



# SAHETI

SOUTH AFRICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΤΕΧΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΙΑ ΝΟΤΙΟΥ ΑΦΡΙΚΗΣ

Wordsworth Avenue  
Senderwood  
2145  
P.O. Box 79138  
Telephone: 53-6968/9

17 February 1986.

To Mr Charles Folley, Teachers and Students of Concorde High

I enclose the letters written by boys and girls of the Standard 7 m class at our school. On the morning after the tragedy occurred, we spent our classtime in English lessons, listening to updated radio reports, reading news reports and discussing the facts available. Facts were one thing, but we were emotionally very involved with America, with Sharon Christi McAuliffe's family and with those like yourselves who loved her. We much admired the positive attitude she imparted to all; her relaxed manner in the classroom, and as some of our students have said, the strong teacher-student bond forged. What a loss to you, to education.

We have sent a telex to Nasa, but we wanted to share our feelings with you, even though we are so far away. We have had quite a battle to get the address, but yesterday got it from the American embassy.

I think that these letters say it all. My students spontaneously suggested this communication and I endorse their feelings.

Our love to you

Kathy Barrable (Mrs)  
(English Teacher)



### FRONT ROW (L to R):

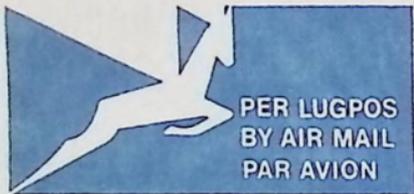
Anastasia Zarakidis; Mrs Barable (teacher); Alexandra Augitides  
Nicolette Couvaleros; Irene Trimmis; Sally Ferrington.  
Vassil Bailis; Irene Kavallieratos;

### Middle Row:

Areti tzanos; Tina Bertsatos; Katia Kairinos; Brigitte  
Wood; Eloise Patricious; Tonia Anagnostu; Chantre Berger

### Last Row:

Andrew mrazek; Winston Penhall; Timmy Nicolopoul  
Paul Rennison; Michael Van Oerle; Giles Willey;  
Andrew Cosmopoulos; Arthur Poulos; Chris  
Watson and Andrew Savvas



The Principal, Mr Charles Folley  
Concorde High School  
Warrea Street  
Concorde  
New Hampshire  
03301

**SAHETI SCHOOL  
P.O. BOX 79138  
SENDERWOOD 2145**

30 January 1986

3 Roberts Avenue  
Bedfordview

2008

30 JANUARY 1986

Dear Sir,

My name is Tino Bertsatos and I am 13 years old. I was born in South Africa I am going to Sekhiti school. We all heard about the "Challenger Tragedy" and would like to send you my deepest sympathies. I really admire an astronaut's courage and I respect all of them for taking such risks with their lives. It was very unfortunate for this great tragedy to have happened. It is sad to think that we were helpless at a time when they needed us the most and these seven people will always be remembered and greatly admired for their contribution to science.

Your Sincerely

T. Bertsatos

Bertsatos

-1- 5 February 1986.

To the pupils of Concorde High,

I cannot imagine the pain you must all be feeling, but I do share in your grief, in the sadness of losing someone special. In many ways all of the students at your school and throughout America are envied as you are lucky enough to experience the triumphs in space, but then too, you must experience the tragedies. I send you my deepest regrets and hope that in this time of sorrow, you are comforted.

I would very much like to correspond with a student from your school. If possible my own age, 14 years. If anyone is interested my home address is;

6 Kingswood Road  
Glenhazel  
2192  
Johannesburg  
South Africa.

I would love to hear from any of you and hope to establish a penfriend from

-2-

your country, one we hear so much about

Once again my deepest sympathy on the loss of your exceptional teacher and friend. The wheel of our destiny spins infinitely, but nothing replaces one human life.

Wishing you all, the strength to overcome this tragedy

Nicolette Cavaleros  
South Africa.

