



03 August 2018

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HEADMASTER'S WINTER REPORT

Dear Parents

We have once again reached the end of another very busy and enjoyable term. We have certainly enjoyed the numerous special events that characterise our Winter Term.

One of my personal favourites is our School Birthday and Reading Week. This is a wonderful combination of learning and celebration!! Our children are privileged to be part of a Reading Week brimful of a wide spectrum of activities that truly enhance their understanding and love of reading. 'Hooked on Books' presented a dramatisation of five books which can now be found in our library!!

This was coupled with a wonderful celebration of our 52nd birthday which ended our Reading Week activities. Candles on our special birthday cake were lit and our children demonstrated just how much fun their Reading Week was with a fantastic presentation of various aspects of their week's activities.

Our Cupcake-Along was again a delicious success!!! We saw a wide variety of creative and artistic decorations to present the judges with the very difficult task of deciding winners from the various classes!!

The Senior Team, Governing Board, parent and teacher representatives attended a Strategic Planning Meeting during May which enabled those present to envisage a desired future and to translate this vision into broadly defined goals or objectives and the sequence of steps required to achieve these. Dr Felicity Coughlan, Director, The Independent Institute of Education and the Group Academic Director – ADvTECH, conducted this meeting and was able to direct us to formulate our strategic focus for the remainder of 2018 and beyond.

Parents are reminded to please settle all outstanding fees before the end of the term. Parents are also reminded of their contractual obligations to provide the School with a term's notice for the withdrawal of a child from Japari School. If your child is leaving at the end of this academic year (Grades R – 6), please inform us within the first week of September.

Last year at this time we began the term with our IQAA Evaluation. This term we end with an Umalusi Evaluation. Umalusi is a Nguni word that means shepherd or guardian of the family belongings, resources and valuables. Umalusi checks that a school is aligned with the requirements of Umalusi's high standard of quality education in South Africa

A team of three Umalusi representatives visited Japari on 31 July. Umalusi's evaluation of the school is extremely thorough and covers all areas of a school's operation. The first phase of this evaluation takes the form of a detailed list of required evidence including staff qualifications and SACE accreditation, registration, health and safety

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certificates, fire and electrical compliance, first aid, meeting minutes, policies, audited financial statements etc. to be uploaded onto their website. The second phase is a site verification visit which focuses on:

- The extent to which the school is monitoring, evaluating or reviewing its key policies and procedures/processes
- The extent to which the school is using its monitoring and evaluation findings to facilitate the requisite ongoing school improvement

Their visit also included class visits, focus groups of teachers, pupils and a physical inspection of school premises and facilities.

Parents will be pleased to hear that the Umalusi representatives were very complimentary about our school, teachers and children!!! They complimented our staff on their dedication and commitment and on our children's good behaviour. They also commented on the "warmth" they felt on entering our school.

Well done Japari!!!

We welcome both IQAA and Umalusi evaluations as we continually seek to strengthen the quality of our programmes and improve the outcomes for all our children.

It remains for me to once again thank the superb Japari Team for all their hard work and commitment to Japari School, and to wish all members of the Japari Family a well-deserved and happy holiday!!

Regards

**Steve Rees
Headmaster**

***School re-opens on Tuesday 04 September for all pupils.
Staff will be at school on Monday morning, 03 September.***