



UFS International

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*"Semper Sursum - Always Aim High"*

2 March 2022

To the UFS Community,



As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are planning events that provide opportunity for our school community to get together.

The first such day is on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. On this day, we will be hosting a *Star Paint Colour Dash* as well as an informal opportunity to engage with our Governing Council.

More information in this regard will follow, but in the meantime, please save the date!

#### IMPORTANT DATES

- School closes at 12h00 for the Mid-term Break Tomorrow.
- School reopens on Tuesday, 8 March.
- Term 1 ends on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

We sadly take leave of Mrs Renate Johnston who is currently serving as our Head of Department in the Junior Primary School and Grade 3 Class Teacher. Mrs Johnston will be returning to South Africa over the course of the long weekend. She has served the school admirably over the past six years and we thank her for her exemplary service. Ms Erasmus who is well known to our school community returns as a locum teacher for the remainder of Term 1.

We have made excellent progress with the new uniform but are just waiting for two sets of sample sizes. Our initial target of having students in uniform from the 8<sup>th</sup> of March appears to have been a tad ambitious and so we have readjusted the time frame for the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, this being the start of the second term. This in many ways is better as it means parents are ordering only a winter uniform as opposed to ordering a mix of winter and summer uniform items had we launched the new uniform on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

Once we have a full set of uniform items and corresponding sample sizes, we will arrange for each child to visit the new school shop and to have a fitting done. Each child will then be given a uniform sizing list which will be taken home. This document will also contain information on how parents make their initial order.

The developments in Ukraine have left the world shocked. As a strong advocate of the need for schools to work intentionally on developing future global citizens who embody attributes such as those contained in our UFS International Educational Philosophy, (Empathy, Respect, Change Agency, Responsibility and more), we all have to do more to ensure that we are working towards a more peaceful world. This starts with us; by being mindful of our words and our actions in our schools, homes and communities. I ask that we keep all of those impacted by this situation in our hearts, minds and prayers.

One of our students, Zamokuhle Gina in Form 5, has clearly thought deeply about what is happening in Ukraine. He has let his poetic pen flow - enjoy this remarkable piece of poetry;

## The Imminence of War

The vans, they've been loaded with weapons,  
Driven down to the border.  
The tanks, they've been primed for a fight,  
They've already invaded now.

War was once imminent here,  
And once a nightmare feared by all.  
Now, war is arriving,  
And a reality still feared by all.

The bombs, they've been dropped from above,  
Some exploded below.  
The army, they've been called out of hiding,  
Martial Law is all there is now.

War has already happened here,  
And now is happening again.  
Now, this war won't end well,  
For only the dead see the end of war.

The sound of gunfire,  
It rings loud like a bell.  
The smell of smoke and cordite,  
It fills the air now.

War may not ever end here,  
For it doesn't seem like it will.  
All our world will be sucked into it,  
A catastrophe for us all.

The phone lines, they've all been tapped,  
Feeding data to Brother Eye.  
Espionage?  
It's not so useful now.

I wish you all a very blessed mid-term break.

Yours in Education,



Gareth Allman  
Executive Principal

