



Dear ACSI Family!

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

016 ACSI From The Director's Desk | **9th May 2024**

Dear Principals

A blessed Ascension Day to you, your family and your school. May you know the deep peace which comes with walking alongside the risen Christ, as you honour him in your life and as you come to know his love for you in ever greater measure each day.

On Sunday afternoon I went for a walk. The air was warm and lazy, typical of this time of year on the highveld. The carpet of leaves along the road crunched underfoot and their dusty dryness hung in the air. Over the past few weeks, I've been watching a trio of trees in my neighbour's garden turning from their summery greens into every vivid shade of red, gold and yellow and now their leaves lie brightly strewn along the sidewalk – a sight to behold, each leaf perfect in its autumn tones.

Socrates once wrote that "Wonder is the beginning of wisdom." And yet how easy it is to become so swept up in the events of each day that we fail to notice the Eden which God created for us. We lose our sense of wonder. Our senses have become dulled to the beauty all around us.

My prayer for each of us – today – is to become captivated again by the creativity and extravagance of the God we love. Notice the tiniest details around you, take time to breathe in the autumn breezes, listen to the layers of birds singing praises to their Creator. Let child-like wonder and praise inhabit at least part of your day, even in the midst of everything else that seems so, so important.

ECE TOOLKIT

There has been considerable concern raised in the media about the ECE Toolkit, which the DBE is proposing for implementation in early childhood education in public schools. The toolkit deals with gender and how strategies should be introduced by teachers in ECD centres to promote gender inclusivity. The toolkit was discussed at length at a meeting called by NAISA last week, and our collective concerns have been relayed to the DBE, with the expectation that plenty of consultation will still take place before it is imposed on schools – if at all, as we anticipate plenty of push-back from teachers in public schools. At this stage, there is no indication that independent schools will be required to make use of the toolkit; however, we remain vigilant and will continue to argue for the rights of Christian (and other faith-based) independent schools to make use of content which is consistent with our beliefs.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Service Provider Category: Student Services

Schools are constantly looking for ways to grow, build and strengthen their student leaders and learners. Our ACSI gap year and camping partners have outstanding facilities, and they offer a wide variety of skill development programmes to activate learners' potential and develop leadership abilities. Learn more about our Student Services providers [here](#).

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Events in May:

- **Limpopo Teacher Conference**, Saturday, 11th 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