



ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL, WELKOM

Educating for Life

27 May 2025

Dear Parents

RE: PARENTS CIRCULAR 3 / 2025

As we approach our June examinations, it is important to reflect on some matters, give feedback and communicate the way forward.

1. Academics

The examinations for Grades 11 and 12 will start on Monday, 9 June 2025 while the rest of the grades will be phased in slowly. Everyone will be writing by Thursday, 12 June. All learners have received the timetable as well as their "scopes" for the coming examinations. We ask for "all hands-on deck" to support and encourage our learners to start early with their preparations and revision.

Parents will receive a notice that will specify the times used during the examinations, but can already be prepared to collect their children at 11:00 when examinations are in full swing. Study classes and aftercare will still be available for children who are not collected.



2. Excursions

We can report back that the most recent excursions the school undertook with the Grades 8, 11 and 12 classes were a huge success and our learners were given the opportunity to experience nature; grow spiritually and emotionally; engage in team building and just have fun.



Our invitation to perform on stage at the Drakensberg Boys Choir venue was a huge privilege and honour and our senior choir, under the mentorship and expertise of Mr H Jordaan, made a lasting impression and impact on the audience. Those who accompanied the choir and attended the performance will acknowledge the fact that they have done us proud.

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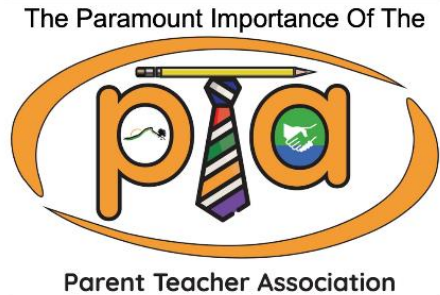
We want to express our sincere gratitude to those teachers who have gone the extra mile to expose our learners to new opportunities and who undertook the huge responsibility of accompanying them and keeping them safe.

3. PTA projects

We would like to express a huge word of appreciation towards our parents for supporting our 50/50 raffle ticket fundraiser during the first term. This project generated a profit of R22000 for the PTA, of which R13000 has already gone into the upgrading of the Senior Primary girls' bathroom.

Our next fundraiser takes place on the 20th of June 2025 in the form of a Bingo evening. As this event promises a fun-filled evening with lots of prizes, we want to encourage our parents to support this PTA initiative.

Parents can be assured that all money raised will be allocated to worthy projects and be used for our learners or school.



4. Sponsorships

Despite the challenging economical climate and the resulting financial constraints, the school / PTA / parents are desperately seeking sponsors for upcoming events, which will directly or indirectly contribute towards the betterment of our school and the exposure of our learners to new opportunities. Here I am referring to sponsors for our Bingo evening; sponsors for our U/17 soccer tour to Bloemfontein; sponsors for our Prestige Athletics meeting; and also sponsors for assisting other learners going on tour.



Now this might seem a bit overwhelming and might look intimidating and, may in many ways seem, as "a bridge too far". We, however, are pressing forward in good faith, believing that doors will open to us and that our parents and the community will respond positively, knowing that what we do is for a good





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cause. We are, therefore, humbly requesting that you support our initiatives to generate funds for the school and our children. You could either sponsor or donate something yourself, or approach people or businesses who could support us.

5. Finances

Having mentioned all the other efforts and initiatives to generate funds to address the needs not necessarily captured in the budget, it is also important to emphasize that the number one priority and legal obligation is towards the payment of school fees. Our parents must be aware of the fact that we received no financial support from any government department and that the school solely depends on the punctual payment of school fees, to enable us to meet our budgeted expenses. It is important to advise parents who might be in arrears to urgently evaluate their financial circumstances and to make timely decisions in the best interest of their children. Again, our appreciation goes out to the majority of our parents who are honouring their contract.

School
F E E S

6. Board Election

Our parents must please take note that the three-year term of our current Board members will come to an end during the latter part of this year. The process of electing new members will start on the 11th of August (nominations), whereafter the introduction and voting will take place. Again, we are calling upon our parents to commit themselves to this process to ensure that we elect members that have the school's best interest at heart. We will communicate more detail, to our parents, as soon as we approach this specific due date.



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7. Matters of Concern

7.1. Cellphones / Cyber-bullying

Our parents are surely well-informed and would know about the many risks and potential threats associated with cellphones and how they are being used. On the one hand you can cause damage to yourself and others, by posting harmful content and by accessing inappropriate material, and on the other hand you can expose yourself to criminals with malicious intent. The list of potential harm is actually endless and the ways and means to protect our children are limited, to good education, awareness and lots of prayer.

