



'How Can I Serve My School Community?'

From the desk of the Executive Head – Term 3 2020



'Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity' – Robert Alan

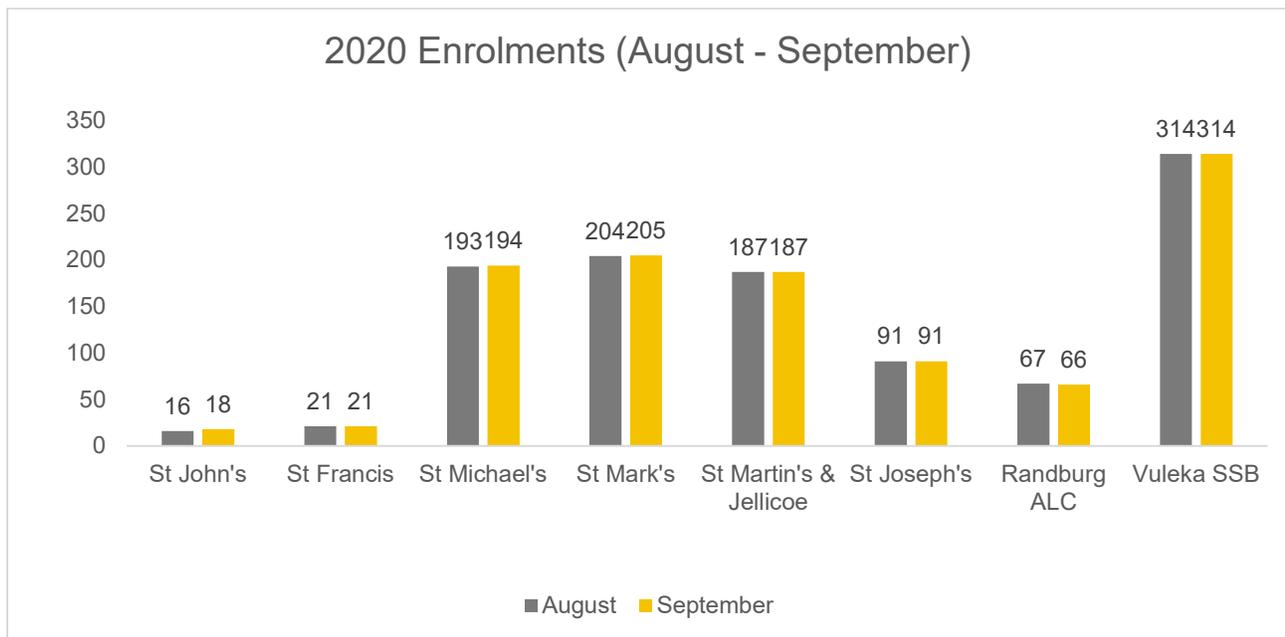
Importance of Cultural Diversity

- Diversity is important because it provides our society and culture with unique and inspirational perspectives. Diversity can create new ideas and changes that can be beneficial to a society, or even the world.
- Diversity is important to get over our little mindedness because of the cultural and religious differences it brings. Socializing with someone of a different culture and or different religion brings about a better understanding of it. The more we understand other cultures and religions, the more appreciative we become and able to embrace other human beings.

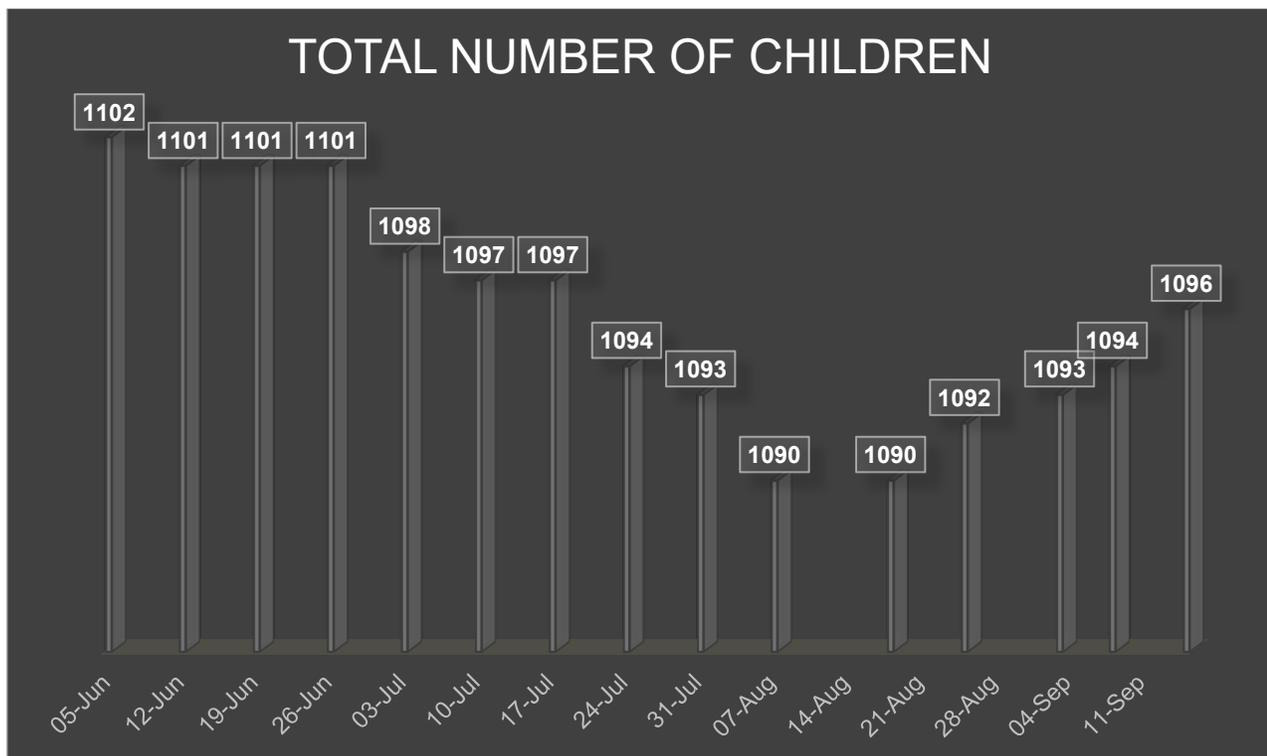
As we celebrate the month of September, which is known as the 'Heritage Month', as a school, we must recognise and embrace all cultures, races and ethnic groups. Yes, it is important to respect cultural differences, but the most important race is, HUMAN RACE. We must treat every human being with respect and dignity. South Africa is part of the global village, and therefore, we must prepare our pupils to be Global Citizens and make meaningful contributions in the world they live in.

Pupil Enrichment

2020 Pupil Enrolments



Effects Of Covid-19/Lockdown On School Enrolments (Biggest factor: Loss of Income)



2021 Admissions Are Open! We have been inundated with applications for **Grades 8 and Grade 0** from families outside Vuleka and therefore wish to inform all **Vuleka parents** intending to enrol their children at VSSB, Grade 0 and other grades, you have up until the **09 October (Friday)** to send their applications. As from 12 October, the school will then start processing all applications from families outside Vuleka. For more information, please contact David Mazibuko, 011-477 6917 admissions@vulekaschool.co.za ; for VSSB Ms Nogolide Mbono , 011 787 7290 admin@ssb.za.com;

Academics

Our academic programme went well in all our campuses. We applied the concept of Blended Learning where learning happened both at school and home. Pupils in phases were allocated two or three days at school or home, and this was done to maintain social distancing in school.

A big thank you to staff for being able to take all sorts of challenges that were thrown at them, especially technology. As a school, we had to embrace technology and make it part of learning and teaching.

We introduced staff to Microsoft Teams and ran training modules to equip them with necessary skills to be able to utilise such a great platform. However, we have to thank our parents for being part of such a great journey, setting up their children for lessons, making sure there's data and connectivity, sharing devices and the list is endless. Ladies and gentlemen. boys and girls, well done.

Term 3 Report

Primary schools will hand out Grade Learner Feedback reports with all concepts and skills covered but not marks. However, teachers have been working on small assessment tasks, collecting marks which form part of end of year report. As a school, we decided to focus more on teaching and less assessments because of lockdown and other external disruptions. We tried to not put too much pressure on pupils, staff and parents.

However, our high school will be issuing out reports with actual marks in term 3 as they have different challenges and demands in their academic programme.

Matric Preliminary Exams: We would like to wish our Matrics all the best of luck as they will be sitting for their first preliminary exams on Friday, the 18 September.

Term 4 Calendar and Phased In Approach

Term 4 Calendar: We handed out the Term 4 calendar (including phased in approach) on Tuesday, 15 September. We have decided to allocate more days at school to Foundation Phase pupils and staff (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and Intermediate Phase (Tuesday and Thursday) in Term 4.

Vuleka SSB Calendar: We had to adjust the Term 3 / 4 calendar to accommodate Grade 12 prelims and final exams. The school has already sent the newly revised calendar to all its stakeholders.

African Language In Primary School

As Heads of Schools, we had discussions on our school language policy and realised the need to introduce an African language as First Additional Language in our primary schools. We have seen how important it is to address the needs of our pupils. We are planning to introduce this kind of change at Foundation Phase level (Grade 1 -3) next year.

We sent a survey to parents to see how they would receive such reforms (31 August – 04 September).



*Language is the blood
of the soul into which
thoughts run and out
of which they grow.*

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Language Survey Results – Summary



If we were to introduce an African language as a First Additional Language instead of Afrikaans in our primary schools, which one would you like us to introduce first?

Language	Result
IsiXhosa	12
IsiSwati	2
IsiZulu	253
IsiNdebele	0
Sesotho	29
Sepedi	34
XiTsonga	7
TshiVenda	9
Setswana	70

Important Information

As a school, we need to make it clear that English would remain the main language and still offer both **IsiZulu and Afrikaans at Foundation Phase level** (Grade 1-3), starting next year 2021. We will send more details on how we are going to approach all the logistics involved, such as choosing the First Additional Language for your child, teaching and learning material and timetabling. We will be communicating with Foundation Phase families at the beginning of Term 4.

Our plan is to introduce such changes at the Foundation Phase level first then build up to InterSen Phase in the next few years. We will monitor and evaluate such changes and if we see the need to roll out the same program to InterSen Phase, the school will inform the parents



Empowered Staff

New Staff

I'm happy to inform you that we have appointed Ms Klara Van Wyk as the new Afrikaans and English teacher at St Joseph's Boys school. Klara holds a doctorate in Theatrical studies and is passionate about education. Ms Van Wyk assumed her teaching responsibilities as from 1 September 2020.

SAHISA Meetings

As you may know, Vuleka is affiliated with ISASA (Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa) and therefore all our Heads of Vuleka School are registered with SAHISA (Southern African Heads of Independent Schools Association) which is a professional membership organisation for heads and principals of ISASA affiliated schools. We would like to thank ISASA for running online workshops, seminars and courses for Heads throughout the nationwide lockdown. ISASA provides us with support and guidance on so many areas in our profession, such as governance and policies and plays a pivotal role as a link between independent and government schools.

Finance and Sustainability

Vuleka has been focusing on school fee collections and fundraising to sustain the school. We have all seen the impact of Covid-19 in our economy, in all sectors and Vuleka School was never immune to such challenges. We revised our budgets, ran successful fundraising projects which brought over R500 000 in our coffers. I would like to thank our donors, parents, staff, pupils and sponsors who took part in all our fundraising projects. A big thank you to donors who gave us a few donations to run some of the projects in our schools. Thank you! Siyabonga! May God Bless You!

