



ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL WELKOM

Educating for Life

16 January 2026

RE: Parents Circular 1/2026

Dear Parents

The festivities associated with December have come to an end and we trust that all our parents and learners enjoyed a blessed time spent with loved ones. By now, most of us have returned to work and school and we do so with a positive outlook, embracing the promise of new opportunities and fresh beginnings.

We are confident, despite the changes that lie ahead this year, that St Andrew's will continue to emerge stronger, secure in the knowledge that God is in control. We extend a warm welcome to every member of our school family and especially to those that are new to St Andrew's. May your association with our school prove to be a valuable and rewarding investment as we journey together in pursuing the very best outcomes for your children.



<https://grco.de/bcHDKp>



Anglican Diocese of the Free State

C/o Hamlet Road & St Andrew's Way, St Helena, Welkom
Email: school@sasw.co.za

P.O. Box 55107, Eerstemyn, 9466
Tel: 057 3522218



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1. Academics:

The core mission of our school is to guide and mould, as far as possible, our learners to become the best versions of themselves. While this holistic approach remains central to our ethos, we fully appreciate the fact that parents also expect strong and consistent academic excellence, and rightly so.

We are once again extremely proud of our Grade 12 class of 2025, who have upheld our proud tradition of a 32-year consecutive 100% pass rate.

Congratulations to these learners who not only achieved academic distinctions but also overcame personal challenges along the way – making their families, teachers, and the entire school community immensely proud of them.

Overall, the school achieved an impressive 99,3% pass rate, which is truly commendable. As we move into 2026, we will intentionally join forces from the outset, to ensure that no learner is left behind, while continuing to emphasize and strengthen the principles that underpin both academic excellence and overall success.



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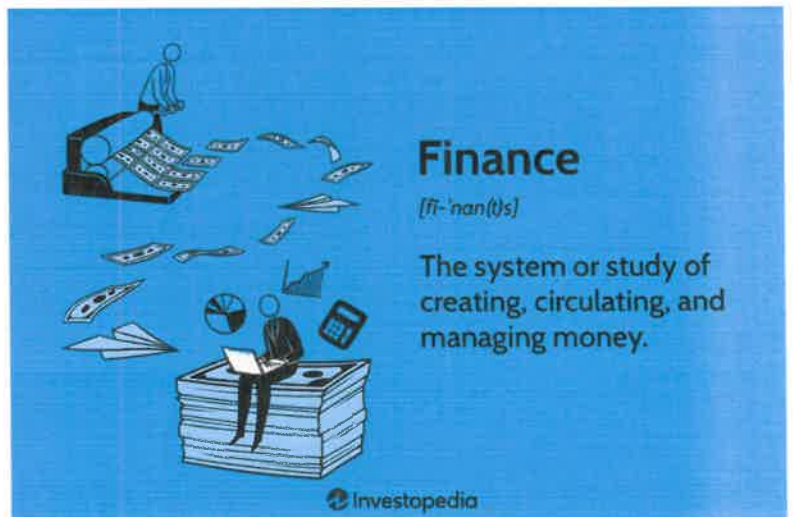
2. Finances:

Sound financial management remains the heartbeat of our school. Our financial sustainability depends largely on parents honouring their financial commitments diligently, as the school is budget-driven and relies on the timely payment of school fees to operate effectively.

We are fully aware that the current economic climate has required many families to tighten their belts. Nevertheless, the education of our children must remain a shared priority, and we sincerely appreciate the ongoing commitment of our parents in this regard.

Parents have already been informed that, in accordance with the signed agreement, interest at a rate of 2% per month, will be levied on all overdue accounts that have not been settled by the last day of each month.

As learner numbers are directly linked to the school's financial stability, the Board of Governors has approved the introduction of an incentive whereby parents who successfully recruit new families to the school, will qualify for a 5% discount on school fees. The newly enrolled family will likewise receive the same benefit for that specific financial year. This initiative will be implemented from 2027, and parents will be reminded regularly throughout the year. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and continued support.



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3. Staff Matters:

We are pleased to report to our Preschool parents that the transition of our Grade R class, to the Foundation Phase, has been a resounding success. Our young learners have adapted remarkably well to their new environment in a very short space of time.

In addition, our "babies" and our Grade RRR and Grade RR continue to flourish at our beautiful Preschool facility, where they are nurtured under the gentle care and watchful guidance of our dedicated Preschool staff.

In the Primary School, we extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs Bekker for her willingness to continue teaching for an additional month while we await the arrival of our newly appointed teacher, Ms Daphney Berries, who will be responsible for Afrikaans and English in the Primary school.

The Board of Governors is actively engaged in the process of appointing a new Principal, while school management is simultaneously identifying the most suitable candidate to succeed Mrs Hinrichs in the Mathematics department.

Parents may rest assured that all appointment processes are conducted with the utmost professionalism and care, ensuring that your children are entrusted to capable, committed and competent educators.



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4. Survey Conducted:

We extend our sincere thanks to all parents who took the time to respond to and complete the most recent survey. The Board of Governors is already engaging meaningfully with the feedback received by parents.

We are encouraged by the fact that the vast majority of respondents indicated that they are either most satisfied or satisfied with the majority of aspects covered in the survey. At the same time, a small number of parents expressed dissatisfaction in certain areas. We regard this feedback as valuable and are committed to address these concerns – whether they relate to “human error”, facilities or communication.



As Board members, we reaffirm that every parent is important to us and that all voices deserve to be heard. Concerns raised are taken seriously and will be addressed constructively and transparently.

We, therefore, encourage parents to feel free and confident to approach school leadership with any concerns or suggestions. We firmly believe that there is always a solution and that by working together, we can continue to build a school environment where everyone feels heard, valued and appreciated.



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5. PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

In referring to the recent parent survey and concerns raised, it is important – if we are to work honestly and collectively towards continuous improvement - to reflect on feedback from the school's perspective. One such concern, related to limited parental involvement in supporting extramural activities and school events.



We fully acknowledge that our parents have demanding responsibilities and busy schedules. However, we also recognise that parental presence and involvement, even in small ways, have a significant and positive impact on our learners. There is little that compares to the encouragement a child experiences when seeing a parent on the sidelines of a sport field or attending a school-related event.

We, therefore, encourage parents to become involved in whatever way they are able, as this strengthens our sense of community and partnership. One meaningful way to do so is by joining our PTA, which serves as a platform for parent and teachers to collaborate in planning enjoyable activities and worthwhile fundraising initiatives.

Parents are warmly invited to attend the first PTA meeting of the year, which will take place on 26 January 2026 at 17:30 in the staff room. During this meeting, office bearers for 2026 will be elected.

We look forward to your participation and to working together for the benefit of our school and our learners.



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6. Dates to Remember:

19 January:	Gr 4-7 Info Meeting 17:30
20 January:	Gr 1-3 Info Meeting 17:30
21 January:	Preschool Info Meeting 17:00
21 January:	Gr 8-11 Info Meeting 17:30
22 January:	Gr 12 Info Meeting 17:30
25 January:	Dedication Service at St Matthias 18:00
26 January:	PTA Election Meeting in Staffroom 17:30
4 February:	Formal Assembly & Gr 8 Induction
17 February:	Shrove Tuesday
18 February:	Ash Wednesday
13-15 March:	Gr 8 Camp
14 March:	Gr 12 Sesotho Trip to St Stithians College
17 March:	Board of Governors Meeting at 1 Toronto
20 March:	School Closes
23-27 March:	Gr 12 Trip to St Lucia



God bless

Mr G HINRICHS

Principal



ISASA



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