We are, therefore, just reminding our parents to be vigilant and to have some kind of safety measures in place to protect their children.

7.2. Vaping

In society it has somehow become more socially acceptable to vape and suddenly it has also become more attractive for our youth. Previously we had no problems in this regard, but now we see this alarming trend developing. The rules at school relating to smoking on the school grounds, in uniform and when representing the school are in place and will be strictly applied. Our main concern, however, is the fact that our learners are being deceived and lured into addiction.



Substitutes to Help Quit Vaping

- Bubble gum or chewing gum
- Toothpicks
- Straws to chew on
- Hard candies
- Lollipops
- Pumpkin seeds
- Popsicles
- Pretzel sticks
- Popcorn
- Meditation and yoga
- Exercise

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7.3. Taking care of personal belongings

Our parents should know how many times their children come home reporting that they have lost something at school, while here at school we are collecting "lost stuff" every morning. The problem, most of the time, is that, especially with clothes, the specific item has not been marked. If clothes or lunchboxes have been marked, it makes it much easier to return it to the rightful owner. The second problem is that our children, in many cases, are not taking ownership of their responsibility to take care of their belongings.



8. Dates Available (a lot of the sport matches have not been confirmed yet)

Tuesday, 27 May	Hockey Boys & Girls vs Hennenman at home
Wednesday, 28 May	Hockey Boys & Girls vs Welkom Secondary at home
Thursday, 29 May	Ascension Day
Thursday, 29 May	Soccer U/19 vs Rheederpark
Friday, 30 May	Chess league
Friday, 30 May	Cross-country league
Friday, 30 May	Netball vs Theunissen at home
Monday, 2 June	Hockey Boys & Girls vs St Dominic's away
Thursday, 5 June	Soccer U/19 vs HTS
Friday, 6 June	Cosy Day (Daycare to Grade 12)
Friday, 6 June	Cross-country league
Saturday, 7 June	Primary Soccer vs Grey College & St Helena Primary at home
Monday, 9 June	Gr 1 – 10 Photo Day
Monday, 9 – 27 June	Gr 11 + 12 Exams
Wednesday, 11 June	Gr 11 + 12 Photo Day
Wednesday, 11 – 27 June	Gr 7, 8, 9 + 10 Exams
Wednesday, 11 June	School ends at 11:00!
Thursday, 12 – 27 June	Gr 4, 5 + 6 Exams
Friday, 13 June	Cross-country league



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Monday, 16 June
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Friday, 20 June
Tuesday, 24 June
Friday, 27 June
Saturday, 15 – 20 July

Tuesday, 22 July
Thursday, 24 July
Friday, 25 July
Friday, 25 July
Friday, 25 July

Tuesday, 29 July
Tuesday, 29 July
Tuesday, 29 July
Tuesday, 29 July
Wednesday, 30 July
Wednesday, 30 July
Thursday, 31 July
Thursday, 31 July

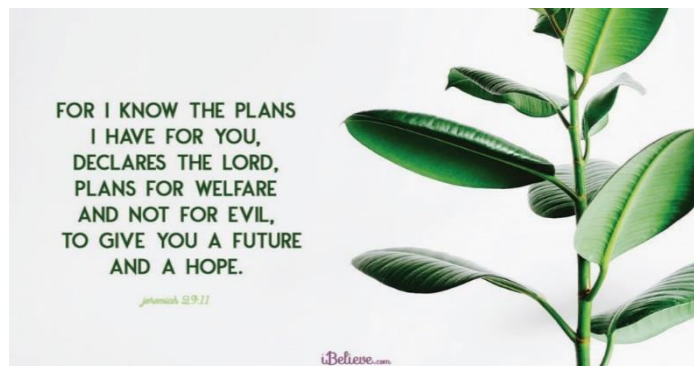
Youth Day – public holiday
Grade 12s Exams
PTA Bingo evening at 1 Toronto 18:00
BoG meeting at 1 Toronto 18:00
End of Term 2! 09:30
Soccer U/17 tournament – Brebner Bloemfontein

Start of Term 3!
Soccer U/19 vs Dunamis
Gr 1 – 12 Academic Reports handed out
Chess league
Cross-country league

Gr 4 – 6 Natural Science Olympiads
Gr 10 – 11 Life Sciences Olympiad
Soccer U/19 vs Unitas
Gr 1 – 12 Parents' evening 17:30
Gr 4 – 12 Formal Assembly at Toronto 07:30
Gr 7 – 9 Natural Science Olympiad
Gr 10 – 11 Physical Sciences Olympiad
Soccer U/19 vs St Dominic's

God bless

Mr G HINRICHS
Principal



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