



BPS NEWS

FINAL EDITION DECEMBER 2021



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents and Guardians

This has been an emotional week for me as I bid farewell to the BPS Family. The kind words, the learner assembly and the wonderful tributes have humbled me. I cannot thank you enough for the love and support you have given me. A huge thank you for my cabinet, which will take pride of place in my home, the very generous gift voucher which will be used to purchase something very special to remember my time here at BPS and all the individual gifts and well wishes. For this forum, I thought it would be fitting to share the address I delivered to the Grade 7s at their farewell on Friday evening. The words could be applied to all of us a BPS Community.

"Good evening Grade 7 Class of 2021, Staff and all parents and friends joining us this evening via YouTube livestream...

It is quite strange standing here this evening with only the Grade 7s and a few staff members in attendance... Sadly Covid-19 protocols have dictated the circumstances.

This evening is bittersweet for me, and I would guess for you Grade 7s as well. It is my last formal speech to you, and the last time that you will sit in the hall as Grade 7 BPS Learners. May we not be sad because our BPS journey is almost over, but smile and be happy because our journey has been incredible.

What a time it has been! Unexpected, unprecedented, unrelenting, unfamiliar, as we navigated the "new normal". But you have triumphed because of your resilience, grit, tenacity and perseverance. You have shown your ability to rise above challenging situations that have come your way.

So ladies, gentlemen, boys and girls, if we had to sum up the past 20 months, then the words of Charles Dickens in 'A Tale of Two Cities' hold true:

"...It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us."

Tonight I would like to focus on the season of light...

Light can easily be replaced by the word **hope**. Hope gives us optimism. It transforms our lives and reminds us that we never have to remain in the dark. Hope keeps us going, regardless of setbacks or challenges that we sometimes face.

Desmond Tutu reminds us that.... "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

By being hopeful we have the opportunity to shine brightly. How brightly we wish to shine and radiate hope is up to each of us. "Hope springs eternal," they say. It gives us something to live for, to strive for, to hope for.

Anyone can be happy, positive and grateful when the road is smooth. But when we hit those bumps, that is when we truly need to focus on seeing the light. That is when we truly need to go deeper into gratitude and focus on the many blessings in our lives.

There is a song made famous by Lauren Diagle called "You Say" ...

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
And you say I am held when I am falling short

And when I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours And I believe Oh, I believe What You say of me (I)I believe

p.t.o to read the rest!

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So Grade 7s, therein lies the rub: regardless of our circumstances, the challenges, the obstacles and the darkness, there is always hope. When we feel weak, when we fall short, when we don't believe... there is always hope for a better tomorrow. These past few months have tested us, but you have shown your capacity to keep learning, to support each other, to share a laugh.

You have brought joy into many lives, especially mine. You have shown deep care for one another and looked after each other. You have shown a willingness to find 'a way forward', when first plans were not possible. I know that this enormous resilience and deep awareness of others will stand you in good stead in the future.

Grade 7 Class of 2021,

In the words of the great Nelson Mandela...."Remember what counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived; it is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

Our wish for you is that you lead significant lives— Be the change that we wish to see in our homes, schools, communities and in our country. When we finally emerge from this pandemic, may we emerge with grace, kindness, tolerance and compassion for everyone. May you live out the BPS motto of Servimus daily... always being of service to those who need our love, compassion and kindness the most.

We look forward to hearing how you have used your time ... and I hope to share in your stories when you get to Grade 12 in 2026.... Keep hope alive, knowing that tomorrow will be a better day, and may all the people you encounter experience the Best YOU that YOU can be!

So in conclusion, may you always hear the words of my favourite football team's anthem ring in your ears on the days when you feel the storm, the darkness and when you think there is no hope...

"When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high and don't be afraid of the dark, at the end of the storm is a golden sky". On behalf of all the Staff and our BPS Family, I bid you farewell and wish you happiness, love, joy and success in your days and years ahead.

May your maker bless you all as you continue to turn the ordinary into extraordinary blessings.

Go well Grade 7 Class of 2021, AND MAY YOU NEVER WALK ALONE.

We wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday and renewed hope for all in the new year. If you observe the feast of Christmas, may the season bring much love, joy and hope. Please keep safe and continue to practise the 5 Golden Rules.

Mr. Paulse

STAFF FAREWELLS

The end of the year can often be a sad occasion as we bid farewell to our Grade Sevens and some Staff members as well. This year is no different as we bid farewell to the following Staff Members: Mrs Shena (Mullins) Jones—Gr 5; Mrs Kelsey-Ann (Haupt) Brigg Gr 2; Ms Justine Hoenson; Ms Sian Whittern; Ms Ivana Southgate and Mr Decklin Ross (All Learnerships), as well as, Mr Simon van Harte (Music—Part Time)

Mrs Jones has made the decision to complete her Law Degree and Mrs Brigg will be immigrating to the UK with her husband. On behalf of the BPS Family, we thank them for the impact that they have made in the lives of our learners, for their passion and commitment and for their unstinting service to BPS over the years. We wish them good health, sustained success, happiness and every blessing as they embark on new and exciting chapters in their lives. Mr Simon van Harte, a very talented musician, will be taking up a teaching position at Bergvliet High to teach Science. I'm sure the learners will be tapping to the beat of the periodic table in Mr Van Harte's classes.

