



ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL, WELKOM

Educating for Life

20 November 2024

Dear Parents

RE: PARENTS CIRCULAR 5 / 2024

Looking back this year I realize just how many times God carried me and got me through things I couldn't do for myself, for that, I am forever grateful. Amen.

Another year is coming to an end and again we are running around to dot the i's and cross the t's to finally wrap up the year 2024, while also ensuring that we get everything in place for 2025. It is again my privilege to communicate with you regarding those matters that will hopefully give clarity on the way forward.

1. Academics

Currently the whole school is writing their final examinations which will impact on the final promotion mark to the degree that will depend on a specific phase. As our learners progress through the phases, the weighting of the final examination starts to become more predominant! We are hopeful that all our learners have applied themselves to the task at hand and that they will bear the fruit of their work. However, sometimes it does happen that a learner needs to repeat a grade to ensure that the foundation is solid for the next grade, but this will be communicated with the parents beforehand.

The final report and schedules will be processed during the week of 25 – 29 November 2024, and we will post the time and date during which the reports can be collected.



Please also take note that the last day of examinations (22nd of November) will also mark the last day of compulsory school attendance for our learners for this academic year. There will be some class parties / excursions taking place, but parents should be aware of those arrangements. Parents who have a problem with children being at home unattended (after the examinations), can feel free to drop them at school till 13:00 for supervision.



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2. Finances

We are reminding our parents that all school fees (current, as well as outstanding) must be settled by the end of the year. End of December marks the end of the financial year for our school, which means that all financials must be up to date! Some of our parents did make special arrangements to settle outstanding fees during this time of the year, and we rely on that money, which is due, to carry us through the difficult last month of the year.



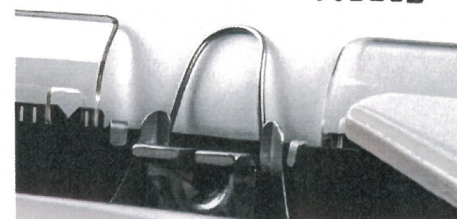
The Board of Governors met on the 19th of November 2024 to discuss the finances and the proposed Budget for 2025. After careful consideration it was decided that a school fee increase of 4% is to be introduced from the start of 2025.

3. Staff matters

Not only does the end of a year bring closure to the year's work, but often it also brings closure to a phase in people's lives as they implement change to start a new phase of their lives. It is therefore sad, but not unexpected, to often say goodbye to people (staff) who have made a huge impact on our lives, but now have to move on to explore new horizons.

We want to pay tribute to Mrs Deidré Lloyd-Evans (23 years) and Ms Hayley Hauptfleisch (6 years), and we want to thank them for their invaluable contribution towards our school and their unconditional and unselfish investment into the lives of our children. Mrs Lloyd-Evans and her husband are relocating to George and Ms Hauptfleisch will be pursuing other opportunities outside the teaching profession. We wish them blessings in abundance as they embark on this new journey!

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE



Also, a huge word of appreciation towards Fr Hector for his spiritual guidance as dedicated priest from the Anglican Church. We wish him and his family all of the best and many blessings as they settle down with the new parish in QwaQwa.

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We have acquired the services of Mrs Mieke Lagendyk-Conradie (B.A. Fine Arts [Honours]) and Mr Lohan Jordaan (B.A. Languages), to fill the gaps in our timetable for 2025. We believe that the above-mentioned teachers are going to be an asset to our school and that they will align with our vision of pursuing excellence.

4. Parents / learners leaving / coming

At the end of every year we also know that we have to say goodbye to learners / parents who are either relocating or who had to make difficult decisions due to various reasons. As a school / family it is always hard and sad to see them go, especially when you have seen the children grow and develop through the years and you know that St Andrew's is actually the best place for them to be. As a school we wish them well on this new journey and we believe that the seed that has been planted here at St Andrew's will grow, blossom and bear fruit in the future.

At the same time, we are also delighted and excited about new parents / learners joining us in 2025. We want to welcome each and everyone to the St Andrew's family in the belief that they will feel at home soon, knowing that they have made a sound investment in the future of their children.

