

1 April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

“Never say good-bye because good-bye means going away and going away means forgetting.”

Peter Pan

...and although this is my last newsletter, I am going to be following Peter Pan’s advice and am not going to be saying good-bye! There are too many special and precious memories here for that to happen. No forgetting...

I have always believed in the **power of moments**. I remember very clearly the moment when Mr Tom Turner, then Chairman of the Board phoned me to offer me the position of Head of Clifton Notties. Leanne had just finished her last chemo treatment and we were filled with hope for her health. Accepting the position as Head of Clifton was a natural one – a start of something new, as much as it mirrored Leanne’s start of her road to recovery from cancer.

It has been an honour to serve Clifton Notties as Head since 2015. In one of my first newsletters, I made mention of the magic of Clifton Notties – the magic that threads and weaves its way through everything. Clifton’s heart, its values and ethos, where we “champion childhood”, where kindness and good manners are given priority, and where toughness and tenderness live side by side - that is what makes Clifton the special place it is. To have played a role in Clifton has been a privilege.

Now to some words of appreciation and gratitude:

To the children, both past and present – I thank you for your spontaneity and “being you”. The enthusiastic greetings and little chats many of us have had, form part of the wonderful enduring memories I have of Clifton. There is no denying the fact that when one meets a Clifton child in later life, they will reflect their school heritage.

At our recent staff farewell function, I reflected on our staff – a Head of a school could not wish for a higher calibre of people. Dedicated and committed, the Clifton staff live the School’s values and mission. I will miss them...

Concerning staff appointments I wish to confirm the following:

- **Mrs Jodie Sparrow** has been appointed as our San Sister from the 1 April 2021. Currently the San Sister at Cowan House, Jodie comes with a wealth of experience and a dose of a good sense of humour. I wish **Sister Rose Kamwaro** much happiness in her new role as one of the San Sisters at St Charles’ School for boys in Pietermaritzburg. Rose’s infectious (pun not intended in the context of Covid- 19!) and bubbly nature and wisdom will be sorely missed. I thank her for her loyal and dedicated service to Clifton Notties.

- **Mr Jonathan Spencer**, an IT specialist, has been contracted to Clifton for an initial period of 6 months. We have had a full audit of our IT infrastructure –a necessary and invaluable process. Jonathan replaces **Mr Siphon Mkhonza** as Head of IT, who leaves for the Drakensberg Boys’ School as IT Manager. I wish Siphon well – he has served Clifton with passion and commitment. I thank him for his whole-hearted support of the staff in every respect.
- **Mrs Jackie du Toit** has been appointed as a private Remedial Therapist and replaces Mrs Aimee Henwood, who has taken up a permanent position at another school. A highly experienced Occupational Therapist, Jackie has much experience in remedial education in general too. We look forward to the impact that we know she will have in the Learning Support Department.
- **Mr Pete Quinn** (Acting Principal until the new Principal is announced) will continue to take selected portions of the English lessons for the three Grade 7 classes, with support from **Mrs Louise Rautenbach** and **Mrs Louisa Johnson**, both experienced and qualified English teachers. The latter two ladies will take certain components of the Grade 7 English classes, thus freeing up Pete as he leads Clifton.
- With interviews concluded and contracts about to be signed, the position of Librarian is being finalised as I type this letter. I thank **Leanne** for her dedication, commitment and loyalty for Clifton for the 16 years she has been here, but also for her role as Head of Learning Support and the Librarian.
- The positions for the following posts have been advertised nationally with shortlists having been established and interviews underway:
 - ✓ Housemother for Girls’ House (from June 2021)
 - ✓ Estates Foreman, 2IC for Mr Elvis Kalika (from June 2021)
 - ✓ Alumni Co-ordinator (from 1 May 2021)
 - ✓ Assistant Marketer (from 1 May 2021)

I want to acknowledge my Manex team for their unwavering support of me and Clifton Notties. Appropriate comments have been made by me to them at respective functions. A “young team”, I have valued their support as we have navigated tricky waters and made difficult decisions. I owe them a significant amount of gratitude.

In particular, I want to thank my PA, **Mrs Linsey Wynne**, for her unwavering support of Leanne and me, as well as her passionate support of Clifton Notties.

