



# THE VERITAS

• COMPASSION • INTEGRITY • RESPECT • SERVICE • RESPONSIBILITY •



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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Penny Mullan



Dear Springfield Community

Several years ago, I read of a study that was aimed at understanding the difference between thinking and decision making in pre-adolescents versus that in adolescents. In the study, groups of children were presented with a hypothetical scenario that went something like this:

*There is a lady who is extremely ill and needs a particular medication if she is to survive.*

*Her husband doesn't have enough money for the medication so one night he breaks into the pharmacy and steals the medication for his wife.*

The students were asked to provide their opinion as to how the man should be judged.

The pre-adolescents demonstrated their concrete way of thinking and were unanimous that the man should go to jail because stealing is wrong. None of the adolescents offered a direct solution to the scenario. Instead, they asked more questions. Questions like "Couldn't he have borrowed the money?" or "Wasn't there a cheaper medication for her to take?". For adolescents the world is grey and making decisions can be difficult.

There is good reason for this. Animals waste no time in reaching adulthood because procreation of the species is paramount to their survival.

For humans, thriving relies on good decision making, hence an extended period of time is spent as an adolescent, learning the ways of the world, learning about self, and learning how to relate to other people.

During a recent review session held with the School's Management Team with a particular focus on curriculum and its delivery, we were cognisant that there are already children enrolled in our school who will form the workforce of the 2040s. To ensure that the curriculum meets their needs, it was necessary to establish a vision of what the world might look like two decades from now - a challenging task indeed. What seems almost certain is that we will become increasingly dependent on technology and that our world will have an increased number of social concerns and related crises. The social issues that lie ahead of us will be remedied by those who have learned and mastered the art of being human. With this in mind, it is necessary to spend time, focussing on our values, and teaching our children how to develop respectful relationships with all.

Springfield has always been rooted in its values and our review process led us to being deliberate in naming these values. In the coming weeks and months, our community will see visible reminders of the words listed below. Our values determine our attitudes which, in turn, inform our behaviour. In a complex world, the important act of decision-making is made easier when we are anchored by our values.

**Committed to our motto, VERITAS (truth), all at Springfield find purpose in nurturing the values of**  
**COMPASSION**  
**INTEGRITY**  
**RESPECT**  
**SERVICE**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**

The pupils and teachers are all looking forward to the brief break that lies ahead. I hope that all will get the rest that is needed, and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday 5 October.

**PENNY MULLAN**  
Head of School



## **MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Alison Dunn



### **Do you have a guardian angel?**

*"Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way  
and to bring you to the place that I have prepared."*

*~Exodus 23:20*

I am always rather sad when a beautiful feast day falls within the school holidays, which means I cannot give it the attention I would like to in my assemblies and lessons. One such feast day this year falls on Saturday, 2 October, when we celebrate the Feast of the Guardian Angels. I am sure a large number of us grew up saying that beautiful prayer *Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, so light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.*

This feast day, together with the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October, usually form a large part of my Assemblies at the beginning of October.

Last year I remember talking about God's gift to us of a guardian angel to watch over us, and one of the younger children asked me, "Miss Dunn, do you have a guardian angel?" To which I replied that yes, God gives all of us that gift. The child's response was that she thought (no doubt because of all the pictures we see) that only little children had guardian angels! I assured her that adults need them just as much!

With the older girls, this led us to a discussion around who our guardian angels actually are. Are they only, as we teach the little ones, the invisible angels always at our sides to help us and guard us, or are they indeed, significant people in our lives, who perform such duties for us every day – also given to us by God. I asked the girls to think about anyone in their lives whom they might call their "guardian angels". I know I can certainly think of a number of people in my life who have fulfilled that role – and still do.

In the beautiful hymn On Eagle's Wings (a favourite amongst the girls), we sing the following words:

*For to his angels he's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

There are many times in our lives when we follow the wrong path, or put ourselves in some form of danger; indeed, when we "dash our feet against stones." I pray that we may always have angels in our lives to bear us up when we really need them.

During the holidays, on the feast of the Guardian Angels, our own Phys Ed teacher, Fritha Jooste, will be getting married. We wish her and her husband, Anthony Muylaert, God's richest blessings on their wedding day and in the years to come. May their guardian angels watch over them always.

I wish you all a blessed and restful holiday. Stay safe and well.

**ALISON DUNN**

Principal: Junior School

## *Springfield Art Exhibition*

Welcome to the 2021 Springfield Art Exhibition – a selection of artworks created by our students from Grade 1 to Grade 12. Due to Covid protocols we are not able to hold an art exhibition at school but invite you to [click here](#) and enjoy both the junior and senior artworks.



## *Thank you!*

Thank you to our sponsor Audi Claremont for supporting another successful golf day at Steenberg Golf Club. Many thanks to the PTA golf day committee for all their hard work in ensuring another wonderful fundraising event.

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