

HOËRSKOOL PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL



PROUD TO BE A PAREL VALLEIER

Term 2

NEWSLETTER

22 June 2012

Dear Parents and Parel Vallei pupils

I normally address this newsletter to the parents, but this year, and this term, I address both parents and pupils because of the experiences of our pupils which I believe are different to what pupils at another school experience. To experience the death of a fellow pupil in most instances is unusual but at P.V. we have had this experience a number of times. We can be forgiven for thinking: "Why us again?"

I would like to share something with you which might help to process what we are experiencing again with the death of Hans Masche on Friday evening last week. Here, a beautiful son of Parel Vallei, on the threshold of his life has died. Almost exactly a year ago Courtney Moore died. His parents and us as a school, are asking: "But God, why again?"

I think it is just human to think these thoughts because we experience the void left by the death of a young person. In Hans' case when one arrives at the clothing shop and he is no longer there; the empty desk in his class will constantly remind us and we will again be filled with questions! However, I do want to warn that we should not look for some negative message in these events. This is what God in His great wisdom does with us and I believe we should rather seek the positive lessons we can find in this and use this to strengthen us in the future. Hans' death should remind us all that no one knows when it is their turn to depart this earth. Each one of us, each in our own unique way, should learn from this that we should seize each opportunity we get to live life to the full. As a Christian I want to add that we don't know what lies ahead and that we should lead our lives in such a way that we are ready to meet our maker at any moment - any time, any day! I believe this sincerely and wish to share this with you. I

apologise to those who don't believe in God, it is surely your right. But, to those who do, I know that the sting of death is not frightening. Yes, the personal heartache is terrible and the longing for a loved one is very real. However, there is hope for the believer. The pain of our loss becomes bearable when we realise the concept of the life that awaits the believer after death. This is our only solace when we are faced with the experiences we have faced at Parel Vallei over the years. I invite you to talk to a minister of religion or a pastor about what I have just said. I'm not equipped to counsel anyone but I can witness that I could not move forward without belief in this concept. I don't try to understand it, I accept it as something which the Lord has brought across my path and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn more about life from each heart-breaking event.

Friday, 15 June: Last Friday we probably had one of the most beautiful winter days possible. The soft sunshine after the rain, the champagne air that we could all breathe was refreshing and exactly what we needed for the official opening of our new Astro Turf. From 12 o'clock that afternoon, the under 8 boys and girls were like ants all over the beautiful new field. The short hockey sticks and the pads in the socks, made them even more cute. It was a pure pleasure to me to see how they relished the opportunity to play on this new surface. They used the opportunity and enjoyed it! This is exactly what we want. We wish that every hockey-playing child who uses this new facility will use it and enjoy it and may I add "look after" it!

The opening of this new field was a realization of a dream for the school. For one person in particular it was more than a dream. For Eunice Kets it was a goal that was achieved. She was the driving force behind this dream that we all experienced with her. Thank you to Eunice for

her drive and enthusiasm for this project. Yes, we as a school and a Governing Body took the decision, but without her prodding and energy we would not have gone for this massive project. I know that she and Hilton Traut will use this facility to the greatest benefit of all our children and that they will take our players to greater heights than before.

I thank every parent for their wonderful support through the payment of school fees which has made the acquisition of this field a reality. I, more than anyone else knows how valuable your support is. Without your support we would not be able to do what we do at Parel Vallei. On behalf of the children at the school I thank you most sincerely for your support.

Mezzanine floor: After the school holidays the pupils will return to even more changes within the school. The Buildaway building team which is busy doing the WCED extensions will be doing the “first project” of the “Development Fund” which is to build the mezzanine walkway across the one side of the sports hall. This will be a big asset for the school and it will improve the traffic within the school building. Pupils and staff will be able to walk from the main building to the music block and the east block of the building, up to the Library. They will be able to do this without walking the “long route” along the existing balcony. You can also imagine how nice it is going to be to watch netball or hockey from this new floor. I really look forward to the use of this new mezzanine floor. Again, my thanks to the parents for their contribution to the development fund - this is what we use this fund for. By the way, the new classrooms presently under construction are also being provided with new walkways linking the existing building with the new. At present we can look out onto the new walkways and we look forward to the use of these when we gain access to the new building in August.

Sport: This first half of the winter season was quite disrupted because of all the other activities at the school. Firstly a big thank you to all the learners who have taken these changes in their stride. The hockey practices on the Radloff fields, the rugby on the old hockey field, the mud on the campus! Thank you for your patience and acceptance of this awkward situation. You have all handled the conditions in a very adult way.

Our rugby teams started off better than they ended the latter part of this season. However, we have more teams this season who are benefitting

from the input of very good coaching. It was nice to win the last match of the season, but, as I often say; “Winning is not everything!” The enjoyment of playing sport, the physical exercise and the life lessons we learn are more important. It is nice to win and I encourage you all to keep practising hard so that you go into the last part of the season fully prepared.

Both hockey and netball are showing steady growth and much success. We have added two “new” netball courts by marking two of our tennis courts with netball markings. The girls in fact prefer this tennis surface and we are planning to re-surface the existing netball courts with the same tennis court finish. This will be fantastic when it is completed.

By the way, while writing about the sports fields, we plan to plant new trees early next term. We have knocked in about 12 poles marking where we will plant new trees. If you would like to donate a tree, please call me. We want to establish more trees and wish to plant more trees than we removed when we built the Astro. It is a big challenge, but one I believe we must overcome.

Squash, golf and cross country are all doing well - although these sports are less well-known, they are not less important. Every child taking part in these sports enjoys them and benefits from the same life experiences as the other more well known sports.

