



Our Core Values

- Ø Respect for all
- Ø Hard Work
- Ø Honesty
- Ø Responsibility
- Ø Social Awareness
- Ø Compassion

Whole School Newsletter

Dear Parents

Message from the Chairman of the Board of Governors
End of year reflections

Wow! What a year.

I am certain that this encapsulates the sentiment of all as we close out 2018. This year has been a robust and full year for all stakeholders of the International School. A wonderful year of learning; growing and evolving.

We saw the departure of our CEO\Headmaster, Mr Malcolm Williams, as he took up a headship at Parktown Boys High in Johannesburg. He continues to tackle the challenges of the new role and remains keenly interested in the journey of the International School.

The Board of Governors appointed Ms Yukesha Makhan as the interim CEO, whilst the process for filling the CEO\Headmaster role is underway. The Board of Governors is aiming to have the role filled in Term 1 2019. The Board of Governors is appreciative of the role played by Ms Makhan in the interim and this vote of confidence has also been expressed by our Independent Quality Assurer (IQAA) in the 2018 quality assurance report.

The school continues to run its operations with healthy financial reserves. The Board and the executive have remained steadfastly committed to fiscal discipline. Our focus ensures that every financial resource is utilized and directed to activities that deliver long-term sustainable returns supportive of our strategic priority of building a high performing 21st Century teaching and learning organization. We appreciate the support from all our stakeholders during this year. Some financial decisions have been challenging to make, but have been necessary for ensuring a strong and secure financial future for the school that can weather any storm. This fiscal discipline has enabled us to make investments in our physical infrastructure; improving our teaching and learning assets; funding our hostel improvement plan and investment in the growth of our teachers and learners.

We thank our parents that have been supportive of the school and have engaged constructively throughout the year. We recognize the role that parents play in ensuring the smooth running of the school. We appreciate the parents that have honoured their fee payment obligations and those that made arrangements during periods of constrained financial positions. We appreciate those parents that have been present in our Open-days; Fun Days; various ceremonies; and sports festivals. We continue to encourage parents to use their Senior School and Primary School Parents representatives as the channel to raise matters for board consideration as they are recognized members of the Board of Governors.

We thank our teachers and entire staff complement, which has worked hard to deliver on our *Whole School philosophy* and to deliver a 21st Century teaching and learning institution. We value the critical feedback from staff through their various forums. These robust engagements, however challenging they may be, make our organization a better organization, because we have opportunity to shape the future of the school through collective views and inputs. May this period of rest renew your minds and bodies in readiness for 2019.

We thank our learners for conducting themselves with Honour; Truth; Integrity and Glory. One is humbled when hearing community members speaking about the discipline and courtesy embodied in our students. Whilst we recognize the challenges faced by our learners in this critical developmental period of their lives, we remain proud of our learners for being ambassadors for their families; their teachers and their school. To the class of 2018 that will be leaving the school to pursue their post-high school endeavours, we wish you well as global citizens. You are now part of an international Alma Mater that is the International School of South Africa.

The Board of Governors wishes the entire ISSA family a safe and blessed festive period. May it be a time filled with family bonding; reflection and rest. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2019. We shall face them with courage; diligence and optimism in the spirit of "Whole School".



Onward Going. Always growing. In Thy Light for ever more.

Gaabidiwe Khaole
Chairperson: Board of Governors

Message from Acting CEO – Ms Y Makhan

Thuto ke Lesedi, Thuto ke bokamoso jwa bana bothle e bile seikokotlelo. Kare go bana nako ya Khombo Mogale tshwara thata e were o utlwa sebedu wa kgaoga.

Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity. Aristotle

As this academic year draws to a close, we reflect on what has been an incredibly successful year, with excellent academic results, a wonderful plethora of small, large, individual and team successes in Sports and Cultural activities. We do believe that our entire school community have come together as a school family with a common aim and purpose to ensure that our millennials are life-long learners.

