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Newsletter 01/2022
9 February 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians

After the turmoil and uncertainty of the past two years, the first three weeks of the 2022 academic year went strictly as planned and according to the script. We could not have hoped for a better start. The Class of 2026 (new Gr. 8s) made a particularly strong start. Their orientation programme was great fun and with their blazer ceremony, they surprised all with their spirited rendition of our school anthem!

Staff News

The following teachers joined the academic team: Ms Zoë Titus (Afrikaans), Ms Yonela Matomela (Life Sciences), Ms Avanté Jaftha (History), Ms Terryl Bell (Music), and Mr Lloyd Havenga (Mathematical Literacy and Economics). Ms Monique Swart joined the social work department.



Seated: Ms Terryl Bell, Ms Zoë Titus, Mr Ehrenreich, Ms Yonela Matomela, and Ms Avanté Jaftha. Back row: Ms Celeste Williams (started in July 2021, Mr Lloyd Havenga and Mr Cheslyn Solomons

Mrs René Hellenberg joined as Head of Boarding, with Mr Cheslyn Solomons as her assistant. He is also a part-time Mathematics teacher. He and his wife, Mrs Julinda Solomons, have the pastoral care portfolio at Monorgan House.

New Consolidated Directions – COVID-19

Monday was a big day for Education in our country. All schools returned to full capacity and for many this was a massive adjustment. We celebrate this development, for we are well aware of the privilege of having all learners attending throughout the latter part of 2020 and all of 2021.

The new directions relax the need for social distancing, however all other protocols need to be observed. The screening process remains, as well as the questionnaire.



Candle of Hope

Our Candle of Hope continues to burn while the pandemic is still a reality. Bereaved families remain in our prayers – we pray for comfort and healing.

Since the pandemic is not yet beaten, we must remain vigilant. We encourage families to discuss getting vaccinated as a means of protecting themselves against serious illness.

Please note the following changes contained in the New Consolidated Directions:

- Social distancing at school is lifted;
- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and who is asymptomatic, need not isolate;
- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and who displays symptoms, needs to isolate for 7 days or as directed by a medical practitioner;
- Contact tracing is no longer applicable; and
- Schools may have spectators at sports events, however everyone attending such events, needs to be screened.

The above changes signal a significant shift towards normalising schooling and school programmes. It bodes well for the future; however, we need to remain vigilant about our health.

Academics

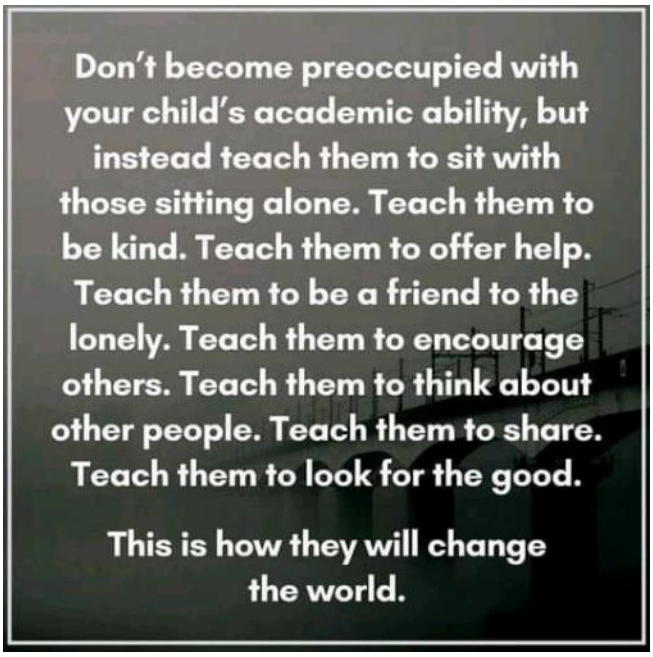
Attached to this letter is the Term 1 formal assessment programme. Several subjects may be required to do more formal assessments for this period. Learners in these respective subjects would have been informed about the dates and nature of these assessments.

Proper preparation is key to our success, and learners need to prepare thoroughly for all assessments. Term 1 reports will be emailed on Friday, 25 March.

We set the minimum pass mark at 50% for all assessments. This is the minimum requirement for a bachelor's pass in the NSC (National Senior Certificate) Examination. Although we set the minimum mark at 50%, we expect learners to aim for 100% instead. Learners who do not meet the minimum mark will be required to attend academic progress (intervention) sessions in order to improve. Grade heads will send the necessary information in this regard.

