



“To have life more abundantly”

Circular 1 of 2023  
20 January 2023

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to a year where the entire school arrives on the first day! This allows us to live our theme for 2023: **UNLEASHED ... SOARING**. We had the opportunity to shake loose our Eagle feathers and do some soaring but it did allow us to start this year without the constriction of those COVID-19 chains. I always start the year with my opening assembly address but this year I am going to give you a chance to read the presentations of our Top Three Pupil Leaders – truly inspirational.

## **Ethan Chirumbira**

What if it went beyond, you and the people sitting to your right and to your left, to the people who sat here nearly 40 years ago and another 40 years after you? Despite all our differences in race, nationalities, language, religion, gender, interests and many other variables, we have one thing in common. We are all EHS Eagles.

When you look to your left, your right, and anywhere in this school you will see an Eagle that has been unleashed and is ready to soar. This ability to sore and attain a high-flying altitude over great distances is something unique to eagles. When an eagle see another eagle soaring that high, it can only be another eagle.

This is similar to how our ability to achieve the highest level of excellence is unique to us. Independent of race, nationality, language, religion and interests, this ability to soar to the greatest level of excellence is unique to us as Edgemean High School. We pursue and achieve excellence. It is our signature and simply a part of the EHS brand.

That being said, we are still all unique. Though part of a brand of excellence, this standard of excellence is upheld in different ways. That can be in a classroom, the sports field or outside of school but you sitting there means that you have the ability to soar within you. It is a part of your DNA.

Let me encourage you to soar despite any storms that come your way because eagles like the storm. The allows the eagle to gain entry into a space that it cannot normally reach in good weather. It allows it to soar higher so build on any challenges of the past and challenges to come. Take all the opportunities that come your way. Use them to soar higher than before and higher still because you are an eagle.

## **Isabella di Leva**

It's 2023, we have overcome the COVID-19 storm and are soaring through the clouds, A.K.A. we are back to the new normal times.

I believe that we are entering this year with a new set of wings. These wings have been altered through the COVID-19 storm and are now fully developed to conquer the new normal world, which we have missed out on for the past 3 years.

We need to soar high, utilizing our strong wings which are because of hard work and diligence. This year we need to focus on using our full potential to achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves.

When I think of the word, “SOAR”, there are different components that stand out to me, namely...

S = START

O = OVERCOME

A = ACHIEVE

R = REST

S = START,

The famous quote, “You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great,” really stood out for me. You need to remember that every little action that leads to a big difference, starts somewhere. So just get started and don’t wait or depend on anything, as the best time to start is now. You can always have big dreams and set ambitious goals, but it takes determination and courage to begin doing it. This can also relate to our core value of “PASSION”, in which we need that driving force to get something going.

O = OVERCOME,

Throughout this year, it is inevitable, that you will be faced with challenges, however, the real challenge is how we grow and learn from overcoming them. When the world beats you down, find a reason to get back up again and most importantly, never give up!

As per the quote, “Strength doesn’t come from what you can do. It comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn’t.” You have already overcome many battles to be where you are now, so continue to persevere and in the end you will only become stronger.

A = ACHIEVE,

Success does not mean the same thing for everyone; however, it is the sense of accomplishment after achieving a goal. With that being said, it is very important to set realistic goals for yourself this year and take RESPONSIBILITY in achieving these goals. These goals can only be achieved with hard work, so you need to “feed your focus, and starve your distractions.” Having these goals to achieve, will also assist you in gaining motivation when you feel you want to give up, as you can remember that in the end, your diligence will pay off. This can also link with our core value of “PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE” in that, the courage and persistence to achieve a goal will result in you unleashing your greatest potential.

R = REST,

As things are going back to normal, life and school is going to get busier and busier. It is essential that you find balance between school and your personal life and not neglect the one over the other as they are both very important. In the midst of achieving your goals and focusing on school, find time to rest. Rest is incredibly vital for improving your concentration, and it reduces stress.

Remember, that “if you get tired, learn to rest, not to quit.” It’s natural to want to give up when we feel overwhelmed, however, we should learn to rather regather our thoughts, take some time to reflect and thus gain a new perspective.

So to all my fellow eagles of 2023,

I challenge you this year to ask those interesting questions; to try new things; to share what you’re learning with others and ask for help, but most importantly, SOAR this year and reach great heights!

## **Xivono Chabalala**

Good morning seniors, I hope you all had an amazing December holiday. This year's motto is unleashed...soaring. Let's break down what this means.

**Unleashed** is defined as cause to be released or become unrestrained.

Grade 8s for you this means being released into the "bigger world". In grade 7 you were the top of the food chain, now in high school you are comparable with a grade 1. This is a fundamental year in your high school life. This year determines how you perceive yourself and how others perceive you for the next 4 years. Grade 9s, for you this is the year that you must make an important choice that will affect your job prospects. Choosing subjects isn't easy, but you have to do a great deal of self-reflection and determine which direction you want to go in. I want to encourage all grade 8s and grade 9s to unleash your full potential and become the best version of yourself.

Matrics, this year is the pinnacle point of your high school career. The conclusion of a trying journey of self-discovery and perseverance. Grade 11, this is the most important year of your high school career. These marks determine the life you will have. Grade 10s, this year is the filler chapter [the foundation] in your book of schooling.

