



TOP SCHOOLS

SAHETI is a multi-ethnic, English-medium school, which has, from the outset, sought to embrace all communities within South Africa and the world in general, resulting in a learner body comprising of 26 different ethnicities.

At the core of SAHETI's ethos is the school motto founded in ancient Greek thought, "Know Thyself".

This implies finding out who you are, accepting yourself, believing in yourself, being confident, achieving and embarking on the journey of self-realisation.

Thirty-six years later, SAHETI has established an

identity, an ethos and a culture.

Culture, by definition, is the social heritage of a community transmitted from generation to generation.

Executive head Mrs Anastasia Krystallidis explains: "In planning our strategy towards the future, we realised that we have established a Hellenic school which reflects the rainbow of South Africa and we must now extend what we have already established."

"We need to consciously embrace the diversity in our school, namely to give opportunities to the different ethnic groups of SAHETI to know themselves, their roots, their language, their history and to

The role of "Know Thyself" in embracing diversity

bring their cultural heritage to SAHETI so that the rainbow comes alive.

"We believe that the sharing of ideas makes the maximum opportunity for learning. We cannot be "luke-warm" about diversity.

"We must embrace it and put in a concerted effort to ensure a well-functioning, inclusive community. SAHETI has a diverse school community, therefore we need a multicultural curriculum.

"Knowing the children we

teach – individually, culturally and developmentally, is as important as knowing the content we teach.

"Diversity, then, is not a problem, but an opportunity for humanity to live up to its name.

In embracing diversity, the most important thing is to "know thyself", as a starting point. We find out about our roots and our culture, and we bring this to our school to share it with others.

The successful manage-

ment of diversity implies the development of a strong school culture that values cultural differences, while at the same time, aligns the staff towards the goals of the school and ensures that the talents of all members of the SAHETI community, from the board to the children, are used optimally.

"The survival of mankind will depend on the ability of people who think differently to act together". (Hofstede 1980). This South African proverb is also relevant.

"If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together".

"We want SAHETI to walk

far. SAHETI's success is attributed to the people who walked together all these years.

"We do not need to change our motto or our mission to include diversity because it is already included.

"We need to embrace, explore, extend and celebrate SAHETI's diversity.

This is going to be our challenge in 2010 and in the years to come, until we achieve our goal. Parents then will enliven their children at SAHETI because no one here will feel like a 'xenos' (foreigner).

"We will all know who we are and we will be proud of our roots and our heritage and that South Africa is our home."



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