

3 May 2024

Dear Parents,

We have had an excellent start to the beginning of Term 2. It was great to welcome our students back to the community. With hardly a week gone by, we have already gone full steam ahead into the activities of term 2.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to eight new families who have joined the ISSA community this term and look forward to a long and lasting relationship.

Hockey festival

This weekend we host our first festival with a few schools from the Northwest Province and Gauteng attending our tournament. Special welcome to Gateway High School travelling from Zimbabwe, also in attendance at our tournament.

Thank you to Mr. Chiyangwa and coach Whitney for preparing our students for this festival. Next weekend our hockey teams travel to Gauteng on a hockey tour.

Congratulations to Oratilwe Pitso for making it into the Northwest School Provincial Team for hockey.

I was pleased to see some parents supporting the opening games this afternoon. I look forward to seeing more parents tomorrow.

Swimming

Congratulations to Nathan Nsereko for winning a silver medal in the 50m breaststroke at the SA Nationals in Gqeberha over the school holidays and for swimming his personal best times for the season.

Congratulations to Reatile Reetsang for improving all his times at the SA High Schools National championships.

Thank you to Mr. Mosime for accompanying our students to the National Championships.

Drama production

Our rehearsals for our annual production - Midsummer Night's Dream, which is one of the highlights of Term 2, are well underway.

Parents, thank you in advance for your support and for the late pick ups from the car park that have already started this week.

We wish Miss Soorjee and her cast all the best in their rehearsals for the upcoming production.

Marketing trip

I will be travelling to Zambia with Mr Peter Chitashu on the 10th of May to do marketing and entrance testing at the Purple Rhino Expo. I look forward to meeting existing parents and ISSA alumni at our stall.

Academic matters

1. **Term 2 Test Schedules** - Phase Heads will share these with the parent body. We encourage day parents to keep monitoring the culture of studying and revision as will be done by the House parents for boarding students.
2. **Adam Mark Portal** - This will be shared by Jenna Rae, my PA. Parents are encouraged to register, log in, and track the academic progress of their children. This will assist in checking marks in real time as soon as an assessment is loaded.
3. **Parent Meeting** - We encourage parents to make use of parent meeting consultation dates as posted on the calendar. We have been receiving requests from parents to meet with teachers at any other time during the academic day. This causes disruption and rhythm in our teaching. Parents are welcome to communicate concerns or challenges through the Tutor for immediate attention. Where necessary, the school will be in contact to formalise any meeting.
4. **Weekly & Bi-weekly Assessment report** - We have been receiving requests from parents for teachers and Phase Heads to provide weekly reports as a way of monitoring the progress of students. This is taking time out of the teaching and preparation of lessons. Such requests will be limited to a monthly report by which there is enough time to make a more meaningful assessment. Phase Heads for Form 1 to 4 will continue to issue Green and Red Cards as a way of monitoring both behavioural and academic concerns raised for students. These will feed into the monthly report if requested by parents.
5. **Progression Policy** - Mr Makudo will share with individual Forms and parents our progression policy for the end of the year. We encourage parents to read and to familiarise yourselves with our academic requirements. You are welcome to have a conversation with Mr Makudo should there be any concerns.

Condolences

On behalf of all of us at International School of South Africa, we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Carol Ashman on the passing of her husband, Major Richard Chris Ashman.

The Ashman family has made a tremendous and loyal contribution to the building of the ISSA community over many years, and Mrs Ashman's excellent reputation in the Drama department, precedes her wherever you go in ISSA circles.

We wish Carol and her family all the best during this sad period in their lives as they prepare the final resting place for their loved one.

Conclusion

This week in my opening Assembly address, I spoke about Psychological Safety after reading a very stimulating book, The Fearless Organisation – Amy Edmonson.

The book explores how to build a culture of safety in workplaces, including schools, through promoting honest and supportive conversations in a supportive environment.

It is important that we create safe spaces for communication for our students in our schools and in our homes without them being fearful to express an alternative opinion.

Looking forward to working together through this very busy and exciting term and please do not hesitate to call me as always if there is something you need to clarify.

“If it matters to the child, it matters to us”

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa