



'How Can I Serve My School Community?'

### **From the desk of the Executive Head – Term 4 2020**



I fully agree with Professor Klaus Schwab (above quote), COVID-19 gave us a rare but narrow window of opportunity to Reflect, Reimagine, and Reset our world. We can say the same about Vuleka School. We got the opportunity to reflect on what we do or what we've been doing for years.

Some of the changes that happened in the organisation:

- Revised safety plans.
- Became more conscious of health and hygiene.
- Became life-long learners.
- Learned to lead minimalistic lifestyle.
- Communication between school and parents got better.
- Teachers worked closely with parents and pupils
- Collaboration between central office and schools yielded positive results in school fee collections.
- Developed more creative skills and ideas: Online Admissions, Online Fundraising and Donations, VOIP, etc.
- More staff developed the ability of seeing 'bigger picture' than just their own small scope of work.
- Learned to appreciate our jobs more.
- Through online meetings, we were able to save transport and paper costs.
- Skills/Attitudes: Creativity, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration and developed better understanding better understanding of the community we're serving and became life-long learners.



## **VOIP System:**

Vuleka School has moved to a new phone system called VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) which allows us to make calls via the internet from anywhere (cellphone, tablets and laptop). This is a huge cost saving for the school. The main number that parents can use is our central office number, 011 477 6917 where you can select the campus you're looking for by an automated voice message OR you can dial the old campus number where you can select the campus you're looking for by an automated voice message.

## **Pupil Enrichment**

**Current Pupil Enrolments: 1097**

### **Academics:**

Primary Schools: All our schools are reaching end of the academic year except Grade 12 pupils who are writing and will be finished on the 11 December 2020.

A big thank you to Heads of school and staff for running the academics effectively this year, especially during lockdown. Thank you!

**Prize Giving:** Schools will be having prize giving ceremonies on different dates for various phases to maintain social distancing.

**2021 Safety Plan/Approach:** As a school, we are planning on going back to running all our campuses on full capacity next year but still observe these COVID-19 safety protocols:

- Wearing of masks at all time
- Take temperatures
- Sanitize hands
- Staggered break times
- Social distancing

**Extra-murals/culture:** We are going back to the normal extra-mural program next year, especially swimming and other cultural activities observing all relevant COVID-19 safety protocols.

## **New Beginnings for Vuleka St Joseph's Boys School!**

As a school, we have decided to open St Joseph's Boys' School to **girls next year**. It was not an easy decision to make but we did it to grow and sustain the school as they have been battling with low numbers for the past few years. I would like to thank all stakeholders that were involved, Vuleka Council, parents, staff, Bishop Steve Moreo, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba (whom the school is named after), ISASA and Gauteng Department of Education. We have already received applications from Vuleka parents and outside communities. **APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

**VULEKA SSB GRADE 8 AND OTHER GRADES ARE STILL OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS!**

For more information, please contact David Mazibuko on 011 477 6917

[admissions@vulekaschool.co.za](mailto:admissions@vulekaschool.co.za)

## **isiZulu and Afrikaans in Primary Schools**

You may be aware that we ran a survey on First Additional Language option for primary schools and published the results in my previous newsletter. I'm happy to inform you that we will be offering both isiZulu and Afrikaans as from next year, in Grades 1 to 3 and intend to go to Intersen phase in 2022. We had to start at Foundation phase level due to limited resources and will then have one full year to evaluate progress and then move to the next phase. What a great achievement for Vuleka!

Please note, our high school Vuleka SSB offers both isiZulu and Afrikaans.

## **Staffing matters**

I'm happy to inform you that we only have two teachers leaving us end of this year, Ms. Karen Strydom (St Mark's Afrikaans teacher) who is going back to China end of November and Ivy Chindedza (ALC teacher), farewell to you both and thank you for your time with us.

**Campus Transfer:** Ms. Benita Carels (Jellicoe Afrikaans teacher) is moving to St Mark's to take Ms. Strydom's place.

A warm welcome to Ms. Binita Snyman who will be joining Vuleka Jellicoe as Afrikaans teacher, replacing Ms. Benita Carels.

**St Joseph's Head:** I'm happy to announce Mr Thato Majola as new Headmaster of St Joseph's Primary School as from the 01 January 2021. Mr Thato Majola was Deputy Head for the past two years and added so much value to the boy's school.

**St Mark's Head position:** We are busy with interviews and should announce an appointment before we close school.

## **Parent- Partnerships**

On behalf of Vuleka staff, I would like to thank our parents for supporting the school especially during lockdown as the majority carried on paying fees. We are blessed to have such parents in our organisation. Your child's education is of paramount importance to us.

As a school, we wish to send our sympathies to all families that were affected by COVID-19 through the loss of someone, your income or retrenchment. We pray that God can help those families and be able to find another source of income. You're in our thoughts and prayers!

## **Communication to Parents:**

- 2021 Calendar is out!
- 2021 School Fees Schedule is out!
- 2021 School Term Calendar is out!
- 2021 Stationery list is out!

2021 School Fees Schedule: We sent 2021 school fees schedule few weeks ago and appealed to parents to prioritize children's education by paying fees on time.

## **2021 JANUARY FEES MUST BE PAID BY 24 DECEMBER 2020.**

Vuleka fees are paid in Advance: If parents pay 2021 January fees in December 2020, you will be paying in advance with your last payment being at the end of October 2021. No payment in November! Pay in December for the following year.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION! COVID-19!**

As you may be aware, the Department of Health has reported COVID-19 statistics on new infections and the numbers are getting higher. As a school we always put your child's health first and therefore, we will send more information and updated plans at the beginning of the new year if there are any changes.

### **A special thanks to the following people:**

- Vuleka pupils and parents
- Vuleka staff and Heads of School
- Karin Backwell, Vicky Makhathini, Miles Crisp and the rest of the Vuleka Council
- Vuleka donors, sponsors and Friends of Vuleka
- Bishop Steve Moreo and the Anglican Church
- Rev. Roger Cameron and Anglican Board of Education Southern Africa (ABESA)
- ISASA: Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa
- SAHISA: Southern African Heads of Independent Schools Association
- SABISA: Southern African Bursars of Independent Schools Association
- Gauteng Department of Education
- Vuleka Staff: Schools and Central Office

I would like to thank you for giving me one of the greatest opportunities and that is, to lead the organisation, what a privilege!

Have a great holiday and Merry Christmas to all of you!

**'Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve' – Martin Luther King Junior**

Mr Sanele Majola

Executive Head of Vuleka Schools