

Dear Parents, Guardians and Learners



Winter is upon us and I encourage all parents to ensure that children are kept warm and healthy during this period. Our boys and girls are allowed to wear their winter uniforms which is the school tracksuit and the grey jerseys. If children choose to wear the school tracksuit, please ensure that they wear their uniforms under their tracksuits. The reason for this is that when it gets warmer during the day, the boys and girls may remove their tracksuits and still have our St. Nicholas Diocesan School uniforms to wear and be proud of. Children may wear their tracksuit tops with their school grey shorts (boys) and the uniforms (girls) but may not wear the tracksuit pants without the top. Please support the school in ensuring that our children in the Junior School continue to wear their uniforms with pride.

The Comrades Marathon takes place on Sunday, 9 June and this year's race is an up run and will finish at the Golden Horse Casino. This is a special race and I was fortunate to run eight of these races in my younger days. Many runners set personal goals a year in advance. They train hard with commitment, dedication and purpose. For me it is the support and encouragement from the spectators that gets these runners to the finish line. The runners draw strength from the encouragement and support from the spectators that line the roads from the early hours of the morning. Words like "you are almost there"; "you are amazing"; "keep going, you are looking strong" or "you are almost at the top of the hill" are some of the words of encouragement thrown to the runners. As a runner, you feel reassured and affirmed especially when these words come from family, friends and of course people whom you've never met in your life.

As parents, we can learn from these runners and spectators. We have to support our children in all that they do. We have to encourage them all the time to keep on giving off their best especially when the goings gets tough. Our children are in the midst of tests and exams and now is a great opportunity for us to support and encourage them to do well academically. Regardless of your child's age, never underestimate the importance and impact of your praise and encouragement. Talking about an assignment and showing interest in your child's schoolwork may also help your child maintain his or her motivation and interest. With your support and encouragement, your children will do better academically. So go on, support and encourage as it only takes a few minutes of your time.

I will be away from school from Sunday, 9 June to Friday, 14 June as I will be travelling to Kasane, Botswana to attend the CHOPS Headmaster's Conference as the South African delegate. I am looking forward to this Conference and will share with our parents and teachers relevant information when I return. As usual, the children are in the very capable and safe hands of Mrs Mulligan, Mrs Hyland (our two Junior School HOD's) and our amazing teachers.

Please note that school is closed on Monday, 17 June as the Public Holiday (Youth Day) falls on Sunday, 16 June. I trust that you will spend some quality time with your children at home.

Deus Ducit – God Leads

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kamal Rugbar'.

Kamal Rugbar (Headmaster – Junior School)

What Happened this week?

SAHISA COUNCIL MEETING - Johannesburg

I attended the SAHISA Council Meeting in Johannesburg on Tuesday, 28 May. I attend these meetings as the representative of Headmasters from Kwazulu Natal. The main point on the agenda for last week's Meeting was a planning ahead for SAHISA and ISASA. SAHISA is Southern African Heads of Independent Schools Association and ISASA is Independent Schools Association of South Africa. I thoroughly enjoy these meetings as it keeps me in the 'know how' of independent education and the modern trends in education. From these meetings, I have to give feedback to our KZN Junior School Headmasters.

HOLY MASS

Father Thapelo led our Junior School holy mass last Tuesday. The Junior School management team requested this holy mass so that the children and staff could be blessed before the start of the assessment tests and exams. I would like to encourage parents to attend our services at school. I will keep you informed of these prayer services in the future. Father Thapelo also prayed with our boys and girls on Ascension Day last Thursday.

TEKKIE TAX DAY

A big thank you to all parents for allowing our boys and girls to come to school wearing their takkies last Friday. We managed to raise R 2 800 for the Feed the Babies Organisation who will use these fund to feed destitute children. We sadly had a few children who did not support this initiative and hope that these children and their parents will come on board for our next outreach effort. Outreach work is encouraged in the Bible and we do so at St. Nicholas Diocesan School as well. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 God says "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." This is God's message to us, His people that we should give with open hearts to those in need as God will always provide enough for us. God loves it when the giver enjoys in the giving.



UPCOMING EVENT

ST. NICHOLAS POLAR BEAR DAY

On Friday, 21 June is the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere. This marks the middle of winter in South Africa and the shortest day and longest night. To celebrate this day, we will be having our St. Nicholas Polar Bear Day on Thursday, 20 June 2019 where our children and teachers have a class breakfast from 08h00 to 10h00 followed by a swim at 10h00. Children and staff who participate in the swim will be given a certificate and hot chocolate. Each child will have to contribute R30 towards the class breakfast which will be prepared by the class teacher and the children themselves. A reminder letter will be sent home in the next week. I encourage parents to take on the challenge to come in and do the swim at 10h00.

