



Newsletter: End of Term 2, 24 June 2022

Dear Parents,

The second term is done and dusted and we can reflect on many and varied activities that have kept us all busy. This did, of course, all happen in the ongoing context of Covid restrictions, and yesterday's news that we can return to school without masks as of today is indeed wonderful news! We had been able to take a few tentative and some more bold steps back to "normality" and the Laternenfest and school braai was, by all accounts, a great success. It was heart-warming to see the members of our school community connect in a way that we haven't been able to in over 2 years, and the children all appeared to thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to run and play on the floodlit field after their lantern procession.



Please take a moment to read through this newsletter as we reflect on current and future events and happenings...



Staffing

Sometimes the end of term unfortunately also means that we have to say goodbye to some friends. Mrs Tanja Brophy and her children Isla (Grade 1) and Thomas (Delfine) leave us at the end of the term as they and husband/ father Sean emigrate to Germany. Tanja has been at the school since January 2013 and has certainly left her mark on the Kindergarten, more recently also as the HoD of our Kindergarten and Foundation Phase (Grade 1 & 2). We thank Tanja for her dedicated service to the school, and for looking after the Leoparden class during the first half of this year ahead of Mrs Lisa Simon's return from maternity leave.

Mrs Laurence Thom resigned as our music teacher at the end of last year in anticipation of her family's move to Switzerland. That move has now been finalised and we thank Laurence for her dedicated efforts in still teaching scripture lessons to our Grade 3 class for the first half of this year. We thus also say a sad farewell to Laurence, to her husband Reg and to their children Matteo (Grade 7) and Luca (Grade 2), and we wish both families all the very best for their new start in Europe. We trust that they will be able to visit us soon. They will always be welcome guests at our school!



I am very happy to report that Mrs Karin Bizzell will take over as the KiGa / Foundation Phase HoD, and I look forward to working with her in this capacity.

DSD School Board

Mr Bradford Jardine is welcomed as a new Director onto the DSD Board, and he will take over the Parent Liaison portfolio vacated by Mrs Janet Schulze who was not available for re-election this year. Thank you, Bradford, for your willingness to contribute to the school in this capacity.

Janet Schulze served on the DSD Board for six years, and we thank her for the many positive contributions that she has made to the school during this time, and we wish her well in her “retirement”!

Teaching Venues – Grade 4 to 7

Generous funding from the Ohlthaver Trust has allowed us to enlarge our Science Lab, and it is being recommissioned as a teaching venue for the first time since March 2020 when Covid changed our world. In addition to this, our Grade 6s are vacating the Multipurpose Room to inhabit the “normal” Grade 6 classroom. The start of the 3rd term will thus see us revert to normal, pre-Covid teaching venues and will result in pupils moving from venue to venue rather than their teachers.

We are also grateful to the Ohlthaver Trust for providing the funding that allowed us to reconfigure and improve the facilities available to our ground-staff and to our resident caretaker, Mr Christopher Zubane. This is a positive development that we have been wanting to implement for many years.



DSD Quiz Night: Friday 12 August

After a successful launch a few years ago, but interrupted by Covid in recent years, we are planning to host another Quiz Night in the DSD hall on Friday, 12 August. We would love you to join us by inviting some friends and family members to make up teams of 6-8 players to participate in a general knowledge quiz. There will be limited small prizes for the top 3 teams, but this should be an opportunity to enjoy a lovely evening out in the company of friends. The R60p.p. ticket will allow entry and participation in the quiz, and participants are encouraged to bring some communal snacks and drinks to share with their team, “barnyard theatre style”.

If you are interested, start brushing up on your general knowledge and join us on 12 August. Please note that there will be NO baby-sitting facility - you have 7 weeks to find a babysitter!

Sportfest: Friday 26 August 2022

Sport for the third term will be Athletics, followed by some (girls’ and boys’) hockey. Our Sportfest (inter-house athletics meeting) for Grades 1 to 7 will be held on Friday 26, August, starting at 16h00. More details will follow closer to the time, but save the date for now! Top athletes will be expected to travel to Hermannsburg a week later to take part in the Umvoti Athletics meeting on Saturday, 3 September.

Please take note of an Athletics clinic being hosted at Port Natal School in Umbilo on Saturday, 30 July. More details are in the flier attached separately to this Email.

Grandparents' Day

After the Covid-enforced cancellation of this event in the past 2 years, we are excited to be able to host our Grandparents' Day in the Roland Fritsch Aula (school hall) on Friday, 2 September 2022.

More details will follow closer to the time, but please give all grandparents a heads up that this event is being planned!



Please note that the school will close at 12h45 on both Friday, 26 August and on Friday, 02 September. The bus will leave at this time and there will be aftercare as usual.

2023 Calendar

The 2023 DSD school calendar was sent out on Wednesday, 22 June, and a copy is also attached to this newsletter. Please use this when making travel plans for next year.

School Bus

The rising cost of fuel has necessitated the school's finance team to reconsider the rate being charged for the morning and afternoon school bus to ensure that the related costs are adequately covered. Parents making use of the bus service will be advised of any changes to the bus fee in due course.

