

## **BOARD/TRUST INFO LEAFLET DECEMBER 2009**

Dear parents, teachers and scholars,

### **BOARD MATTERS**

Yet another year draws to an end and we as board can look back at a hectic last few months. Numerous monthly meetings, special meetings, parent evenings, budget evening and teacher interviews were held.

The good news first: We are glad to be able to confirm that our search for a School Director has been successful. It is with great pleasure that we can announce the appointment of Mr Lloyd Ulrich in such a capacity, with effect from 1 March 2010. Mr Ulrich can look back on years of experience with regard to the development of schools, the relevant administration thereof as well as training of school principals etc. In addition to this, Mr Ulrich has been a valuable member of the Kernteam for the past year. We are confident that Mr Ulrich is duly qualified to face the future challenges of the PSS, and we look forward to a fruitful cooperation with him.

We unfortunately have to bid farewell to a few teachers. Messrs Edith Ewald, Irene Strydom, Letti Volgraaf and Rolene Steenkamp are all leaving the PSS and we thank them for their hard work and commitment to the PSS. We wish you all the best for the future.

We also wish to welcome the newly appointed teachers in our midst. They are Messrs Sumari Usher (Grade 1 English), Mariana Johns (Mainly teaching Afrikaans Senior Primary to Senior phase), Carola Elliot (Grade 5), Patricia Pattis (Grade 2 German) and Elizabeth Hirsch (Grade 3 English and the new Phase Head for the English stream). We hope they will quickly find their feet and enjoy teaching at the PSS. New part-time teachers for Computer and German are Messrs Mimi Linde and Dörte Witte respectively.

Due to Mrs. Elliot being in a wheel chair and therefore restricted to the ground-level classrooms, some changes in class allocations had to be made. Apart from the new Prefab class room, another classroom was necessary. The youth room in the Namposi will be converted into a temporary classroom.

The problem with work permits is an ongoing thing, but we are glad to say that the situation with regard to both Mrs Elsie Gantze and Eva Tebbe is under control for the time being. We trust that it will stay that way.

With regards to the parking and safety issue in front of the school, we can report that the Municipality considers a complete redesign of the street in the near future. We will make sure we have some input in the design.

We unfortunately have to report that the year book has not been finalized. Jenny Beresford is hard at work to put everything together and we hope to have it in print early next year.

A request to the board to utilize our mailing list for adverts and personal matters was denied for the following reasons: Some people consider it an invasion of privacy and we cannot allow it to a few individuals only. Unfortunately these mails are now sent on copied E-mail addresses of the school (not from the school's computer) and a lot of complaints have been received in this regard. We would therefore urge everybody not to utilize the parents' e-mails for messages not involving school matters. The newsletter can still be used to inform the parents of upcoming events etc.

## **TRUST MATTERS**

At the beginning of 2009, the school found itself in the position of new applications exceeding available seats. To avoid having to deny children access to our school and not to stifle future growth, a decision was taken to increase the available seats in the German and English grades 1 to a maximum of 22 children per class (therefore a maximum of 44 per grade), with the understanding that only the first 22 applications could be accepted on a permanent basis whereas all applications exceeding the first 22 in the grade, could only be accepted conditionally, as no guarantee could be given that beyond 2010 a place would be available for that scholar. In order to address this problem and to investigate the future growth of the PSS, the Kern Team was established. Its' findings were presented to the Trust who subsequently resolved as follows:

As from 2010 we would accept a maximum of 22 scholars per class, i.e. 22 scholars in the German and 22 in the English stream. This will be for grades 1- 4 where we have both streams. As from grade 5 we can still only cater for 22 per grade. All applications will be accepted without conditions. The English stream will grow by one grade each year. This will necessitate an extra classroom per year. The first Prefab classroom is in the process of being erected.

The English and German stream will develop parallel up to grade 7, whereafter they will merge in the High School according to subject choice. Once the English stream has developed to Grade 7, the current school grounds will not be able to accommodate all scholars and new premises will be necessary to establish a High School. An erf in Ocean View has been earmarked for this purpose. The plan to get a number of investors to buy this erf did not materialize. In order not to lose the opportunity to obtain this erf, the trust has decided to buy the erf early in 2010.

It is thus envisaged that as from 2014 the school will be split in a Primary and a High school.

For next year the Kern Team and trust will focus on finding a workable financial model for the establishment of a new High school.

We unfortunately had a few resignations from the trust:

- Hans –Werner Timke (Chairperson) resigned during the second trimester and we would like to thank Horst Fritze who took over as Chairperson.

- After having served for a number of years, Mrs. Sylvia Fritze resigned as trustee at the end of September 2009. She has offered to still be responsible for the bookkeeping of the trust, until such time as somebody else takes over.
- Pieter Hamman has resigned as trustee effective from the end of 2009. He therefore also vacates his position as trust representative on the board.
- Chantel Kutz also tendered her resignation from the Trust with effect from the AGM in 2010. She will however still be active in the Kern Team.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Trustees for their unselfish input and time offered to support the PSS in its quest to offer "Excellence in Education".

New trustees appointed were Hartmut Dichtl and Does du Preez.

To all the Trustees, Board members, teachers , administration staff, Uncle Ulf, cleaners as well as the ladies in the background doing the books, library, uniforms and "Verein Eltern und Freunde" with the parent representatives a big **THANK YOU** for the input during 2009. To all parents that helped in one way or another, thank you as well. This PSS machine can only operate with the input from all of you. Next year has new challenges and we trust that we can call on you again to assist us.

We wish everybody a well deserved holiday, a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Let's meet again healthy and full of new ideas in the New Year.

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HARTMUT WINTERBACH - CHAIRPERSON  
o.b.o. THE PSS BOARD AND FOUNDATION