Having begun the academic year as a Deputy Head Academic in the Senior School, I end this academic year as Acting CEO / Head of Senior, a position I have thoroughly relished and enjoyed. Every school has a different perspective and ambiance to it, the International School is no different. Our core values underpin our ethos and beliefs, it is refreshing to witness these values being put into action on a daily basis by our students, teachers, parents and board. No one would dispute the fullness of our days, but amongst the scurry and the rush we must make time for quiet reflection, as our community in today's world is very 'full on' with a constant bombardment of information internally, nationally and globally all telling us what we should do and say.

So we keep pushing, keep developing, keep evolving, keep showing what ordinary students can do when they put their hearts and minds and souls into everything that they do. This is precisely what we continue to recognise throughout the academic year. Behind every student and group of students there are coaches, facilitators and teachers who support and labour on day after day to ensure that every student reaches their full potential.

Teachers have the wellbeing of every student at the centre of all they do. I would like to publicly thank our teachers, for without such a wonderful team we would certainly not have achieved excellence this year. Strategically, our vision whole school, is to continue to align our curriculum to ensure academic prowess and holistic development of each student, across all school sections.

In recognising teachers, we would also like to recognise and thank staff from Finance, Administrators, Grounds, Maintenance, Housekeeping, Catering and Security, for making 2018 a special year. We realise that only with great teams, can we accomplish our vision.

We believe that looking at student growth – how much a student actually learns and improves from one year to the next – is a powerful measure of a school's impact. As we celebrate our accomplishments as a non-selective school, we are proving that we can compete with the best selective-admission schools in Africa. And we remain focused on getting even better.

As an independent school we undertook a successful climate survey, School in the Mirror, led by the Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA). The evaluation revealed areas of strength and areas of reformation for the school. The primary purpose of IQAA was to audit the education and total welfare of the students. Extracts from the following reports:

Pre-Primary and Primary report

"...over a period of each week each child is able to experience the bicycle track, the mini soccer field, the jungle gym, the balancing equipment and the outdoor painting easels." – Cheryl Kindon, Pre-school Mentor

"I was privileged to observe teaching in all of the grades, noting that the classrooms were well-equipped and the children relaxed and happy to be at school." – Alan Goodwin, Primary school Mentor.

Senior School report

"It was a great pleasure and privilege for me to be a mentor at ISSA. It was a very positive and enjoyable experience. I saw good examples of solid and innovative teaching." – Kevin Tait, Mentor

Let us continue to inspire new hope at the International School of South Africa. In the last decade there has been phenomenal advancements in technology which has found its place in the classroom. As teachers, we are no longer in a position to teach in the way we were taught. Teaching today transcends the classroom in the form of a Virtual Learning Environment. The more complex the world and the workplace becomes, the more dynamic, innovative and creative we need to become; in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Students now need to be successful in every facet of their educational journey, as we preparing students for a world, which we are uncertain what it would look like in 10 years' time.

I will end with this thought: Strength lies in knowing when to stay quiet and when to speak out! Silence can be powerful whilst giving you time to ponder – and find the right answer.

Right education should help the student, not only to develop his capacities, but to understand his own highest interest.

J. Krishnamurti

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing all our students, teachers, family, friends and stakeholders a superb festive season and best wishes for 2019. The changing season is a herald of new beginnings, of a life more beautiful... Wishing you all the gifts of the season — Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness!

Ms Y Makhan

Actin CEO/Headteacher: Senior School

Message from Primary School Principal

Mr T Thomas

As the final term of 2018 draws to a close we reflect on a challenging term, but also a successful year.

We continue to pray for Tshiamo Mosinki, our Grade 5 pupil, who had been diagnosed with Leukaemia and is undergoing a period of 6 – 8 month treatment. We remain in regular contact with his parents, who are positive about his progress. He will be transferred from Johannesburg to Pretoria next week for a bone marrow transplant. We wish him a speedy recovery following this procedure.

Staffing

Mrs Omar has resigned effective 31 December 2018. Her family has been considering relocating to Johannesburg for a long time now and they feel that their children are at suitable transferring points of schooling. Hanifa Omar is a valued staff member, a very good Grade 00 teacher and excellent at administrative tasks. We look forward to an appointment to this position in due course.



