



STEYN CITY
SCHOOL

WE REACH BEYOND

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Dear Parents, Staff Members, and Members of the Steyn City School Community

We return to school at a time when our country is facing the harsh and brutal effects of gender-based violence and the devastation of climate change in ways that may well herald one of those historic moments when tragedy and despair turn to action and transformation.

The Steyn City School community confronts the realities that our society, and our young people in particular, face in ways that are both symbolic and have long-term educational and social meaning. We join unreservedly in the condemnation of violence against women in our country and beyond and we commit ourselves to ensuring that this community is neither silent nor complacent in its response. To this end, we shall be holding an assembly for students from Grades 6 to 10 on Thursday with a particular focus on the events of recent weeks. We shall be asking the staff to dress in black and all students to wear black ribbons that will be issued as part of the assembly. Our social media posts will reflect this campaign. We also recognize that symbolic measures are not, in themselves, sufficient and, at the very least, need to be a catalyst for real and long-term action. The xenophobic attacks that have occurred are of equal concern to our community and deserve an equal focus in our response. Our determination to reflect lasting and sincere respect for all members of our community and our wider society means that we shall be focusing on specific curriculum programmes to ensure that this is achieved to the very best of our abilities at our school. This is not a campaign with a limited time frame attached to it; it is an intrinsic part of who we all are and should be and so is at the heart of our social fabric in this place of learning.

We acknowledge the crisis of climate change and the call to action that has been issued in this regard. While many areas of our curriculum in all phases of the school focus on the need for environmental stewardship, we are entering our Grade 9 students into the 2019 EU-SA Youth for Climate Action Young Researchers Symposium, where they can place particular emphasis on the need for effective action in a response that takes their learning across subject boundaries. Again, we stress that symbolic action only has effect if it is accompanied by long-term plans and a lasting educational focus and we remain committed to this.

All who work and learn at Steyn City School draw immense faith and encouragement from the abilities of young people to change beliefs and attitudes in the societies in which they live. We trust with optimism and respect that the energy, compassion, commitment and determination of the students of Steyn City School will ensure that our school reflects the values on which we were founded - respect, integrity, tenacity, curiosity, and service – as we reach beyond to ensure that we create a different world for their futures in our country and this world.

Yours faithfully

BRIAN MITCHELL

HEADMASTER