6 February 1986  
Saheti School  
P.O. Box 79138  
Senderwood  
2145  
South Africa

Dear Sir, teachers and scholars

In this letter I send to you my most sincere and heartfelt condolences, for the death of Mrs McAuliffe

I don't mean this letter to bring sorrowful thoughts and many more tears, but I wish to tell you, that your unhappiness is shared by others

Love Sally Ferrington  
(Age: 13)

To Concord High

As I was watching the news  
the sudden explosion came as  
a great shock

I can only imagine how it for all  
of you to lose a nice teacher.

I hope that Mrs McUaliffes family  
is starting to feel better.

Our class put together a telex  
message that we sent to NASA.

It came to America at about 2am  
on the fourth of February.

I hope all the other shuttles  
are safe

yours  
sincerely

Michael van Oerle

To the pupils of Concord High

With great pride I watched the space ship lift off with Christa McAuliffe, one of you students' teacher which was very special to you all. She had shared her moments of excitement and anxiety with you.

Sadness filled the atmosphere as the space ship exploded and showered the sky with the shattered parts of the Challenger and the smoke which spread across the sky like some new disease.

Deep inside me there was and still is misery and grief for this tragic accident which happened to Miss McAuliffe even though I did not know her.

I understand how sad you all are, but just remember that God embraced her precious soul as a hero.

I send my deepest sympathy to all of you and share your feelings with you.

Yours sincerely Irene Timmis

To a student who I would love to meet!

Even though the world is so big, something tragic like this united us all to share the sadness with you.

Together with you and your school friends, I share your sorrow of your greatly admired teacher, and your expectancy of evidence.

Sorry for not introducing myself at the very beginning, but anyway my name is alexandra augitis, my friends call me "alex" I am 14 years old. My birthday is <sup>the</sup> 3 May 1972. Here is a picture of myself. What do you look like?

How old are you? Our school is in Bedfordview in Johannesburg and it is called "Saheti".

Sitting here writing to you, I think to myself who is this person and what is he/she doing.

Sunny Africa say "hi" and we all love and sympathize all of you. Fortunately my mother is calling me for supper, otherwise I would be writing essays and essays. Poor you (just a joke)

I hope we can be pen-pals and I wish that one day we meet.

lots and lots  
of friendly love  
alexandra  
augitis.

My address is.

103 Atholl Oaklands Road  
Elton Hill  
Johannesburg  
2196.



To Concord High School

We here at Saheti school send our greatest sympathy's. It's not easy to believe that one minute you were laughing with that same person and then they suddenly became flying fire in the space of God. If I had to put myself in your position I certainly would not have been as strong as you have been towards all this. I am honoured to write this letter as to share my feelings with you and tell you more about my school. Saheti is a private school in Sanderwood and there are about 1000 children in the school starting from Nursery school up to matric. It's a very lively school and it has a high standard of education. It's a Greek school but we only have one hour of Greek a day. I've been at this school since Std 2.

Well, I hope that that tells you more about our school and if someone is willing to write back and tell us more about yourselves just put your address and name on an envelope and we'll write back and reply to your letter.

Here's my address. P.T.O

K. Kairinos

4 Sangiro street

Farrarmere

Benoni

1500

SOUTH AFRICA

Yours sincerely

Katia Kairinos from  
Saheti school  
Std 7M

Freedom is knowing your  
barriers using your strength  
And achieving your aims.  
Dear pupils at cogcorde.  
high.

I am pupil at Sabeti  
School School. I understand  
and what it's like  
to lose someone  
who is very close  
to you. The Agony and  
hurt that you are  
all feeling ~~will soon~~  
~~disappear~~. Good Luck  
for the future.

Sincerely  
~~Love~~

Tonia (a pupil)

To the pupils of Concord School

My name is Areti Tzanos, and I am a student at Saheti School. I was deeply shocked when I heard the news of the Space Shuttle Challenger. I send my deepest sympathy's for those determined seven who lost their lives. There will never be another group of people who can match up to what they did. We will always remember them and look up to them when we need some courage to do something. They risked their lives for us and for our future. We want you to know that there is a place for each one of them in all our hearts and our deepest thoughts. I can't imagine myself living through such an experience as this.

