



Dear Parents and Guardians

Thank you to all the parents and guardians of children at *Star of the Sea Convent* for your continuing support. This newsletter provides some information about the school's governing body (SGB) and how it operates. For further information please visit the school's website: [www.starofthesea.co.za](http://www.starofthesea.co.za) (SGB page will be updated in due course)

SGB's are appointed for three –year terms. The current SGB was appointed on Saturday 14 March 2015 and is made up of representatives of the school's staff (Mr Pereira, Mrs Havemann - secretary, Mrs Emere, Mrs Yeadon), elected parents/guardians (Gurnicka Greenwood – Chairperson, Collen Rankin – Treasurer, Arline Mampies – Deputy Chairperson, Rochelle Nell, Jeremy Petersen), co-opted members Father Mark Pothier (school chaplain) and a representative (Sister Jacinta Teixeira) of the owners of the property. Thank you to all the parents who participated in this process.

The SGB has a number of sub-committees that a member(s) head. FRC- Gurnicka Greenwood, Collen Rankin and Rochelle Nel, Publicity and Marketing – Gurnicka Greenwood, Property and Maintenance – Jeremy Petersen, RE and Ethos – Mr Pereira and Sr. Jacinta. Anyone interested in making a contribution can contact the relevant SGB member.

The SGB meets once a month throughout the year, assisting the school in organizing and managing its activities. Primary areas of oversight include the school's finances, staff appointments, maintenance of buildings and grounds, safety and security, and ensuring that the Catholic ethos is maintained and enhanced.

The main ongoing issue facing the SGB is the non-payment of school fees by a minority of parents. The salaries of half the teachers at the school are wholly derived from school fees, payment of which is mandatory at fee-paying schools. We urge parents who are falling into arrears with school fees to contact the bursar (Ms Josie De Rosnay) or Mr Pereira as soon as possible to make a payment plan. The SGB has reluctantly adopted a new, more stringent policy for collecting outstanding debts, using legal services. We would be grateful for co-operation in ensuring the school continues to be financially sound.

Fundraising efforts provide added income and have allowed the school to purchase a new school bus and to carry out much needed maintenance and upgrades to the school property. We are grateful for the support of learners, teachers, parents and guardians who have made this possible and to our caretaker, Mr Holtzhausen, for all his hard work.

Our *Code of Conduct* is available and can be downloaded from the website. Please ensure you and your child(ren) are familiar with its contents. We would be grateful for your ongoing support in ensuring the spirit and ethos of the school are always evident in the behaviour of its learners, both on and off school property.

Regards

Gurnicka Greenwood – GB Chairperson and Publicity & Marketing portfolio