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Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

Dear Parents and friends of Parel Vallei

The days are getting shorter, the leaves are changing colour and every now and then we feel a drop in temperature – a sure sign that the seasons are changing with the promise of rain. Oh, please, let it rain! But ... until it rains, let us all do what we can to get through this crisis and let us NEVER take our water supply for granted. The best time to save water is when the dams are full because it is impossible to save something you do not have. Parel Vallei fully supports all efforts to conserve water and to this end we have approved the installation of pop-up sprinklers to keep our fields and athletics track in good condition. We will be starting on this project soon and I look forward to green fields forever.

I have been at PV for close on three years now and I feel more in touch with the role of the school in the broader community (including Stellenbosch and surrounds) as every term goes by. Forging links with other schools, businesses and tertiary institutions is very exciting and helps us prepare our teenagers for young adulthood and the world of work. It is becoming increasingly more important that we provide every possible opportunity for children to grow and gain access to tertiary institutions.

A school is a collaboration between three parties: the school, the child and the parent. The school is the “expert” when it comes to education, the parent is the “expert” when it comes to raising their individual child but the child thinks he/she is the “expert” in EVERYTHING. It is this “I know it all” approach that is the greatest stumbling block in the path of individual growth and is more evident in the home than at school (I am a parent too). Parents rely on the school to support the values that are taught at home and the teachers rely on the parents to back the values that are taught at school. This synergy is vital in producing strong, confident, informed young adults who know how to display situationally appropriate behaviour.

Parel Vallei is striving to provide our children with the best possible foundation to launch their lives and I am a true believer in getting the basics right. I gave a motivational speech at the pasta evening just before Athletics Inter-schools’ (that we won for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row ☺) and I would like to share the following 4 points for success that I firmly believe:

- Turn up!
- Always strive to do your best (aka WORK HARD)
- Never give up – it is ALWAYS too early to quit
- Support and accept those around you



*PV – once again, home to the Athletics Inter-schools' trophy!*

If we can instil these values as habits, our children are destined for great things. The new generation of PV child has the difficult task of blending the tried and tested face-to-face, with the new age style of relationships lived through cell phones and instant messaging. The recent rugby camp did not allow cell phones and the disconnected, 'island' situation allowed children to be children again – it was great! Life is all about personal relationships. Sometimes we get it right and sometimes we have to try again BUT the day we lose human interaction WE ARE LOST!

Our children are with us for a very short part of their lives, so we must make the most of them. To this end, I encourage you to support your child as much as you can and attend as many activities as possible. Rule 1 applies to adults too: TURN UP! Your child will appreciate it more than you can imagine.



*Open Day – 2017*

Parel Vallei is going from strength to strength as was reflected in the Open Day turn out. We have received a record number of applications for 2018 grade 8 places as we continue to raise the bar in all that we do. I have already begun to process these applications and we will report back to parents as soon as possible in the second term.

I am also very proud of the school's achievement at the 2017 ceremony for the 2016 grade 9 literacy and numeracy systemic tests, where PV received an award for Mathematical excellence.



**WCED awards PV for excellence**

*From left: Debbie Schäfer (Minister of Education – WC), David Schenck (headmaster), Brian Schreuder (head of education – WC).*

I am really looking forward to all the winter cultural and sporting activities. My family and I will be following the netball and rugby tour to Walvis Bay and then next term we will support the boys' and girls' hockey teams at the Kingswood co-ed festival in Grahamstown. My bakkie is going to rack up the miles quickly but, hey, I love my job! I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the next few months.

Please take some time out to go through your child's report and make an appointment to see his/her teacher next term if necessary. It is a personal goal of mine to achieve a 100% pass rate right throughout the school and ultimately a 100% bachelor's rate in matric. This starts with hard work in the classroom and at home, and is strengthened by participation in the extramural programme where important skills and disciplines are learned; a healthy mind in a healthy body!

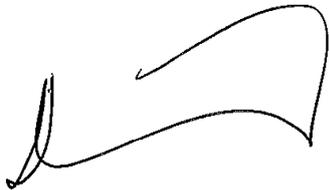
I have a concern that I wish to share with you. It is a concern around road usage, congestion, traffic signs and children on motorbikes. It appears as if the village of Somerset West has its own traffic rules where stop streets and traffic lights are not important. The intersection at Parel Vallei and Reservoir roads is an accident waiting to happen. Vehicles and motorbikes ignore the sign and speed up Parel Vallei Road without concern for others. Speed bumps are seen as ramps. (There is one particular noisy, orange off-road bike that has NO respect and is often up and down Parel Vallei Road speeding with the front wheel in the air! If you know this person please ask him/her to consider others.) Some of our children are also displaying irresponsible driving habits on their motorbikes and someone is going to get hurt. I received 2 phone calls this week from PV neighbours and they are as concerned as I

am. Any boy or girl caught driving irresponsibly will be reported to the chief of traffic in the area and I will ban them from parking on campus. I have reached the end of my tether with noisy, irresponsible, inconsiderate road users. I have had a meeting with our ward councillor and the chief of traffic police, and we will be holding further discussions to address the problem.

While on the point of traffic, I would like to thank the relevant authorities for the off-road parking that is being created in Aberdeen road. I hope this helps alleviate congestion at our peak traffic times.

My family and I would like to wish everyone a good break and every blessing for those who are celebrating Easter. We will hold you up in our prayers at this very special time of the year.

Happy holidays and safe travels.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes. It starts with a small loop on the left, followed by a long, sweeping curve that rises and then falls to the right.

Warm PV greetings

David