One day you have a person breathing, living and teaching you, and the next she is dead. I wish I had know her, she sounds like a wonderful person.

my address is

13<sup>A</sup> Pamin Rd  
Bedfordview 2008

J.H.B

Transvaal  
South Africa.

If anyone wishes to write back.

I am Winston Penhall a pupil at Saheti school, of  
fourteen years old. It must have been interesting to know  
such courageous person, and friend. You all must have  
been shocked at the tragic moment. I would like to  
get to know a person of my own age, therefore establishing  
a pen-friend, as I do not know what goes on in America  
it would be an interesting relationship to gain, I hope  
you will soon overcome your grief.

Yours sincerely Winston.

Dear Students

When I saw the shuttle blow up I wondered how I would have felt if one of my teachers had been involved in the disaster. I couldn't imagine what it would feel like but I no I would be deeply moved. I feel sorry for you all at this time.

I hope you may gain strength from the knowledge that from your teachers tragic death scientists may gain knowledge to help the future of mankind.

yours sincerley

Liles Willey

To Concorde High

I am 13 years old and I am a pupil at Saheti.

To the children of Concorde High School. I send my deepest sympathy for the loss of your teacher. I was stunned by this tragic moment. I hope you get over this soon but I think you should feel proud of yourselves as you had such a determined teacher who had over 100 hours of training for this flight. She would have been the first teacher into space. She risked her life to give man a greater knowledge of space.

Bye. But you'll soon get over it  
Hope you feel better soon Bye!

Chris Watson

9 Paula st Harmelia

Ext 1 Germiston

Johhaneberg

South Africa

To the students of Concord High,

The tragic death of your teacher and the other astronauts has surely left a feeling of emptiness amongst you and the rest of the American Nation. I would like to share a thought with you regarding the tragedy, in the form of a poem which I have written.

A tragic way to die  
So high above the earth  
Yet so close to our hearts  
75 seconds  
that's how long it took,  
for a whole nations happiness  
to turn to deadly screams  
for the seven who  
risked their lives  
for progress.

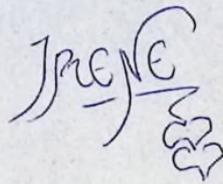
Tomorrow yet another day  
but civilization has been crippled  
by seven heroes  
who gave their lives  
in trying to better the way we live.

your sincerely  
Arthur Poulos

To Concorde High

On behalf of JAHETI SCHOOL I would like to express my deepest sympathies to all of you. It must have been great to have known a person who was willing to risk her life to contribute to science. Shocked as the world may be, we have to overcome it sooner or later although I know that no one in this world went through the pain that you did and that it will be very difficult for you. That is how we came to write letters to you, so that you know that we share in your hour of grief.

Sincerely yours

JANE  


P.S. It would be great to be able to communicate with you.

To the Principal, Students and  
Teachers of the School.

My name is Maria Zambetoulaki and I attend a Greek private school.

I offer my deepest and sincerest sympathy on the tragic death of Mrs. Christa McAuliffe who was killed, in the horrifying explosion of the Space Shuttle last week.

It's sad that often through a tragedy or death it seems that we grow closer to each other and to God. I am certain that Christa McAuliffe was a great part of peoples lives both of students and relatives and will naturally be missed by all.

TO: All pupils of Concord Highschool,

As a student of S.A.H.E.T.I. School in Johannesburg, I would like to express to you personally, as well as on behalf of all my classmates, my deep sorrow and sympathy for the great loss of your beloved teacher. From thousands of miles away I have lived your agony at these difficult and devastating moments of the tragedy. I share with you strong belief that your great teacher and every other astronaut lost will always be remembered by the American people as well as the rest of the world. Their contribution to the betterment of humanity will keep all people united and will forefront the progress of the human race. As an American I feel proud for their contribution and I will always remember them for the rest of my life. You, who have been privileged to have Mrs. McAuliffe as your teacher, must be really proud and honored. Now living far from home, in an equally beautiful and warm country, the Republic of South Africa I join American people in their prayers for our great Astronauts and in Mrs. McAuliffe memory I am dedicating the following few words.