Culture: As usual the cultural sphere of the school is sailing ahead of the wind. Parel Vallei proved this at the recent Stellenbosch Eisteddfod with many of our children winning Cum Laude awards as well as being section winners. I’m particularly pleased to see how many learners take part on their own free will and with the support of our staff. So many Parel Vallei pupils take part in the Stellenbosch Eisteddfod that if their participation was removed, the Eisteddfod could collapse. This is not cheap bragging, it is a fact! The Drama is as always doing well. Three productions have again been entered into the various drama festivals. We will keep a close watch on these and I will report back next term.

Grand West: You might remember that we used to take part in the “Clash of the Concertos” at the Waterfront each year. Two years ago they stopped because of the lack of a sponsor. A new platform was created and this year we will again take part at the Grand West arena with a mini-musical/variety production. The pupils are

practising hard at the moment and early next term they will compete at Grand West. Please diarise the date and time and come and enjoy the evening's entertainment with us. The date is: Saturday, 21 July at 17:00.

Parking/Traffic: I know this is a touchy subject, but I have to address it. We can't carry on like this. We are experiencing more and more congestion around the school. With the help of our Astro project engineer, we approached our local lead councillor, Stuart Pringle, about the shortage of drop off zones around the school. Although the municipality has understanding of our problem, they have no plans to improve the situation. I believe it has to be a joint effort by all parties. If we, the province, the municipality and the community all do something we can solve the problem. Starting with us, if we use our cars more sparingly it will already help. If our pupils ride their bikes and we organise lift clubs we will make a difference. I also believe that we, as a community need to apply political pressure on the authorities by making them aware of the problem. Write to the press, call your councillor and speak to your ward representative. Keep up this pressure until they also realise the magnitude of the problem. From my side we are busy negotiating the use of the land on the school's side of Aberdeen road to create a drop off zone there as well as negotiations with the municipality to provide a robot at the Aberdeen Road and Parel Vallei road intersection. This will go a long way to relieve the congestion.

But, let us start with ourselves and I ask you to please follow my advice to use your motor cars with greater circumspection and please encourage your children to walk or cycle to school if this is possible.

Reports: Last term we had far too many reports which were not collected at the end of the term. At the beginning of the second term we had a parent meeting which was not well attended and many pupils whose parents should have seen their child's teachers did not. Every term a report is given to every pupil (who is at school on the last day). Don't believe your child if they tell you the first term report is not important! Our efforts to help your child to improve his or her result is thwarted by this bad habit. Please demand a report from your child and strengthen our hand in helping your child to perform at the best possible level. Yes, not everyone can achieve 80% and we don't expect this. However, we do expect every pupil to achieve his or her best. If it is 60%

this is good, if it is 80% this too is good but we need your support.

Communication: So many parents complain about the lack of communication. If this is really so, I will see to it that it improves. However, we have a very good system in the School Communicator which I don't believe is being fully utilized. Do you read this every day? Do you have it set up on your computer? If not, please go to our website <http://www.pvallei.co.za/our-school/communicator/> and download the software and get in touch with the school's activities. From my side I will again produce a weekly newsletter but instead of printing a hard copy, I will e-mail this to you.

Winter vacation: The winter break is upon us and I wish you all a lovely holiday. Enjoy the cold weather and a fire in the hearth with you children. They are only young once. Enjoy the holiday and return healthy and refreshed on Monday 16 July.

Yours sincerely

Ettienne Gouws
(PROUD) HEADMASTER

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS

MUSIC:

Stellenbosch Eisteddfod Trophy winners

- Sean Stander - best performance - Boys 15 years
Jessica Whitfield - best performance - Alto recorder
Vokale Ensemble - Trophy for best High School ensemble group

DRAMA

Stellenbosch Eisteddfod

- Megan Grobbelaar - Overall winner - grade 9
Jane de Wet - 2 Cum Laude (Poetry & prose)
Kanya Viljoen - Medal winner for versatility
- Medal winner for best performance

CULTURE

- Rozanne Vos - Participated in semi-finals of ATKV Redenaars
Jacque Gericks - Participated in semi-finals of ATKV Redenaars

SCHOOL SPORT

Interprovincial team - Hockey

- Jeanne Jacobs - O/18B girls
Guthren van Zyl - O/18B girls
Chris Hawkridge - O/18B boys
Alégra Dijkstra - O/16A girls

Boland Pinotage streekspan - Hokkie

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| James Mallett | - O/18 boys | | |
| Kyle Green | - O/18 boys | Harlan Greigg | - O/16 boys |
| Ingo Erasmus | - O/18 boys | Nicholas Lobi | - O/16 boys |
| Alistair Links | - O/18 boys | Tavin Jacobs | - O/16 boys |
| Dylan de Mornay | - O/18 boys | Taywin Samuels | - O/16 girls |
| Marc Marrasigan | - O/18 boys | Lien Erasmus | - O/16 girls |
| Danielle Laubscher | - O/18 girls | Micaela Helders | - O/16 girls |
| Dominique le Clercq | - O/18 girls | Mongo Sililo | - O/16 girls |

- Chad Brinkhuis - O/14 boys
Andrew Lobi - O/14 boys
Brooke Rassie - O/14 girls
Andrea de Wee - O/14 girls
Shayna Rawson - O/14 girls
Ashley de Villiers - O/14 girls

WP Gholf

Barry Barnard

Rugby

The following was selected for the Country Region U/15 team as part of Western Province Development Programme.

Craig Smit
André Vivier
Justin Skeate
Dillon Matthews
Galen Joseph



Holiday Drama Club

FREE Drama Workshop!

ACTING IS FUN!!!

Tues 26th – Thurs 28th June
Age 13-18 is from 1:30-3:30pm

Book your place now! E-mail: drama.swbc@gmail.com
or sms Jennifer: 072 298 1013

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