School Uniform and Lost Property

We have a mountain of unclaimed lost property in the office. The children are regularly asked to search through the pile of unclaimed clothes to identify anything that might belong to them. These are mainly items of clothing that are not labelled, or second-hand items bearing the names of past pupils.

We again kindly ask that all parents set aside a little bit of time this holiday to inspect all items of school clothing at home. We suspect that there are many children who are inadvertently wearing items of school uniform that actually belong to someone else. Please check all school clothing at home and label any unmarked items clearly with your child's name. Please also return to the school office any items of clothing belonging to another child!

Please also assist us in ensuring that the DSD children are neat and presentable at all times. Please dispose of old, discoloured and damaged items of uniform and also ensure that children in public places after hours are looking neat and presentable and are wearing shoes whilst in school uniform! We also ask that you do not send your child to school wearing non-DSD jerseys/ jackets or other items of clothing that are not part of our uniform, including jewellery. Our reputation is at stake and we respectfully ask for your support in this matter!

Afternoon Pickup and Aftercare

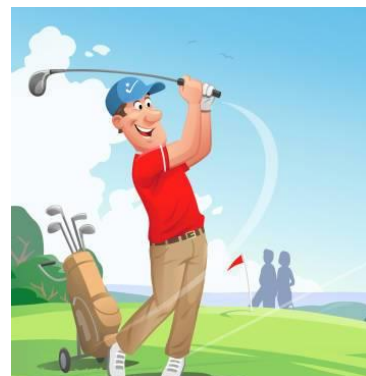
We respectfully request that you collect your children at the end of the school day from outside their classroom (KiGa to Gr 2) and/ or from the area outside the school reception office (Gr 3 to 7). DSD staff will only dismiss a child once they see the parent/ grandparent, so please don't sit in your car and wait for your child to come to you. Please inform Mrs. Uta Hill at Reception if your child is going home with someone other than their "normal" lift.

Please also note that children not collected within 10 minutes after the close of school will be sent to aftercare, where normal aftercare rates apply. Mrs. Gina Strydom is currently managing our aftercare programme and it is slowly gaining momentum as more families are beginning once again to make use of this service. Please contact Gina on 083 556 2995 for more details. Thank you, Gina, for diligently offering this service to our school community.

Golf Day 2022

It's all happening again on 14 October when the annual Golf Day takes place at Kloof Country Club. If you wish to play on that day (skill level irrelevant!), donate prizes or sponsor a hole, you can register by using the following link:
<https://forms.gle/JiGkaHuZyWjyoxZr7>

We take the liberty of again reaching out to our school community to assist us in making prizes available for the top players. More details will follow early next term. Please contact the golf day organiser, Mrs. Katrien Schöttler at development@dsdurban.co.za should you have any queries concerning the golf day.



Important Dates for Term 3 2022:

July

Monday 18	Staff meeting 09h00
Tuesday 19	Term 2 starts (children to wear sports uniform)
Monday 25	EB Meeting, 18h00 in the Roland Fritsch Aula

August

Monday 8	School Holiday
Tuesday 9	Women's Day – public holiday
Wednesday 10	School Photos
Friday 12	Quiz Night, 18h00, Roland Fritsch Aula
Wednesday 17	Klassenfahrt to Howick departs (Grade 5 – 7)
Friday 19	Klassenfahrt from Howick returns (Grade 5 – 7)
Friday 26	Sportfest (Inter-house Athletics) @ 16h00. School closes at 12h45.

September

Friday 2	Grandparent's Day. School closes at 12h45.
Saturday 3	Umvoti Athletics meeting at Hermannsburg
Monday 19 & Tuesday 20	Diskonto Book Fair @ DSD, Report discussions
Wednesday 21	Report discussions
Friday 23	School closes at 11am

June – July Holiday Care

Mrs. Sandy Ambross and Mrs. Gina Strydom are, between them, offering holiday care (07h30 to 16h30) here at the DSD for the full duration of the holiday, other than on Monday 18 July. THIS IS, HOWEVER, SUBJECT TO DEMAND and will be determined by Sandy and Gina!

Sandy Ambross will offer holiday care for the period 27 June to 8 July, and Gina Strydom from 11 to 15 July. Please contact them directly for more details should you wish to make use of this facility:

Sandy Ambross: 082 406 5603 or sandy@ambross.net [27 June to 8 July]

Gina Strydom: 083 556 2995 or ginastrydom@gmail.com [11 to 15 July]

In addition to that, Craig Humphries, will again be hosting a Sports Camp this holiday at our school. Children from our school and surrounding areas are welcome to join in the fun from Monday, 4 July - Thursday 7 July. Please feel free to contact him on 083 534 6025 to make the necessary arrangements, or for more details.



We wish you and your loved ones a happy, relaxing holiday. The third term starts on Tuesday, 19 July and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school then – children are to please wear their sports uniform – and no masks! We wish those travelling a safe journey and those staying at home a balmy Durban winter. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Peter Deppe'.

Peter Deppe
Principal

