



## **Inside this newsletter:**

Friday 22  
April 2022

- [Preschool](#)
- [Junior School](#)
- [Senior School](#)
- [Music School](#)
- [TheShop@Springfield](#)
- [2022 Term dates](#)
- [2023 Term Dates](#)

click links



A reminder to please download the new **Springfield Convent School App**.  
[Click here](#) for the links to the instructions for the download process.  
From Term 2 Edana is no longer utilised.



## **Message from the Head of School**

Penny Mullan

**"Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known"**

~ Carl Sagan

Friday 22 April is International Mother Earth Day and I am grateful to Olivia Fuller (Gr 12) who shared information about this day as well as suggestions to protect our planet during today's assembly.

This year's theme for Earth Day is "Invest in our Planet". These are carefully chosen words that ask us for a level of commitment and emotional engagement to produce future benefits and advantages.

To invest is to be deliberate and intentional and, on this Earth Day, individuals, businesses, and governments are encouraged to take action by investing in technologies and practices that can benefit the Earth.



Springfield is blessed to be surrounded by the best of what nature has to offer, and while we cherish our gardens and the little 'critters' that roam about, the existence of litter and other discarded items suggests that there are times when we do not always pay our environment the respect that it deserves.

Care for the environment is of great importance in the Dominican tradition and our Environmental Policy asks us, as a Dominican School, to be "passionately committed to being responsible caretakers of God's creation." There is a challenge in this statement that cannot and should not be ignored. I applaud our School's environmental warriors and I thank them for their passion and their excellent example.

At the beginning of this new term, Mrs Groenmeyer returned from her maternity leave to re-join the Music department and, after celebrating her marriage to Anthony, Ms Morgan returned as Mrs Hoffmann. Joining the teaching staff in the Senior School are Ms Judd in the Mathematics department and Dr Melck in the History department. We are exceedingly fortunate to have teachers of their calibre on our staff. To all new students and their families, we extend a warm welcome to you and wish you many happy years at Springfield.

Wishing you all a happy and rewarding second term.

**PENNY MULLAN**

Head of School



# Message from the Junior School Principal

Brandon Paulse

***"Taking responsibility for oneself is by definition an act of kindness."***

*~Sharon Salzberg*

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back to Term Two. Despite the shortened weeks due to the various public holidays, Term Two is well under way and the Winter extramural programme is in full swing. It is always heart-warming to observe the warmth, chatter and vibrant buzz around the school. As you will recall, at the end of Term One we bid farewell to Berna Meredith, our Art Teacher for many years, as well as Mrs Jones, who substituted in Grade 5.

**This term we warmly welcome to the Springfield Junior School family:**

*Ms Ruby-Rose Klazen: Grade 5 Class Teacher*

*Mrs Kim Marais: Junior School Art*

We also have Mrs Shelley Brummer and Mrs Rebecca Claassen who have gone on maternity leave; and so we welcome their substitutes Mrs Eachus and Mrs Kebble who are well known to the Springfield family. Mrs Kelly Beckett has returned from her maternity leave and is back with her Grade 1 class. We wish our new and substitute staff a happy and fruitful tenure at our incredible school, may they feel the love and support of our community during their time with us.

**Congratulations:**

We offer our hearty and sincere congratulations to Mr and Mrs Brummer on the birth of their baby boy and Mr and Mrs Claassen on the birth of their baby girl. We wish them God's richest blessings and may their bundles of joy bring them precious memories and unbridled joy.

**Springfield Values:**

This term we will focus on our Springfield Value of Responsibility. This does not mean that the values of Respect; Integrity; Compassion and Service are ignored, but it will be intertwined regularly with Responsibility. More will be written about this during the term.

**Freedom Day:**

On the 27th of April our country celebrates Freedom Day. Many of us who are old enough will remember the euphoria, excitement, and spine-tingling experience of casting our vote in the first free and fair elections on the 27th of April 1994. At the time South Africa was seen as a shining example of what is possible towards a proper democracy. May we not just see this day as a holiday, but let us as a Springfield Community rekindle the spirit of 1994. May we treat every person with the respect and dignity that they deserve, and may we work towards a school community where everybody feels valued and has a deep sense of belonging.

**Eastertide:**

As we are now in the Easter Octave and will celebrate the Liturgical season of Easter for the next 50 days from Easter Sunday until the great feast of Pentecost, I would like to leave you with this beautiful Easter reflection by John o' Donohue, an Irish poet and philosopher.

*On this Easter morning, let us look again at the lives we have been so generously given and let us let fall away the useless baggage that we carry – old pains, old habits, old ways of seeing and feeling – and let us have the courage to begin again.*

*Life is very short, and we are no sooner here than it is time to depart again, and we should use to the full the time that we still have.*

*We don't realize all the good we can do. A kind, encouraging word or helping hand can bring many a person through dark valleys in their lives. We weren't put here to make money or to acquire status or reputation. We were sent here to search for the light of Easter in our hearts, and when we find it, we are meant to give it away generously.*

*May the spirit and light of this Easter morning and the special spirit and light of this abbey at Corcomroe bless us all, watch over us and protect us on our journey, open us from the darkness into the light of peace and hope and transfiguration.*

***Excerpt from: Walking on the Pastures of Wonder (Ireland)***

May we continue to walk and radiate the light of the risen Christ to others daily. I wish you and your daughters a wonderful Term Two, may we continue to turn the ordinary into extra-ordinary blessings.

**BRANDON PAULSE**

Junior School Principal

# Staff News



Shelley and Cam Brummer  
with baby Liam Thomas



Rebecca Claassen with  
baby Amelia Rose



Mr and Mrs Hoffmann



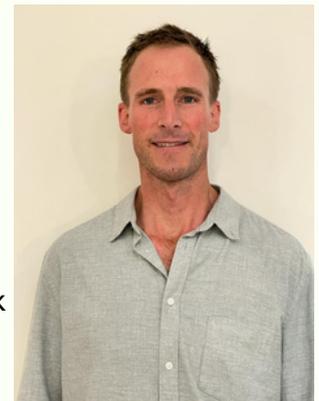
Mrs Kim Marais  
Junior School  
Art



Ms Ruby-Rose Klazen  
Grade 5 Class Teacher



Ms Jennifer Judd  
Senior School  
Mathematics



Dr Marcus Melck  
Senior School  
History

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