

28 September 2020



Our Monday Assembly was a much welcomed occasion. Even though we are not yet allowed to assemble in mass in our dining hall, the pavilion provided us with a more than suitable venue. It was a true delight to have all our children return, bar a few for personal family reasons. Monday also provided us with the chance to welcome some new additions to the Musikili family, in Grade R, Grade 3 and Grade 4.

I shared a brief message with our children using the Acronym 'SMART' as the underlying theme. Five very simple points that carry a great deal of weight, if upheld and carried through by all who walk the Musikili campus.

**S – Say please and thank you**

**M – Make friends and be thoughtful**

**A – Arrive on time, prepared and ready to listen**

**R – Respect yourself and others**

**T – Try your best**

These can so easily be taken for granted, however, without such aspirations our daily environment becomes infinitely poorer. The simplicity of saying please and thank you makes a significant and lasting first impression. Friendships, new and old, are what make life at Musikili so enriching. The importance of appreciating punctuality and having an invested interest in what others have to say, enables learning to take place. Respect for yourself and others provides the foundation for the aforementioned to be developed. The desire to try your best, no matter the situation, reveals those with the key characteristic of GRIT.

I urge our parents to ensure that we hold our children accountable and to encourage them to be 'SMART'. It is a team effort between school and parents, to develop children who live this acronym. It has been interesting to watch our children going about their daily routines this week, mostly caught up in the excitement of being reunited with friends, amidst settling back into the structures of school and boarding life. Unfortunately, what has been clearly evident, is how many children have forgotten the importance of being 'SMART'.







The staffing body has found the need to be more assertive in reminding children of our school rules and their responsibility to uphold them. Mr. Weinrich spent the better part of last week dealing with a number of children who had transgressed, showing scant regard for school rules. It is a disappointing trait that seems to creep into the schooling system, however, with a zero tolerance approach I believe we will soon be putting these unfortunate behaviours behind us. The return of our younger children, normal evening routines, responsibilities and a fuller programme have brought back a greater normality to all proceedings. I thank all the relevant parents for their outstanding support in helping us deal with the issues that arose.

The return of our younger children has added a great deal of life to our campus and the sound of younger voices, playful behaviour and a whole element of 'cute', quickly reminded us of what we had been missing over the past months. The children were quick to embrace the chance to be back in the classroom, the boarding house and to resume sporting routines. There has been some adaption required to the longer days and increased academic demands, but in all we have enjoyed a successful return to school.

I can appreciate that there are some parents who still experience some anxiety around Covid-19. The staff have all been briefed on the importance of trying to instil the new expectations around social distancing, wearing masks and avoiding unnecessary contact. I assure you, that it is no easy task trying to keep children apart, from holding hands and from walking shoulder to shoulder. These behaviours reflect the atmosphere that exists at Musikili. Our teachers and teaching assistants work tirelessly to insist that our children sanitize hands and abide to protocol, as far as reasonably possible, to try and establish habitual behaviour. Our afternoon programme provides the opportunity for children to be children, however, at this time we have avoided activities that require too much physical contact. More and more official studies reveal the resistance that children have towards Covid-19 and we believe that our environment, is even more conducive to healthy living.

I must remind all parents to continue with responsible parenting and should their child be showing any flu like symptoms, please keep them at home. Our staff are prepared to provide any necessary work to be done at home in these circumstances. Parents visiting our campus are to ensure that they wear a mask, especially if they are interacting with children and staff.

We are delighted to be able to announce that we have secured the services of an incredible teaching couple, Mr. and Mrs. Price Moor, who will be joining us in January 2021 to fulfil the roles of Grade 7 and Grade 3 class teachers. I have attached a short profile on the Price Moor family, who will be joining us from Kwa-Zulu Natal in South Africa. I wish you well and thank our parents and broader community for their support, as we navigate the next part of our journey in 2020.





# Welcome to the Price Moor Family...

We are delighted to announce that we have procured the services of Mr. and Mrs. Price Moor, who will be joining us from January 2021. Darren will assume the role of Grade 7 class teacher, while Hayley will fulfil the position of Grade 3 teacher. Darren's childhood was spent exploring and enjoying the life of a farmer's child in Kwa-Zulu Natal. He found a passion for teaching while at High School, teaching and assisting under privileged children. His love for sport steered him towards obtaining his Honours Degree in Biokinetics where he worked with a number of professional sports teams. He later travelled to Australia and New Zealand as a Dive Control Specialist on the Great Barrier Reef.

For the past 11 years he has been involved at Umhlanga College in Durban, South Africa. He began his career there as the Head of Sport before moving to the position of Senior Phase teacher, having completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Education.

He believes in creating a calm non-threatening environment, where the children have the opportunity to grow as individuals. He encourages them to challenge themselves and believes that children learn and grow through life experiences. He strives to make a meaningful impact on the lives of the students that he teaches.



Hayley grew up in Johannesburg and studied a Bachelor of Education at Wits. She taught Grade 2 and Grade 1 in Johannesburg before moving to Natal in 2007. Hayley taught Grade R for 10 years at Umhlanga College.

In 2010 Hayley met Darren at Umhlanga College. They were married in 2013. Hayley and Darren have 2 boys Myles (5) and Jake (3). Hayley is a dedicated and passionate teacher. She strives to create a friendly and positive environment in which each child can reach their full potential and grow in confidence. Hayley is an active and energetic person who has participated in a variety of sports at different levels. She feels that being active is an integral part of learning and tries to include it in her daily routine of the class.

After Jake was born in 2017, Hayley resigned from teaching to spend more time with her two young boys. She ran a successful swimming school which she took on full time from 2018 until present. She has recently returned to the classroom as a relief teacher.

They have been happily married for 7 years, and are exceptionally excited about joining the Musikili family with their 2 wonderful boys.

We have little doubt that the Price-Moor family will flourish at Musikili, as they embrace everything that being a part of this incredible community provides.





# Literature Week...

The Grade 6s had a Literature Week celebrating Roald Dahl's brilliant books. They all came to school dressed as their favourite character.



## Farewell to Mrs Connellan...

We said farewell to Mrs Connellan this week, who returned to South Africa to prepare for the birth of their first born child. We thank Ingrid for her tireless efforts at Musikili and for the incredible impact that she had on the lives of the children under her care. Although her stay was brief, she will be well remembered by the the staff and Musikili children. We wait with much anticipation for the birth and of course to find out the name of their new arrival!

We thank and wish Mrs Connellan all the best for this exciting chapter in her life.



# 2021 Term Dates

**Term 1 (Easter): Monday 11 January – Thursday 1 April 2021**

Sunday 10 January Boarders return by 17h00

Monday 11 January Classes begin

*Half Term: Saturday 20 February to Sunday 28 February 2021*

Thursday 1 April Travel Day

PAT Consultations Wednesday 17 February – Friday 19 February

**Term 2 (Trinity): Monday 3 May – Friday 30 July 2021**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May Boarders return by 17h00

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May Classes begin

*Half Term: Saturday 19 June to Sunday 27 June 2021*

Friday 30 July Travel Day

PAT Consultations Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 June

**Term 3 (Michaelmas): Monday 30 August – Friday 26 November 2021**

Sunday 29 August Boarders return by 17h00

Monday 30 August Classes begin

*Half Term: Saturday 9 October to Sunday 17 October 2021*

Friday 1 October Travel Day

Friday 26 November Final Assembly at 08h00 (Compulsory Attendance)

**Thursday 2 December Reports to Parents**