Alone I stare into the darkness of the night  
All around is black and grey  
The speck of light from the candle is my only friend.

The wind's blow is drumming in my ear  
Is someone laughing at me?  
How I know I am alone again  
The candle has betrayed me, lead away from me  
by the wind  
The wind. It has caused me so much pain,  
Sweeping away all the good of my life  
And leaving me only filled with memories  
As I sit looking out seeking for a friend,  
I lay my head, close my eyes  
And remain in the blindness and sadness of my years.

May God bless all of you and comfort you at this time of your great sorrow

A. Zarakotis  
6 Kruger Street  
Oaklands  
Johannesburg 2192  
S. AFRICA

Sincerely,  
A. Zarakotis  
TMM

To Concord High

I am fourteen years old and I go to Saheti school, a private school. I heard the tragic news of the Challenger and your teacher, who must have been very courageous and whom you must be very proud of. Sometimes I just sit and think of how it must feel losing a teacher, whose your friend and a mother when you are at school, but all that happens to me is the tears which run down my cheeks. A year or so ago there was also a tragedy at our school, a nine year old pupil died. She was full of life and when we heard about the news of her death it was a great shock because you never really think about death or it happening to someone you know. I remember the school was gloomy and every where you looked someone was crying. It was a mournful day and it will always be a mournful memory. After a few days everyone pulled themselves together and everything went back

to normal. Everyone was laughing, having fun, joking, but that didn't last too long, for teachers were giving us and still are loads of homework which was and is no fun. Before I end my letter I would like to tell you a bit about my school.

I have been at Saheti for 10 years. It's a brilliant school. At my school we do different types of sport, such as football, netball, basketball, volley ball, tennis, swimming, rugby, cricket and much more. We learn three languages which are compulsory, Greek, English and Afrikaans. At Saheti we wear school uniforms and once or twice a year we come to school in anything we want. It's a treat and everyone looks forward to dressing in something different. In our school everyone competes with one another to see who gets higher marks in something, who swims better and so on. We also have lots of fun and

are also naughty, but most important of all we love our school and we enjoy life as it comes. And as I end this letter I would like you to know that I share in your grief for your courageous teacher.

Yours sincerely  
Vassi Bailis.

It must have been an honor to have one of  
your teachers going up into space. What a  
terrible tragedy when the Space Shuttle Challenger  
exploded. Her memory will live with us forever.  
Please accept our deepest sympathies.

Yours Sincerely  
Andrew Mrazek

Dear Fellow Scholars,

I am a Scholar at Sabeni in Bedfordview, South Africa

I was most saddened by the horrific explosion of the shuttle, I feel that I am one of millions who shed many a tear while watching the take off on television.

I pray that God gives you the American People, the strength to accept His wishes.

When the people of America have a moment of silence each year please welcome the fact that South Africa will add to this very sad moment.

May I take this opportunity and wish you every success and safety

in your effort to  
"Reach for the Stars"

Yours

Sincerely

Paul Rensar

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To Concorde High

Hi

I'm a student in South Africa. My name is Andrew. I'm very sorry for what happened and wish you the best of luck for the future. You guys must have been terribly shocked because I know how I felt. I hope you overcome it soon. After I saw the disaster on T.V I felt like crying, my heart just about stopped 20 beats. The next morning on my way to school I bought a newspaper and my English class made a whole big project about it with pictures all over the one wall. I want you to know that you have all my support and all my friends too. Craig Burbank was right when he said that everyone was so high and then so low and even though it's not easy to overcome the disaster you all must be strong and pull yourselves together and work even harder than before. Here is a poem I wrote for you:

### The Eyes of Death.

While reaching personal triumph  
And rocketing to space.  
We all were feeling happiness  
As they died in harnessed lace.

While rearing the Eyes of Death  
It took only 75 seconds  
As our cheers and happiness  
formed into beacons

Hope you liked it. Please write back to me. It would be great if we can write to each other. Well bye for now.

From

Andrew Cosmopoulos.

