



22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents,

The last three weeks have been very busy for us; one can hardly believe that we are at the end of the fifth week. The students have settled into the routine of school, and demands of academic rigor are now evident with homework, assignments or assessment.

CEM tests were successfully completed by year 6 to DP1 students and the outcome will be used by teachers to help establish their potential. This will enable teachers to come up with ways to support students to realize their potential.

We would like to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of two of our students that made them to be featured in news articles recently. Alyssa Jamal was the junior winner at Sanlam Golf day tournament. Alqaim Lalani's, service project was featured in an article in one of the media publications. Attached are the two articles.

The Parent-Teacher Conferences will now be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 following the change of election date. The invitation letter for the same is attached to this newsletter. It is important for parents to meet with the teachers who teach their children and know how they are settling in the new academic year. The students will be making appointments on behalf of their parents on either 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>, or on both days depending on the available slots. This will be followed by the October break which will run till 30<sup>th</sup> October. It is a mandatory break for all residential students who will be expected to come back on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 by 6pm. The first school day after the break is Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

Parents of residential students are encouraged to inform their children early enough when they will be coming between the two days, so that they can get appropriate appointments. Before leaving for the October break, there is an elaborate process to ensure that students see all their teachers and mentors. Once they see all their teachers and mentor, they can leave for the break.

### **Student Life**

In a new class year or a new school, the subjects and dorms are different and there is normally uncertainty in a student's confidence due to the new material or new residences. The interpersonal skills are also put to the test by the introduction of all the new faces of the new school year. In the light of these, we are proud to note that it has taken a short time for our students to develop competencies that have enabled them develop a firm footing for their success this year.

### **Leadership**

The process of electing students for the different leadership positions was completed in the month of September. We congratulate all students who offered themselves for the different leadership positions. All students should know that leadership is not about the position, but it is about action and that true leadership rests in the hands of those who make things happen. In this philosophy of



leadership, we strive to teach service beyond self, even if a position is not attained. This weekend, we have about 45 students who will be attending a leadership retreat at the Sun n Sand Beach Resort in North Coast.

## **Residences**

Collaborating and learning from peers and student leaders offers a great insight and richness to our own programmes. The following are some of programmes the residential students have been involved in so far; bonding pool parties, DP's Barbeque evening, Beach trip excursion, and visit to Jumba ruins a historical site in Mtwapa. The DP students will be out for a beach excursion in Tiwi South Coast and residential talent night is planned for 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017. Later in October, the dorm captains will be retreating for their leadership training in South Coast

## **Enrichment**

Our enrichments programmes enable students to realize their potential in a variety of settings beyond the classroom. Your support in ensuring that your children are involved will be valuable. Having conversations about their experiences is important for accountability.

## **House Events**

We now have a new team of House captains elected to the new positions. The house captains have their work cut out for them. Several events have been lined up for the year. Quiz competition will be our first event on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

## **Others**

Year 10 Drama students put together a successful play directed by Anais as part of their end of Year 9-unit celebration on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Our students showcased amazing talent and prowess in their acting and they all deserve accolades. The same group and other students will be travelling for an academic trip to Nairobi on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Our school was selected among 12 schools in world by the IB to be featured in their 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations. The renowned ITN from UK filmed the documentary yesterday, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and we appreciate the contributions of all those who were involved led by the Communication department. This coincided with the World Peace Day whose commemoration was done in school led by Humanities department working with students from each year level. It focused on conflict resolution.

## **Diploma Programme**

DP2 students have submitted the 1<sup>st</sup> drafts of their Extended Essays, and are now in the closing stages of receiving comprehensive feedback from their supervisors.

They have also posted their 2<sup>nd</sup> reflections, after attending reflection sessions with their respective supervisors. Students have been respectful of all deadlines set by the school, in this regard. The deadline for the submission of EE final drafts is 13 November. We are confident all students will meet it, with due adherence to quality.

The TOK (Theory of Knowledge) Prescribed Essay Titles have been released by the IB, and students and teachers are now in the process of collaboratively unpacking these Essay Questions in order to decide which one to choose as the premise for their final TOK essay.

Their CAS Portfolios are now well populated, with every DP2 student having completed at least 15 reflections. Students are in the process of populating their completion forms now. Internal Assessment draft submission deadlines are now a living agenda for these students, and they are in the process of navigating and managing those as well, with comprehensive support from their teachers. The first round of the weekly test cycle is complete, and now the students are in the middle of the second round. A very valuable exercise in terms of diagnostic feedback received – which will help them improve the quality of their work.

So it is a rigorous but fascinating time in the life of DP2 students right now. They have very little space left at the moment for non-academic pursuits. Mentors, Dorm Parents, parents, teachers and the administration – are all at hand to support, ease and counsel.

DP1 students have settled down firmly into their chosen subjects and levels now, and on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September we closed all windows pertaining to subject and level shifts – as laid down by the school and program statute of permitting shifts and try-outs only during the first one month of school.

While some DP1 students did take time to settle down into the right enrichment activities, now that seems to be sorted. Choosing carefully here was important because the enrichments they do, whether it be in the realm of Creativity or Activity or Service, directly affect their CAS performance, and adds weight in the right areas to their university applications later.

The DP1 Play (that big event they all look forward to creating) selection will be finalized this week, and auditions for actors and interviews for all behind the scenes responsibilities will be completed over the next 2 weeks.

There have been multiple University Fairs this month, and Many DP students have been attending these, depending on their considered university placement preferences.

There have been university reps visiting our campus and interacting with students over organized lunches and informally at other break times.

SAT prep classes have been running regularly every Wednesday from 3.00 to 4.30 pm – for interested students.

## **Middle Years Programme**

### **MYP Parents' Information Evenings**

The MYP parents' information evenings have been going on every Thursday evening between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. The parents have been taken through the core elements of the MYP programme and how to navigate ManageBac, which is our tool for communication with both students and parents. The meetings have been very informative for both the parents and the teachers.

Parents also had a chance to meet the year level leaders, mentors and subject teachers in an informal environment.

The turn- out for the meetings has been good and we want to urge parents to attend such meetings when they are in Mombasa so that they can learn more about the programme and how they can support their children.



*A section of the teachers who attended the MYP parents' information sessions*

### **Bonding Activities**

The bonding activities for Year 6 and 7 have been pushed to a later date because of unforeseen circumstances. This was necessary as a majority of the students are involved in the Lamda presentations in Nyali at the same time. The bonding activities will now take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.

### **Student Support**



### **Conversation change lives!**

Various students have really pushed for a forum for discussing and talking through wellbeing issues that affect them at their stage of development.

This forum runs on a weekly basis, facilitated by our School Psychologist. The objective is to create an environment to share and support strategies relating to overall wellbeing of our young adults as they develop and mature into responsible and balanced individuals.

## Upcoming events

23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September - SRC retreat

14<sup>th</sup> October - Residential Talent night

18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October - Parent Teacher Conferences (PTC)

20<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October – Half-term break

Have an enjoyable weekend!



Kind regards,  
**Francis Kariuki**  
**Principal, Senior School**