: 26 to the 28 March.

Nicole MogoJane

Ontlotile Makgale

#### Level 3

Sasolburg: 18 to 21 March

Caitlin Gomes

Tawananyasha Makudo

A special thanks to Mr. John Mosimo our coach, for preparing our swimmers for the Championships and to our swimming parents for transporting and supporting our swimmers.

We wish our swimmers all the best as they continue to prepare for the upcoming Championships.

## **Prefect Braai**

Thank you to Mrs. Amanda De Jager for organizing a socially distanced braai for our Prefects over mid-term. It was also a fabulous opportunity for me to engage with the student leadership in a very relaxed and informal way.

## **Sixth Form Personal Development Camp**

Our Sixth form Students will gather on campus this weekend for their Leadership camp under the watchful eyes of our Deputy Principal, Mrs. Lucille Gabriel and Sixth Form Director, Mrs. Naomi Buys.

The camp will be run by external facilitators that have a wealth of experience in personal leadership development.

## **Biology Teacher**

Mr Cassian Mandizvidzwa, our Biology teacher, tendered his resignation at the beginning of last week to pursue his teaching career in Columbia, South America. We wish him and his family well in their future endeavours.

We are in the process of finding a suitable replacement for him for the beginning of Term 2. In the interim cover provision will be provided for our Biology and Science students, ensuring lessons continue without too much interruption.

## **Condolences**

On behalf of the ISSA family, I would like to extend our sincere condolences on the passing of Dr. Sibanda a week ago. We hold the Sibanda family close to our hearts and prayers during this difficult time.

## **Conclusion**

Let me again thank parents for your support for a successful first half of the term. Please do not hesitate to call me if there is anything you wish to clarify.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells  
CEO/Headmaster  
International School of South Africa