SUNRIDGE VANDAG | SUNRIDGE TODAY

CONJUNCTI CRESCIMUS

27 January/ Januarie 2021

Dear Parents

It is of the utmost importance that the newsletter from the SGB is read to understand that we do not have any control over the current school opening schedule. Whatever we have planned and prepared for has gone up in smoke.

We do not have the luxury to be negative, so we are back at work and planning for what we know. It is impossible to communicate with certainty before all relevant information is gazetted and known to us. We are slowly receiving information while we are also dealing with it and to communicate uncertainties is not going to happen.

It is common knowledge that a decision was taken that schools will not open for learners on the 27th and that 15 February was put forward. As we are awaiting the outcome of discussions and then the publishing of the dates in the Gazette we cannot communicate accurately.

A school year has about 200 school days. With the planned calendar this will be achieved with the school starting on the 15 February. This is achieved by shortening holidays - again not within our control. As communicated by the SGB we are planning to minimalize the impact.

A few misconceptions due to whatever reason are causing a few parents to make unwanted and non-supportive comments.

1. Yes, all Primary School learners can return to school BUT within the same regulations as in 2020. We need to comply with all regulations and we can only accommodate 50% of our learners per day.
2. We provided a time table for each learner in 2020 covering the return under Covid-19 regulations. We only need to com municate which groups will start on 15 February.
3. Sport codes like athletics, rugby etc. have already informed us that all planned events have been cancelled.
4. We can only deal with what is in front of us and what we can do safely.

<u>To support</u>

All our staff are already working, at school or remotely to re-plan and prepare for the year. All grades will be informed of a pickup date per grade within a specific time frame for parents to make the pick-up. This can include workbooks, handbooks, stationary, worksheets, reading work etc. This is to support you and to be pro-active and ease the return. Should you not be able to pick up, please inform your class teacher and we will support you where possible.

We have also had to re-shuffle our support division and for learners in desperate need of support we will also include a set programme. We are well aware of all short comings within the academic performance of each learner. This will be addressed in good time BUT we need to do it with **the** best interest in mind.

It is not going to be easy nor to the liking of all BUT essentially the main objective is to ensure we can prepare a well educated Grade 7 learner for any high school. We managed that in 2020 and we know that is still a long pull for the 2021 Grade 1's to be prepared. We are therefore putting measures in place for each grade while also focusing on health and safety.

We fully support the view of our Chairperson in this regard: we can put remedial measures in place, catch work up in the future, ensure that the foundation we lay is done properly, strengthen it in the years to come BUT we need children to be healthy and alive so that we can work with them.

We will not push the limits now while our children still need to deal with social distancing, masks and all other issues out of the normal. At least we know now what can be expected and what we can do and maintain. We cannot predict the future or when "normality" will return but we can provide a service to address the needs within the situation.

There is no quick fix and we need to see this through. We are positive and we will deal with all challenges as we go along.

With the utmost respect and in all fairness we are well aware that the grass may seem greener on the other side and that services delivered by others may be more attractive. Please be careful as we already have children who find themselves in a bad spot. We cannot open a vacancy for a learner if it has been taken nor can we assist with promotion or information on academic achievement when they are not at Sunridge or part of our academic programme.

Robert Collier wrote that "The first principle of success is desire – knowing what you want." This is not only true but the corner stone of what we believe as educators. We want to educate children - we want to be allowed to do so and ultimately we want to do it within a normal environment. Not possible right now, so let us just get as close to it as we possibly can.

Please allow us to do our job, support your child's teacher and let us move forward. The Lord never promised a calm or soft landing on our journey BUT he will be with us all the way.

Please stay safe

Sunshine greetings
M DE VRIES

Geagte Ouers

Dit is uiters belangrik om die nuusbrief van die SBL te lees, sodat dit vir u duidelik kan wees dat ons geen beheer oor die heropening van skole het nie. Al ons planne en voorbereidings het in die niet verdwyn.

Dit is ons egter nie beskore om negatief te wees nie, ons is terug by die werk en doen ons beplanning na die beste van ons vermoë. Dit is onmoontlik om met sekerheid te sê wat die toekoms inhou totdat alle betrokke inligting in die Staatskoerant gepubliseer en aan ons oorgedra is. Inligting sypel na ons toe deur en ons kan slegs dit waarvan ons seker is, aan u oordra.

Dit is algemene kennis dat 'n besluit geneem is om skole nie op 27 Januarie vir leerlinge te heropen nie en dat 15 Februarie as datum voorgestel is. Ons kan nie akkurate inligting aan u oordra totdat die uitkoms van die samesprekings bekend is en die datums in die Staatskoerant gepubliseer is nie.

Daar is ongeveer 200 skooldae in 'n skooljaar. Met die beplande kalender is dit haalbaar as die skool op 15 Februarie heropen en die vakansies beperk word. Dit is weereens buite ons beheer. Soos deur die SBL aan u oorgedra, beplan ons om die impak tot die minimum te beperk.

