



13 May 2022

To the UFS Community,

Welcome Back:

We have enjoyed a wonderful start to the new term and I have been impressed with the ease in which our students have resumed their academic responsibilities. We express a special note of welcome to Miss Tara Earnshaw who joins our Junior Primary as Grade Three Teacher and Head of Department.

Our teachers participated in a full and productive day of professional development and preparation on Monday. Amongst other sessions, they enjoyed a staff wellness talk by Kim du Plessis of ‘Connected’, and were taken through a presentation called 8 Standards for Best Practice in Education.



The key elements of this presentation are seen in the image to the left.

This work builds on our professional development and appraisal strategies that were formulated and workshopped with teachers during the latter half of last year, and fully launched this year.

Point number 8 is especially important!

We acknowledge that our parents / guardians are vital partners in your child’s learning. You influence your children’s attitudes to learning and their opinions and perceptions of their teachers and course work. It is important that parents provide a positive supporting learning environment at home. It is important that parents and teachers have mutually respectful and supportive relationships. Productive communication between teachers and parents is essential.

Please do reach out to your child’s class / subject / form tutor, (during reasonable hours!), if you have any concerns or queries about their progress, learning or well-being.

Events to Diarise:

This will be a busy term with many events and a few new exciting developments. Firstly, please be reminded of the **Star Paint Colour Dash** that will be held on Saturday 21 May, 08h00.

We have been busy over the course of the past few weeks researching the school's history, and developing our records and archives. There are many pieces of the jigsaw that are missing in our records and understanding, but as we reach out to alumni and past staff members, we are beginning to close the gaps.

Having a clear understanding of one's history is important for context and understanding. Legacy is fundamental to what it is to be human. Working within an environment that has rich legacy provides a strong sense of belonging and pride. Working to create a legacy is an important element of living a meaningful life. Exploring, and learning to value an organisation's legacy helps build relationships and communities and fosters belief in the capacity of the human spirit!

It is partially on the basis of this thinking, that we will be hosting our inaugural Founders' Day on the 3rd of June.

A few of the objectives of our Founders' Day are:

- To honour the school's founders.
- To acknowledge all who have contributed to the school, past and current.
- To give our students an event where a degree of decorum, gratitude and commitment is facilitated.
- To help nurture a sense of pride and legacy.
- To establish a few meaningful traditions.
- And finally, to begin naming certain areas of the school.



Parents are welcome to attend! Please RSVP as per the invitation above so that we can ensure sufficient seating is available.

School Uniforms:

The fitting of the new school uniform skirt items is almost complete. On Friday the 20th of May, all parents will receive an order and sizing form that will indicate the following:

- How to access and order uniform items online.
- Sizes to be selected on the online ordering platform.
- Which items are ordered online and which items can be purchased through general commercial clothing retailers.



Orders will need to be completed by the 27th of May. This provides enough time for the manufacturers to complete orders and deliver the items to school. We will thus be in school uniform from Monday the 4th of July.

House T-Shirts:

Please note that House T-Shirts are available in the uniform shop and that all students will be required to have these and a standard pair of white sports shorts by Monday the 30th of May. These shorts are readily available in clothing stores. Parents of Primary School students are kindly requested to complete and return the reply form which will be sent home in your child's Communication Book, by Friday 20 May. High School students are invited to visit the school shop and to sign for their shirt. The cost thereof will be billed to school accounts.

Community Engagement:

As we seek to develop parent and community engagement opportunities, numerous initiatives are underway and are beginning to take shape.

One such exciting development is the commencement of evening community sports organised by, and hosted at UFS international. We acknowledge that sporting and recreational opportunities are somewhat limited in our village and we acknowledge the tremendous value that rests in families jointly participating in healthy lifestyle activities.

We will thus be launching evening indoor social hockey games for members of our community. These will take place on a Friday night from 17h00. If you and your family would like to play on a regular and committed basis during Term 2, you are invited to establish a team of 5, give your team a name and email Mr Mushavi at t.mushavi@usutuschool.com to register your interest and to be placed on the mailing list. The first round of games will take place on Friday 3 June. We wish to thank Ward Rijkenberg for donating the indoor hockey side boards.

The intention is to roll this initiative out to other sports codes such as basketball, netball, 5-a-side football etc.



We have not neglected those members of our community who are less sporty and more creative!

You are invited to uncork your creativity as our High School Art Teacher, Aimelee Richter, takes you step by step through the process of creating your own masterpiece. All art items are supplied. Just bring along your creativity, friends, children and own tippie / soft drinks / hot chocolate!



Our first Paint & Sip will take place on Friday, 3 June, 15h00. Spaces are limited so be sure to sign up early. Pay your E150 / person fee, (to cover materials and equipment), with Pauline Ndlela at the school shop in the administration building to reserve your place. (p.ndlela@usutuschool.com)

In closing, on a less exciting, but equally important note, we have reviewed our structures for the care of students who fall ill during the course of the school day. We are reconfiguring dormant spaces to establish a school clinic. Once complete, this facility will be staffed and offer three separate rooms, with one serving as an isolation room if necessary. If anyone has an unused single bed in good condition, and has no need for it, we would be grateful for the donation. We need to supplement our existing furniture with three additional beds. We are able to collect. Please let Mr Wayne Sparham know if you are able to assist in this regard (w.sparham@usutuschool.com).

Yours in Education,



Gareth Allman
Executive Principal

