

NEWS@DSP



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Dear DSP School Community,

A new decade, a new school year and some new and unexpected challenges presented themselves as this first term of 2020 unfolded. News@DSP gives a round-up of the highlights we celebrated and the hurdles we are managing in the best interest of our school community.

We hope they will follow in the footsteps of the “Abitrics” who achieved 59 distinctions as well as 103 B-symbols and 131 C-symbols. 90% of these learners passed with admission to study for a Bachelor’s degree. Our top achiever, Kimberley Taku, who aced eight distinctions belongs to the Top 1% of all IEB candidates.

We also welcomed our new Grade 5c class and several other new learners and their families during the first term. On the pedagogical side 11 new teachers joined the staff complement: Welcome to Mr Chidarura (EGD, Mathematics), Mr Pali (Music), Mr Bredenkamp (Afrikaans and Mathematics), Ms Philips (Biology) as well as Ms Kuster, Ms Peters, Ms Dlongolo and Ms Nebel in the Primary School. New teachers from Germany include Ms Müller-Sonder (Biology, Mathematics), who also heads up the New Secondary School, Ms Schlüter (German, History) and Ms Keller (Chemistry, English and German as Foreign Language). On the administrative side Mr Grüne also joined the DSP as Head of Operations.

Class of 2019 TOP ACHIEVER



In January we congratulated our Class of 2019 who successfully completed their school journey with a 100% pass rate and welcomed our excited Class of 2021 during their special enrolment ceremony. Each of the 39 new Grade 1 learners held their traditional “Zuckertüte” with anticipation and pride to mark the first day of their school career.



On two occasions during this term we had the opportunity to strengthen our German-French relationship. Firstly we had the honour of welcoming the French Ambassador, H.E. Aurélien Lechevallier, who visited us as part of the #AmbassadorSwap with German Ambassador Dr. Martin Schäfer, to celebrate our #FrancoGermanFriendship. Secondly, we fostered our relationship with the French Internationale School Lycée Jules Verne during a Robotics exchange which included building, coding, programming and getting to know each other while exploring Robotics together.



On an annual basis the Board of Trustees of the Neitz Foundation award scholarships to deserving learners. This year Lerato Smith and Tom Schulz received this honour based on their academic achievement, their diligence, but also their commitment to the class and school community, as well as their character and social behaviour. We are very happy for Lerato and Tom and thank the foundation for the ongoing generous support.



As part of our Outreach Programme's "Value for Life" initiative, learners from three of our partner schools – Mogale Primary School, F.F Ribeiro Primary School and Sikhanyisele Primary School – have received swimming lessons at the DSP. A word of thanks to our interns and Weltwärts volunteers who actively helped and supported this initiative.

Whilst on the topic of swimming we congratulate our High School team which has deservedly won the Tshwane C-League and moved up to the B-League.

In February our Career Week took place under the motto: "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." – Confucius

With 19,000 German and 1,400 English degree courses in Germany, the world is open to our learners. This fact and other useful information were shared by our guest speakers from the University of Pretoria, IMM Graduate School, International Education Link as well as the German Embassy and DAAD at the Career Week. Learners also explored the careers for the future in a workshop with their teachers.



In our endeavour to best see to our learners needs we were able to restructure support lessons. The focus is on small group support. There is now the opportunity to receive support in German, English, Afrikaans, French and Mathematics. As the support lessons are held in parallel, the division into groups was decided by the teachers but also took requests from the parents into accounts.

At our school worlds truly converge through one language. Click to read a testimonial by Lerato Smith and Julia Wagner on their experience at the DSP:

<https://www.dspretoria.co.za/two-worlds-converge-through-one-language/>



On a bi-annual basis the German Schools in Southern Africa compete in a prestigious Sports Olympiad which include Athletics, Basketball, Handball, Soccer, Swimming and Volleyball. This sporting tradition was scheduled to take place in Johannesburg from 21 – 27 March for the 18th time.



Due to the unforeseen onset of COVID-19 the event was cancelled in the interest of the health of our learners, coaches and supporters. We salute our 48 strong team who trained tirelessly for many months under the guidance of our dedicated trainers. We also wish to thank our generous sponsors Autohaus Centurion, e-thele, myVentures and Swakop Electrical for their loyal support to our athletes.

Several other school events, class trips and activities, among which annual general meeting of the Deutscher Schulverein Pretoria, are affected by the current situation and the School Management as well as the Governing Body are working on rescheduling events where necessary and possible.



Other than the learning material provided by the school during this time, remember that the school has a designated link to the Encyclopedia Britannica which learners can access and brush up on some general knowledge. Click here:

<https://school.eb.co.uk/storeschoolcard?id=dspretoria>

In closing we embrace the stance of Dr Martin Schäfer, German Ambassador to South Africa, on the matter of COVID-19: "Let's work together to fight the pandemic! We stand in solidarity."

It is our sincere wish that you may enjoy the upcoming holiday and that the distance we are necessitated to keep right now will enable us to shake hands again in the near future.

Important dates in the 2. Term

14 April First day of school (tbc)

12 June Last day of school (tbc)

All events for the upcoming term have been put on hold until further notice.

As our enrolment numbers in our English Branch in the Primary School are limited we would like to remind current DSP parents who wish to enrol a sibling, to apply no later than **30 April 2020** to avoid disappointment.

Not only the health but also the safety of our learners is a top priority at the DSP. We assure you that we have stringent protocols in place to deal with emergencies and we have an excellent working relationship with the SAPS, our security service provider Brinant and our local neighbourhood watch. We therefore take this opportunity to thank Warrent Officer Bernadie in particular and all involved in ensuring the safe return of Amelia Minnie.

Volunteers needed

Our great team of Tuckshop volunteers needs reinforcements. If you can help, send an email to tuckshop@dsp.gp.school.za or contact Istelle or Rochelle at the Tuckshop.



News@DSP is available in printed format on request at reception.

As per the instructions of the South African government, the DSP will close its school grounds on Tuesday, 17.03.2020 at 14:10. The school, the Kindergarten, the Kinderkrippe and the Afterschool Care Centre will remain closed until 13 April 2020. The second term will start on 14 April 2020, unless the situation changes and we have to postpone the start further.