



# ZWAANSWYK ACADEMY

338 MAIN ROAD

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**14 DECEMBER 2020**

Dear Parents and Guardians

## **2020 : WHAT A YEAR!!**

It started with a bang! When we gathered expectantly in January 2020 to welcome in the new academic year, who could have dreamt of the horror story that was to unfold before our very eyes. As we sang "Go for Gold", little did we know what was before us. Before long, words like lockdown, pandemic, sanitizing, social distancing, Covid-19, corona virus, Zoom, online learning, the new normal, etc became a big part of our conversations. The wearing of masks, at first sneered at, became a lifesaving mechanism, and even gave rise to a whole new industry.

2020 brought with it, great sadness for Zwaanswyk Academy. Two of our Parents lost their lives due to Covid-19, and a number of others were infected.

One of the great challenges this year has been financial. Many of our Parents were impacted negatively because of short time or even job losses. Surviving 2020 wasn't easy, but we made it!!

But 2020 also saw Zwaanswyk Academy make big strides as we strive to offer the best education. We installed inter-active whiteboards and made laptops available to educators. This transformed the educational experience of our learners. We also managed, despite the occasional hiccup, to keep our learners abreast of their learning. We also experienced a huge upsurge in general appreciation of teachers!!

As 2020 comes to an end, we reflect on a tough year, but we also hold fast to the hope that tomorrow brings.

## **THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC MS LEWENDAL!**

Ms Kaylin Levendal leaves us this term to pursue her career as a freelance musician.



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Zwaanswyk Academy has been blessed with some wonderful music teachers, none more so than Ms Levendal has, with her incredible talent, wonderful personality and unwavering ability to inspire learners, been a very progressive part of the music department. She could always be relied on to do the extra, to bring fresh ideas and to take on challenges. She not only produced skilled violinists, but got her students to develop a love for music.

We will miss the vibrant personality that Ms Levendal is, but wish her well as she pursues her dreams, opening a new chapter in her life. Fare ye well, Miss.

## ALL THE BEST GRADE 7'S

It is always with mixed feelings that we greet our Grade 7's. We are sad that their time at Zwaanswyk Academy (and that of their Parents) has come to an end, but also happy that they enter into a whole new world, with great possibility beckoning, and where more and more building blocks of life will be put in place.

And so - The SGB, SMT and Staff unite with me in wishing our Grade 7's (and their Parents) well for the next chapter. This year may not have panned out the way we would have liked, but we are confident that we have produced young people who are motivated to pursue success, to serve and care for others, to be responsible and respectful, and to make a meaningful contribution wherever they are.

Fare ye well, Grade 7's. Go out now, to make yourselves, your Parents, and all at Zwaanswyk Academy proud of you. Remember - ..."our purpose is to grow to be the Mother City's finest..."

We also have a few learners in other grades who will be leaving. Our best wishes accompany you too.

## THANK YOU

At this time where I have been tested positive for Covid-19 and have not been at school for a while, I wish to extend a huge thank you to the SMT, ably led by Mrs Steyn, for stepping in and ensuring that the end-of-year pressures have



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been smoothly navigated. This, of course, is the Zwaanswyk Academy way! Well done!

Thank you to a wonderful Staff (including Educators, Support Staff, Ground Staff, and After Care staff) who this year has had to deal with so much. Thank you for being the spectacular staff you are. I'm sure that all our parents unite with me in giving you a massive, appreciative round of applause. Our children are stronger because they have you guiding and developing them.

To the Student Council of 2020, thank you so much for the work you did this year. Thank you for your continued commitment in trying times, for your positivity and willingness to help and develop.

Our Governing Body has been fantastic. In trying times, they have had to make difficult decisions to ensure the continued survival. Thank you for your service to the Zwaanswyk Academy community. Special thanks to Mr Peters and Mr Eastland who now step down as their children leave Grade 7. All the best to Mr Swart who temporarily takes over the mantle of Chairperson.

To our Parents - thank you so much for the role you play in the success of the school. Thank you for your positivity, to the many expressions of gratitude to teachers, for your support of the school. Thank you for the example you set our children and the commitment to development. Any school is dependent on the strength of its Parent core. Our Parents add to the strength of the school.

## BE SAFE

And so, we wish everyone well over the holiday period. Be safe. As we celebrate the birth of our Christ, we pray that the message of hope, of overcoming, of forgiveness and of love may be made manifest. In our circumstances.

## PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES

We are so sorry - we left out two trophies with Zwaanswyk Academy's first virtual Awards Ceremony for 2020. We would like to CONGRATULATE **Abigail Moses in Grade 7A** for her Outstanding PROGRESS in Recorder as well Outstanding ACHIEVEMENT in Music. Well done, we are so proud of you! All of the very best for 2021.

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## IN PRAISE OF GOD

Do not worry about anything. Instead, pray to God about everything. Ask him to help you with the things that you need. And thank him for his help. 7 If you do that, God will give you peace in your minds.

Phil 4:6