

Thank you and Farewell

At this time of transition for many community members, I would like to send a message of gratitude and optimism.

I arrived at AISJ Pretoria, almost 5 years ago, and quickly developed a strong sense of attachment to and pride in our beautiful campus. I have served and worked alongside many exceptional educators over this time span and my own learning has been exponential. I have also met kindred spirits with whom I know I shall always remain in touch.

We have built further on the strong foundations laid by my predecessor, Ben Weinberg. Our school is proudly able to celebrate inquiry-driven, conceptually based teaching and learning in the context of our learning-focused strategic plan. Faculty members have open doors and share their practices with each other, willingly and actively. We are committed to further exploration of personalized learning and seek and enact more and more opportunities for student voice to be heard. As I think back over the last 5 years, I must also share the positive impact that the facility changes have had on our students' learning and whole school experience. It is hard to recall Pretoria Campus before the outdoor areas were landscaped, before the Middle School classrooms were added, before the Weinberg Center with its stunning Library, Art Room, Tech Center and prized Parent Room were constructed, before the Makerspace came to be...and now we are about to see the realization of our Multipurpose Center. The Center will house a full-sized gymnasium and a stunning performance space. It will, together with previous additions, be a concrete symbol of our commitment to the School's four pillars: Academics, Athletics, Arts and Service Learning. I cannot wait to hear about the finished product.

So, it is with a combination of sorrow and excitement that I set off on a new adventure. I know this bittersweet experience is true for many of our leavers and also for those who stay behind, as they wonder what impact the changes will bring about. I am convinced that this will be entirely positive. The quality of the soon-to-be new Pretoria Campus colleagues led by Dr Amy Parish, (already proven to be focused, caring and experienced) combined with the talented faculty members who remain (led by our inimitable, knowledgeable and committed Assistant Principal, Sheena MacLeod) bodes very well for the future.

I would like to share my gratitude for your support, encouragement, advice, constructive feedback and friendship. As I said at the lovely farewell party thrown by my faculty (as I was taught to do by my mother when I did sleep-overs as a child): *Thank you for having me.*

I wish you all a happy, healthy continuation wherever you may be.

Rachel Caldwell

Pretoria Campus Principal



A few of the many, many highlights on Pretoria Campus 2013-18



Thanks to our parent community for sharing their gratitude.

Students providing input to the architectural plans for the Weinberg Center.

The opening of the Pretoria kitchen in 2014.



Happy memories of CWWs

Wonderful Arts Fest celebrations

Enjoying and valuing local traditions



Construction underway

Building Bus Communities

Strong relationship with Meetse A Bophelo, our partner school



Interactions with High School and the growth of MUN

Always making time for some fun

G8 Carnival