I am sure we have all set goals for ourselves this year, some call it new year's resolutions. I want you all to close your eyes and think about where you want to be in 5 years. For some that will be matriculating, being in university, traveling or starting a job. It is easy to dream but unless you start putting things into action your dreams will never become a reality. Most people have given up on their new year's resolution by the end of January because they are not holding themselves accountable, they don't have a set plan on how they plan on attaining their goals or they lose motivation. Never lose sight of your goal. What you do this year impacts how your life will look in 5 years. What you do today impacts how your life will look by the end of this year. I encourage you to use your full potential to soar this year, your future self will thank you. The key thing to note in this year's motto is that unleashed is in the past tense. In order to soar, you first have to fully unleash your potential which means actively progressing in the steps you have planned to reach your goal, only then will you soar.

The ellipsis between unleashed and soaring is the long process no one else but you sees between unleashing your potential and fully achieving your goal. Doing 5 push ups in the morning may seem pointless, but you will be thanking yourself once you have that desired physique. Studying as soon as you receive your timetable might seem like overkill, but you will be thanking yourself once you see all those code 7s. Putting 5 rands in a container might seem pointless now, but you will be thanking yourself in 5 years once you have enough money to travel to your desired travel destination.

What does it mean to soar? It means to fly or rise high in the air. In other words it means to excel and rise above the standard. As soon as you have unleashed your potential you will be soaring to great heights and you'll be achieving your goals. It is also key to note that the motto has soar in the continuous tense. Soaring. This means that once your goal has been reached it is a continuous rise to greatness, excellence and prosperity. Once you have reached a big goal you will stay motivated to reach other goals you have set out for yourself and you will feel more content mentally, physically and emotionally.

There is a movie called the Poseidon adventure about a luxury cruise ship that capsizes. Everyone on the ship decided to stay put wherever they were in the ship and just wait for their impending fates. However, there were 6 people who voyaged through the ship to climb to the bottom, ultimately being the only people on the ship to survive. Who are you going to be this year? Are you going to be part of the crowd and stay put in your current position? Or will you be like the 1% that unleashes their fullest potential to achieve greatness and soar to great heights? I wish you all luck for the year ahead eagles.

This inspiration continued with our excellent 2022 matric results. Very pleasing was the 8% increase in Bachelor Passes [71% to 79%]. Sadly we had three who did not achieve – our thoughts are with them and their family. Our top achievers achieved excellent results [please see attached]. Congratulations to our Class of 2022!!

It is with great pleasure that we announce the return of our Frist Tram Cricket Team to the top echelons of cricket. We put into place a five-year plan which has come to fruition. We thank all who contributed to the players continued passion for cricket. A special thank you to Messrs vd Berg, Myburgh, vd Merwe, Ford and the coach for their passion. We wish them well for the season.

Congratulations to Callum Ajam who has been selected to participate in a soccer tour to Spain in September. [See attached – any sponsorship will be appreciated].

Proudly EHS.

Mr RG Lawrence  
PRINCIPAL



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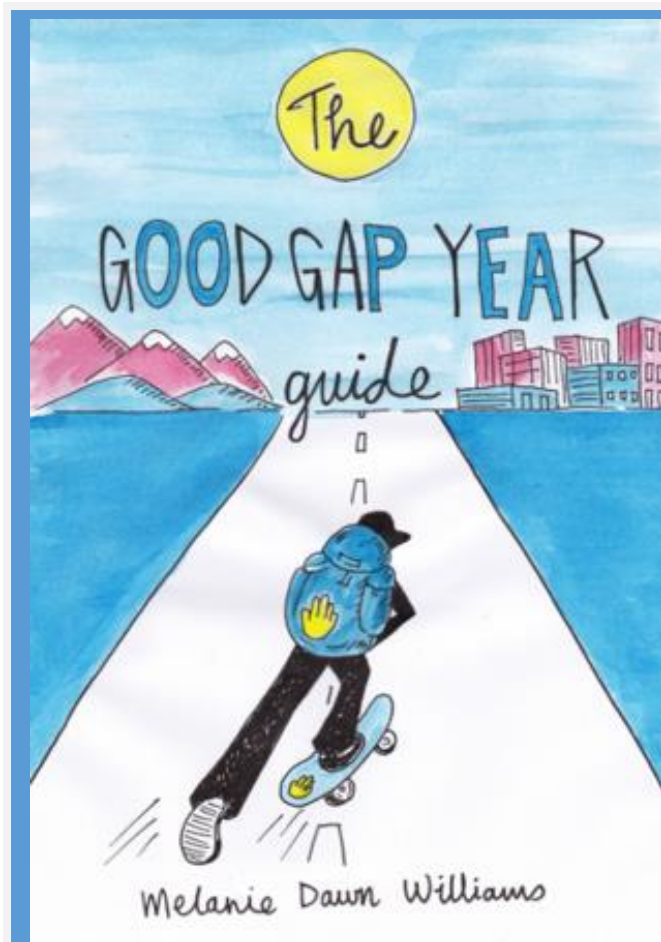
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Evening workshops also available on request. Melanie Williams, your workshop facilitator, has been involved in high school education for over 25 years and is a registered psychometrist and career counsellor.

She is the author of *The Good Gap Year Guide*, written to assist South African parents, mentors and young people choosing to take a structured Gap Year.

Contact Melanie on Cell 0725084002 or email: [mel@optimize.co.za](mailto:mel@optimize.co.za) for further information.