



Dear ACSI Family!

**Please see the latest edition of
From The Director's Desk**

013 ACSI From The Director's Desk | **18th April 2024**

Dear Principals

Principal Appraisal

Last week I had the great pleasure of joining our Western Cape ACSI schools at a very special gathering held at the beautiful Family Tree Leadership Academy in Paarl. Hosted by our gracious hosts at the school, and by ACSI Western Cape Provincial Coordinator, Erith Budge, the day was a fruitful time of fellowship and of learning. The focus of Erith's excellent presentation was on staff appraisals, and I had the opportunity later to speak about the ACSI Principal Appraisal tool, from which a number of our schools have benefitted over recent years. Should you wish to find out more about the ACSI Principal Appraisal, please contact Nicole at nicole_thomas@acsi.org.

SUBSIDIES IN GAUTENG

This past week, the Gauteng Joint Liaison Committee, on which ACSI is represented, met with the Gauteng Education Department. These discussions formed part of what is known as the Independent Schools Stakeholders Forum, which meets regularly during the year. The meeting was called urgently to discuss a dramatic reduction in subsidies which will be paid to Gauteng schools in 2024. A more detailed summary of the meeting will be sent to our Gauteng schools, but I felt that it was important for all our schools to be made aware of the situation, which may well play itself out in other provinces.

In short, the Gauteng Education Department has a shortfall of R302 million (out of a budgeted amount of just over R1 billion), and as such will be implementing a reduction of 23% to the PAEPL (Provincial Average Estimate Per Learner) for those schools which receive subsidies. We will continue to engage with the PED regarding this issue, as we know the catastrophic impact that it will have for many of our schools which rely heavily on subsidies.

PRAYER HOUR, TUESDAY 23RD APRIL

As our country moves ever closer to the national elections, we are probably all aware of the potential for disruption and intolerance. Daily we hear potential candidates using negative language towards their opponents, as they look for ways to divide, rather than to unify our nation. Sometimes it seems as if hope for a better future is in short supply.

However, as Christians we serve a God of hope. We are reminded that God longs to fill us "with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

We invite you to join us for the online ACSI Prayer Meeting to be held at 2pm on Tuesday 23rd April. We will be praying specifically for the South African elections, although we welcome any individual prayer requests.

Kindly register in advance for the prayer meeting, which will help us to plan the event. The link to register is [here](#).

ASCENSION DAY

In the past, Ascension Day was a public holiday here in South Africa. As such, it was given the attention it deserves, while prompting us to remember that momentous event when Jesus returned to his Father. It is also an important day in that we are reminded of the Great Commission with which Jesus left us – to make disciples of all nations. What a blessing we have, therefore, in the mission field of education, in that we get to disciple God's precious children each day.

This year, Ascension Day is on Thursday 9th May and we'd love to hear what your school gets up to on that day. If you'd like some ideas of how to celebrate Ascension Day, we have a few [here](#). And then please remember to send us photos and videos of your activities, for us to share on social media and in the *Ignite*.

NEW SERVICE PROVIDERS

FaceUp Technologies

FaceUp is a safe and anonymous reporting platform that enables students and parents to instantly report sensitive issues to the responsible school authorities and continue interacting until the problem is resolved. FaceUp takes only 10 minutes to implement and comes with a customised app and 24/7 hotline for every partner school.

The organisation was initially started to combat bullying; however, FaceUp now helps schools to deal with a variety of issues such as harassment, school environmental issues, learning/academic as well as general feedback which facilitates a holistic school, student and parent relationship.

Edify – Building the Soul

EDIFY was established by Madz Deyzel, founder of Grace Counselling, in 2019. The organisation seeks to partner with local churches and schools to offer hope to communities struggling with mental health needs and to offer Pastoral Care training and tools for emotional and spiritual well-being. Madz has a BA Hons degree in Theology and Counselling through Brunel University UK and London School of Theology.

RESOURCES

SAOU Free Webinar - SACE CPTD Orientation on Tuesday, 23rd April 2024 at 14h30

All educators are welcome to attend this free training session on SACE CPTD Recording and Reporting. [Click here](#) to register.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Events in April:

- **KZN Central Teacher Conference**, Saturday, 20th April 2024.
- **Prayer Hour**, Tuesday, 23rd April 2024. [Click here](#) to register.

Events in May:

- **Limpopo Principal Meeting**, Wednesday, 8th May 2024. [Click here](#) to register by close of business 2nd May 2024.
- **Limpopo Teacher Conference**, Saturday, 11th May 2024. [Click here](#) to register by close of business 3rd May 2024.
- **Gauteng Principal Meeting**, Tuesday, 21st May 2024. [Click here](#) to register by close of business 14th May 2024.
- **Gauteng Teacher Conference**, Saturday, 25th May 2024. [Click here](#) to register by close of business 17th May 2024.
- **National Principal Conference, *Encouraging Faith***, 30th May – 1st June 2024. Contact nicole_thomas@acsi.org with any questions.

“And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19

God Bless

Neil Malherbe
ACSI Director