



Dear ACSI Family!

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

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Dear Principals

Welcome back from what I trust was a relaxing, enjoyable time with family and friends. Our three-term schools have also just had a mid-term break, and I hope that this was a happy time to catch your breath before the final push towards the end of the term. May the coming months be really good for you, your family and your school community.

We look forward to connecting with you at the several teacher conferences and principal meetings coming up this term. Please see below for the dates and ensure that you register your school before the closing date. This year we have had fantastic numbers of teachers and leaders at the various conferences we have hosted, and we hope that this will be the case for the upcoming events. The range of speakers has been truly inspirational and has left those attending with much to ponder.

Take this word of encouragement to heart as you start out on a new term, for our God is faithful and true to his promises: *The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.* (Deuteronomy 31:8)

ZIMBABWEAN EXEMPTION PERMITS

The ongoing saga of the ZEPs took another turn recently in the Constitutional Court, which will be of interest to those of our schools which employ Zimbabweans. See below for a summary of the outcome:

The Minister of Home Affairs' appeal to the Constitutional Court against the High Court judgment last year which declared the scrapping of the ZEPs procedurally unfair, was decided on 18 June 2024 and was unsuccessful. This means that the Minister must comply with the High Court's order, i.e. that a fair consultation process with all stakeholders must first be followed before a further decision on ZEPs can be made. The initial extension period lapsed at the end of June 2024, but a further extension during which existing ZEPs will remain valid, is in place until 29 November 2025. ZEP holders should still obtain alternative visas as soon as practicably possible, and apply for waiver applications where this is required prior to applying for a general work visa. (Courtesy Griessel Consulting).

NAISA REGIONAL CONFERENCES

The National Alliance of Independent Schools (NAISA) is a formal alliance of independent school associations in South Africa, on which I represent ACSI. NAISA will be hosting three regional conferences this year, at which the following topics, among others, will be discussed:

- **ECD transition**
- **Rights and responsibilities of independent schools**
- **Legislation governing independent schools**
- **Subsidy policies and legislation**

It is hoped that in the future more such conferences will be held around the country and plans are also underway for a national conference to be held in 2025.

All independent school principals are invited to attend, along with JLC members from the respective provinces. The meetings will be from **10h00 to 13h00** and venues will be confirmed.

For now, **save the dates:**

- **KwaZulu-Natal: Monday 26th August**
- **Western Cape: Tuesday 27th August**
- **Gauteng: Thursday 29th August**

PRAYER HOUR

Colossians 4:2 - Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

What an eventful couple of months it has been since our last prayer time. We thank the Lord for holidays, and praise Him for answered prayer as our nation experienced peaceful elections. As we look ahead to the second half of the year, let us remain prayerful, thanking Him for His goodness to us and seeking His wisdom, provision and protection through the trials and temptations we will surely face.

We invite you to join us at the online ACSI Prayer Meeting to be held at 2pm on Tuesday 23rd July. Kindly register [here](#) for the prayer meeting

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Events in July:

- **Eastern Cape – Nelson Mandela Bay Teacher Conference**, Saturday, 13th July 2024.
- **Eastern Cape – East London Principal Meeting**, Wednesday, 17th July 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 10th July 2024.
- **Eastern Cape – East London Teacher Conference**, Saturday, 20th July 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 12th July 2024.
- **ACSI Prayer Hour**, Tuesday, 23rd July 2024 from 14h00-15h00. [Click here](#) to register.
- **Western Cape Principal Meeting**, Wednesday, 31st July 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 25th July 2024.

Events in August:

- **Western Cape Teacher Conference**, Saturday, 3rd August 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 26th July 2024.
- **KwaZulu-Natal North Principal Meeting**, Tuesday, 13th August 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 7th August 2024.
- **Mpumalanga Principal Meeting**, Tuesday, 13th August 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 2nd August 2024.
- **KwaZulu-Natal North Teacher Conference**, Saturday, 17th August 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 9th August 2024.

- **Discussion Forum: School Finance**, Wednesday, 21 August. **Save the date.**
- **NW-Brits Principal Meeting**, Tuesday, 27th August 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 21st August 2024.
- **Free State Principal Meeting**, Wednesday, 28th August 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 21st August 2024.
- **NW-Brits Teacher Conference**, Saturday, 31st August 2024. [Click here](#) to register by 23rd August 2024.

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

God Bless

Neil Malherbe

ACSI Director