



8 February 2019

Dear Parents,

Hoping this finds you well. Welcome to our Junior School Newsletter No. 6.

I would like to let you know about two interns who are participants in the Teacher Preparation Programme (TPP) and who have been selected to join the Junior School. Mr. Elves Tembe who joins us from the Aga Khan Academy Maputo, is being mentored by Ms. Fridah Gatwiri, in PE. Ms. Margaret Mwaka, a graduate from Maseno University, is working with Ms. Alice in Music. We welcome them to the Junior School.

Mr. Marcelino Ngalioma's role has changed from teaching PE in the Senior School; he has taken up Junior School swimming lessons and coaching the school swimming teams. We too welcome to the school, Mr. Polycarp Ageta, who has recently joined us from Jaffery Academy. He will teach some junior swimming classes and work alongside Mr. Marcelino with the swim training teams.



Mr Elves Tembo



Ms. Margaret Mwaka



Mr. Polycarp Ageta

We thank Mr. Solomon Shingira (Coach Kingori) and Mr. Abdulmalik for their service to the school in the swimming programme. They have moved on to other ventures and we wish them well in their futures.

### Semester 1 Student Reports

On Thursday 31 January, your child's Semester 1 progress report was available via the online platform, Managebac. It has come to our attention that some parents have not accessed the report. If you have been unable to log in, please contact the Junior School office. It is important that you have seen the report and shared it with your child. We will have **3-Way Conferences**



on **Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 February** for you and your child to meet with their Homeroom Teacher and single subject teachers, to discuss their progress to date and set goals for the rest of the academic year. However, if you have any pressing queries or concerns and would like to discuss the report earlier, please contact your child's teacher or call the office to arrange an appointment. Attached please find further information on the conferences.

### **Punctuality and Attendance matters**

It is very important that your child is at school by 7.30am every day and is ready to participate in the daily activities, which commence with a Junior School assembly. Students who arrive after the morning bell miss out on information on upcoming events and any arrangements that may have been organized for that day. Late arrival to class also disrupts the on-going lesson.

### **Enrichment Notice – No Clubs on Monday 18 February**

We would like to inform you that there will be no after-school enrichment on Monday 18 February. The school day will end at 2.40pm and the buses will leave at 3.10pm. Enrichment will resume on Monday 25 February after the half-term break. There will also be no LAMDA lessons in the week of 18 February.

### **Student Representative Council (SRC) Events**

The Junior School SRC has planned the following two events, coming up in the next few days:

- **Thursday 14 February** will be celebrated as **Friendship Day**. The students can wear home clothes on the day, with a red, white or pink colour theme. The SRC would like this day to be recognized as a time when friends are appreciated, and have organised activities around this. More information will be communicated in your child's diary early next week. Attached is a poster of the event.
- **Monday 18 February – Floodlit Football Tournament:** Year 2 to Year 5 students are invited to take part in a Floodlit Football evening, from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at the astroturf. Students who are participating should go home at the end of the school day and return by 5.45pm. (Note that after 6.00pm, car entry to the school will be through the exit gate only).

### **Year 1 Open House – 25 January 2019**

The Year 1 Open House, an event organised to showcase the Academy to prospective parents and students, was well attended. Our students put on a great assembly for the visiting nursery school children, their parents and our parents who attended. Here are a few snapshots of the event.



## Our Parent/Teacher Partnership Literacy Development

Here are some ways you can support your child's Spelling development at home:

Very few people can spell every single word correctly. Most of us, even if we are good spellers, make some mistakes from time to time. The important thing is that we know how to 'attack' a word which is difficult or unfamiliar. Good spellers are those who know what to do when they are stuck. It is very important that you encourage your child to 'have a go' at spelling words they don't know when they are writing.

There are several phases a child goes through to learn to spell, often without thinking about conventional spelling. Children will often 'approximate' the language. The 'Phonetic stage' is where children are able to prove a perfect match between letters and sounds. Letters are chosen on the basis of sounds and may not look like the conventional word. Eg. *"On my brifth we had a isgrem cake and fo tey we had a pesda."*

These are some strategies that can help your child during this stage of development:

- Continue to read to your child each day. Discuss interesting or funny words with unusual spellings.
- When your child brings home their writing, focus on the story and the words that have been spelt correctly rather than on the mistakes. Talk about the errors in a way that says 'you did a good job in trying to spell that word.'
- Encourage your child to make their own birthday cards, write thank you cards, letters to family and friends.
- Help your child to use the "look, cover, write, check" method for learning words, concentrating on the part of the word he/she is not sure about rather than the whole word. Divide the word into syllables.

## Dates for your diary

<b>FEBRUARY 2019</b>			
<b>Thursday</b>	14	SRC Friendship Day	
<b>Thursday</b>	14	Year 4 Parent Breakfast Meeting	8.00am – 9.00am
<b>Monday</b>	18	SRC Floodlit Football	6.00pm – 8.00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	19	Three- Way Conferences (No classes)	8.00am – 4.00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	20	Three- Way Conferences (No classes)	8.00am – 3.00pm
<b>Thursday - Friday</b>	21 - 22	Half Term Holiday	
<b>Monday</b>	25	School resumes	
<b>Wednesday - Thursday</b>	27 - 28	Year 4 Field Trip to Shimba Hills	8.15am – 12.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	28	Book Fair	8.30am – 4.00pm
<b>MARCH 2019</b>	01		
<b>Friday</b>	01	Book Fair	8.30am – 4.00pm
<b>Friday</b>	01	Inter-House Swimming Gala	8.00am – 12.00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	07	Year 1 Parents Breakfast Meeting	8.00am – 9.00am
<b>Thursday</b>	21	Year 2 and 3 Parents Breakfast Meeting	8.00am – 9.00am



Wishing you all a good weekend.

Best regards,

Annia Dear  
Principal, Junior School

Attachments;

1. 3-Way Conference Letter
2. SRC Friendship Day poster

