Dear Parents

We shall be conducting a mentored internal evaluation of our school over the next few months. The objectives of this evaluation are two-fold:

- The first - and most important - is that as a school we strive to be the best school that we can possibly be. An evaluation assists us in identifying our strengths as well as our challenges so that we are able to celebrate our strengths and work on those areas in which we are not yet perfect.
- The second reason is that we belong to ISASA - the Independent Schools' Association of South Africa - and a condition of membership is that each school should undergo a quality assurance check at least once every 5 years.

Our evaluation will be run with the assistance of IQAA - the Independent Quality Assurance Agency which has already appointed Margaret Rudolph as our mentor.

The evaluation begins with a survey of the opinions of the three constituencies:
- Parents/guardians
- Pupils
- Teachers

We shall be sending out hard-copy survey-forms on Wednesday, 19 March. Please would you assist us by filling these in and returning them to your child’s class teacher as soon as possible, but no later than Tuesday, 25 March.

HARD-COPY SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

- Please do not staple, use paper-clips, bend or fold the form. Damaged forms cannot be read by the optical scanner.
- Please read and comply with all instructions on all sections of the form. The circles must be filled in completely, not ticked or dotted.
- Fill in a separate form for each of your children in the school. This gives us a complete picture of your opinions of each level of the school.
- Read each statement carefully before you mark the circle of your choice.
- If you have no opinion on a statement leave it blank.
- If you would like to elaborate on any statement, you can do so in the comments section.
- Please help us by completing the survey and getting it back to us as soon as possible.

Once IQAA has furnished us with a full report drawn up on the basis of the survey responses, we shall be inviting any parents who would like to be involved in small discussion groups to attend meetings which will be held to discuss some of the issues which emerge. We shall also be providing feedback to parents on identified strengths and areas of challenge.

Thank you for your help and support in this important exercise!

We shall be closing the school at 12:30 on Thursday, 20 March and will be re-opening the school on Monday, 24 March.

We wish Ms Cathy da Silva God’s richest blessings for her special day - when she makes her marriage vows in front of her family, colleagues and friends - and becomes Mrs Cathy Cronje. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and Philip as they make this important, life-long commitment to one another.
**LICE CHECK**

There has been a report of lice in the Foundation Phase. Please check your children's hair thoroughly and regularly and if lice is detected, do not send them back to school until their hair is lice-free. Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

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**FIRST-TERM ASSESSMENTS**

As a staff, we have been working on improving and refining our assessment approach. In the Intersen Phase we are striving towards consistency and ensuring that all our children have every opportunity to fully grasp each concept. First-Term marks may be high as a result, but should always be seen in conjunction with the grade average. We also find annually that there are some children who take the First Term to fully find their feet, and these children may achieve results which are not a true reflection of potential. This is usually rectified by mid-year.

We are embarking on a new approach with our Foundation Phase assessments for Term 1. Our teachers will be generating a one-page assessment summary for each child. We would like each parent to meet with the class teacher one-on-one - at which meeting the parent will be given the Report and teacher and parent can have a discussion on the child’s progress. We are expecting every parent to meet with the teacher - as we feel that at this stage verbal feedback is so important so that both parents and teacher can get a full picture of the child. For this reason, we have decided not to send the Foundation Phase Reports home on the last day but to give them to parents at a one-on-one consultation.

In order to accommodate all parents in each Grade, teachers will be available for consultations on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1 - 3 April from 16:30 - 19:00. Parents are invited to call the School Office to book their consultation with their child’s class teacher. We shall only manage between 9 and 10 consultations per afternoon - to give Moms and Dads sufficient time to ask questions and fully discuss issues. The secretaries will book your time-slots so you may get your appointments booked soonest to have the time-slots of your choice.

NB We shall be generating a Report for the end of Term 3 for all pupils between Grades 1 - 7 so that parents receive important feedback on their child’s progress at the end of September - as well as the end of March and June. This extra Report will assist us in intervening timeously to improve efforts and assure steady progress before the year-end assessment.

We believe that these improvements will further assist us in helping our children to realise potential and to be the best that they can be!

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**DIARY**

**Thursday, 20 March:**
School closes at 12:30 (re-opens on Monday, 24 March)

**Monday, 24 March:**
School re-opens

**Tuesday, 25 March:**
Inter-House Hockey - U12 & Open
Girls 14:00 15:00
Boys 15:00 - 16:00

**Wednesday, 26 March:**
Soccer & Netball v CBC
Netball @ St Paulus
Soccer @ CBC

**Wednesday, 2 April:**
Soccer & Netball v Tyger Valley College:
Soccer Juniors @ St Paulus
Soccer Seniors @ Tyger Valley College
Netball @ St Paulus

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**Thursday, 3 April:**
On-Cue Theatre Anti-Bullying Show
Hockey:
Girls U10, U11, U12 & U13 v DSG

**Friday, 4 April:**
Interact Club Induction Dinner
Junior Rangers Tour to Mabalingwe (until Sunday, 6 April)

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Have a peaceful and enjoyable long weekend with your children.