

**Brücken bauen...**

30 Years – School of Encounter

Bildung baut Brücken



**...im Gespräch**

## **Zeiten des Wandels**

**Umbruch in Deutschland & Südafrika – 30 Jahre Begegnungsschule**

Dr. Martin Schäfer & Prof. Dr. Philipp Gassert

**25. April 2019**

12:45 Uhr im Snyckers Medienraum



### **INVITATION**

In memory of the “years of change” in South Africa, Germany and the DSP 30 years ago, the DSP compiles a year program as “year of encounter 2019/2020”.

As a “teaser”, we cordially invite you to the above mentioned public discussion.

Guests, amongst others, will be the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Pretoria Dr. Martin Schäfer, as well as Prof. Philipp Gassert, Professor for Contemporary History at the University in Mannheim.

Invited are all learners of the grades 10 to 12 as well as teachers and parents of the DSP.

The discussion will be in German. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Matthias Leeflang

NSek-Koordinator der DSP

## **Historical Background**

On 9 November 1989 the Berlin Wall fell and led the way to the process of reunification of Germany on 3rd October. 30 years ago, this event became a symbol for the end of the Cold War, the breakdown of the Soviet Union and the end of the bipolar world system.

In South Africa there was a transformation process going on at the very same time.

On 15 August 1989 Frederic W. de Klerk was appointed South African president. He opened a dialog with the ANC and announced the end of the Apartheid system. After some negotiations Nelson Mandela was released on 11 Feb 1990 after 27 years in prison. This day became symbol of the political transformation process that led to democratic elections and a new democratic constitution of South Africa.

## **Introduction of the NSek branch (Teilzweig) 1989/1990**

At the very same time, the German schools in southern Africa decided to open the doors to enrol learners from the nearby townships. A branch with English as medium of instruction was introduced, after receiving a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Germany, that the costs would be fully covered.

Thereafter the relationships with the primary schools in the townships were consolidated and a preparation course (like today's Saturday school) was implemented to select talented learners. In Johannesburg the first class was enrolled 1989. In Pretoria it was in 1990 when the first 6c (grade 8) was enrolled.

From this time the German Schools are recognized as **Begegnungsschulen** (schools of encounter).

In 2019, we are aware, that the process of reuniting the nation in Germany is still not finalized after 30 years. The process of reconciliation in South Africa might even last for generations to come.

With this in mind, we have to consider the success of the DSP, being a school of encounter. Outreach takes place in a kind of micro cosmos at the DSP. Black and white, rich and poor, Germans and South Africans. And even more, it's not only the different aspects at the same time, but also a combination of those in an extreme manifestation.

The school community accepted the challenge for outreach and reconciliation and achieves remarkable results to support the transformation process in South Africa!