As gevolg van 'n paar wanopvattings, om watter rede ook al, is daar sekere ouers wat ongevraagde aanmerkings maak wat niemand tot voordeel strek nie.

1. Ja, alle laerskoolleerlinge kan terugkeer skool toe, MAAR onderworpe aan dieselfde reëls as in 2020. Ons moet aan al die regulasies voldoen en kan slegs 50% van ons leerlinge elke dag akkommodeer.
2. Ons het in 2020 'n rooster vir die terugkeer onder Covid-19-reëls aan elke leerling voorsien. Ons moet slegs vasstel watter groepe op die 15de begin.
3. Ons het reeds verneem dat sportkodes soos atletiek, rugby, ens. alle beplande byeenkomste gekanselleer het.
4. Ons kan slegs dit wat voor ons is en wat ons veilig kan aanbied, hanteer.

Ondersteuning

Al ons personeel is reeds aan die werk, hetsy by die skool of tuis, om vir die jaar te beplan en voorbereidings te doen.
Alle grade sal in kennis gestel word van 'n afhaaldatum per graad, met 'n spesifieke tydraamwerk, sodat ouers die volgende dokumente kan afhaal: werkboeke, handboeke, skryfbehoeftes, werkvelle, leeswerk, ens. Dit word in plek geplaas om u te ondersteun, om pro-aktief te wees en die terugkeer te vergemaklik. Stel asseblief u klasonderwyser in kennis indien u nie die dokumente kan afhaal nie, dan sal ons u waar moontlik tegemoetkom.

Ons moes ons ondersteuningsdepartement ook herorganiseer en vir leerlinge wat dringend hulp nodig het, word 'n vasgestelde program ingesluit. Ons is terdeë bewus van alle tekortkominge m.b.t. die akademiese prestasie van elke leerling. Dit sal mettertyd aangespreek word, MAAR moet in die beste belang van almal geskied.

Dit gaan nie maklik wees nie en ook nie in almal se smaak val nie, MAAR uiteindelik is die vernaamste doelwit om te verseker dat ons 'n deeglik voorbereide Gr 7-leerling wat by enige hoërskool aanvaar sal word, lewer. Ons het in 2020 hierin geslaag en ons weet daar lê 'n lang pad voor vir die Gr 1's van 2021, daarom word maatreëls vir elke graad in plek geplaas terwyl ook op gesondheid en veiligheid gefokus word.

Ons voorsitter geniet ons volle ondersteuning in hierdie verband, ons kan remediëringsprosesse in plek plaas en werk in die toekoms inhaal, ons kan verseker dat ons 'n stewige grondslag lê en ons kan dit in die jare wat volg, opskerp, MAAR ons het nodig dat ons kinders gesond en veilig bly sodat ons met hulle kan werk.

Ons sal nou binne die perke bly terwyl ons kinders nog beproef word met sosiale afstand, maskers en al die ander aangeleenthede wat daarmee gepaard gaan. Ons weet ten minste wat om te verwag en hoe om dit te hanteer. Ons kan die toekoms nie voorspel nie, maar wanneer alles weer na "normaal" terugkeer, kan ons 'n diens lewer wat die behoeftes binne die situasie aanspreek.

Daar is geen kitsoplossing nie en ons moet maar vasbyt en deurdruk. Ons is positief en ons sal alle uitdagings wat oor ons pad kom, trotseer.

Met groot respek en in alle eerlikheid is ons wel daarvan bewus dat die gras aan die ander kant van die draad altyd groener lyk en dat dit lyk of ander skole 'n beter diens aanbied. Wees asseblief net versigtig, want daar is reeds kinders wat in die pekel is. Ons kan nie 'n vakature vir 'n leerling aanbied as dit reeds gevul is nie, ons kan nie met bevordering of inligting oor akademiese prestasies help as u kind nie meer deel van Sunridge en ons akademiese program is nie.

Robert Collier het geskryf "The first principle of success is desire – knowing what you want." Dit is nie slegs waar nie, maar ook die hoeksteen van dit wat ons as opvoeders glo. Ons wil kinders onderrig, ons wil toegelaat word om dit te doen en uiteindelik wil ons dit in 'n normale omgewing doen. Op die oomblik is dit 'n saak van onmoontlikheid, so kom ons doen net ons bes.

Laat ons asseblief toe om ons werk te doen, ondersteun u kind se onderwyser en kom ons stap saam vorentoe. Die liewe Here belowe nooit 'n kalm of rustige einde aan ons pad nie, maar Hy hou ons hand heelpad vas.

Bly asseblief veilig
Sonskyngroete
M DE VRIES

PHOTO GALLERY / FOTOGALERY

MR DE VRIES

Thank heavens for a zoom lens - peeping into the office!