Our new music teachers who joined us in Term 3, Lerato Sebelebele and Jaco Jacobs, are certainly adding value to our music department. It is important that the Arts, including Music, continue to be esteemed learning areas within our holistic education programme.

I am very pleased with and proud of our staff who continue to ensure, by their performance, that the primary school is, arguably, the school of choice in Mahikeng and its surrounds. The staff are indeed the foundation of strength and I am grateful to them for their commitment and dedication, not only in the classroom but also extramurally. We hope that the legal matter between The School and two of our primary school teachers will be resolved soon.

Our Grounds and Maintenance Staff and their managers, Mr Van der Walt and Mr Sebigi respectively, continue to play a big role in the upkeep of our school and its beauty. We are indeed privileged to work in such an inviting environment.

Academics, Staff Development and Events

Be reminded that The IQAA evaluation process was finalised at the beginning of Term 3. The IQAA Mentors, Alan Goodwin and Cheryl Kindon, who evaluated our processes, as well the Acting Executive Director, Michael Hosty, have submitted their reports. The results are available at Reception, for your perusal. We have found the online surveys undertaken by parents, students and teachers very helpful in affirming our position as a quality school.

Extramurally, our school has been extremely busy and our students are privileged to enjoy such a varied programme.

Our U11 Cricket team reached the Central District league final and narrowly lost to Sannieshof by two runs. We are proud of the good cricket these young gentlemen are playing.

Two of our swimmers, Casey Joubert and Li McQuire, attained their North West Junior Colours and Li McQuire was also awarded Best Age Group Swimmer in the U12 division. They participated in two interprovincial galas to achieve these excellent results. The International School Swim Club, Coach Percy Petersen and Mariejan van Zyl must be commended for their important roles played with our swimmers who have excelled. Swimming remains an over-subscribed code in our school and ensuring sufficient coaches in the various age groups is quite a challenge. We are grateful for having the beginner swimmer pool in the primary School and the 25m Pool in the High School, which our primary school students use to the fullest.



The Rhino Day held on 21 September was a success for the Whole School. We attribute its success to efforts of The Mafikeng Lions' Club and especially Rusty Hustler, who also takes charge of our Enviro Club and the Rhino Rangers' Expeditions. Our Enviro Students are very privileged to have such an expert in environmental matters. The Rhino Day achieved an unprecedented number of viewings on our school's Facebook page. We trust that the aforementioned events and activities are effective in raising awareness about the plight of the Rhino.

Other successful events worth mentioning are the Athletics Day where many parents visited and participated, the long-awaited Family Braai, the Santa Shoebox Project, Cambridge Checkpoint, the Interhouse General Knowledge Quiz, the Grade 3 Entrepreneurs' Day, Productions 2000, Grade 6 Games Day, the Parent Forum meeting, Pre-Primary Production, the Grade 5 and 6 Assessment Week, the Staff Wellness Health Check, the Grade 1 Orientation Day, Travelling Bookshop, the annual Oval Race, the Special Assembly for Sport, Arts and Culture, the Grade 6 Leavers' Lunch, the Interhouse Gala and The Junior and Senior Primary Prizegivings.

Lenmarie Stanton, Clinical Psychologist and parent, addressed our parents on the sensitive and relevant topic "Developing Sexual Resilience in children from Preschool to Adolescence" on 15 October 2018. A good number of parents attended the evening presentation and found it to be very enlightening - they also posed questions pertaining to their particular circumstances. We continue to educate our children on life skills about self-respect and respecting others within the school curriculum. We shall continue to seek opportunities for parental engagement on such relevant topics.



A very well attended and positive Parent Forum Meeting was held on 29 October. The minutes of this meeting has been shared with our Parent Body.

We are grateful to the Parent Support Group (PSG) for their assistance given at the Fun Day in September and the Grade 6 Leavers' Lunch.

We would not have been as successful were it not for the support of our parents, children, teachers and all stakeholders – so I thank you, one and all, and wish you a safe, peaceful and joyous festive season. We look forward to your return to your school of choice, ISSA, in 2019!
God Bless you.

T. J. Thomas
Headmaster

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