

St Patrick's CBC

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history embraces the future

7 September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Firstly, I wish to apologise if you were one of the parents inconvenienced in any way by the procedures implemented at school this morning. The aim was never to inconvenience anyone, but to rather make sure that the school is fully prepared and compliant with regards to the COVID-19 regulations for the assessment period.

The assessment venue survey was sent out via email and WhatsApp on 24 August 2020. We received hundreds of responses back, and these were the pupils we catered for, for today. I am aware of two pupils whose names were indeed on the list, but were sent home in error. I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this caused.

From the outside, this entire process may seem very pedantic, or even petty. However, as you are aware, we are one of the few schools that applied for special permission and were allowed to bring all grades (except for ECD) back onto the school campus shortly after schools were allowed to reopen on a staggered-basis in June this year. From the onset, we spent many hours developing a system that makes implementation practical, yet strictly adheres to the regulations as set out by the Department of Health and the Department of Basic Education. Not adhering to it, may result in St Patrick's CBC being closed again and may also lead to uncontrolled spreading of the COVID-19 virus.

If there were only one or two pupils that were affected this morning, we could still have tried to accommodate them, but there were close to 80 pupils that we did not make provision for due to the survey not being completed. We therefore acted consistently and implemented the same rules for all pupils. We currently have close to 1,100 pupils. If we do not run a tight ship, the standards will gradually deteriorate to the point where we have rules and procedures, but everything is treated as a grey area. That is a very dangerous point to reach. Blame me for being strict, but please never accuse me of not having a backbone and not trying to manage St Patrick's CBC in an orderly and disciplined manner.

I am disappointed to hear how certain parents treated staff this morning. We all get busy. The Tredoux's have definitely also slipped up before and returned a reply slip late. But if you are in the wrong, own it. What example are you setting for your child if you are wrong, but you treat their teachers and the Admin staff disrespectfully for implementing the rules and instructions they were tasked with? Surely you cannot expect your child to then show respect towards that same teacher or staff member later in the day. Let us not forget who we are and what the school family stands for. We must all lead by example.

Please make sure to read all school correspondence sent home. This is in your child's (and your) best interest, and can alleviate a lot of frustration going forward.

You are welcome to contact me directly should you wish to discuss this matter further (082 8787 004 or headmaster@stpatricks.co.za). I will also be available at the coffee station between 06h30 and 08h00 on Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 and 9 September 2020, should you wish to discuss this in person.

Thank you for your understanding.

We are in this together, and we will get through this together.

Yours sincerely



Jacques Tredoux
EXECUTIVE HEAD