



JUNIOR PREPARATORY SCHOOL HEAD MARION MACKINNON

H.Dip Ed, B.Ed. Honours in Educational Management and Leadership (Cum Laude)

QUALIFICATIONS & CAREER SUMMARY

As long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a teacher, and at the age of 8 taught my younger brother to start reading before he started school. I first qualified with a Higher Diploma in Education (Junior Primary) and taught a range of grades including preschool. More recently I completed a B.Ed. Honours Degree in Educational Management and Leadership (Cum Laude). I have always embraced the idea of life-long learning, with highlights including my participation in

a global Action Research Team, presenting at the International Boys' Schools Conference in Vancouver, and the publication of an article in the SA Journal of Education. I first joined Bennies when Standard 2 was the entry level, and then got my dream job of teaching Grade 1 when this phase was introduced. With the emergence of Technology in Education, I developed a passion in this field and was given the chance to run the Junior Prep IT Centre. Here I could share the boys'

excitement discovering how learning could be enhanced with innovation and fun in the digital world. This creative learning space led me to explore trends transforming education, and my appointment as Deputy Head challenged me to drive academic advancement in the JP. Bennies has provided me with opportunities to stretch my capacity and experience immense personal growth and fulfilment. As Head of JP, I am truly grateful that I love what I do.

BRIEF FAMILY BACKGROUND

I am happily married to Donal, a Bennies Old Boy, who still connects with his classmates as they fondly reminisce about their school days. We are the proud parents of two daughters, Angela and Sarah, who are currently pursuing their careers in Cape Town and London respectively. Spending time with family is one of my greatest joys. We have always enjoyed the outdoors and climbing Table Mountain is a favorite trail.

ROLE AT BENNIES

My role is to lead the Junior Prep team in line with the Whole School vision fostering quality learning and holistic excellence. One of our key goals at the JP is to instil a love of reading and one of my favorite roles is time spent with the boys, reading stories and talking about books. Creating a welcoming boy-friendly environment is also a priority. I am proud to be part of a team of innovative teachers and place a high value on building a culture of empowerment where teachers can thrive at what they do and bring out the best in our boys. I serve on the EXCO and also head the Cultural Strategic Steering Committee where we seek to increase Cultural opportunities, attainment and visibility across the school. Promoting this pillar has been truly enriching. While my leadership role at Bennies continues to evolve, my heart is always in it.

VIEWS ON DIVERSITY

It's about understanding that each individual is unique and there is no place for stereotyping and generalisations. Our role is to become actively engaged in building a society of equity. Ibram X Kendi says it best, "Behavior is something humans do, not races do".

ONE WORD THAT SUMMARISES MY EXPERIENCE AT BENNIES

EUREKA! - Because we are continually making new discoveries.

MY FAVOURITE PILLAR

Definitely the **Cultural Pillar** because it creates opportunities for our boys to find their element in creative expression.

MY FAVOURITE QUOTE...

"If you can light the spark of curiosity in a child, they will learn without any further assistance"
Sir Ken Robinson

