



Dear Parents

23 March 2022

## **CULTURE**

There were several exciting things happening in the culture department during the first term and we are excited about the second term's activities.

### **Music Department**

The music department currently has about 30 learners receiving music lessons. Instruments played include piano, keyboard, recorder, guitar and flute.

### **Choirs**

The senior choir currently consists of 60 learners and the junior choir contains 80 learners in total. There will be longer workshop sessions with the choir members at the beginning of the second term to practise certain pieces of music and develop their voices. The latter is very important, seeing as there has been no singing for the past two years due to Covid.

The chamber choir will launch an audition process at the start of the second term, after which a smaller group of learners will be selected to be in the chamber choir.

On May 17th, the school will host our annual choir festival. Other schools' choirs are invited to attend this elegant event and entertain the audience with their pure voices.

### **Art**

In 2021, we established a brand-new Foundation Phase Art Programme. The learners receive specialist training by Mrs. Strauss. Their pieces are exceptional. During the first term, we had 29 grade 2 learners and 30 grade 3 learners who created beautiful works. A group of Grade 1 learners will join the arts programme from the second term.

### **Drama**

At the beginning of the first term, auditions were held over a span of two weeks for learners who wanted to be part of the drama club. Unfortunately, only a maximum of 40 learners can be accommodated in the drama club, as the development of certain skills and practical execution of lessons become too complicated and ineffective if the group is too big.

## **Senior drama club**

We are very excited to accommodate a large group of talented Grades 4 – 7 learners in the senior drama club. During the first term, the lessons were focussed on the following aspects: Speech mechanism including breathing, neutral body position, articulation, and then movement possibilities. The learners are exposed to several unique scenarios. Each lesson consists of warming up, skills development and a practical execution, after which reflection takes place.

The senior drama sessions are held on Tuesdays from 15:00 to 17:00. Over the course of the year, the focus will be on smaller stage productions that will be performed for the school learners. We already had a group from the drama club working on a short marketing scene for the Fun Walk. It was presented to the entire school's learners during two assembly meetings. The latter was to inform all the learners about the upcoming fun walk and what it entailed.

## **Junior drama club**

There is a great deal of excitement surrounding the fact that a long-standing dream has come true.

The greenlight was given to start up a junior drama club. This year we have a group of Grade 3 learners who are receiving training by Ms. van der Merwe. The learners are exposed to key skills that will already put them at an advanced level of development so that they can participate in concerts, productions and theatre presentations.

The Grade 3 group is also enrolled for the Eisteddfod to present a dramatised speech choir piece. The latter will also be one of their creative projects for 2022.

## **Tygerberg International Eisteddfod**

The first term was used to identify learners in the respective grades who could be enrolled in various categories. Many auditions were held, as the Eisteddfod only allows a limited number of learners in the respective categories. We have enrolled a record number of 180 learners from Grades 1 to 7 and the categories include the following:

Poems, Music Instruments, Public Speaking, Creative Writing, Reading Group, Dramatised Speech Choir, Writing poetry, Handwriting, Unprepared Reading and various musical categories.

In the second quarter, some of the above categories will already be completed. Intensive coaching will take place in the second and third terms so that the learners will be ready for July and August when the rest of the categories will be assessed.

## **Land Service**

We are privileged to have 75 members in the land service this year. The learners had already held a picnic in the first term, as well as attended a camp in Touws River. Exciting activities are planned for the second term. There are several craft lessons, as well as excursions and camps ahead in the second term. We are

looking forward to receiving all the feedback and view the photos. Much appreciation goes to Mrs Mostert who sacrifices so much time to create these opportunities for our learners.

### **Dance**

Jaqueline's Academy of Dance offers training for many of our learners in various dance styles on Tuesdays.

Those dance styles include: Hip-Hop, Ballet, "Tap" and Modern dance. Our dancers also participate in the Tygerberg International Eisteddfod and hold concerts throughout the year. We will hold a Culture Carnival during the fourth term where Jaqueline's Academy of Dance's dancing groups will participate.

### **In conclusion:**

At a cultural level, we aim to offer as many activities as possible to our learners.

The child's holistic development is crucial.

A balanced child is a happy child.

N. van der Walt (Mrs)

CULTURE HEAD