

# January 2020



Our new school year is now officially underway. Staff gathered on Friday 10th January to meet, plan and prepare for what we trust will be another activity-filled year at Musikili.

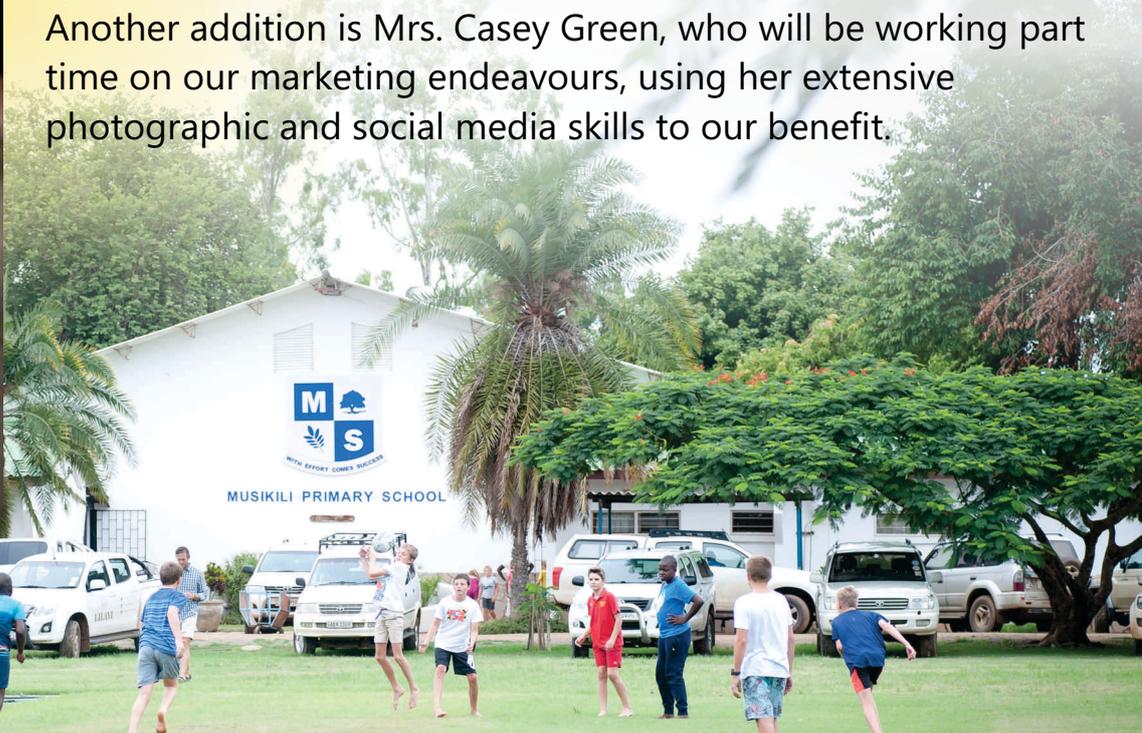
The year planner again displays a wealth of opportunity and possibility for those willing to put themselves out there, in search of enjoyment and success.

We welcome a number a new faces to our staffing component, as Ms. Bray, Mrs. Selemani and Mr. Hayes take up the positions of Early Years, Grade 1 and Grade 6 teachers respectively.

It is with much excitement that these experienced, energetic and knowledgeable staff have officially joined our family and I have absolutely no doubt that we will all be the richer for it.

Coach Robert also joins us in our PE department in a more permanent position and will be assisting with PE and afternoon sport, as well as offering private cricket lessons.

Another addition is Mrs. Casey Green, who will be working part time on our marketing endeavours, using her extensive photographic and social media skills to our benefit.





This new energy on campus was matched by the injection of energy from all our returning children. Sunday proved to be a successful day and it was wonderful to see so many children reuniting. There are always 'new' kids on the block, but in true Musikilian style, it was not long before they were all settled and made to feel most welcome. We extend a very special welcome to all our new children and families who begin their Musikili journey with us in 2020.

The Christmas break always lends itself to quality family time and a time to appreciate our loved ones. A trip home to South Africa and the Eastern Cape provided me with a chance to relax, reflect and enjoy the company of people very dear to me. Grandparents are incredible human beings who have the innate ability to have grandchildren eat out of their hands, while also managing that fine balance between excessive fun and calmness.

I have, fortunately, a number of years to learn this impressive life skill. I am truly fortunate and feel extremely grateful to have a family who enjoy and make the most of the special times together.



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY**



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With a new year comes exciting challenges, new obstacles and experiences for all of us to embrace. It is with this in mind that we need to ensure that we are not only in good physical and mental health, but that we are also in the right 'frame of mind'. 'Growth Mindset' is a state of mind / belief that you are in control of your own ability and can learn and improve, which is ultimately the 'key' to success. Yes, hard work, persistence and effort are all extremely important attributes, but not as important as having that underlying belief that you are in control of your own destiny.

I will be spending the greater part of my Headmaster's lessons over the course of the year introducing and developing this philosophy with our children. Negative perceptions around any aspects of school life, or life in general as a child, can be extremely damning in respect to both short- and long-term development. If it were easy, we would all have Growth Mindsets, but if the truth be told those with a Growth Mindset, as opposed to a Fixed Mindset, would be in the minority. Children are born with no fear, especially of failure. It is through human contact, negative talk and seeds of doubt, that these fears develop.



**I LEARN FROM FAILURES | AM ARTISTIC | AM CAPABLE**





There is no simple way to develop a Growth Mindset, however, there are areas that can aid this development in our children:

**Types of praise** – we need to praise the process, their individual development and the amount of effort put in, over the result. We need to encourage our children to ask “why” and fuel their sense of curiosity.

**Level of expectation** – setting SMART goals, so that our children can enjoy the feeling of success through hard work.

**Positive group norms** – we need to create and foster a culture that values education, learning and development. Classroom, sport and home environments that are free from the ‘fear of failure’.

**Helpful self-talk** – Teaching children how to manage the way they speak to themselves and to always do so in a positive, energised and helpful manner. As parents and teachers, it can be extremely frustrating when our children don’t even want to try! Who knows why?

**“Don’t worry about failure. Worry about the chances you miss when you don’t even try.”** This quote from Sherman Finesilver is the mindset we need to instill in our children.

2020 is going to be an awesome year and we look forward to sharing in your children’s journey with you. There is no perfect recipe and certainly not one that fits our multitude of different and unique children, but if we can get them all believing in themselves and in each other, we will be moving in the right direction!

I will leave you with a famous quote from the author of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain:  
**“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the things that you did do. So, sail away from the safe harbor. Explore. Dream. Discover.”**

*May 2020 be plain sailing.*

**REST** more    **PLAY** more    **READ** more

