



05 September 2019

Dear Synod

### HERMANSBURG SYNOD REPORT

This year has seen new stability on one level, as staff retention has improved and scholar numbers climbed marginally after previous declines. On another level though, the uncertainty surrounding a potential sale and the future of the school has been difficult for staff, scholars, parents and the community to deal with.

Financially the challenges the school faces, limit much needed upgrades and place pressure on staff, for the most part the response to this has been to find ways to work around these challenges to offer a good education. Academically, we have introduced Business Studies and Computer Application Technology as new subjects, and are trialling project-based learning within the grade 8 & 9 classes in the high school. The combined classes we have returned to in the primary school have worked well, and the teachers and scholars have adapted to this. Music and Sport are enjoyable parts of school life, and the highlight of this year was the lovely cabaret, arranged by our grade 12's, under our music director's guidance.

The school continues to offer chapel services and devotions, boarders continue to attend the local Hermannsburg congregation, as well as various events at other churches within the ELCSA(N-T), with our brassband especially benefitting from this. Along with this we attend events arranged by other Christian schools through the school chaplain network.

Attached are two letters recently sent out by the DSH board of trustees which clearly sum up the current state of affairs and some of the future that we see ahead of us.

We look forward to an ongoing relationship with our local congregation, ELCSA(N-T), and our other support organisations as we move into a potentially exciting new era at Hermannsburg School.

Kind regards

Trevor Harbottle  
Principal