Finances/School Fee Collections:

We can all agree that, finances are the heart of any organisation or school, and a school like ours (low fee independent school) cannot sustain itself without school fees. Our mission is to provide **Excellent and Affordable** education. Our fees are cheaper than so many independent schools, including some of the government schools. Many schools across the country could not provide education during lockdown but Vuleka ensured that their pupils received education via so many platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, WhatsApp, Email and also prepared teaching packs for those families who couldn't join online lessons.

Our high school organised data for students to be able to attend online lessons. Vuleka was one of the very first few schools to come up with safety plans right at the beginning of lockdown and we ensured that our schools were safe throughout Term 2 and 3. Ladies and gentlemen, we did all of the above with very limited resources.

We would like to thank all those parents who stood by us, paid fees and got involved in fundraising. We wish to send our sympathies to those parents who lost income due to COVID-19 but still came forward to make payment arrangements with the finance team. However, I'm disappointed in those parents who don't value their children's education and have not made any payments in their child's school fee account since January. As a school, we are communicating with these parents as some have shown this behaviour throughout the years. We have identified those parents and will send them relevant documentation regarding their contract with Vuleka School.

School Fee Payment Plan:

We would like to remind our parents that our school fees are paid a month in advance over 11 months. **January fees are payable at the end of December (previous year).** Ladies and gentlemen, if you follow that plan, your fees for the year would be paid up by end of October therefore **NOT HAVING TO PAY ANYTHING** at the end of November and can then pay again at the end of December for January fees of the following year.

What's Coming Next Term ?

1. End of Year Assessments
2. Prize Giving – Grade/Phase Staggered
3. 2021 School Fees Schedule
4. 2021 Billing/Invoicing
5. 2021 Stationery Lists
6. 2021 Vuleka Full Calendar

Latest News!!

2021 School Term Calendar Is Out!

2019 Annual Report Is Out! (see school website)



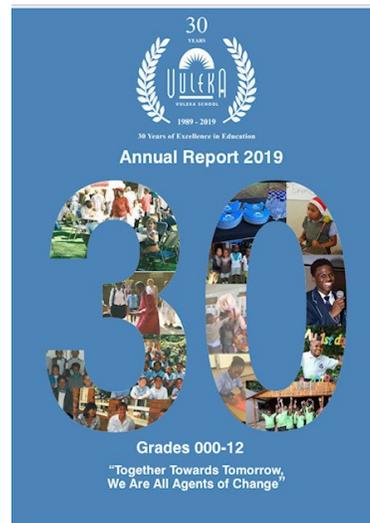
2021 Vuleka & VSSB School Term Calendar

Term 1	
Start	13 January - Wednesday
Close	26 March - Friday
School Holiday	26 February - Friday - School closed for pupils. (Staff Summit)
Public Holidays	21 March - Sunday (Human Rights Day) 22 March - Monday (Public Holiday) 2 April - Friday (Good Friday) 5 April - Monday (Family Day)

Term 2	
Start	14 April - Wednesday
Close	26 June - Friday
Public Holiday	25 April Monday (School Holiday)
Holidays	27 April Tuesday (Freedom Day) 1 May Saturday (Workers' Day) 16 June Wednesday (Youth Day)

Term 3	
Start	20 July - Tuesday
Close	23 September - Thursday
Public Holiday	9 August - Monday (Women's Day)
Holidays	24 September - Friday (Heritage Day)

Term 4	
Start	12 October - Tuesday
Close	01 December - Wednesday
School Holiday	22 October - Friday - School closed for pupils.
Public Holiday	18 December - Thursday (Day of Reconciliation) 25 December - Saturday (Christmas Day) 26 December - Sunday (Day of Goodwill)



Best News for Parents!!!

We will be launching **R500 school fee discount** incentive for parents who refer new parents/families to Vuleka school. We will send you all the details in the very first week of new term (October)

“Together, we may give children the roots to grow and the wings to fly”

Mr Sanele Majola

Executive Head of Vuleka Schools