Welcome to our 74th Edition of “Big School Buzz” as we embrace the new month of December, with school holidays and the joyous time of Christmas fast approaching. And the fabulous new Zip Zap Circus Show coming up is the perfect event for spending some quality family time together, and one not to be missed. This edition of our newsletter makes for an enjoyable read and should be savoured at your earliest convenience. Sit back and browse through each valuable page at your leisure and soak it all up, page by informative page. From educational updates, leisure activities and valuable back to school tips, to exciting new product launches, technological breakthroughs, and more. Please feel free to forward this edition to your fellow colleagues, friends and family as we grow the “Big School Community”, together. Wishing you a blessed holiday break, and do lend a helping hand to anyone less fortunate than yourself during this important time of giving.

Yours sincerely

Editor & Crew

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**Vacation Time Is Good Reading Time.** Extensive research proves that children who read for pleasure on a regular basis will gain advantages that last a lifetime. The academic benefits of a strong leisure reading habit are certainly not confined to improved reading ability alone. Leisure reading makes students more articulate, develops higher order reasoning, and promotes critical thinking along the way. And of course, it’s imperative that your children see you reading for pleasure too in your spare time – an activity with a purpose, so to speak. Reading opens up a world of discovery, charting lifelong voyages through the realms of literature, history and science. Together we can raise young bookworms who are enthusiastic and absolutely love reading books.

**Zip Zap Brings You A Circus Picnic With a Difference.** After this most trying year of #20Plenty that has rocked everyone’s world, South Africa’s favourite social circus, Zip Zap, is celebrating the resilience of our Rainbow Nation with some brand new circus magic – and this time in fabulous picnic style! Pack your cushions and picnic blankets and take the family to the Circus. Book your tickets and picnic boxes for “A Circus Picnic” on Quicket. The Zip Zap Dome located on the Foreshore in Cape Town, will be transformed into a spellbinding theatrical picnic from 11 – 20 December 2020, with shows daily at 7pm. This is Zip Zap’s first show since lockdown and the final show for 2020. Show tickets are limited to a maximum of 200 people and strict Covid-19 protocols will apply.
EQ4Kids

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR KIDS AGES 3 - 18

The skills and lessons taught through EQ4kids will help children to:

- Recognise their emotions
- Understand emotions and their consequences
- Learn to express & regulate emotions
- Learn essential life skills

This programme will make a vital contribution to your child’s life. It will enhance your child’s ability to form stable, supportive relationships and enjoy greater well-being as well as academic performance. Developing a child’s emotional intelligence plays a key role in raising happy, resilient and well-adjusted kids and adults one day.

IQ brings you to it - EQ gets you through it!

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For more information about EQ4Kids visit our website:
www.eq4kids.co.za
**Big School Readiness And Preparedness Is A Joint Effort.** Preparing a child for school is no longer considered the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian – it is now framed as a 'social responsibility' in which parents, childcare professionals, teachers and importantly, government, must play significant roles. School readiness is a child’s readiness for school, the school’s readiness for the child, and family and community support and services that contribute to the child’s overall readiness for school success. Ready schools smooth the transition from play-based early learning to more formal classroom-based teaching, by helping children learn and make sense of their complex, and exciting world. Ready schools take responsibility for results and are fully committed to the success of every child. >>>

**Parental Involvement And Responsibilities In Support Of Learning.** The South African Schools Act (#84, 1996) has the interests of all South Africans and its children at heart, and is premised on the principle that you, the parent, have a fundamental right to participate in decisions taken about your child’s educational future. You need to know and be informed that all school policies must be aligned to the South African Constitution and you should have access to information regarding both your rights, and parental obligations, in terms of the South African Schools Act of 1996, as gazetted. >>>

**Back2School Preparation Is Easy With The Blue Page Supplier Directory.** The new Big School Buzz Blue Page Directory is fast becoming a key connector between suppliers and consumers. A truly fabulous A-Z Supplier & Service Provider Directory that is specifically designed to assist consumers, and help local businesses grow and thrive. This easy to use interactive facility allows consumers to connect and engage with suppliers in the education sector, across the board. The directory is now a permanent fixture and spotlight feature on the Big School Adventure website for easy reference, and will be updated periodically as new company listings come online. Make use of this compact directory to ease the burden of Back2School in 2021. >>>

**Rubber Actually Gets Its Name From Eraser.** Caoutchouc is natural rubber obtained from the latex sap of rubber trees that has not been vulcanized, and is elastic in nature. It was the English Chemist, Joseph Priestley, who is generally credited for naming rubber. The erasing substance he described in 1770, initially referred to as India Gum, required a gentle rubbing action on the part of the user to erase marks. It was Charles Goodyear who then later figured out how best to cure and vulcanize the raw substance in the mid-1800's, and revolutionised the rubber industry in the process. Eraser shavings are called eraser crumbs, linking back to the times when dampened bread was used to erase marks from manuscripts. >>>

**Big School Buzz Fast Fact Corner:**
- Classrooms as morphing learning spaces make so much sense. >>>
- Doodling is fun and it supports student learning in a big way. >>>
- Text Neck is a serious matter and should not be taken lightly. >>>
- Green schoolyards foster intellectual growth and well-being. >>>
- Finding suppliers in the education sector has never been so easy. >>>
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Career Compass gives you:
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