



'Quality of Life Starts With Quality Education. Join Us In Creating Excellence'

From the desk of the Executive Head – Term 2 2022



The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

I started my journey with Vuleka in 2017 as Headmaster of St Mark's then became Executive Head in 2019. I enjoyed my Vuleka journey but at the beginning I was faced with two options, and that was to take an easy and much travelled road in leadership and be a crowd pleaser or to take less travelled road but invite the school community to explore the road less travelled.

It was quite humbling to see how majority of Vuleka community allowed me to take them on the less travelled road where we faced challenges, but our aim was to transform the organisation for better.

There were challenges that one faced but I put God first, the organisation and its people. There were times we hit the lows but there were so many highs. As we travelled the road less travelled, we started seeing more and more spaces that had never been explored before. The journey is not over yet but it's a small change in leadership and the next Captain would do better and lead with Respect, Honour and Dignity.

Some of the Roads less travelled that we took:

1. New Vuleka Five Values: Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Honesty and Integrity
2. New Vuleka Motto: Enter To Learn, Leave To Serve
3. Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023
4. COVID-19 journey that we travelled together
5. Online teaching
6. Online admissions
7. Virtual Fundraisers, e.g. parent vs teacher dance competition, karaoke, cycling, fun walk etc
8. COVID-19 R100 fundraiser which brought R500 000, 00 in one month
9. Vuleka Birthday Cake Galore made by parents for 2019 Derby Day
10. Succession plan: Introduction of Phase Coordinators structure in primary schools
11. Annual Staff summit, we brought out the best speakers – Zanele Njapha, Darren August, Dumisani Ntombela (Wits Business School), Professor Diale (University of Johannesburg) and Stanley Bongwe (Transformation and Diversity)
12. Parent Talk – Darren August
13. Introduced Term planners and Co-curricular programme
14. Vuleka staff diaries
15. Vuleka email addresses for all staff
16. New signage at most Vuleka schools
17. Vuleka schools on billboards in Sandton and Rosebank areas, as well as shopping centres
18. Positive environment in the organisation: we started a new tradition of providing welcome packs for children and staff at the beginning of new year
19. Parent – School projects which saw parents getting more involved in school fundraising, e.g. painting school walls, fixing jungle gyms, raising money to buy generators, etc.
20. Vuleka Technology teaching programme
21. Regular communication to parents and other stakeholders: newsletters, Whatsapp teacher-parent groups, emails, surveys, school website, Facebook, and Instagram pages.
22. Vuleka Activation at Maponya and Cosmo City Malls

Thank you for allowing me to take you on these roads less travelled. There were challenges but we overcame many and will do more in future. What a privilege!

Pupil Enrichment

Easter Bunnies Tour

On 21 April, Brandon Townsend (Marketing Officer) and I dressed up as Easter Bunnies and visited all Vuleka schools, to hand out Easter eggs to pupils and staff. Some of our kids were shocked to see the Bunnies but there was so much excitement and jubilation across all Vuleka schools. What a fun filled, enriching, and rewarding day we had!



Vuleka Derby Day

On 28 May, we had all our primary schools at St Michael's using Agape fields, playing soccer and netball. It was heart-warming to see so many parents coming out to support the event. We also had food stalls that were run by the Central Office team.

We also unveiled the new sound system that we purchased after raising R15 000 funds prior to the event. We are so grateful to our Marketing officer, Brandon Townsend for running the fundraiser.



Maponya Mall Activation

On 21 May, four of our schools, Jellicoe, St Joseph's, Vuleka SSB High School, and Randburg ALC went to Maponya shopping mall in Soweto to profile and exhibit some of our activities such as, Marimbas, dance and singing. We were truly embraced by the people of Soweto and had several parents who put their names down with the intention of enrolling their children.

A big thank you to the Marketing officer Brandon Townsend for leading the project supported by the Admission Team, myself, Heads of school and staff. What a great advert for Vuleka schools!



What a Memorable, Exciting, Entertaining and Soul Uplifting day for Vuleka and Soweto community!

'Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it'. – Marian Wright Edelman

Academics

June Assessments

All our Vuleka schools had June assessments and managed all the preparations efficiently and sent all relevant study material to children and parents prior to the exams. A big thank you to staff and parents for supporting all our pupils during this important time of the year.

Day Outings

I'm delighted to announce that most of our schools have resumed day outings which are educational and informative for our pupils. A big thank you to Heads and staff for organising such important events.

Camps

As mentioned before, we have sent communication to parents regarding camps and asked them to complete the reply slip to indicate if they're sending their children to camps or not. All relevant accounts are going to be billed camp fees but should the parents not be able to send their children to camps then the school will credit those accounts.

Conquesta Exams

All our primary schools have registered for the annual Conquesta exam which will commence in August. Conquesta is a great benchmark for the school to measure our academic standards and a wonderful exposure for children and staff.

Pupil Enrolments

School	Enrolments
St Francis	17
St John's	18
St Joseph's	81
St Martin's & Jellicoe	150
St Michael's	167
St Mark's	202
Randburg ALC	63
Vuleka SSB	246
TOTAL	944

Grade 0 Migration and Restructuring of ELCs Feedback

We received all ELC parent survey results and shared them with relevant parents and staff. See results below:

2022 Changes:

- St Francis Grade 0 class (with 4 pupils) to migrate into Vuleka St Martin's primary school on 01 July. Three out of four pupils have confirmed their move to St Martin's through parent survey.
- Good news: St Martin's Grade 0 class has 10 pupils but will go up to 13 pupils from 01 July 2022

2023 Parent Choices (data from the survey) – both schools combined:

- St John's Grade 00 = 7 pupils
- St Martin's Grade 0 = 9 pupils
- St Martin's Grade 1 = 5 pupils
- Moving to another school = 6

Please note, the above data does not include new applications from outside Vuleka ELC's.

