



31 July 2020

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HEADMASTER'S WINTER REPORT

Dear Parents

As we turn the page on our very unusual Winter Term of 2020, it is time for us to look back at all the achievements this term. Despite the many challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused for us, we have so much to be grateful for and celebrate this term.

As the ship begins to stabilise in the previously uncharted waters of lockdown, mandated distance learning for thousands of parents, children and teachers, a silver lining has presented itself in the opportunity for a renewed working relationship between us all. What the experience of the recent past has shown us, is that there is much strength and value to be found in the development of a cooperative trust relationship.

Today, the famous quote by leading global education policy expert, Judith Billings, could not be more true: Children are the priority. Change is the reality. Collaboration is the strategy.

Our wonderful staff team, were able to re-position their planned approach to teaching at very short notice. They had to learn and embrace technology. Many parents too, had to learn new technical skills, to assist their children. We could look at this integration of technologies into family life in a positive light, in that the use of these technologies at home necessitates a new level of literacy for everyone. Our school IQ around all things virtual learning has skyrocketed and has better positioned us for future situations. Because we do not know the trajectory of our current challenge, Covid-19 which could be defeated in months, or in years' time, we have to be prepared and ready to build the independence of our children and the resilience of our teaching models in this fast-changing and unpredictable world.

Our parents this term have also been fantastic. During the initial and extended lockdown period, our parents were tasked with overseeing and assisting their children's completion of their set work. This presented a challenge as some parents had to balance the role of teacher while juggling their own jobs and family responsibilities. In addition, our parents have been so patient and understanding in the extra time taken when dropping off and collecting their children, to ensure we maintain our stringent health protocols. Thank you Mom and Dad for everything you have done to support your children during this very difficult and uncertain time.

Last, but certainly, not least, **our incredible children**, have been able to adapt and thrive in their new school environment. Our children returned to school, starting with our Grade 7s on 02 June and from 08 June the rest of the grades, and have shown a remarkable sense of flexibility and responsibility in the adherence to all the new rules and regulations required to attend school. Their school day is far from being normal, due to the regular screenings, sanitising of hands and maintaining social distancing both in and outside the classroom. I wonder what the later-in-life lessons of this crisis will be for our children? I am sure these will include resilience, awareness, kindness and hopefully compassion. Our children will, through their experiences of the pandemic, add some tools to their emotional toolbox and begin to see themselves as capable of overcoming obstacles.

We thank our parents who have continued to pay their school fees timeously. Please note that all outstanding school fees need to be settled by 31 August 2020.

It remains for me to once again thank all members of our incredible Japari Family, and wish you a safe, healthy and well-deserved holiday. Japari School will close on Friday, 31 July and will re-open on Tuesday, 01 September. It is our wish that our final Spring Term of 2020, will be one where we can once again enjoy the times and events as depicted in our collage photos below.

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"I wish it need not have happened in my time", said Frodo.
"So do I" said Gandalf "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us".

J.R.R Tolkien

Regards

**Steve Rees
Headmaster**



School re-opens on Tuesday 01 September.