5. Robotics / Coding

Our parents should by now be well aware that we are launching an initiative to become the hub in the Goldfields pertaining to the above-mentioned field of study. We are excited about the potential of this project and the opportunities for our learners. Please make sure that you peruse the letter relating to this matter and, if possible, return the survey attached to this letter. We will keep our parents / learners updated on the progress made to implement this initiative in 2025.



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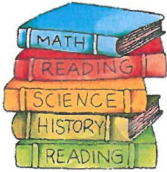


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6. Aftercare

In the school's pursuit to provide quality service and value for money, it is always necessary to evaluate current systems and structures. One of the systems (Aftercare) has been evaluated and has been earmarked for renewal. In short, it has been decided that aftercare will be administered by the school and that it will be done according to age cohorts. Effectively, it also means that the Pre-School facilities will then also be preserved for Pre-School learners only, as it should be. Teachers who are available and not occupied by their normal extra-mural duties, will be utilised and allocated to specific age cohorts, ensuring that homework is done, and learners are kept busy constructively.



Communication regarding the administration and registration will be sent to our parents. We can, however, confirm that there will be no fee increase pertaining to aftercare.

7. Important dates:

22 November	Gr 4 – 11 Last exams
25 – 29 November	Processing of marks for Grade 1 – 11
4 December	Hand out Academic Reports (Gr 1 - 11)
5 December	End of Academic Year for 2024!
13 January 2025	Administrative & Teaching staff start 2025
13 January 2025	2024 NSC Results release (15:00)
14 January 2025	Tour de Saints
15 January 2025	Start of Academic Term 1 for 2025 (learners)
17 January 2025	Athletics Interhouse meeting
20 January 2025	Gr 4 – 7 Parents' information evening (18:00)
21 January 2025	Gr 1 – 3 Parents' information evening (18:00)
22 January 2025	Pre-School Parents' information evening (17:00)
22 January 2025	Gr 8 – 11 Parents' information evening (18:00)
23 January 2025	Daycare Parents' information evening (16:30)
23 January 2025	Gr 12 Parents' information evening (18:00)
24 January 2025	IEB Principals' meeting at Roedean
24 January 2025	Primary School Athletics meeting at Dagbreek



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26 January 2025 Dedication Service at St Matthias Church (18:00)
 27 January 2025 PTA Election in Staffroom (18:00)

St Andrew's School term dates for 2025

Terms	Start Date	Closing Date	No school days	Number of school days
Term 1	(13 + 14) 15 January (Wednesday)	20 March (Thursday)		48 days
Term 2	(7) 8 April (Tuesday)	27 June (Friday)	Friday, 18 April (Good Friday) Monday, 21 April (Family Day) Sunday, 27 April (Freedom Day) Monday, 28 April (Freedom Day Observed) Tuesday, 29 April (Special School Holiday) Wednesday, 30 April (Special School Holiday) Thursday, 1 May (Worker's Day) Friday, 2 May (Special School Holiday) Monday, 16 June (Youth Day)	51 days
Term 3	(21) 22 July (Tuesday)	26 September (Friday)	Saturday , 9 August (Women's Day) Wednesday, 24 September (Heritage Day)	48 days
Term 4	(13) 14 October (Tuesday)	03 December (Wednesday)		37 days
184 Teaching Days				

8. General

We want to thank our Board of Governors, our parents, our learners, our teachers and our administrative and support staff for making this year a successful one! It is true that moving forward would not be possible if all role players do not share the same vision. In our case, we are united in our pursuit of serving the best interest of our children while respecting one another for who they are and what they do.



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Most importantly, we want to bring praise and glory to our Heavenly Father for showering upon us blessings in abundance! We believe that despite turbulence and uncertainty, He is in control and that He will guide and protect us!

We wish everyone in our St Andrew's family a wonderful time of rest during this holiday and festive season. May all of us be safe and experience His goodness and presence!

St Andrew's greetings!


Mf G HINRICHS
Principal

For I know the
plans I have for you,
declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper
you and not to harm
you, plans to give
you hope and a
future.

Jeremiah 29:11



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