I thank the Board of Governors (be it in their individual capacity or as a collective group) for their unwavering support of me. Our Chairman, **Mr Gary Banfield**, and **Mr Tom Turner** (Former Chairman) – your support of me both professionally and personally is hugely valued.

To our parents, thank you for your trust in me/us. Your support of Clifton Notties and your children (both in seen and unseen ways) is received with much appreciation and respect. It has never been taken for granted.



With academics being core business, it is only appropriate to reflect on the results of the International Benchmarking Tests (IBTs) our Grade 3s and 5s of 2020 wrote. A valuable exercise for a variety of good reasons, it was a fitting culmination at my final assembly to be able to hand out the certificates received a few days ago. Not only a superb diagnostic and comparative tool for us as teachers, it reflects the ability of the children. I am proud of the results.



“Our Grade 6s proudly displaying their IBT certificates of distinction for either English, Maths or both!”

**Daniel Morkel
Griffon Erasmus
Benjamin Sevel
Raif Jinnah
Georgina Davies
Callum Fly
Omphile Sithole**

“Our Grade 4s with their IBT certificates of achievement at Final Assembly...”

**Cameron Cahill
Nicholas Davies
Todd Johnson
Joshua Gruijters
Gemma Smallbones**



I will include the link of an article which reflects my beliefs. Entitled, “Beware of the butterflies” by Damian Bacchoo, it reinforces the belief that we need to empower our children to make decisions for themselves...without abdicating our rights as parents. How often are we not afraid to be perceived as “unpopular” with our children w.r.t. the correct and appropriate decisions we make for them? A fine line! The link is:

<https://serendipities.blog/2021/03/16/beware-of-butterflies/amp/>

I guess that it **IS** time to say “good-bye”, (memories will not fade, though!) I do believe that good-byes are sad. I would much rather say “hello”. Hello to a new adventure for us all! - (the words and sentiments are borrowed from Ernie Harwell). We return to Port Elizabeth, where I have been appointed Executive Principal of Theodor Herzl Schools – an Independent School I know well. A values-driven school with an ethos that resonates with me, Leanne and I are excited about the new chapter that opens up for us.

Kind regards and blessings to each of you and your respective families, especially over this Easter time.

Viktor

VIKTOR KURZ
HEADMASTER

“Saying goodbye to special Staff Members at our JP Assembly.”



March 2021

Dear Clifton Community

Our annual fundraising event, being the Clifton Race Village for the joberg2c cycle ride, won't take place this year. Given the ongoing concern of COVID19 the joberg2c organisers have had to postpone the cycle event for another year.

With hopes of keeping the "vibe alive" the main organisers of joberg2c are going ahead with a mini joey2c which is very low key and will take place at Glengarry. The Clifton PA, despite it being a tiny version of the joberg2c, will have a small role to play.

Clifton looks forward to hosting a full Race Village for the joberg2c in April 2022.

Regards

Nicky Kinvig, PA Chairlady



Farewell the Kurzes...

FAREWELL POEM – VIKTOR AND LEANNE – *Simon Woodland*

Viktor and Leanne, today we sadly bid you farewell,
A big thank you from all the kids that you taught how to spell.
On that note, one fact is clearly true,
Our children now leave Clifton amongst the academic who's who.

From the view of the Board, I just have to say,
No ego or reluctance ever got in the way.
Many big projects completed, our facilities are grand,
And our kids have huge EQ from playing in the sand.

Your response to the virus was composed and decisive,
Parents' feelings on home schooling are perhaps more divisive.
To lead the way amidst a raging pandemic,
Not bad indeed for a thoughtful academic.

On a personal note, you've helped my three children through,
And prepared them so well for the high school zoo.
Please stay in touch as you join the PE bourgeois,
So, it's not a "goodbye", but an "Au revoir"!



"Farewell from Des and Angela Sacco."



"Farewell from the Heads of Junior Schools"

And farewell from us all... please see link below...

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/4268e689001fdb9158d07a85cd417c420210325215701/5acb2db070122a5527d7cb70e697173520210325215732/d1315e>

Goodbye, the Kurzes, gonna miss you... enjoy your joy ride...

You hit the road from White River
Back to your old home
Clifton welcomed you hither
Dream job in your zone

Your faith, support and wisdom - you shared with us all

Mrs Kurz so creative
So hospitable too
Knitting, stitching all things festive
Enthusiasm followed you!