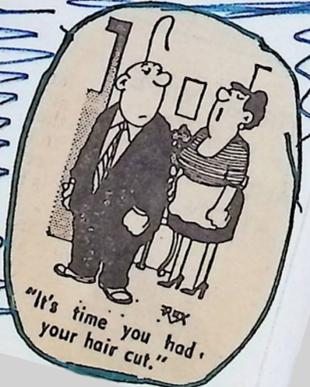
My address is  
1201 Phillberta Court  
Van der Merwe street  
Hillbrow  
Johannesburg  
2000  
South Africa.

Dear Students

To Concord high. hi from me my name is George and I have written this letter to share my deepest sympathy and grief for not only for those six brave Astronauts who were so determined to seek a dangerous adventure. But for the one lady who was loved by everybody, everyone, she was too be the first private citizen. But at the end Mr. Auliffe was to be the first public citizen to reach out and touch the face of God during the journey threw the skies. May these memories always be remembered in the bottom of hearts. From George. Please write back.



## FOOD LAUGHS



Me  
I was watching the news as excitement rushed around within me.

I am sure you thought of her <sup>(CRISIA Mc CARTER)</sup> more as a friend rather than a member of staff, Yes that lovely individual who was blown up whilst risking her life, risking her life for the future of Science and Mankind.

and I, I would love to become a. Watching the news a second time didn't help as I saw (through the blast) and felt your pain although I am sure you felt more than I.

Lots of Love and sympathy

Please write back Brigitte Wood.

Miss B. Wood

P.O. Box 782188

Sandton 2146

PTO

Transevaal  
South Africa

Me

I am very happy at the moment (in general) I have a lovely family and a very nice brother. I am 14 and he is 15. We get on well together, The age difference is right. My ambition in life is to get married and have two lovely children with the same age difference as my brother and I, I would love to become a Veterinary Surgeon and if not, go into ART DESIGN. I do an Aerobics class every Night and love it, I do pottery and tennis and squash. I want to start horse riding like my brother.

Please write back because I love writing letters but I have run out of friends to write to. I would like to know about you. I've ended up writing

letters to the next-door neighbour.

I would love to get to know you  
and maybe someday meet you.



smiley air freshers  
your teeth.

PLEASE WRITE  
SOON

(excuse the spelling)

ps. My husband must have a sense of  
humor and be patient with kids.

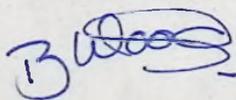
love from  
Brigitte

MISS: B. WOOD  
P.O. BOX 782188  
SANDTON 2146  
TRANEVAAL  
SOUTH AFRICA

I forgot to mention,  
I enjoy Classical music but like  
pop just as much. I am very much  
into the latest fashions but buy clothes  
carefully. As you've probably noticed  
I love sport and in a way I am  
very lucky because I have the type  
of skin that tans easily. I have  
a gorgeous cousin of 14 and a  
little cutie. (cousin's) My mom has her  
own buisness in ART DESIGN and my  
dad has a MUSIC shop.

SORRY TO WRITE SO MUCH BUT  
I LOVE IT.

PLEASE WRITE SOON



B. WOOD

MISS : B. WOOD  
P.O. BOX 782188  
SANDTON 2146  
TRANSCAPE  
SOUTH AFRICA

ps: When sending letter to me,  
Please include your address  
as this is going via the school.

B. Wood

PLEASE WRITE 2001

I love it.

PLEASE TO WRITE 20 MUCH BUT

god has a music shop.

own business in first design and my

little (cousins) My mom has her

a decorated garden of 10 and a

of spin work towels. I have

very fancy because I have the table

I love sport and in a way I am

carefully. As you've probably noticed

into the latest seasons but my clothes

but just as much. I am very much

I enjoy classical music but like

I forget to mention

TO

Concord

High pupils



Christa McAuliffe last year took a break in her training to chat with her former pupils at Concord High School about her trip on the space shuttle. Her pupils watched the tragedy on television last night. The latest issue of Life magazine carries this picture in a feature on her and the 1986 shuttle programme.

To Concord high pupils;