

# Sun Valley Primary School

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Dear Grade 4 to 7 Parents

## ASSESSMENT STRATEGY 2017

The Assessment Week was written by Grade 4-7 students and the process of Moderation of marks has now been concluded.

I have included a brochure I wrote a while back on the EXAM FACTORY. Those of us who were raised in an era where the results of your examination (high-stakes testing) determined your value and capacity may be anxiously awaiting the results of the Assessment Week. I am going to disappoint you by letting you know that the Grade 4 and 5 classes will not get their results back. Together with my Curriculum Team, I have seen the papers, assessed them, moderated them and developed an intervention strategy to address areas of concerns. As you will see in the brochure, the 25% allocation - once moderated, will have a very small impact on your child's term performance. This will be presented to you by your child and his/her teacher at Parentline on the 20th June.

Once our Grade 4 and 5 students have mastered the art of anxiety management and the writing of high-stakes tests, the Grade 6 and 7 teachers will allow their students to see their Examination Papers and work through their mistakes as part of their preparation for writing Examinations in High School. These papers will not come home. This process has to be wisely administered. The self-value of a student may be crippled when she/he sees the results of a single test, completed under unusual conditions, unless she/he is made aware that the mark is combined with the class-based assessment to show her/his true potential. Although Grade 6 still only has an allocation of 25%, this feedback is important in preparation for Grade 7 when the Examination counts 60% of the final mark.

From Grade 10 - 12, the Examination counts 75% of the overall mark. Despite the fact that high-stakes testing has been acknowledged as a *useless* indicator of our true performance, High Schools and Tertiary institutions have been unable to navigate into world-class assessment strategies which make use of multiple indicators to determine true potential and ability. So equipping our children for a season of FACTORY learning, sadly, remains a part of our function. This function has been carefully designed to span a four year season - making our Grade 7 students confident and competent in anxiety-rich, high-stakes testing.

Gavin Keller  
Principal  
08 June 2017