We wish to thank each of our Learnerships for their commitment, enthusiasm and service to BPS, and for enriching the lives of our learners, parents and staff. They covered so many gaps in our school as we navigated the new

normal, and we are indeed indebted to them. Every child who interacted with these wonderful individuals can echo the words of Bindi Irwin, who said, "So many people have touched my heart and made an impact on my world. I'm thankful for every lesson and learning experience." We wish them every happiness and success in their future endeavours.

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of

Gratitude."



—A.A. Milne, author Winnie The Pooh books



FROM THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE BPS SGB

Hello Parents, Caregivers, Guardians and all who are involved with Bergvliet Primary School,

As we come to the end of another challenging year, perhaps one that is even more so than the year in which COVID and its impact first visited us, we take stock of who and where we are and we reflect on all that is both good and bad in our lives.

This said though, we also acknowledge that, whilst every one of us has been touched and/or affected in one way or the other by the pandemic, we are blessed to be a part of a society which has perhaps benefitted in one particular way and that is, to become a more caring and empathetic society at large.

Thus, as we end this year, we do so celebrating the people who are Bergvliet Primary School...every member of staff in whatever role they play, every child and of course, every home from which our staff and our learners come from. We are truly a blessed school which is holistic in each and every way and our blood runs green always.

We say goodbye to people who have been at the very core of our continued growth and development (Brandon, Gavin & Ralph) and we wish them every bit of support and wealth of spirit in their lives going forward and we thank you for leaving us that much richer. Your contribution to BPS will be remembered as a legacy rather than a role.

To all of our staff...you are the spirit and the substance of BPS and there are no words rich enough or strong enough to say a proper and fitting thank you but know this, we raise a hand to acknowledge you and to say Thank You!

In the festive period ahead, let us be responsible, let us be safe and let us take many moments to appreciate what we have and to find ways to help those who don't have. Let us celebrate the spirit and the ethos of BPS in how we live our lives.

Mr. Mike Baumgart

FROM OUR DEPUTY PRINCIPAL—MR BRENT HILL

This term, we bid farewell to our principal Mr. Paulse, who leaves Bergvliet Primary School after six and a half years. During his tenure at Bergvliet Primary, Mr. Paulse set high standards for the staff as well as the learners in their pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning. He placed much emphasis on the value of relationships with the learners, the staff and the parent body. This was clearly evident when the learners bid Mr. Paulse an emotional farewell in their assembly and throughout the corridors of the school last week.



Mr. Paulse is also to be commended for the manner in which he steered the school, navigating safely through the stormy waters of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Mr. Paulse, we as a school thank you for your insight, empathy and guidance and all that you have done for the learners, the families and the staff at Bergvliet Primary. Best wishes on the next leg of your journey in education, Sir.

SCHOOL TERMS 2022

Term	Opens	Closes
First	(17) 19 January	25 March
Second	5 April	24 June
Third	19 July	30 September
Fourth	11 October	(14) 15 December

UNIFORM SHOP TIME—JANUARY 2022

The BPS Clothing Shop will be open for purchases on: Saturday 15 January from 09.00 – 12.00 and Monday 17 January and Tuesday 18 from 09:00—12:00. Wednesday 07:15—08:30, Thursday 13:00—15:00 and Friday 07:15—08:30. Covid-19 screening protocols and regulations will apply.

WOOLWORTHS AND MY SCHOOL CARD:

Thank you to all family and friends who continue to swipe their MYSCHOOL card and have BPS as a beneficiary. Every swipe helps BPS, no matter how big or small. Please swipe during the holidays. If you need a new card, please contact Mrs Bettie Shaban who will gladly assist you.



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www.bergvlietprimary.co.za

STAFFING – CLASS TEACHERS 2022:

GRADE	EDUCATORS
R	Mrs. G Hughes (Grade Head); Mrs. G Davids & Mrs. H. Du Preez
1	Mrs. A Reay (Grade Head); Ms. C McKechnie & Mrs. J Newman
2	Mrs. M Tester (Grade Head); Mrs. J. Horsley & Mrs. Z Payne (1st Term maternity substitute) & Ms. Gardner (2nd Term)
3	Ms. A Adams (Grade Head); Ms. J. Ashton & Ms. K. Boule
4	Ms. D Gornall (Grade Head); Mrs. A Lambert & Mrs. M Reynolds
5	Mr. T Fenton (Grade Head); Mrs. T Noor & Mr. B Barnard
6	Mrs. Viljoen (Grade Head); Mrs. E Hector & Mr. M Rhode
7	Mrs. P Drake (Grade Head); Mrs. F Esau & Ms. T Davids
Acting Principal	Mr. B Hill
Phase Heads	Ms. J Ashton (Foundation Phase: Gr R–3) & Mrs. T Noor (Senior Phase: Gr 4-7)

LEARNER ACHIEVEMENTS:

Olympiads:

A number of our learners participated in the countrywide 2021 Living Maths Competition. Many of the learners obtained Bronze; Silver and Gold awards and we are so proud of their achievements. Special mention must be made of three Foundation Phase learners who participated and were recognised as follows: Zakariyyah Gabier and Zaeem Dollie achieved Third place in South Africa for Grade 1 Individual Category and Eli Goddard who achieved Second Place in South Africa for Grade 3 Individual Category. This is a phenomenal achievement and we are so proud of them. Ever onwards, ever upwards, BPS learners!

