

From the Desk of the Executive Head...

10-1-2022

Dear PEPPS Community

Welcome to PEPPS in 2022. We are very excited to be starting another educational journey year. Our commitment is to strive to provide an excellent education that empowers each of our pupils to be an independent, critical and creative thinker who will be able to take their place, as a positive contributor, in modern society.

This year, after two challenging years, we have a **theme of 'Attitude of Gratitude'** and we come before The Almighty with a heart full of thanks and appreciation for our many blessings. There have been some losses, hurts and grief in recent times and we pray God's strength and comfort to any members in our community who are hurting.



Carl Jung, the great psychiatrist and intellectual, had a sign above his door that said, "VOCATUS ATQUE NON VOCATUS DEUS ADERIT".

This means, '**Called or not called, the God will be there**'. This is a comforting truth. God is with us always and guides our choices and experiences. We are all God's infinitely beloved children and, at PEPPS, we pray for God's favour in all of our noble endeavours.

We are delighted to be starting this year on the planned date, after many disruptions throughout our 655 days of lockdown. Our great hope is to normalise education as much as possible this year. We have planned to run sporting and cultural events with adherence to Covid protocols and **our intention is to have all lessons on-campus in 2022.**

That said, **please do not send unwell children to school and please do not send children to school when someone in the household is unwell or being tested for Covid.** Work will be posted online for pupils to stay up-to-date for short periods and teachers can be emailed to support a pupil if they have to stay at home for about a week. Sending potentially contagious children to school jeopardises the educational experience for everyone.

PEPPS is advocating for vaccinations of staff and pupils over the age of 12 but we are not mandating vaccinations. It is clear that vaccinations do reduce the probability of contracting Covid, as well as the severity of the disease, so we respectfully recommend that everyone does all that they can to protect themselves and our community against transmission.

PEPPS prides itself on offering the **full quota of school days annually**. Many schools have cut terms short or started late and not made up the days. PEPPS, however, has ensured that our pupils receive the full benefit of high-quality education for all of the mandated days each year. The philosophy of **giving full value to our families** is one that we stand for in many regards.

Our **schools' fees are calculated to include all compulsory expectations** and we strive to minimise add-ons onto the fee account, allowing for each family to budget effectively. The fees include the essential books, grade excursions and some stationery in the junior grades. Pupils write IEB-run international benchmarking tests in Grades 3, 6 and 9. These, as well as the IEB final examination fees, are included in PEPPS's school fees. Also built into the fees are compulsory class activities, guest speakers, the matric dance, some online academic platforms, academic wifi usage, school photos and extra-curricular activities. We pride ourselves on **offering a value for money product** that is difficult to rival.

Simultaneously, PEPPS has managed to invest in land, buildings, facility development and technological hardware and infrastructure over the last few years. Our accounts are audited annually and no irregularities have been picked up. **We run an effective and efficient organisation with the primary goal of serving the pupils**. We receive approximately 2% of our income from government grants and the rest comes from school fees. All of our salaries, utilities, security, maintenance and stationery have to be paid out of these fees, which is why it is essential that all families honour their contractual obligation to contribute to the economic well-being of the schools by timeously paying for the service provided.

We are incredibly grateful that 99,3% of our 2021 invoices have been paid by our parents. Thank you for entrusting your child's education to PEPPS and making the work that we do possible. We look forward to your continued support in 2022.

PEPPS continues to take a progressive approach to educational practice and we are delighted to see our pupils increasingly taking ownership of their learning. **Each pupil is set up for personal success** and we always give careful professional consideration to what would be in the best interest of the pupil that we are working with. We trust that our families feel the **deep care and appreciation that our teachers have for their pupils**.

In the middle of February, I always deliver my 'State of PEPPS' address. Last year it was a video, but I am hoping to speak at each campus this year. In order to make my presentation as meaningful as possible, I would like to weave my speech around questions and compliments from our parents. **If you have a question that you would like to ask or a compliment or observation that you would like to share with me, please fill in the 'Ask Annabel' Google Form before 31 January 2022.** I shall try my best to address all the matters raised via this platform.

Link to 'Ask Annabel' form - <https://forms.gle/VCEtJ9HtJ1dvXW48>

In mid-February, we shall also ask parents who are interested in serving on the Parents' Forum to put forward their names. This group meets once a term with the Head of the School to complement and raise concerns. Parents who volunteer for this cannot travel extensively or be very busy with work since it is appropriate that they attend the expected meetings. The Parent Forum members are selected, not elected, and the body is advisory rather than prescriptive in their role. Those on the Parent Forum need to be willing to have their contact details shared so that other parents can communicate with them. These Forum groups have been very constructive over the past few years and **we thank those parents who have served previously**. We are happy to have those parents serve again and we welcome new parents. This body is not expected to do any fundraising. **Please inform the Head's PA of your school if you would like to be on the Parent Forum in 2022.**

Parenting is not easy and it is not something anyone gets perfectly 'right'. We can all just pursue excellence in how we **guide our children towards being emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually whole souls who will be in a position to contribute to the world we live in**. I hope the below three ideas remind you that children need love more than anything else. They need to be infinitely loved by their parents in the same way as God infinitely loves us. That does not mean that a child should be raised without boundaries, discipline and fair consequences for poor behaviour, but through it all, they must know that home is the safe place to land.



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



Yours in healthy, safe and excellent education

Annabel Roberts

PEPPS Executive Head