

# MERCHISTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL





## Dear Parents

19 August 2020

Warm greetings from a very busy Merchiston.

To say that things are hectic would be an understatement. COVID-19 has certainly caused us all to look at how we do things and also ensure that new possibilities and opportunities are embraced.

The Merchiston staff have been simply amazing and true to form, they have applied themselves to whatever situation may have come their way. Whether it has been full-time classroom teaching or distance learning, they have displayed the true grit that is synonymous with Merchiston. This is not the way I imagined my last year of service before my retirement panning out.

On Wednesday last week, we welcomed back every Mudrat to the school after an extremely lengthy break because of C-19. For the most part Merchiston has been functioning with boys at school for close to 12 weeks, however, a few junior grades arrived back at school last week. To hear the boys filling the school with sound is truly a blessing. However, the Egyptian Geese, Hadidas and frequent flyer pigeons are not too impressed to suddenly have their terrain occupied by the boys.

The words from Counting Crows – Big Yellow Taxi, 'You never know what you have till it's gone', rings so true here. It's only when we have the Mudrats back do we fully appreciate how blessed we are to be able to 'raise' someone else's child every day of the week. Staff dressed up in super hero outfits to greet their boys and there were plenty of tears of joy when boys came rushing up to them beaming beneath their masks.

Social distancing is being strictly adhered to and the boys have been absolute stars. It has been wonderful to see their inventiveness as new games have been initiated as they quietly sit or stand in the class friendship groups. My dream of always wanting our boys to experience the 'municipal park' of old where children are free to be creative, feel safe and interact with their friends, has been further cemented this week. Keeping young children apart during lockdown is one of the most difficult rulings one has had to swallow. Long may school be open!

It gives me great pleasure to bring to your attention the following scholarships for 2021:

Liyema Nela	Rugby & Cricket	Hilton College
Cole Young	Oslow Award	Kearsney College
Murray Lancaster	Aquatics	Maritzburg College
Sphamandla Dzanibe	Cricket	Maritzburg College
Ross van der Vliet	Hockey	Maritzburg College
Greg Askew	Special All round	Maritzburg College
Warwick Trodd	Merchiston Closed	Maritzburg College
Samuel Hughes	Cricket	Maritzburg College
Lee-Rynne Sinkfontein	Rugby	Maritzburg College
Joshua Ngcobo	All Round	Michaelhouse
AJ Bosman	All Round	St Charles



# From the Headmaster's Desk



## EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY



**Our Super Hero staff meeting and greeting!**



**One last hug before freedom with friends**



**Elbow grease goes a long way to lubricate a friendship**





# From the Headmaster's Desk



**Adherence to protocols**



**Time out from class to interact with friends**



**Social distancing is imperative**



# From the Headmaster's Desk



An amazing staff



This missing is over!

Merchiston is alive and well and is making the most of these different circumstances. New opportunities have been created upon which Merchiston continues to grow and develop. A new Renaissance is being embraced and this is an ideal time for change and realignment.

The staff and I are grateful in the extreme for the blessing of having our Mudrats back at school. Their presence, bearing and enthusiasm is so heartening to see. This augurs well for the future and we remain forever optimistic.

Yours sincerely

*Dave Bectar*  
**HEADMASTER**

