



UFS International

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"Semper Sursum - Always Aim High"

13 October 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians

FOUNDERS' DAY FEEDBACK

Our Founders' Day and 60th Celebration was held this year on 22 September, and we continued with celebrating our school's legacy and existence. Nakhelwe Manzini (our Headprefect) as well as his two Deputy Headprefects were superb in serving as the Masters of Ceremony for this special occasion.



We were glad to see parents come and be part of the celebrations, as as a School we continued with the traditions that were introduced last year. Mrs. Freda Baker, our longest serving teacher, had the honour to commence proceedings with the ringing of the school bell. This saw the Grade 1 students being escorted down to the field by the Form 5 students.



The new Founders' Day Vault was unlocked, and from it, a Swazi Candle and a Scroll of Acknowledgement and Commitment were removed by the youngest student in Grade 1, Nicholas Tumureebire. Nicholas lit the candle to symbolise our wish and desire for the proceedings to be blessed, and for the school, and all of its stakeholders to be blessed for the year ahead.



The Scroll of Honour was read by Nakhelwe Manzini. The words on the scroll are as follows:

As we light this candle, we re-ignite the memories of, and bring thanks and light to our school's founders.

We express our gratitude for their pioneering and visionary service.

Through their dedication, the lives of countless students and families have been enriched.

We acknowledge and are humbled by the selfless service of all staff members, past and current, of our school.

We, the students of UFS International, re-affirm our gratitude to all those who make it possible to school here.



We are cognisant of the responsibility that accompanies this privilege, and commit, to strive in all our thoughts and deeds, to bring pride and honour, to our founders, parents, families, guardians and teachers. May our school continue to flourish, and go from strength to strength.



The Grade 1's placed their laminated hand prints into the vault which also contained their dreams and aspirations for "When I grow up I want to be a". These will be returned to them at the Founders' Day of their IGCSE Year (Form 4) in 2033.

Mrs June McKenzie, third generation parent was our guest speaker and reminisced on how the school has grown and continues to flourish. The Chairman of the UFS International Governing Council, Mr Roberto Russo addressed the gathering. This was followed by the unveiling of a plaque which has been installed onto the first classrooms built in the 1960s,

naming it the "Goodwin Building". This building is currently the Grade 4 and Grade 5 classrooms that look onto Founders' Field. The name "Goodwin" is in honour of Dave Goodwin who was the principal of UFS in the 1970s after Mr Jeff Lewis.

Nicholas Tumureebire was then called upon to extinguish the candle and placed it back in the vault.

Nakhelwe Manzini then announced the new 'Keeper of the Key' for 2023/2024. This position is given to the longest serving support staff member. This person is charged with looking after the key for the Founders' Day Vault until next year's Founders' Day. The 2022/2023 Keeper of the Key Mr Lucky Dlamini handed the key over to Mrs Baker, who is the 2023/2024 Keeper of the Key.



After the locking of the vault by Mrs Baker, Mrs Simelane was superb in leading the large gathering of students, staff, guests and parents in the singing of the National Anthem.



Long Service Award Certificates were handed over to Sabelo Mvubu, Gcebile Vilakati, Nomphumelelo Maseko for 10 years and Wayne Sparham received a 15 year Award Certificate.

In celebration of our 60th our High School Girl Choir sang beautifully and added a whole other level to our event with a great performance.



The finals of the Grade 7 boys and girls Inter-House Tug-of-War competition were then conducted. Ingwe boys and girls won this year's Inter-House Tug-of-War competition and their house colours trophies, claiming bragging rights until next year's event!

We thank our invited guests, parents, teachers and students for making this a remarkable event once again and we look forward to continuing this tradition in years to come.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- A gentle reminder that school will be closed for the **Primary School children** will not be coming to school on **Wednesday , 18 October 2023**. Work will be sent home on this day for the students to complete. Please note that there will be school on Thursday
- **Spelling Bee:** We are very excited about the Spelling Bee Competition that is ongoing from Grade 3-7. This competition not only helps children develop spelling skills and reading comprehension, but can bolster their confidence and communication skills as well.
- The **High School children** will be participating in the "**Usutu's Got Talent**" competition on Thursday, 2 November. Please encourage your child to enter and showcase their talent! There are prizes up for grabs in the various categories.
- Come join us for a Family orientated **Colour Dash & MTB Fun Day** for all ages. Registration fee is E100 and the first 150 paid entries receive a free Colour Dash T-shirt. Entry 6 years old and under is free. Fun events to take place on the day is:
 - 12 km Cycle to start at 7:30
 - 5km Run/Walk to start at 9:00
 - Colour explosion at 11:00
 - Food and drinks can be bought on the dayOnline entry: <https://forms.gle/5XUBUR2BhpofjvVp6>



2024 CALENDAR:

The 2024 Academic Calendar has been finalised and is included in this newsletter for your information. It is also available on the school website for your future ease of reference. Please note that the calendar is established in consultation with all ISASA Principals of Eswatini. Whilst we have endeavoured to align each school's calendar as closely as possible to one another's, this is not always possible.

Yours in Education

Mrs. Magagula
Primary School Principal

Mrs. Naylor
High School Principal





UFS International

Term dates 2024

Term 1

Wednesday 17 January – Friday 12 April (11am)

Mid-Term Close: Thursday 29 February (12h00)
Open: Tuesday 5 March

Public Holidays Friday 29 March - Good Friday
Monday 1 April - Easter Monday

Term 2

Tuesday 14 May – Friday 9 August (11am)

Mid-Term Close: Friday 21 June (12h00)
Open: Monday 1 July

Public Holidays Monday 22 July - King Sobhuza's Birthday

Term 3

Tuesday 10 September – Friday 6 December (11am)

Mid-Term Close: Thursday 17 October (12h00)
Open: Tuesday 22 October

UFS International reserves the right to change these dates