



Hoërskool BOSMANSDAM *High School*

ADAM TASLAAN/AVENUE, BOTHASIG 7441
Skoolhoof/Principal

☎: +27(0) 21 558 1070
FAX/Faks: +27(0) 21 558 6380
E-pos/E-mail: hoof@bosmansdam.co.za
Website/Webtuiste www.bosmansdam.co.za

Dear Parent / Geagte Ouer

The following few paragraphs reflect my own opinion and not that of my union, the WCED, the DBE, the government, the SGB or anyone else; it is simply a few ramblings of someone who started his teaching career on 1 January 1983 and who may have a few ideas about education.

I am a teacher - first and foremost. I did not become a teacher with the aim of becoming a headmaster. I love my students and I love my subject and I have a staff that I can go to war with. In short, I love my job and I love my school.

However, after the president's speech on Thursday, 22 July 2020, I feel that my profession as a teacher has been tainted by the politicians and unions. They have sold our children out. My job is to sell hope. My staff knows that and they do it too. The politicians and unions took that, to some extent, away from us. Yes, there is a Corona peak in the Eastern Cape, but there will in all probability be a peak in Mpumalanga or Limpopo on 24 August as well. Are the politicians/unions going to postpone the reopening of schools then too? No, the show must go on. We live in a real world and we have to deal with it. We are not living in a bubble and we never will. That is the reality of life that we have to prepare our students for.

I went to all the Grade 12 classes in the course of last week and I told them that the staff have their back, but everything depends on their efforts and on what the politicians decide. Luckily, sanity prevailed and I am quite certain we can save this year for them if they all come to the party (and school!!)

We cannot give up hope and we must salvage this academic year.

2.

In this time when we are also so aware of Black Lives Matter, we must remember the words of Martin Luther King jr:

“But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.”

It is dark now, but we must not let our dreams die. We must aim for the stars.

Therefore, I want to assure all parents and students that we will do everything in our power to support the Grade 8 to 11 learners as well to ensure that they hit the ground running on their return. Parents will be kept in the loop on a continuous basis on the latest developments in education during the next four weeks. Please ensure that we have your correct contact details. Teachers will continue to post work for students on Google Classroom and liaise with them using WhatsApp, etcetera. Hard copies of work will also be made available to parents. You will be informed in writing on how this will be done next term.

The president was very vague regarding the 2020/2021 academic year and I will therefore forward all relevant circulars and updates from the WCED and DBE to parents during this time when students are away from school. Please see all new relevant dates below. It is obviously different from the dates published in the previous Bostelegam and it is not yet clear whether students will be phased in again on their return to school as the decisions as announced by the president have not been gazetted yet.

However, as the school has received permission from the WCED for a deviated return of our Grade 10 and 11 learners, it seems that we may allow those two grades back earlier according to a letter schools have received from the Director-General of the WCED, Mr Brian Schreuder, today. The SGB will investigate the possibility to apply for deviation for the other grades as well but only once we have received all relevant information from the DBE. The SGB will meet on 3 August 2020 to discuss this and hopefully this option will still be available then. We will keep you posted.

Also, for the students:

“Listen to the mustn'ts, child. Listen to the don'ts. Listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles, the won'ts. Listen to the never haves, then listen close to me... Anything can happen, child. Anything can be.”

— Shel Silverstein

FUNDRAISING

I would like to thank Mr Anton Kruger of Ab-It (our IT service provider) who has donated a tablet to be used for a fundraiser next term. Speaking of funds, thank you again to all parents who

continue to support the school with their school fees; we simply cannot maintain our standard of education without your support.

Kind regards and stay safe

Danie Human
PRINCIPAL / SKOOLHOOF
24 Julie 2020

DATES

Monday 3 August:	Grade 12 learners return to school; they will start with Day 6.
10 & 11 August:	Public Holidays
Monday 24 August:	Schools reopen

Volledige datums sal gegee word sodra dit beskikbaar is.

RESOURCES

See the revised Annual Teaching Plan for all grades and all subjects at:
<https://www.education.gov.za/Home/RecoveryPlan2020.aspx>