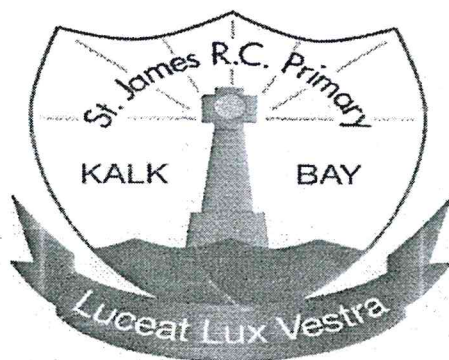


St. James R.C. Primary

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14 November 2018

Dear residents of Kalk Bay and St James,

We need your help.

Before I explain how, let me explain a few facts about St James Primary R.C. School in Kalk Bay that you might be aware of:

- We are the second oldest school in the False Bay area, having been founded in 1874
- The school property is owned by the Catholic Church, but the school is a State school. As a result of its geographical situation in Kalk Bay, St James Primary School has been placed into the richest funding Quintile 5 and receives a minimal subsidy of R70 000 per annum from the state. The school does not and has never had any learners from the more affluent Kalk Bay community. In fact as a result of the group areas act, it was moved from its original location in St James so that it could accommodate the non-white children of the fishermen's village and the surrounding areas. It has always served the marginalised and previously disadvantaged communities which includes Ocean View and Masiphumelele. We are therefore obliged to supplement this with fees, which are as low as possible, from the parents of our pupils in order to help meet our running costs. Our parents are committed to their children's education and they pay their school fees. The balance of our budget is met from donations.
- Our admission policy is based serving our traditional communities which have connections to Kalk Bay/St James, either as present or past residents as well as employees working in our village. Also, many of our staff have local links. We are therefore truly of and dedicated to our community.
- We are an English medium school with 300 pupils, about 40 to a class. Our teacher to student ratio is about one teacher for every 38 pupils.
- We are a results driven institution. Despite the constraints outlined above we consistently achieve a pass rate of between 80%-90% in the Provincial Systemic Tests.

We are therefore a succeeding, not a failing school. We have been supported by our community to help us build on our successes. A couple of examples of terrific community involvement and assistance:

- This year we received the support of the Kalk Bay and St James SRA Social Development team by its promotion, together with Toastmasters of our recent programs for both pupils and teachers to express themselves in an open forum. This has produced enormous dividends in increasing personal skills and self-confidence.
- The community supports specific projects and pastoral care programmes at the school
- Since 2000 a number of local volunteers and community members have tutored over 2000 of our pupils with reading difficulties by implementing the Ready Steady Write/Wordwork programme. The Wordworks programme is a structured programme that provides children from Gr R to 3 with the skills they need to learn to read and write successfully. All materials are provided.

We urgently need help to expand this programme so that can help more of our pupils with special needs. We appeal to local residents to volunteer two hours per week for at least 6 months to help pupils with reading and writing problems.

Please consider joining the team of committed volunteers who have been making a great difference in the lives and education of the children at St James. Each volunteer will work with between 2 to 4 pupils for two hours once per week between 09h00 and 13h20.

Volunteers will be trained in the Ready Steady Read Write programme by the NGO Wordworks.
Those wanting to enquire and/or volunteer should contact Lynette Saunders, the Principal by phone [0217887064] or by e-mail at stjamesprimary1@gmail.com.

We thank our community for its interest and support of our school.

Yours faithfully

LK SAUNDERS
Principal

K SCHMIDT
SGB