



**ST ANDREW'S PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL**

2 December 2011

Dear Prep parents,

Another year has come and gone and when one takes the time to reflect on past events, it is quite honestly astounding at how much we have managed to pack into 2011! To place things into perspective we have recently had a new member of staff, along with his family, join us from Kwa-Zulu Natal. As is the norm we ensured that he settled in and subsequently invited him for a rare game of golf one Friday afternoon. While enjoying a cool beverage afterwards a present staff member was heard to say, "Kiss your wife and children goodbye boet, the next time that you are going to see them is after final assembly!" Passing James Cripps in the corridor the other day he turned to me and said, "Geez, you guys weren't joking, were you?" The beauty of the statement, however, was the smile on his face when he said it. It would be impossible for me to list just what we have undertaken as a school this year and if I tried I would, without fail, leave something or somebody out. Needless to say, Prep has been busy!

Commitment to the hilt! From the staff, from the pupils, and in many cases from the parents, has been the order of the day. A school this busy simply could not survive without the tremendous team effort that goes into the daily programme – 24/7. I thank you all for what each and every one of you does for our school. Often in the background, often without fuss or fanfare, but always in the true spirit of Prep. It does not go unnoticed. Thank you!

A special word of thanks to our moms. Having become the proud father to a third child this year, I have once again realised that a mom is, well....a multi-talented, multi-faceted, strategic planning, problem solving, multi-tasking 'machine'. A wonderful definition of a mom that I came across goes as follows, "Mothers weave a fabric through their children's lives that keeps the world safe, that helps make sense of things and that keeps things on track." It is here that I would like to pause and publicly thank my wife, Judy, for her unwavering support and love.

On the staff front, we bid farewell to Graham Gooden and to Angie Southey, we welcomed James Cripps and his family, Nicky Rosslee joined us to teach Grade 5, Anusha Ranchhod joined us on the administrative side and, this term, Elaine Clarke stepped in for Mandy Jackson. Inevitably we also bid farewell to several staff at the end of the year. Nicky and Elaine move to our sister school down the road, Daniel Hutchinson is re-locating to Kwa-Zulu Natal, David Glover leaves us, as does Hilton Borerwe. Four of our stooges, Craig Sharratt, Justin Green, Simon Pheasant and Natasha Pretorius also leave as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. We thank them and wish them all well in their new endeavours.

At around 10:30 on Tuesday 6 December the school will, once again, become eerily quiet. I am always amazed at the transformation of the campus once the pupils have left. As teachers we do look forward to our time with our families but for me there is loneliness, and almost sadness, in the empty classrooms, corridors, play grounds and dormitories. The hustle and bustle of daily life at school, on pause. Bricks and mortar, windows and roofs, without life. Philosophical? No. Just a reminder that we are truly blessed in this profession to work with the amazing children that we have at Prep.

I would like to end with a poem, written by Diane Loomans;

**If I Had My Child To Raise Over Again**

If I had my child to raise over again  
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.  
I'd finger-paint more, and point the finger less.  
I would do less correcting and more connecting.  
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.  
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.  
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.  
I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.  
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.

I hope that you have a wonderful break and enjoy this special time with your families. The season of giving has arrived. Again, thank you all for your support. God bless.

'Till we meet again

Marc