

Kwasa news: Term 3, July-September 2023

1. New Head of Primary (Senior team)

At the end of last year, the Kwasa Board appointed Benita Burger as the new Head of Primary following Willem Kruger's decision to emigrate to the US to be closer to his family.

Benita is 33, married with two young children, and lives in Springs. She has been teaching for 12 years and has a BEd from the University of South Africa (UNISA). She was previously Head of English at a large state Primary school in Springs, and also chairs the Governing Body of another Springs Primary school. Benita joins Sharron (Rector) and Sonja van Loggerenberg (Head of Pre-Primary) on the Kwasa leadership team (see photo).



2. Sharron to visit the USA

In October, Sharron, Mrs Burger and two Primary students will fly to visit the communities of St John's, Washington DC and The Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Mrs Burger and the two girls, Lukanyo and Ziyanda, have an appointment for their visas at the USA Consulate on 30th August. They will spend a week with each East Coast community, re-establishing the links that have been disrupted through Covid, and returning to Springs on the 1st November.

3. Pre-Primary and Primary news

On Saturday 5th August, over 200 parents of Pre-Primary and Primary students attended a Parent Engagement Day at the school.

130 children now attend Pre-Primary, and registration for next year's new starters will take place on 10-13 October; Mrs van Loggerenberg expects to be oversubscribed again.

With lots of staff training, team planning and discussions, the Pre-Primary children are making great progress towards more independent exploration and learning, albeit within the state prescribed curriculum. Photo's below of investigating nature with a magnifying glass, and developing number skills.



The Primary school has 287 students on roll for Grade 1-7, and there is a waiting list of 140 children.

As well as a full academic timetable, sports play a key part in the extra-curricula side of school life, with one G7 student qualifying for District cross-country. G3 learners participated in a mathematics quiz with all the other Springs schools; Kwasa came first for mental Math, and second for Numeracy.

4. Finances

School finances remain challenging. The state subsidy covers 35% of the R10 million (\$500,000, £400,000) budget, with school fees about the same, and donations and interest making up the balance. Salaries and wages are the largest cost by far, approaching 50% of the budget.

The challenge, worsened by the economic impact of Covid, is that increasing numbers of parents, especially those living in the Settlements, are struggling to pay fees for their children.

Kwasa receives donations for bursaries to cover the fees of over 100 children – but needs more of these. A monthly donation of \$40 or £25 with UK Gift Aid, each month for a year, will pay the R8,400 fees to enable another student to be educated at Kwasa.

5. Exchange rate

And now the good news! With \$ and £ exchange rates to the ZA Rand at all-time highs, there has never been a better time to support Kwasa with a recurring or single donation. Please visit either the UK (via JustGiving) or US (via CAF America) “donate” button at kwasacollege.org