Lit Week was a highlight
You had us whistling your tune
And it all begins where it ends
We wish you both well, in everything...

We say goodbye, the Kurzes, gonna miss you
Enjoy your joyride, enjoy your joyride

A great King you were an actor
A Gruffalo snake ssssssupreme
Can't say the same on the sports' field
though tennis was your game!

Great Covid boss and leader
Peace of mind for us all
Always listening and an open door: you care
The legacy... the legacy you leave...

We say goodbye, the Kurzes, gonna miss you
Enjoy your joyride, *enjoy your joyride...* ☺

Grade 6&7s

Farewell to Sister Rose and Siphonza...

Sister Rose

Here's to our dear Sister Rose
Cheers to the wish you staying but you are not
Cos the San's gonna bring back all the memories
Of your wonderful zest for life
Toast to the way that you cared
Toast to the ones diagnosed along the way
Cos the San's gonna bring back all the memories
And the memories bring back, memories bring back you
There so many times that we remember when you took away our pain
We believed you'd be here forever, but St Charles has made a gain
But our hearts will remember when somebody says your name
Your boys will be delighted to have their Mum back home again, yeah
Everybody hurts sometimes
But sister Rose will save the day ayy ayy
Your love and laughter
And all the comfort that you say ayy
Here's to our Kenyan racer
Our Covid Police who is not a chancer
Cos the San's gonna bring back all the memories
Of your wonderful zest for life
Toast to the way that you shared
Toast to first aid boxes well prepared
Cos the San's gonna bring back all the memories
And the memories bring back, memories bring back you
There so many times that we remember when you took away our pain
We believed you'd be here forever, but St Charles has made a gain
But our hearts will remember when somebody says your name
Your boys will be delighted to have their Mum back home, yeah!



Siphonza

Alright stop, collaborate and listen
Siphonza's going on a brand new mission
Drak boys have gained a man so mighty
His help will flow daily and nightly
Will it ever stop? Yo, I don't know
He's the bomb, always on the go

To the extreme, computers he can handle
He lights up machines, smartboards he can wangle
Advance, at Drakies you will bloom
Clifton teachers are left feeling gloom

Daily, he helps so politely
Anything less than the best is a felony
Love us or leave us, we wish you on your way

You better hit bull's eye, we know you won't play
If there was a problem, yo, he will solve it
Check out Siphonza while he owns it!

Go, go, Siphonza
We will miss, miss, miss Siphonza
Go, go, Siphonza
We will miss, miss, miss Siphonza



Grade Trips...

Grade One Trip to El Olam - Miss Tayla Strachan writes:

On Thursday 11th March, the Grade One children hauled their huge bags into the trailers and set off on their much anticipated first overnight Clifton trip. The excitement was tangible as we headed towards Eston and the sugar cane plantations. The weather was initially kind to us and the children loved spending the day outdoors. This included wall climbing, archery and a muddy, challenging obstacle course! Sleeping in the big hall together was great fun and the children loved this experience. A good night's sleep was had and the children were up early drinking their hot chocolate in bed. Another morning full of games together before heading back home, made for a bus full of exhausted children, ready for a weekend of recovery. Their behaviour was excellent and we were so proud of their resilience despite some children having their very first night away from home.



Grade Two Trip to the Moor's Farm – Mrs Donna Moor writes:

The Grade 2s had the most amazing day on the farm! They watched sheep getting injected and dosed, fed baby lambs, picked up potatoes and mealies, went on a tractor ride, had a tour of the potato shed and tried to spot some birds along the way! Outdoor learning is the best!



Grade Five Trip to Sugar Bay – Mrs Sandi Strudwick writes:

It is the trip that all grade 5s dream of. With the conflicted start to our academic year and much anticipation we finally got the go ahead to visit Sugar Bay. The excitement was electric!

What more could a group of 11year olds wish for...four days of beach, sun and fun.



A time to be free and cement new friendships. Sugar Bay offers the most incredible array of activities to satisfy the pallet of busy children. Four days is not long enough when you are having so much fun. Before we knew it we had to pack up and say goodbye. Our trip home was a contrast to the journey 4days earlier. Exhausted, sun-kissed children led to a sleepy and silent bus ride home.

