



Seatides Combined School

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NEWSLETTER 2020

For nearly all of us, the year 2020 is one we want to quickly erase from our memories. Covid-19 has really rocked the foundations of our existence, having its impact on all aspects of our life on Earth. Institutions of learning have not escaped the danger wrought by this fatal pandemic.

One such impact is the absence of our annual newsletter as a result of the removal of all extra-curricular activities. This year, an abbreviated version is available for your reading.

The 'shut-down' of the economy and all forms of activity during 'hard lockdown' had its impact on everyone's life and livelihoods.

The return to school after the 'hard lockdown' saw numerous changes taking place at school.

Firstly, the division of each class into 2 groups, then the process of screening on arrival daily and social distancing was adhered to strictly to ensure the safety of learners and educators alike.

Further, as a national policy, masks had to be worn on entry to school and this needed to be on for the entire school day. Teaching and learning, as we knew it, had changed considerably. There were no parent/teacher consults, and visitors were not permitted to enter the school premises.

Despite all of these challenges, we have come through these relatively unscathed.

Thus far, there is no indication that the start of 2021 is going to be any different. All safety protocols, as they are presently, will continue to be followed.

Grade 12 learners have had it far worse than others. To add to their woes, the matric results will only be released on February 22, 2021 and will be available for matriculants at school on the next day, February 23.

Despite the challenges, we at Seatides Combined School wish all an exciting, joyous, but safe holiday and festive season.

Obituary: Special thoughts and prayers are extended to the family of Danae Murugan (Grade 12 B) who passed on earlier this year, on 20th February 2020. May her beautiful soul rest in eternal peace.

Message from the Principal – Mr K. Govender

Contradictions, upon contradictions. This year will be the year that started off with great expectations, given the 2020 vision we come to speak of. It will end as the year we could not wait to come to an end. It will be the year we will want to forget but it will be the year that we will remember for a long time to come.

"The biggest difference between money and time: you always know how much money you have, but you never know how much time you have ". Whatever the situation in life, make the most of it. We are living in a new normal and we need to get to grips with it. Survival requires that we adapt quickly. We cannot and must not make it an excuse for any of our failings. Life will go on.

Parents, please ensure that you drill the safety requirements in your children. Even when you are not present, your children must be taught to practice the Covid protocols religiously.

Learners need to work independently when rotation of classes occur when school re-opens. Learners must be disciplined to continue with school work and study as if they are in class. That dedication will ensure success in education.

I want to thank all our dedicated staff for their commitment during a very difficult year. The cleaning staff also contributed greatly to our safety, thank you to them as well. My sincere thanks to all my SMT members for working together with me as a team in bringing this very challenging year to fruition.

To all parents and members of the SGB, a big THANK YOU for your co-operation and patience.

A peaceful, safe and happy Christmas. May the new year bring us good fortunes.

God bless us all.

Message from the SGB Chairperson – Mr R. Perumal

The 2020 school calendar year has been the most challenging that I could ever remember. The year started off with so much promise and the school was ready for the challenges ... but then we were gripped with fear and uncertainty with the pandemic of COVID and this sent education into a tailspin. This brought challenges we were not used to and plunged the school into unknown territory. We navigated the year and carefully put in measures that allowed us to overcome with small steps.

Well done to the School Management Team, staff, pupils and you parents that dug in and assisted - and today, we have a completed year.

As human beings, we are set for another big year with the pandemic still waving its vicious attack on the world. But we HOPE we see people come together and work to a common goal for our children. While 2021 is still an unknown for the education department and our school, I urge all to stay focussed to assist the school and our children to make the year successful and combat the challenges. I call for a combined effort from all stakeholders and I promise we will have the best year despite the challenges.

Ricky Perumal
SGB Chairperson

Lest we forget:

With the various Covid-19 protocols in respect of Health & Safety, the school has been relatively relaxed in respect of the hairstyles and attire for both male and female learners since our return to school.

However, Parents/Guardians/Learners need to make certain that learners arriving at school next year must conform with the school's Code of Conduct.

Following is an **abbreviated list of the code of conduct:**

A: SCHOOL UNIFORM

1. School blazers/Jerseys
2. Black/Navy Blue blazers (not compulsory owing to cost)
3. Plain black/navy blue jersey ("V" Neck). No coloured jackets or jerseys are permitted.

B. ATTIRE:

Girls : Navy blue skirt (below knee length) please note that no alterations should be made to the length of the skirt.

Boys : Regular school grey pants. No broad or skinny bottoms allowed. No narrowing of pants.

PE outfit for boys/girls: takkies only allowed during LO / Sports activity period / training sessions.

C. GENERAL APPEARANCE:

1. Extensions: **only straight black** (shoulder length) and straight up allowed (**Note NOT bigger than 3mm**)
2. **No hair trends** set by 'Pop Stars', TV/Sport Personalities or film-stars.
3. No beanies/caps/hats.
4. Hair should always be neatly combed/brushed and free of nits and lice.
5. **Fingernails:** Nails on both hands must always be **short, clean and unvarnished**.

LEARNERS NOT COMPLYING WITH THE ABOVE MAY BE SENT HOME AND ONLY RETURN ONCE ANY MISDEMEANOR HAS BEEN CORRECTED.

FOR A FULL COPY OF THE SCHOOL'S CODE OF CONDUCT, PLEASE CONSULY THE SCHOOLS WEBSITE OR D6.

Kids Right to Good Sight



Since 2008, **Spec-Savers** have helped over 300 000 children through our Kids Right to Good Sight initiative. With parents' permission, we offer a free eye examination, pair of frames and clear lenses for children aged 6 to 12 years to dramatically improve their lives.

We believe in the future leaders of our nation and the Kids Right To Good Sight initiative is our pledge as a brand to making a lasting difference in the lives of young children. Detecting vision impairment at such an early stage, has a lasting impact on any child.

Terms & Conditions

- This offer is subject to change.
- Children aged 6 to 12 years qualify for a free eye test.
- In order for a child to qualify for the free frame and lenses their spectacle prescription will need to meet the qualifying criteria.
- The free frame can be chosen from a selected kiddies range up to an orange sticker, if a more expensive frame is chosen then a discount of R699 will apply on the selected frame.
- The free lenses will comprise of clear polymer single vision lenses with a scratch resistant coating, any other lens enhancements will carry additional charges.

- A valid South African Identity Number for each child is encouraged which can be found on the child's birth certificate.
- The eye examination is subject to appointment availability (so please book early) and can be performed on a yearly bases.
- Please note: Our optometrists can only accommodate a limited number of kids per day per store.
- E&OE.



Please note that school re-opens for educators on Monday, January 25th and for learners on January 27th 2021.

However, it is expected that the current Covid-19 protocols in respect of learner attendance is expected to continue. In other words, only 50% of the learners are expected to attend school on any given day. This is similar to what transpired this year [2020].

You will be notified of the grades, groups and dates of learner return before the expected return to school next year.

Have a safe and blessed holiday and festive season.