



09 December 2020

## **NEWSLETTER 15**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

WE MADE IT! Although this year has tested the education community like no other. Families around the world have gone above and beyond to ensure that learning never stopped. This has truly been a year for the record books and we know how hard this has been for our teachers, learners and their families. We are truly grateful for all the effort that went into the months of remote learning. We are humbled by what you have done throughout the year to support your children at home. Thank you for the constant partnership, particularly in view of this unusual school year.

As we move towards the new year with hope from the emerging medical advancements, we plough on, making plans for what we hope to be a better year in 2021.

Please see the information below for some updates.

### Covid-19

We are once again pleased to announce we have not had any Covid-19 cases on campus, so far!

### 2021

The Ministry of education has confirmed that schools will open in January 2021. We plan to open on the 20th of January. We don't know what school will look like in the coming year. We realize this is difficult news as we all want to know more, and have a clear understanding of what school will look like, but we are not there yet. Montessori has various strategies in place for a return. These will be implemented as soon as we have a clearer understanding of the compliances and expectations from Government. The ISASA schools of Eswatini have a meeting with the Principal Secretary, Bertram Stewart and we are hoping for a fruitful, meeting. We will share our Return Strategy as soon as we are able to.

### Leavers Lunch

On November the 27<sup>th</sup> we said farewell to our leavers that are off to high school. It is always a day filled with joy and pride and a little sadness on our parts. As staff, we feel a little sad as we bid farewell to learners we have watched grow and develop into such inspirational young adults. These learners have been a big part of the schooling environment for a number of years. I would like to commend this year's leavers who have returned to school bravely in the midst of a pandemic! Their resilience and zest for life has filled us with such awe, inspiration and joy these past few months. We wish them all the very best as they move onto the next chapter of their schooling lives. We know that they will continue to grow and shine in their new environments, and wish them every success in all that they do going forward.

### Orientation Day

We held Orientation Day for our new Grade 1 learners on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. It was a lovely day, filled with much excitement from students. The day went off well without any tears from children but maybe just a few from parents. The new learners seemed to have a good knowledge and understanding of Covid-19, well done Parents!

### Board Members

Montessori Life Primary is an NPO organization governed by a school Board. The Board is made up of parents, community members and staff. The Board is responsible for the long-term viability of the school. Our current Board members are:

Mary Thomson, Linda Loffler, Sidumo Mdladla, Gabriella Aranky, Karen Cooper, Johannes Lebede, Zulmira Craigie and myself. We are always looking for new board members, should you wish to join this exceptional team please email me at [montessori.life.primary@gmail.com](mailto:montessori.life.primary@gmail.com). Linda Loffler and Sidumo Mdladla are founding members of the school who continue to serve the school, Mary Thomson is our Chair, she has worked tirelessly this year. Gabriella, Karen and Johannes are parents at the school and are our newest members. Thank you to the Board who have worked so hard and tirelessly this year, attending countless meetings (all via zoom), making tough decisions and being there for the management of the school during these challenging times.

### Report packs

Parents have collected hard copies of reports in the same way packs have been collected throughout the year. Hard copies of this year's reports and all other necessary information such as Class slips and Term Dates have been sent out together. Reports will also be emailed to parents and guardians with Term Dates and a Stationery list for 2021. Class schedules/time tables and a Return Strategy will be sent out in January once we have a clearer picture of what the return will look like.

### Team of 2020

A big thank you goes out to the Montessori Life Primary Team of 2020. This has been a year we will never forget! Thank you for your support and dedication this year.

### Staff 2021

#### **Home Classes for 2021**

Class 1 (LE Grades 1-3) – Ankia Karpakis and Louise Sykes, class assistant Savannah Vila Pouca  
Class 2 (LE Grades 1-3) – Phumie Dlamini and Bridget Van Dort, class assistant Savannah Vila Pouca  
Class 3 (LE Grades 1-3) – Teresa Tinney and Rochelle Stewart, class assistant Ellen Pennington  
Class 4 (UE Grades 4&5) – Maria Morais and Gerard Shields support Londiwe Dlamini  
Class 5 (UE Grades 4&5) – Beverley Marx and Carmen Tietjens support Londiwe Dlamini  
Class 6 (UE Grades 6&7) – Riette Van Tonder  
Class 7 (UE Grades 6&7) – Earl Johnston and Chembo Kapupu as support teacher

#### **Extra-Curricular teachers for 2020**

Chess – Chess Association  
Robotics – Savannah Vila Pouca  
Music – Mr Joshua Richter  
SiSwati – Ms Nokwanda Bhila

French – Ms Noreen Moir  
Physical Education – Coach Delisa and Coach Thape  
Computers – Coach Delisa and Coach Thape  
Choir- Joshua and Coach Delisa  
Rave-O – Londiwe Dlamini

#### **Office Staff**

Deputy Principal and School Councillor – Ms Zulmira  
Office Administrator – Alicia Thring  
School Bursar – Dudu Maziya

Principal- Thea Rudd

### **Groundsmen and woman**

Musa Zulu- Head of Maintenance and Groundsmen  
Nhlanhla Ginindza – Driver and maintenance  
Phumzile Thwala – Head Cleaner  
Ncane Bhembe - Cleaner  
Delisile Gumedze - Cleaner  
Jabulani Hlophe - Groundsmen  
Haleluya Tembe -Groundsmen  
Bonisile Nhlabatsi - Cleaner  
Sifiso Mkhonta – Security  
Bongimusa Manana – Security

### **Curriculum 2021**

We will not be doing Robotics, Computers and Chess for the first term due to both activities being high touch activities. Music, PE and Devices in UE will continue within the parameters allowed. The first six weeks of our curriculum has been revised and will be focusing on orientating learners after such a long stay at home. There will be no afternoon activities in the first few weeks of school. All extra-curricular teaching staff will be engaged in various support roles in order to assist the learners and teachers in orientation under the 'new normal', revision, and classroom management regarding the new restrictions.

### **ABC**

Thank you to the parents that donated items to ABC Ministry. They were delivered to ABC on Friday the 27th of December. The toddlers in the home were very excited to see their new pushbikes!

### **Important Dates**

School opens on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2021  
2021 Term dates attached to this newsletter

### **School Fees**

We urge parents to please come forward with payments for any outstanding school fees. For those parents who are struggling to make payments we ask you to please approach management or the Bursar to set up a payment plan. Children with outstanding fees will not receive their reports and will not be allowed to continue in January.

- **Fees for 2021, please note fees will not be increased for 2021.**

Thank you from all of us at Montessori, we wish you a happy, safe holiday spent with loved ones, either physically or virtually. We look forward to seeing you again next year for what will hopefully be another incredible school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need to.

Best wishes



Thea Rudd  
Principal  
Montessori Life Primary

