



7 December 2011

Dear Parents

Thank you for your support over the course of this year. As usual, it has been a busy one with our children being exposed to a wide range of experiences. They have all made progress and deserve a good break from school and the demands it places on them.

Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS)

As we plan for 2012 we take into account the changes in the state education system. Our independent status allows us to develop our own curriculum as we see fit. We have a responsibility, which we take very seriously, to ensure that our children can transfer in and out of the state system. We will communicate more about this next year at the meetings which will take place at the beginning of Term 1.

National IEB Core Skills Tests for Grade 6

We participated in the National IEB Core Skills Tests for Grade 6 for the first time this year and returned an above average performance. This gives us a benchmark measurement against some of the top schools in the country and we look forward to building on these results in the future.

Staff News

There has been a lot of activity regarding staff movement as some staff are relocating to new environments, and in some instances we are shuffling a few existing staff:

- Ms Ayola Mabumbulu, our Xhosa teacher is moving back to the Eastern Cape and will be replaced by Ms Brenda Skelenge who has taught at Pinelands North.
- Ms Caroline Mockford, our Drama teacher, has decided to concentrate on her job in Cape Town where she has been working part time while teaching here. She will be replaced by Ms Nina Wessels (currently Grade 4). Ms Claire Craig replaces Ms Wessels in Grade 4 as class teacher.
- Mr Wiles joins Herzlia High in Cape Town and will be replaced by Ms Julie Orlopp who has taught at Dainfern and Crawford in Johannesburg. Mrs Wiles leaves us with her husband and is expecting a baby in 2012. She will be replaced by Ms Underwood (currently Grade 3) in the Science lab. We welcome Ms Karen Bind from Bridge House to replace Ms Underwood in Grade 3 as class teacher.
- Mrs Monica Kentani, our teaching assistant at Oakwood in the Dormice class, has completed her studies this year and will move to her first full teaching post in 2012. We will have a replacement for her position before school starts next year.

On the administration side of Somerset House, Ms Heidi Westraadt leaves us at the end of this year to focus more on her young family. I have worked closely with Heidi during her time at Somerset House and owe her a great debt of thanks for her hard work and commitment to our school. We are currently engaged in finding a replacement bursar to take over from her. She will remain a parent of our school and I will ensure she pays her fees timeously!

Important Dates for Term 1 of 2012

Some key dates can be found below as the complete calendar for Term 1 will only be available next year.

Wednesday	11 th	January	Term starts
Thursday	12 th	January	Parent Information Evening for JP (Grades 1 - 3) - 18h00
			Parent Information Evening for SP (Grades 4 - 7) - 19h30
Thursday	19 th	January	Cocktail Function for New Parents - 18h30
Friday	20 th	January	Inter-House Athletics - 16h00

Thank you and Merry Christmas

Thank you to all of you who brought gifts for the hampers for our kitchen, maintenance, security and cleaning staff. These will be greatly appreciated. To all our Christian families, I wish you a blessed Christmas. To all our families traveling on holiday I hope you have a relaxing break and a safe journey home. To all our staff who have worked so hard this year, thank you for your dedication and professionalism. To all our children - Happy Holidays!

Yours sincerely
Chris Storey - Headmaster