



CURRO

Serengeti

11 February 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to the school after a well-deserved holiday. A very special and warm welcome to all our new learners and parents. We trust that you and your child will settle in quickly and will be comfortable at our school. Our learner numbers have increased to 1 460 this year.

Staff

The commencement of this new academic year has been an exceptionally eventful and successful one. As a result of the continuous growth we experienced and some staff leaving us last year, we have appointed 15 very highly qualified staff members, which has increased our employees to 147. A hearty welcome to them too.

Grade 12 – 2015 results

We had a very successful 2015. We are very proud of our Grade 12 class of 2015, who obtained a 100% pass rate, and our 43 learners who achieved 54 subject distinctions. That gives them an average of 1,3 distinctions per candidate. The group average was 63,8%. Seventy per cent of our Grade 12 learners achieved university exemption, and all our matriculants qualified for further tertiary studies. Dane Albrecht was our top achiever with 6 As and 1 B and an average of 83,7%.

Proudly Curro Serengeti

We are very proud of the two awards the school received at the Annual Curro Awards function.

We received:

- The award for the Most Improved Curro School in the IEB Examination and
- The award for the Highest Increase for BD pass in the IEB Examination.

Congratulations to all our 2015 matriculants and educators.

We are excited about what 2016 holds in store, and I am convinced that we are ready for the envisaged challenges. Our goal is to become a school of choice in our area, and I believe we are rapidly establishing a positional perception of our school in our immediate community.

I would like to request that you as a parent/guardian become involved in school activities. We have happy learners in our school, loyal and proud. We have motivated staff members who are enthusiastic and excited to take on the challenges that lie ahead. I urge the parents to become actively involved in the school and to support the school through its various stages of development. I would like to request that as many parents as possible join our PACSA (Parents Association of Curro Serengeti). These ladies and gentlemen have done phenomenal work over the past years and have supported the school immensely in its efforts to grow and establish itself as a force to be reckoned with in educational circles in our community. Please contact our marketer, Mrs Edwards, at Hannelie.E@curroholdings.co.za should you be interested in joining or if you require further information.

To all our new parents/guardians, and as a recap for all our existing parents/guardians, herewith a short review of our 2015 highlights:

Capital development

- **Curro Castle** – a comprehensive preschool unit that can accommodate up to 19 classes. All our preschool learners and staff were relocated to the new facility.
- **Three new sports fields** alongside the current high school buildings on the Serengeti Estate. This has enabled us to start developing our sport further. We are providing our primary and high school learners and sports coaches with simultaneous access to fields for rugby, soccer, hockey, etc. without any possible clashes in programmes or facilities.
- **An upgraded separate play area** that our Grade R learners use during break time. This play area, situated behind the smaller of our two school halls, is also used by our aftercare learners.
- **Upgrading the entrance** from the estate side to the school with paving and palisades.
- **Paving** for the area between the primary school buildings and the hockey AstroTurf.
- An **AstroTurf hockey field** that puts us in the position to become a very competitive hockey school in the future.
- **Upgrading of a computer lab** in the high school.
- **Installation of external lighting** at the school. We can now have functions at the school in the evenings, with enough lighting in and around the school.
- Installation of **additional security cameras** in strategic positions at the school to assist with the safety and security of all on the premises.

Curro has committed to further expand our facilities in the future. Our facilities will be unequalled in our area, and this, together with our foundations of excellence, will undoubtedly facilitate the process of our school becoming a school of choice in our area.

Sport

On the sports front we showed real improvement in all of our sporting codes.

Primary school:

- One of our under 13 boys played for Eastern Gauteng Primary Schools soccer team.
- Our under 13 rugby team played in the finals of their league.
- Our primary school's golf team won the Ernie Els invitational for primary schools at Kempton Park and qualified for the national final, where they finished seventh. They also won their primary schools golf league.
- Our primary school won their Inter-Primary Athletics last week and has qualified to move up to the B League in 2017.

High school

- Our senior boys' hockey team played in the playoffs of their league.
- The under 14 girls' netball teams played in the playoffs of their league, and the A team reached the finals.
- Our under 17 rugby team won the Valke final for small schools.
- Our under 15 boys' cricket team won their league.
- Our under 15 girls' soccer team won their league.
- Our boys' tennis team won the Eastern Gauteng Schools' C league.
- One of our under 18 hockey boys played for the Easterns' provincial team.
- Two of our softball girls played for the Easterns' provincial teams.
- One of our boys played for the national under 17 baseball team.

Some of our learners participated in the Curro netball, rugby and hockey nationals. All our representatives at the nationals really made us proud and they played an important part in the success of their regional teams. One of our netball girls and one of our hockey boys was chosen for the national Curro teams.

Culture

Our cultural activities continue to grow 'drama-tically':

- Our foundation phase learners hosted a very successful revue '*Under the Sea*'. This revue was a showstopper! Our revue competition group participated in the national competition at the Vodadome and finished third.
- We hosted a very successful Cultural Evening and our drama groups participated in festivals and achieved some top accolades.
- We were also extremely proud of our eisteddfod achievements. We walked away with many trophies, top prestige awards and many honours certificates.
- Some of our high school learners participated in the Curro Cuesta and we finished second in the Drama division. The primary school will also participate in the Curro Cuesta this year.

Our goals for 2016 are to improve in academics, sport and culture in an attempt to develop our school to a position of strength, where we can compete with the best in the area. This is a basis that we will be building on during 2016 and into the future.

In 2015 our standardised assessment results in the school were equally impressive, and analysis showed that our standards compare well to fellow Curro schools, and other schools involved in the process. We are proud of the quality of the work currently being done at the school and our focus is on quality and standards.

Curriculum information

21st century skills and Building Learning Power (BLP):

The whole educational world is researching and implementing new teaching strategies and methodology to ensure the formal education systems are developing the skills in our learners that will give them the best chance to thrive in the fast-changing, information-driven world we live in. Specific skills have been identified as crucial if we want our current learners to be ready for tertiary studies, the world of work and life in general. These skills are summarised as:

- **3Rs** – **R**eading, **W**riting and **A**rithmetic.
- **4Cs** – **C**ommunication, **C**ollaboration, **C**ritical thinking and problem-solving, and **C**reativity and innovation.
- **2Ms** – **M**eta-cognition (thinking about your thinking) and **M**otivation.

Curro's tablet strategy enables us to follow in the footsteps of the world leaders in this field, as tablet technology opens up a vast range of possibilities to include the global trends as well as international best practice.

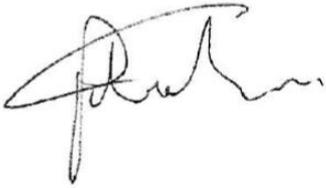
To ensure that these skills are developed in our Curro learners our educators are continuously trained and attend various workshops presented by the CCEE (Curro Centre for Educational Excellence) in the development and execution of the curriculum.

The CCEE does more for educator development and training than any other educational institution in the country at the moment. This keeps our educators abreast with latest developments and cutting-edge approaches, thus making sure that we are prepared to educate our learners at the highest possible levels. Thus we are making sure that every learner, once matriculated, can adjust and cope efficiently with the tertiary-education and societal demands in our country. Our educators are trained on a regular basis, and are exposed to the demands of analytical education when attending IEB cluster meetings, user group conferences and subject-based IEB training. Our

learners writing the IEB examinations and partnering educator development with the CCEE are certainly a recipe for success.

Parents/guardians, learners and staff, together we will make 2016 a wonderful year. Remember: 'One school, one voice'. I trust that you will have a fantastic year.

Yours in education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. du Toit', written in a cursive style.

Mr Johann du Toit

Executive Head