



THE VERITAS



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Penny Mullan



Dear Springfield Community

I have so enjoyed seeing and hearing reports of the 18 to 34 age group turning out with such enthusiasm to receive their Covid-19 vaccinations. It tells me that this age group wants to be a part of the solution, they are filled with hope, and that they are tired of the coronavirus and want to get on with living their best lives.

When I heard of our 18-year-old matrics making arrangements to get vaccinated, I had a bit of a sentimental response and Whitney Houston's words "I believe the children are our future; teach them well and let them lead the way" resounded in my head. Seeing them exercise their rights with such responsibility confirms that our future is in good hands.

Next week sees the beginning of the Trial examinations for the matric students. As a community, let us all hold them in our daily thoughts and prayers that they may have the calm and the confidence to achieve in a manner that reflects their unique potential and the depth of their endeavour.

Uniform review

A review of the current school uniform was initiated during term 2 and I am grateful to all the parents, teachers and students who responded to our brief survey.

Our uniform was last reviewed 15 years ago, and the desired outcome of the current review is for a uniform that:

- is not as costly,
- is comfortable and looks good on all body shapes and sizes,
- is cognisant of sensory difficulties experienced by some children, and
- has scope for those who prefer a less gendered uniform.

Our current uniform suppliers have been most helpful in sharing suggestions of uniform items worn at other schools. Some of our senior students had the opportunity to fit these items and share their opinions on comfort and general suitability.

Details outlining the changes to the current uniform will be distributed in a separate communication. Please keep a look out for these details. The changes will be phased in over the next four terms with full implementation commencing at the beginning of term 4 2022.

PENNY MULLAN
Head of School



MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Alison Dunn



The Notorious Week Six

In every school that has a four-term year, with between ten and twelve weeks per term, we hit the notorious week six at about mid-term. It's also known as the "slump" week. Work slackens off, tempers are frayed, children are fractious and our metabolisms hit a low. Even if we weren't counting the weeks, we would know by behaviour and feelings - "Oh, it's week six!" And then, suddenly, after the week six weekend, we take a deep breath, brighten our outlook and continue on the downhill slope to the end of term. It's amazing really: somehow our bodies and minds just know!

This week was such a week, and to make matters worse, covid reared its ugly head, causing us not only to send the whole of Grade Six into isolation, but to cancel all extra murals for ten days. Over and above that, we have a significant number of girls in other grades isolating, resulting in hybrid lessons, some "home-schooling" and many parents at their wits' end. What could be worse?

Actually, things could have been worse. A number of Cape Town schools have had to close multiple grades, while others have resorted to alternate-day teaching again to restrict the covid spread. This has luckily not been the case at Springfield.

I am pleased to inform you that Monday 30 August looks like a day for “the return” - back to the classrooms for the Grade Six girls and others isolating, and back to our full extra-mural programme. Let’s breathe a collective sigh of relief and hope that the next five weeks of term are as normal as the current situation allows.

Grade 7 Pupils’ Outreach Initiative

When we celebrated St Dominic’s Day, each grade used part of the day collaborating on a Community Involvement project. The Grade 7 girls came up with this initiative on their own, as explained in this letter from their teachers:

Dear Parents

While reading our novel, The Bone Sparrow, our Grade 7 pupils discovered that there are many girls who don’t have access to sanitary towels in our neighbouring communities. This triggered a desire to help fellow girls in need. As their teachers, we are so proud of the empathy and initiative that they have shown.

As such, the Grade 7 girls have started a campaign to collect sanitary towels for girls in need, under the banner ‘No Pain Campaign’, with a slogan of ‘Make someone glad, give a pad.’

They have decided to extend this initiative to include any feminine hygiene products which the girls will use to make up care packages.

If you are willing and able to donate either hygiene products or sanitary towels to their cause, please send them to school with your child.

Many thanks for your support in this initiative.

The Grade 7 Teachers

Courageous Conversations

At our Monday Assemblies, we are continuing to work through the school’s Transformation Statement, one paragraph per week. While the wording is, in some sentences, difficult for our younger girls to comprehend, the sentiment is being discussed at a level understood by all. Our present conversations are around the values of honesty, courage and commitment. We ask that you continue these conversations at home.

ALISON DUNN

Principal

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