What's Next?

- Mrs Khupe will be moving to St Michael's to take on the Grade 0 class (01 July 2022) but still oversee ELCs including Grade 0s for the rest of this year.
- Teacher Judith (Grade 00/000 teacher) to stay at St Francis for the remainder of this year (2022), assisted by Caroline (intern) and Thabisile (assistant)
 - Unfortunately, there will be no St Francis school next year and will keep St John's (Sandton) provided we have enough enrolments for St John's. **The school will make a call by end of August 2022 if St John's doesn't have enough enrolments for year 2023 and then will consult staff and parents affected.**
 - There will be no Grade 0 class in any of our ELC's next year.

Staff Matters

- **Educational Psychologist/School Counsellor:** I'm happy to announce that we have appointed Ms Japsile Sambo as the new Educational Psychologist/Counsellor responsible for St Mark's, St Michael's, and St Joseph's. A warm welcome to Japsile! She is energetic, highly knowledgeable and will add value to the school.
- **Heads of St Martin's and Jellicoe:** As recommended by Umalusi we decided to appoint two Heads to run St Martin's and Jellicoe as are seen as separate schools by Umalusi. In the past we had one Head running both schools. And therefore, I'm happy to announce Mrs Kumeshnee Naicker as the new Headmistress of St Martin's (Grades 0 – 3) and Ms Benita Carels as the new Headmistress of Jellicoe (Grades 4 – 7), from 01 July 2022. Both Kumeshnee and Benita have been with Vuleka for a couple of years and have served with distinction.

On behalf of Vuleka School, I wish to thank the following people who were on the interview panel and assisted me during the process, Mrs Karin Backwell (Vuleka Council Chair), Mrs Vicky Makhathini (Vuleka Council Deputy Chair) and Reverend Canon Mark Spyker (Rector of St Martin's Anglican church).

- We also wish to thank the outgoing Headmistress, Mrs Lizette Baker for excellent leadership and commitment she gave to both schools (St Martin's and Jellicoe) during her tenure. Thank you, Mrs Baker.

Finances and Sustainability

On behalf of Vuleka Schools, I wish to thank all our parents and sponsors who are supportive to the school by paying school fees regularly and take part in the school fundraising initiatives, thank you so much. However, I wish to appeal to those parents who are not paying fees to please do so.

Vuleka is a low fee independent school which relies on school fees to sustain itself and provide excellent and affordable education for all. As a school, we have fantastic teachers and staff who work hard, and we must take care of them. School fees are paid in advance over 11 months and should you have any issues regarding finances, please contact our **Finance Team on 011 477 6917.**

Please see 2022 (this year) school fee schedule:

- Pre-school and Grade 0 = R2,047 per month and R22,517 per year
- Grades 1 -7(primary school) = R2,726 per month and R29,986
- Assisted Learning Centre – Juniors = R2,790 per month and R30,690 per year
- Assisted Learning Centre – Seniors = R2,847 per month and R31,317 per year
- Grades 8 – 12 (High school) = R3,368 per month and R37,048 per year

On 09 March 2022, I wrote a letter to all parents informing them about the partnership between Vuleka and TPN Group which dates back to year 2018, and explained the services offered by TPN such as, school fee payment reminders, screening of new parents, onsite criminal checks, letters of demand and blacklisting (Blacklisting is applicable to bad payers only when the school has tried various means to communicate and collect fees from such parents. However, blacklisting is not our priority)

Once again, we wish to thank the parents who are supportive to the school, paying school fees every month and taking part in school fundraising initiatives, as that is the only way we can grow our school.

'An investment in education always pays the highest returns.' – Benjamin Franklin

Preparations for 2023

- **2023 School Term Calendar** was sent out to parents and staff in Term 2 (2022)
- **2023 Vuleka Staff Calendar** with all important activities, dates, and activities for next year is done and was sent out on 08 June 2022 to all staff. The calendar is detailed and that will assist the new Executive Head and two new Heads to have better insights of what needs to happen.
- **2023 Parent Calendar** with all important events, activities, and dates for next year is done and was sent out on 08 June 2022.

New Executive Head of Vuleka Schools

I would like to wish the new Executive Head of Vuleka Schools, Mr Greg Royce all the best of luck. What an honour to pass the baton to such an incredible leader. May God bless you, Greg and the entire Vuleka family.



Thank You:

My wife, Thembelihle Majola, kids and rest of my family
Mrs Karin Backwell – Council Chair
Mrs Vicky Makhathini – Deputy Chair
Miles Crisp – Treasurer
Mrs Melanie Sharland – former Executive Head
Candice Van Rooyen – PA to Executive Head
Vuleka Heads of School
Vuleka Central Office Staff & Vuleka School Staff
Vuleka Children and Parents
Donors and Sponsors
Bishop Steve Moreo and Anglican Church
ISASA Family
GDE Family
Anglican Board of Education
To all children, men and women that made a difference in my life,
thank you so much.

Goodbye! Salani Kahle!

Mr Sanele Majola – Outgoing Executive Head of Vuleka Schools

