



015 ACSI From The Director's Desk | **2nd May 2024**

Dear Principals

It is always gratifying to receive feedback after one of the 'From the Director's Desk' newsletters has gone out – at least then I also know that somebody is reading it and it's not simply vanishing into the digital void! As such, I was touched to receive the following email, which reminded me of the power of our words, and how we need to use them selectively and with sensitivity. Sylvia Hamilton, of Khethani Christian School, wrote the following:

May I kindly make a little comment on the wording of the last edition, fully aware that you quoted someone else:

The following comes from Tom Miles: "As a social entrepreneur, I partner with My Walk, a non-profit organisation which manufactures school shoes for underprivileged children."

For the last 22 years my home has been in Ingwavuma, a deep rural community in northern KZN. The longer I live here, the more my heart pains if I see the term "underprivileged" used.

I know it is a very widely used term, often in politics and people with urban and wealthy backgrounds. But I think it does two things:

It feels like a top-down approach: I have everything – you have nothing; I have all the high privileges – you are below that.

It reemphasises a "victim mentality", and takes away the power to change my own situation. I give you – you need to take it with gratitude.

I live in a community with a lot of financial/material poverty. But I also live in a community with an enormous wealth of love, care, understanding – massive amounts of perseverance, resilience and being able to deal with hardship – huge amounts of faith in a God who cares and loves.

Thank you, Sylvia, for reminding us that the words we use hold within them so much more than the letters which constitute them. May we all use them with gentleness and understanding, especially in this country of ours which so desperately needs the balm of healing.

ROUNDTABLE EVENT - RE:STORYING EDUCATION

We would like to promote the 'Love Our City' initiative, which is an outreach of the New Covenant Church Bryanston. Specifically, I would encourage you to consider attending their upcoming conference, Re:Storying Education. It will be a roundtable event aimed at forging meaningful connections and fostering collaboration amongst public and private education leaders and businesspeople. The focus will be on providing a platform for problem-solving and collectively envisioning a new narrative for education in South Africa. This inaugural event is being held on Tuesday, 4th June 2024 at New Covenant Church Bryanston, Gauteng, and the speaker is Professor Jonathan Jansen. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT LEVY

NAISA recently hosted an online meeting with the ETDP SETA regarding the processes which schools are supposed to be part of, both in the paying of their skills development levy and the subsequent disbursement of funds for bursaries and skills development programmes. Unfortunately, the online meeting only served to muddy the waters, with most of the time being spent showing those who attended how to complete their registration online.

A few schools reached out to me afterwards for an explanation of the whole skills development levy process. It is clearly outlined on the SARS website [here](#). A question was also raised regarding whether a PBO needs to pay the skills development levy, and as may be seen on the link, a PBO does not have to pay the levy. This only applies to PBOs and not NPOs or NPCs.

The amount received from the skills development levy paid in by all schools is then allocated to the ETDP SETA, which disburses it through the nine associations represented on NAISA, of which ACSI is one. Individual schools do not, thus, receive funding directly from the ETDP SETA but rather via the associations to which they belong.

In a nutshell, therefore, schools are required to pay the skills development levy, and to appoint a skills development facilitator (which may be the principal). Only by contributing to this can they expect to receive the benefits of funding from the ETDP SETA. To register your school's skills development facilitator, click [here](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENTATION

This week, Jacaranda FM presenter, Martin Bester, interviewed social media law expert, Emma Sadleir. I thought that you might find the interview both enlightening and frightening. It's definitely worth a listen [here](#).

POLICIES

As part of our ongoing policy support to schools, we continue to improve and update the policies on our website. **Four** policies have been updated on the website since the last update notice.

- Administration, Harassment: Sexual Offences Act and Reporting Guideline 2024 – [Click here to view.](#)
- ECD: ECD Language Development Guideline 2024 (NEW) – [Click here to view.](#)
- Learners, Learner Support: Pastoral Care Support and Counselling Guideline 2024 – [Click here to view.](#)
- Sport and School activities: Drug Free Sport Guideline 2024 – [Click here to view.](#)

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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