Dear Parents

IQAA FOCUS GROUPS

As communicated earlier this year, as part of our requirements in terms of our ISASA membership, the school undergoes an external quality assurance evaluation every five years which is conducted by IQAA. Earlier this year, the parents, pupils and staff were all given the opportunity to fill in the IQAA Survey Forms. After collating these, we have identified our strengths and some of our challenges. We shall be organising small Focus Groups in order to discuss some of the challenges which have been identified. These Focus Groups are not designed to deal with or resolve any specific problems – real or perceived - but to give people who would like to participate the opportunity to share their ideas and to make suggestions which will be recorded and fed back to the Principal and the Board of Governors. One of the restrictions on the Focus Groups is that the Principal may not participate. The Groups should also be between 10 -15 people and should not become too large. We have chosen the following date and time for these groups, which will run concurrently:
Monday, 25 August @ 17:00 – 18:00.

If you would like to participate in one of the Focus Group discussions, please RSVP to Ms Lizette Baker on: hodintersen@stpaulus.co.za. She will make contact with you and confirm your inclusion.

FOCUS GROUPS

All parents who would like to be part of a Focus Group discussion should RSVP to Ms Baker who will send you an invitation. The Focus Group participants will meet in the Hall at 17:00 for the Plenary and then will break up into specific Focus Groups:

FOCUS GROUP 1: Facilitator: Ms Lizette Baker
- Facilities – specifically bathrooms
- The school’s Language Policy

FOCUS GROUP 2: Facilitator: Ms Myriam van der Wielen
- Bullying – How does the school deal with incidences?
- Accessibility to teachers
- Lost Property

FOCUS GROUP 3: Facilitator: Mr Mark Webster
- Sports communication
- Inclusion of children in Teams and opportunities to play matches

FOCUS GROUP 4: Facilitator: Marize van Staden
- Class sizes
- The school’s approach to the teaching of Reading

FOCUS GROUP 5: Facilitator: Ms Mariska Terblans
- Aftercare-related issues:
- Discipline
- Menu
- Communication

If you would like to be part of one of the Focus Groups please diarise the date and make contact with Ms Baker, who is co-ordinating the Focus Group follow-ups.

IDENTIFIED STRENGTHS

I include some of the many strengths which were identified and for which we have cause to celebrate:
- Children are treated as individuals, receive understanding and an excellent education
- Excellent moral standards and ethos – great ethos
- The extra focus on literacy is really appreciated
- The Intervention Programmes to assist our children are really good
- We have much to celebrate
- Excellent staff and supportive Principal
- High standards, children are well prepared for High School
- Children are happy
SPORTS FACILITY

Our new Sports facility is completed and we are busy with completing the fitting out of the kitchen. We hope to be in a position to re-locate the Tuckshop and to have our grand opening—the first day on which the tuckshop will run from the pavilion – on Spring Day, 1 September. The tuckshop staff will be taking emailed lunch orders which will be sent through from the teachers and lunch orders will be delivered to the Office by 09:30. We are looking for a good quality small golf-cart at a reasonable price – or as a donation - for ease of access by the tuckshop proprietor between the pavilion and the main office. If anyone is able to assist us please make contact with the school office without delay.

We shall also be able to serve tea and refreshments to parents when we are hosting matches and the children and parents will be able to use the bathroom facilities and buy refreshments from the tuckshop during the afternoon as well. While we do anticipate some teething problems with the transition, these will be speedily addressed. One of the big advantages of vacating the present tuckshop is that we shall be in a position moving forward, to utilise the existing space for bathroom facilities for the Grade 1’s and 2’s.

The new pavilion will be officially blessed at the opening of our Carnival on 25 October and all parents are invited to attend the short ceremony with their children.

TOTEM BAGS

The orthopedically constructed schoolbags which are being introduced for Grade R and Grade 1 have been ordered and funded by the school. Parents will be able to pay for these along with the stationery and textbook orders. These will have the school badge and The Shop will organise for your child’s name to be put on by order. The cost of the bag - which is the school’s official suitcase for Grade R and Grade 1 as of 2015 - is R450. We have ordered a small number of the bigger bags – for ages 10 -14 years, at a cost of R700. If you would be interested in obtaining one of these, or if parents would like to place an order for their child in Grades 2 – 3, please make contact with Mrs Myriam van der Wielen.

CIVVIES DAY

Our Grade 7’s are organising a Spring Civvies Day on Wednesday, 20 August, to raise funds for their gift to the school. Children pay R5 to wear civvies on that day. Please ensure that your children adhere to our Dress Code for Civvies Days. We do not allow bare shoulders or midriffs, so full tops should be worn. We also do not allow very short shorts or min-skirts/dresses. Children should be dressed at all times age-appropriately as Primary School pupils and in keeping with the school’s ethos. No make-up is permitted. We reserve the right to send children home if they are inappropriately dressed, so please support us in making this a fun, Fun Day for everyone.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Equestrians who received Gauteng North Colours and who participate under the auspices of our school, wearing our school badge and colours:

- Anya Roestoff
- Joshua Lifschitz
- Christine Kahn

We wish them well for the Inter-Provincial Championship.
2014 SCIENCE FAIRS

These exciting events will take place in our School Hall on Wednesday, 27 August 2014, from 11:30 – 14:50 for the Foundation Phase. The Intersen Phase Science Fair will take place on Thursday, 28 August 2014, from 11:30 – 14:50. These Fairs give our children an excellent opportunity to explore scientific phenomena and we are always delighted and amazed by the innovativeness of our students. All projects will be judged in their classrooms prior to the event and all projects will be on display. Encourage your children to participate as it develops a variety of academic skills, and as they may work in pairs, it also develops social skills. Parents are invited to spend some time on 27 and 28 August viewing the projects. It is well worth the visit!

DIARY

Friday, 15 August:
Assumption Day Mass @ 08:00
Day/Night Cricket vs Wonderboom @ Wonderboom: U11 at 15:00 & U13 at 18:10
Saturday, 16 August:
Inter-Catholic Schools’ Teachers’ Forum
Girls Mini Hockey @ Hatfield Christian School at 07:30 (Fixtures start at 08:00.)
Boys Mini Soccer @ St Paulus at 07:30 (Fixtures start at 08:00.)
Monday, 18 August:
FHC Parents Information Evening @ 18:00
Pauline Sisters Book Display
Tennis League:
Open Boys @ Voorpos
Open Girls @ Skuilkrans
U11 Boys @ St Paulus
Golf at Woodhill
U9 Cricket vs Du Preez van Wyk at Du Preez v Wyk
Tuesday, 19 August:
Pauline Sisters Book Display
U12 & U13 Cricket vs Du Preez van Wyk:
U12 at St Paulus
U13 at Du Preez v Wyk
Wednesday, 20 August:
Civvies Day
Pauline Sisters Book Display
Inter-House Athletics:
Foundation Phase: 14:00 – 15:00
Intersen Phase: 15:00 -16:00
Finance Meeting
Thursday, 21 August:
Foundation Phase Music Festival @ Assumption Convent
U10 & U11 Cricket vs Du Preez van Wyk:
U10 at St Paulus
U11 at Du Preez van Wyk
Hockey vs Skuilkrans:
U11 & U10 Girls at St Paulus at 14:00
First Team Boys at St Albans at 14:00
Friday, 22 August:
Intersen Phase Music Festival @ Assumption Convent
U11 & U13 Day/Night Cricket vs Theresapark @ Theresapark:
U11 at 15:00 & U13 at 18:10

May you have a peaceful weekend doing something interesting with your children!