

26 June 2021

Dear Parents,

We have had a relatively smooth return to school after mid-term.

The second half of mid - term has a focus on our mid - year Examinations which begin as early as the 12 July in the High School. Exam Timetables will be published closer to the time.

Mid- Cycle Meetings

Before the mid- term we were engaged in very in depth mid-cycle meetings with staff, where we discussed the academic progress of each student in detail. Coming out of these discussions we were able to design programmes that will assist students improve in those subjects where they are experiencing challenges through the weekly academic intervention programme. These have been designed purely to improve the academic performance of our students.

Parents would have received feedback through the Phase Heads informing you of your child`s performance at mid-term break. Please liaise with your children`s Tutors for any matter related to your child`s academic performance and their overall wellbeing at the school. If you have not by now made contact with your child`s Tutor, please do so by asking your child to introduce you to them.

Mr Makudo, has shared a booklet with Tutors to assist our students with study techniques which was shared this afternoon in Tutor period. Please give your children your full support as they prepare for the upcoming mid-year Examinations.

COVID-19

The pandemic has become part and parcel of the social fabric of our school, and we continue to manage it as best as we can within our available resources.

We have had to isolate an entire Grade 4 class in the Primary school because of a positive case identified in that class.

We are aware of two other cases where parents have disclosed to the school their children`s status, and those students have been kept in quarantine since mid-term. Thanks again parents for that level of transparency and engagement on these matters.

Vaccine Roll out

I am sure you have been following the successful vaccine roll out for teachers in the Department of Basic Education closely. The Independent Schools are next in line and if all goes according to plan, hopefully in my next communication to you I would be happily saying that we too have also received our jab.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Mid-Term Break

Over Mid- Term a group of senior Boarding students checked out to Johannesburg and flouted all the advice we have tried to offer internally with respect to taking ownership for their personal behaviour in public spaces. They also did not return with the pre-requisite PCR test as per our internal Boarding requirements and we immediately put them into Isolation upon their return on Sunday. They were taken for tests yesterday and one student from the group, returned with a positive test. Fortunately, we followed our protocols to the letter.

I share this information in a transparent way so that parents can become aware of some the challenges we experience working in this space.

As a school we are happy to manage this environment as best we can, but I am afraid it will come intolerable for us to manage these spaces if students do not take responsibility for their own actions. In the future if students behave irresponsibly, they will have to face disciplinary action and will be isolated to the care of their parents. Our resources are completely stretched in this area and cannot be further stretched by students who blatantly violate the COVID-19 protocols. I have been in touch in advance with the parents of the affected students and I thank them for their unstinting support in this regard.

Please let us continue to act responsibly before the 3rd wave starts taking its toll on us.

Swimming

Of all the Sporting codes at ISSA, swimming has been the only code that has managed to actively continue and compete during the COVID space. I have incorporated in my letter to parents a Communique` from the Swimming Club which operates from within the school of which most of the participants are ISSA students.

I would like to see swimming growing at the school in the future and I encourage parents whose children are beginner and/or strong swimmers to join the club. This includes boarding students who have been part of swimming programmes in their respective countries. The school will provide tacit support for them to enable them to participate in the swimming programmes of both the club and school. Please read the communication carefully and revert back to me if you are interested, I will point you in the right direction.

Swimming Plug

The exciting new swimming season has just kicked in during the month of May 2021. Both Swimmers and Technical Officials are enthusiastically looking forward to the season with great expectation, and we have started registering in preparation for the season. The registration process is only for competitive swimming with the School swim club, named International School Swim Club (ISSC) and this process is unfolding on the monthly basis until the 30th of November Covid-19 measures by Swim South Africa (SSA). School swimming is regulated by the Department of Education (DOE) and can only happen when the DOE grants permission for schools to participate under Covid-19 regulations. Unfortunately, school sport has been negatively impacted by this pandemic and has one way or the other denied learners an opportunity to showcase their talents. The School competitive swimming does not only put our school on the map, but most importantly, it develops great athletes with distinctive profiles that will not just add value to the swimmers' curriculum vitae, but will sharpen their minds, instil discipline, shape their behaviour, promote good health, and build a strong ISSA Community where School, learners and parents work collectively. In the recent swimming season, the School through its

Club had several swimmers with great achievements participating at Provincial Levels and National Regional Levels as follows:

1. Reatile Retsang (11) - Level 1 in Rustenburg (Provincial)
2. Olorato Makgale (18) - Level 1 in Sasolburg (Provincial).
3. Caitlyn Gomes (15) - Level 2 in Sasolburg (Provincial).
4. Tawananyasha Makudo (17) - Level 3 in Sasolburg (Provincial)
5. Luke Mogojane (14) - Level 2 in Kimberly (Regional Level)
6. Ontlotlile Makgale (16) - Level 2 Kimberly (Regional Level)
7. Nicole Mogojane (17) – Level 2 Kimberly (Regional Level)

Parents should however realise that competitive swimming comes with commitment and extra-costs other than the normal school fees that each child pays.

So, in gearing up for the new season, the coach has been keen to develop the endurance, strength, competition strategy and flexibility in all the swimmers. The vehicles of choice have been triathlons, biathlons, mountain biking and middle to long distance running events, which were introduced as part of the winter programme to keep swimmers fit since we do not have a heated swimming pool. This is in addition to the gym exercises they were doing before since it was not adequate for preparation for the swimming season starting in September. Due to Covid-19, the events are very few and the club decided to do biathlon training on Saturdays to keep children in a competitive mode every second or third week. The initial date for this endeavour is 3rd July 2021. Due to suspension of school sports programmes, we thought it would be a great opportunity for the student body to participate and also enjoy a welcome break from academics for 1 to 2 hours once in a while. The benefits for the student body and mental wellbeing is a great advantage. This also provides a good opportunity for competitive swimming to grow in the school. The cycling route is about 6.8km x 2, while running will 5.5km.

Attached find the documents showing the cycling rout. The updated map will soon be sent out.

We do acknowledge that students might have a problem with bicycles and thus want to ask parents or teachers to borrow bicycles to our students in order to participate.

Your support in this endeavour will be greatly appreciated.

International School Swimming Club



Alumni Profile

Abraham Anene Ntonya Malawi, ISSA (2003-2007), completed IGCSE and A level Certificates.



Abraham is an actor and currently lives in California in the USA.

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He was very active in student leadership at ISSA from a young age where he was a prefect in the Junior Hostel and went on to become the Deputy Head boy in his final year.

He was an active sportsman and thespian and one of his more notable awards as a student was receiving the best actor award in the Eisteddfod Festival for his performance in Ngugi wa Thiongò in This Time Tomorrow in 2007.

He was chosen to lead the Global Young Leadership Conference in the USA and received the ECIS award for having the ability to form meaningful relationships with other students to name but a few of his achievements while a student.

After graduating from ISSA, he attended the Arizona State University in the USA where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre (2008 -2012). He later obtained his Masters in Fine Art at the Arizona State University in Theatre Performance (2014-2015) and completed another MFA at University of Houston in Theatre.

He has appeared in TV shows such as Bones, performed in the Houston, Illinois, and Nebraska Film Festivals to name but a few.

He currently acts in a one-person virtual show titled NED` s Kindness Adventure and takes children on a virtual trip to Kenya and teaches them the importance of Kindness, Cultural Diversity and Acceptance.

Please follow him.

Parents please do not hesitate to call me if there is anything you wish to clarify.

Please stay out of crowded places and lets us abide by the prescribed COVID-19 protocols.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa.