

From the Desk of the Executive Head...

28-4-2021

Dear PEPPS families

We are currently celebrating the Easter Season in the Christian Calendar and Ramadan in the Muslim Calendar. Both observances remind us to set our eyes on God at all times and remain committed to the goodness in our universe.



Psalm 4:6

Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?" Let the light of Your face shine upon us, O Lord.

PEPPS is feeling increasingly blessed by God's Grace as we emerge from a worldwide education crisis, minimally scathed. We believe that the light of God's face has shone upon us. It would be naïve to believe that our pupils are not still playing catch-up to some extent, but I do feel that PEPPS pupils are better off than most.

Let us be patient as we heal from this massive shift in the expected path and remain secure in God's light shining upon us in our journey forward.

Peace be with you in this season of new beginnings.

Over the last month, we have also celebrated Human Rights Day and Freedom Day. In this, our 30th year in Limpopo, PEPPS reflects on the hard-fought constitutional rights that are available to the pupils of our schools.



Against the backdrop of an educationally disparate landscape, PEPPS was formed to provide quality education to all South African children. Bantu Education explicitly sought to crush creativity and critical thinking. Rote learning was promoted in this archaic and oppressive system. PEPPS's founding mandates clearly state the desire of our schools to nurture the higher-order thinking skills of critical and creative thinking. The individual gifts of each pupil were to be developed through holistic education. Thirty years on and we are still committed to these admirable educational principles.

My heart literally swells when I think of how appreciative we all need to be that all South African children are in a position to enjoy progressive and modern education that will set them up for success in our world by *Creating Tomorrow's Leaders*.

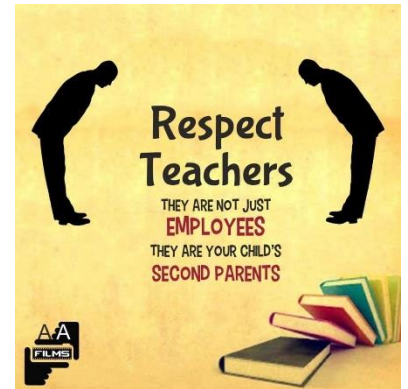


I remind you to share success stories from our alumni with naidoom@pepps.co.za to help us to celebrate the diversity of pupils who have matriculated at PEPPS as they share their stories. This campaign to showcase the brilliance of our past PEPPS stars is part of our 30th birthday celebrations.

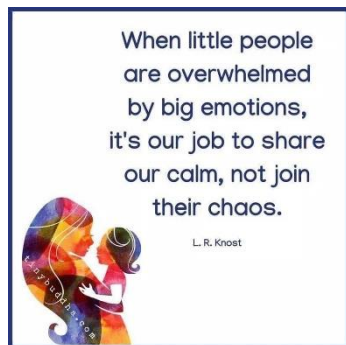
I wish to take a moment to reflect on how our understanding of child-rearing and educational practices have shifted over the last 30 years. We have learnt that children learn most when they are happy, when they are having fun and when their bodies have an opportunity to move. PEPPS has added these dimensions to the way that we present our educational offering.

Educating children is not the mandate of the parents alone nor the teachers alone. For effective education to occur, parents and teachers need to unite and work towards the same common goal of exalting God's children and guiding them towards excellence.

To this end, PEPPS has prioritised parental communication over the last year. We are using myHomework, ADAM and email to connect with our parents. These tools are intended to serve our parents as they work kindly with their children in following up on the expectations set by the school.



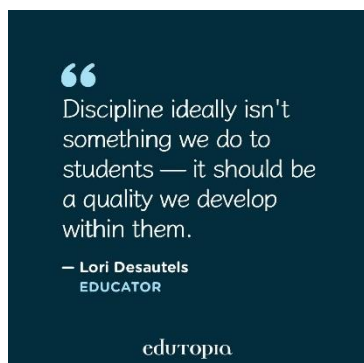
Parents and teachers must take hands, in mutual respect, for the benefit of the children in our care.



I have said it before and at the risk of repeating myself, I shall say it again because it is so important. The world is harsh and children are vulnerable in it. It is imperative that our children have places of safety. The two most important places of safety should be their school and their home. If they do not feel safe in these places they will seek 'safety' elsewhere and often that is very dangerous.

PEPPS works tirelessly towards creating a healthy and happy learning space at school. Admittedly, people are imperfect and sometimes things go wrong, but it is our quest to have your children feeling secure at school.

I implore you as parents to do the same at home. Discipline is essential and boundaries must be set. This should be done from a place of love and respect and not of fear. If your children are frightened of you and your reaction, they will not come to you with their concerns and hardships.

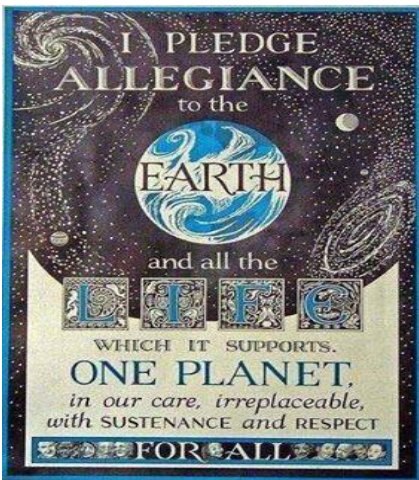


It is possible, as a parent, to disapprove of a child's behaviour and even carry out a consequence for that behaviour without shaming the child. Every child deserves to feel that they are valuable in the eyes of God and the eyes of their parents or their caregiving adults. This results in children with higher self-esteem. People with higher self-worth are less vulnerable to all sorts of abuse, including bullying.

You will teach them to fly, but they will not fly your flight. You will teach them to dream, but they will not dream your dream. You will teach them to live, but they will not live your life. Nevertheless, in every flight, in every life, in every dream, the print of the way you taught them will remain.
Mother Teresa

We know we have done our job if, through love, we have developed young adults who can regulate themselves emotionally and in terms of discipline and who have been allowed to grow into the person that they were destined to be.

Each flower will open in its own time. If we tug at the petals before they are ready, we shall only damage the final bloom. Raising our children from a place of love and care is what I encourage each adult working with PEPPS pupils to do.



The last month also saw the annual commemoration of Earth Day. PEPPS endeavours to instil environmental awareness and care in all of our pupils. Our hope is that you share this heightened consciousness to protect our earth with your children in your homes as well.

In our thirtieth year and as we constantly strive to serve our families excellently, we would like to hear your opinion about our schools. Please take about 10 minutes to complete the attached survey. The survey is anonymous.

<https://forms.gle/h5mSkyZzLERspvXT9>

PLEASE NOTE: Due to a staff training opportunity on 12-7-2021, school and lessons will start for the pupils on Tuesday 13-7-2021, at all PEPPS Schools.



Yours in healthy and safe education,

Annabel Roberts

PEPPS Executive Head