



The Swim School

September 2021

Hi Folks,
Spring is in the air, with some warm weather, which is most welcome!

The Swim School is 25 years old on 14 September 2021! It seems like the other day I was running around trying to get everything ready to open, and now 25 years later, I am running around trying to get the New Pool open on 14 September 2021! My only regret is that I am 25 years older than I was back in 1996, and regardless of what they say, "Age does matter" so everything takes twice as long as it used to!!

September is traditionally our Swimathon Month – where we gather funds to support all our Development Programs and also to assist those who are in need.

Swimathon

This event will take place from 14 September 2021 to the end of the term, and as we are not able to have a large crowd, it will be done during lesson time. The info will be sent out next week and we encourage all our superstars to gather as many sponsors/donations as they can so that we can really make a difference. Our aim this year is to raise R25000 towards this very worthy and important cause. I do understand the impact that Covid-19 has had and continues to have in our lives, as we have all been affected in one way or another – but let's try to get some form of normality back, and with the tradition of Swimathon being re-introduced perhaps we can also look forward to other events coming back to The Swim School!

We will also be doing The Polar Plunge in the new pool as soon as there is sufficient water in it!! So all our very brave superstars will be encouraged to participate!

The New Pool

As you are all aware, Janice lost her office about a month ago, and we have been working at a rate of knots to get the new office complete – the deadline is this weekend!! Starting Monday 6 September, the new office will be open!

Entry to The Swim School will be down the "Driveway/Pathway" at 86 Alexandra Street, into the office at the end of the pathway, and then through the doorways/gateways to pools. Temperature checks and Sign in will take place in the office.

Please remember to sanitise before entering the office!

The other facilities are not quite ready, but Joe and his team are working feverishly to ensure that everything is done by 14 September! The changerooms and the bathrooms need to be tiled and plastered and ceilings need to be installed.

The pool will be marbelited this weekend, weather permitting. The other equipment is already delivered, ladders, lane ropes and backstroke poles, the blanket is due once the water starts going in, so it is very exciting!

We will be installing a "Guest Wifi" – which should be in by mid September!

The grass on the side of the pool is currently being installed, paving is happening over the next two weeks and the plasterers are busy finishing off so that the painting can begin!

The Garden and pool surround is in need of some plants and colour!! If you are willing to share any cuttings/seeds/slips for the garden, we will be grateful, and we promise to love them and take care of them!

We are still waiting for the plans to be approved for the building over the pool, so for now it will be an open air pool, but it will be heated (once they find the heaters that were imported for us and got lost/stolen during the riots at the Durban Harbour) but we will still have to do the Polar Plunge before they are installed!!

This whole project has been a "Leap of Faith" and so far we have been very blessed! In terms of long term planning for the children and their parents, this pool is going to offer us all so many opportunities for the promotion of safety and well-being in the Community!

Accounting and Management System

We are changing to Swool, as this system will integrate all our schedules, registers, accounts, notes and information, and will hopefully do away with all the paperwork that tends to clutter up my office!

The new invoices for Term 4 will be generated on the new system, and as we prepare to move everything across, we would like an easy transition from QuickBooks to Swool, so please ensure that all fees are paid without further delay (as they were due by 1 September 2021), so that we are not running on two systems moving forward, as this will be cumbersome and time consuming, and as the Version of Quick Books that we are using does not work with the newer operating systems and Microsoft 365, it also means that we have to keep one computer in the “dark ages”, until we can scrap Quick Books completely!!

It is going to be vitally important to reference payments correctly! **NAME OR INITIALS & SURNAME IS REQUIRED!** **“Swimming fees” or a “single name e.g. Hlelo” or “an Invoice No” or a “Parents Name” are NOT suitable references!**

FEES

Fees are payable in two instalments during the term. The first payment is due by the end of the 1st month of the term, and the second payment is due by the 1st of the final month of the term. If you are paying the term in three payments, please make sure that the final payment is made by the 1st day of the final month of the term.

PRIZE GIVING 2021

Awards are handed out for the **LIFE SKILLS** that are learnt – which means that every child, who works hard at each and every lesson, has the opportunity to earn an award!

We will be guided by the experts with regard to “Covid-19”, and their determination of crowd size etc. We are going to have to be very inventive to make Prize Giving an awesome and memorable experience for all our students!!!

Nursery School Prize Giving will be held on the last class of the year (December).

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Social distancing, sanitizing and masks have become a norm at The Swim School and although these requirements have become a nuisance it is very important that we all abide by the rules so that we remain a Covid free establishment.

While we have always encouraged parents and extended members of the family to attend the lessons to give our students their support, we must please be mindful of the restrictions we face in the number of people allowed on the premises at any one time. We trust that you will co-operate with us in keeping The Swim School Covid free! In our effort to be as safe as possible, All our Teachers and Staff members have had at least one Vaccine Jab!

COMMUNICATING WITH SWIMMERS AND PARENTS

We will continue to use Email, as well as Whatsapp etc, and once we have the new system up and running, I am confident that communication will be improved!

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Only 1 more to go this term! Remember that we are closed on **24 September 2021 for Heritage Day.**

TERM 3

Term 3 ends on 23 September 2021 (after swimming)

Please be aware that due to the change in the School Calendar with the winter break, we might be able to link our closing date for Term 3 to fall in line with the Government Schools Calendar. We will confirm this once we have the details.

TERM 4

We open on 4 October 2021 for Term 4

“Our Goal in Life is not to be better than anyone else, but to be better than we used to be”

That’s all for now folks,
Stay safe and stay warm!
Cecile & The Team