



UFS International

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*“Semper Sursum - Always Aim High”*

25 February 2022

To the UFS Community,

One of the first questions I asked this morning was to determine if we had any Russian or Ukrainian students in our school. We do not, and hence the need to manage any potential issues with students negated what could have been a sensitive set of dynamics.

However, there are hundreds of schools across the globe in which students from both of these countries would be present and so numerous conversations would need to be carefully structured and planned at those schools. Even though the Russian / Ukrainian conflict is a geographically distant one, we should not dismiss the opportunity to discuss it with our children.

Schools and teachers need to educate that differences in culture and nations are a wonderful thing, and are in many ways, the very essence of humanity. A different nation, a different person, a different belief, a different value, adds richness and diversity. A lack of respect and acceptance for difference and diversity leads to a lack of tolerance, and a lack of growth. This in turn can create a stunted and frustrated climate in which personal and / or political ambitions play out in a ghastly manner.

We are, as an international school, committed to facilitating a world class curriculum that is richly infused with elements of Global Citizenship Education.

The Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding under the auspices of UNESCO (APCEIU), stated at a previous conference that Global Citizenship Education (GCED) aims to equip learners of all ages with the **knowledge, values and capacity to enable them to live together peacefully and to become active and responsible citizens. It nurtures respect for diversity and fosters solidarity on the basis of a sense of belonging to a common humanity.**

As parents and teachers, we need to role model behaviour that reflects exactly what is stated in the above paragraph. Today, I make a special appeal, and encourage our wonderfully diverse school community to reach out to all of those around us and show respect and love.



As mentioned in a previous 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 shall be hosting a Colour Run 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!

Parents are kindly reminded that our Mid-Term Break commences next Thursday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. This day also coincides with the Senior Gala which begins at 08h20 and will conclude at 11h30. School closes at 12h00 on that day.

School reopens on Tuesday, 8 March.

Term 1 ends on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.



In accordance with the latest guidance from the Eswatini Swimming Association, parents and spectators are welcome to attend the gala, but need to be vaccinated, or hold a current, (within 72 hours), negative CV-19 test.

Access into the pool area will thus be accordingly controlled.

Congratulations to all of our Secondary students who participated in the Inter-Schools Athletics Meeting held at Mavuso Stadium last week. Of the 5 schools participating, we were placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, ever so slightly behind Enjabulweni who took first place honours.

Earlier this week we hosted Ambassador Maloney and a delegation from the USA Embassy in Eswatini. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were exceptionally complimentary about the arrangements, their engagements, the visitor and safety protocols, and the condition of the campus. Our discussions were high level, most productive and bode incredibly well for our current and future relationship.

In closing, at our Governing Council Meeting held on Wednesday this week, two important policies were ratified. These are the Admissions Policy and the Promotions and Retentions Policy. They are available on the website and Edana Parent App for your referencing.

I wish you all a very blessed weekend.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Allman'.

Gareth Allman  
Executive Principal

