



St Martin's
PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 14 – 31 OCTOBER 2011

Dear Parents

IQAA APPRAISAL

It's over at last – but what a beneficial and worthwhile process this was, not least of all that compliance assures our continued membership of ISASA (Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa).

This is what we said about the process in the Appraisal Report:

"The IQAA system has allowed St Martin's Pre-Primary School to celebrate existing strengths in the learning programme, procedural functioning and governance and management. The School's commitment to the perpetuation of its Christian ethos and its involvement in the community at large is also significant. These characteristics and values are articulated in the provision of the quality education we offer.

The systematic and thorough manner in which the Evaluation Team organised the process ensured that all stakeholders were involved. Thus a high level of ownership, with regards to appraisal and reporting, was achieved.

As a result, clear goals and areas for improvement were identified which will allow the School to go forward and develop even further."

St Martin's is proud to share these *comments from Executive Director of IQAA, Professor Doug Blackmur*: "I have read the School Report on the self-evaluation that was conducted recently under the auspices of IQAA. Please let me say how much I enjoyed reading the report. It is well written and is a comprehensive appreciation of the things to celebrate and things to improve. St Martin's Pre-Primary School has engaged with the IQAA process in the true spirit of our quality assurance model.

Your very pleasing improvement plan can, of course, be a great help in guiding the school's progress. A major strength of the plan is the inclusion of timelines for the achievement of various improvements and the allocation of responsibilities to specific people. I have always found the imposition of such self-discipline to be very helpful.

The challenge now is for the report to be treated as a living document that is used constantly as a point of reference in the life of the school. I am confident, however, that St Martin's Pre-Primary School will use its own "look in the mirror" creatively and to great effect.

I have learned a great deal personally from reading such a comprehensive report. Please let me thank you, Melany Lumgair (Team Leader), Kate Hobson (Scribe), and all others associated with the school for your hard work and for the co-operation and welcome that was given to the mentor, Bridget Walton."

Mentor, Bridget Walton said:

“The attitude to the evaluation process by those concerned was nothing short of superb; every facet of pre-school education had already been investigated preceding the preview visit – and was continuous over a three month period prior to the intensive week, for which the school was also prepared thoroughly. Five days of hard work, amazing teaching and learning enabled the mentor to understand that, in this Pre-School, nothing short of attempts to achieve excellence was acceptable.

Mention must be made of the teachers’ daily preparation – not just written up in files but classroom activities. The variety was endless, set out, often with help from the children that attend After Care, in readiness for the start of the following day.

The training towards taking responsibility, which starts in the Grade 000 class and progresses through to Grade R is quite remarkable. One sees children as young as three years run errands, carry boxes, pour juice, distribute snack packs and wipe tables after use with enthusiasm and energy.”

and from Norma Winearls, who reviewed the Opinion Surveys:

“The results of your Opinion Surveys are here. Congratulations on the wonderful results – they are worthy of framing! I really believe that you and your colleagues will be justifiably pleased with these results.”

Our results were, in every area, well above the national average. In fact, in all there was only one grey area on the parent return and this, we believe, may have been a misunderstanding of the statement presented. (i.e. the question about pick-up.) Thank you to the 96% of parents who completed the questionnaire.

A few highlights:

100% of parents feel their child is happy at school. (National average 99%)

100% agree that the activities offered are age-appropriate. (National average 99%)

94% think the children’s work is sufficiently displayed. (National average 86%)

98% believe the playground has a good selection of apparatus. (National average 94%)

95% consider the staff approachable. (National average 91%)

100% agree that the programme covers all disciplines. (National average 96%)

99% believe that educators are quick to let parents know of possible problems – health, learning or social. (National average 95%)

100% consider the school safe and secure. (National average 96%)

98% view communication as being good and regular. (National average 95%)

91% think class sizes are reasonable. (National average 91%)

97% reckon that the after-care programme is relaxed and age-appropriate. (National average 80%)

85% say they call for their children before the official closing time. (National average 78%)

Please feel free to view the Report in the Office

Best regards

BJ Daniel
Principal

Visit our webpage at:

www.stmartinspreprimary.co.za

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