Subjects offer extra classes after school. These classes are aimed at learners who struggle with new concepts, and also for those who wish to improve their understanding. We encourage learners to attend these extra classes which are free of charge.

The *Reflective Learning* programme was introduced in late 2021 for Mathematics learners. Most grades have done their diagnostic assessments and have a good idea of the areas of Mathematics where they need to improve their understanding. This programme forms part of our teaching methodology. However, once a learner has been registered and completed the diagnostic assessment, they may continue to work on it at home and in their free time.



As much as we aspire to academic excellence, achievement is empty if your child is not sensitive, sensible and well-adjusted!

Athletics Meeting

The Interhouse athletics competition is on Friday. The four houses have been building spirit (gees) and all seems set for an exciting day of sport. The programme starts at 08h30 and concludes at 12h30. Learners will only be allowed to leave at 12h30.



Learners need to wear the appropriate dress. Only GSHS sports apparel will be allowed. Learners who wear any other clothing will spend the day in class

under supervision of a staff member. Parents are to ensure that learners do not bring any prohibited substances or items.

The good news is that, since the announcement of the new COVID-19 directions, parents may attend sports events. It is important, though, to follow the set COVID-19 protocol and directions:

- Parents park at school. No parking is allowed at Vredenhof Sports Field;
- All learners and parents enter through the Palmyra gate where parents will be screened. Learners' screening will be at their usual points;
- Every person entering must wear a mask, and wear it for the duration of their stay. Only athletes, when competing, may remove their masks;
- Parents may place their chairs/gazebos in areas indicated by staff. Learners sit in the pavilion; and
- The tuckshop will sell delectable refreshments, and the Gr. 11s and 12s will also have stalls.

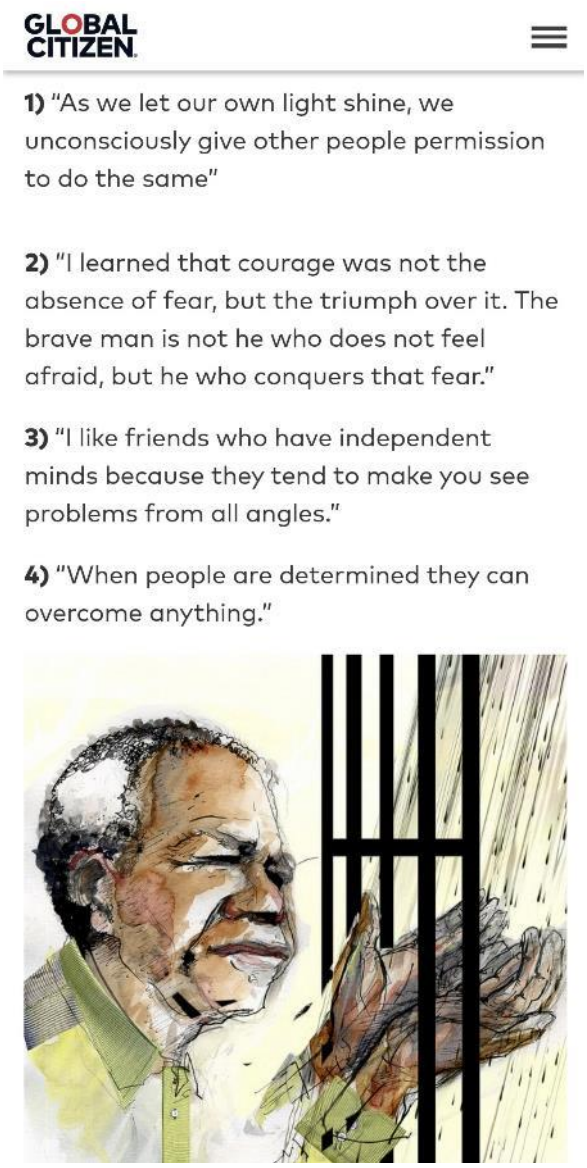
Valentine's Sunset Picnic Concert

Music will again fill the air when our school jazz band, the Deutsche Schule Kapstadt (DSK) band and world-renowned Ian Smith and his band perform on Friday, 18 February at our sunset concert! It is a time to bring your (extended) family to picnic in the shadow of Table Mountain and be entertained by these wonderful musicians. Get your tickets early. We have space for you.



Food for thought

This week commemorates the release from prison of Pres. Nelson Mandela 32 years ago – 11 February 1990. The four quotes below are the first in a selection of quotes published in the *Global Citizen* that Pres. Mandela used in various speeches. These are, indeed, food for thought.



Stay Blessed!
Marius Ehrenreich