

PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL



PROUD TO BE A PAREL VALLEIER

Term 3

NEWSLETTER

20 September 2013

Dear Parents

Winter has not passed – yet is still the third term! As we have all experienced the current cold and wet, so we struggled through this third term.

SPORT: The winter sports have all ended and it was very good to finish the season against Somerset College. This encounter between our two schools has developed into a lovely tradition and year after year, we look forward to these encounters. As you already know, we won the Rugby, Netball and drew the boys' hockey but our girls' hockey team struggled against a formidable Somerset College side. One must add that the Somerset College side has been one of the top sides in SA for the past two years! Fortunately for us, our team is young and we have a couple of years to develop and grow. A big thank you goes to all our teachers and coaches who have been involved in the winter sports. We will remember the final matches against Somerset College for all the mud and rain. (Please see the Communicator for detailed results)

CULTURE: Drama at Parel Vallei is alive and very healthy. During the past drama season, our productions have done very well. Two fresh Afrikaans drama productions saw the light of day. Both Boks and Spring were written and directed by Ms. Annelie van Zyl. The English Drama production was also a new piece and also written by one of the staff. Ms. Yanou Pienaar wrote and directed Hyperbole which won among others prizes, the best new text and production at the Durbanville Teenage Drama Festival. We are extremely proud of the individual achievements. There are too many to mention here, please see the detailed results on the Communicator. I'm in fact not too concerned with the number of individual performances, rather I'm delighted that so many of our pupils are exposed to this wonderful, creative art form. Sometimes we are amazed at the players who are so different from the pupils we see in class. Isn't this proof that they are truly performing? We are very proud of all these performances and I encourage more pupils to take

part in the opportunities which are available to them.

A number of our debaters took part against local and other Boland schools. They also took part in Stellenbosch and at the Hottentots-Holland Debating competition. Our debaters did us proud. Again I invite you to see the detailed results on the Communicator!

Music at Parel Vallei is as always on a high. Not only did our musicians walk away with the most prizes at the Helderberg Eisteddfod but 8 of our learners were placed on the UNISA and ALMSA role of honour. Warm congratulations to all those pupils who won awards at the two Eisteddfods. I was very proud to have been at the Helderberg Eisteddfod's prestige concert where I collected the biggest and thickest pack of certificates. Our Ensemble under the capable guidance of Mrs. Anitha Smith sang beautifully at this prestige concert and they drew great praise.

During this third term we again staged a 'mini-musical'. Mr Duncan Combe put together a group which performed 'pop' music and they took part in the 'Backstage Pass' competition at Grand West. Although we did not win this competition, I can say with sincerity that our school performed the best quality music. This competition is more about mass participation and crowd reaction. There were schools with masses of children who dominated the competition with noise rather than music! I believe that those present were aware of the quality of our music and respected our performance for its musical quality. They really performed extremely well.

ACADEMIC: This term is the second most important term for our matrics. I am pleased to see that our matrics have started seeing the value of studying for good results. At the time of writing this the matric results are not yet ready, but I hope to be able to report about these in the near future. I should mention that the matric examination will start a little later this year. Although the IT and CAT

practical exams will take place earlier, the full examinations start on 28 October. The last school day for our matrics is 18 October. I invite all Matric parents to attend our Valedictory on 18 October. The evening before, 17 October is our annual prize giving and we are honoured to have one of the University of Stellenbosch Vice-Rectors, Prof Eugene Cloete as our guest speaker. I think we are in for a fantastic inspirational message and I look forward to this special evening.

Our grade nines have all made their subject selections for grade 10 and I hope that you as parents have been part of this process. It has become progressively more difficult to change subjects in the senior section of high school. One of our strengths at PV is that we have the necessary professional guidance for our grade 9s. This means that there are few grade changes and a more stable passage through the FET phase.

GENERAL:

Absenteeism: I am troubled by the number of parents who take their children out of school at the drop of a hat. I feel that there are too many parents who don't value the need for their children to be at school without absenteeism. The 'holiness' of school time has been lost and I appeal to parents to respect school time more highly. Every day that your child is not at school, new work will be done. This work can't be caught up by the teachers as they have a very full curriculum which is being closely monitored by the education department. They have very little manoeuvrability in the syllabus. I also want to address late arrival at school. This is really becoming a problem with too many children arriving late for school. In most instances, the fault is not with the children, but rather with the parents who don't get away from home early enough. I'm sure you know who I'm speaking to. Please don't be offended, but if the shoe fits, please wear it!

School uniform: From 1 October next term, the whole school wears SUMMER UNIFORM. I ask parents to ensure that their children leave home neatly dressed with clean clothes and shoes. There are too many children arriving at school who are slovenly dressed and they are astonished when we confront them about this. Simple things like a neat haircut, clean shoes buttoned shirts etc. are important. It is far easier for you to check one or two children when they leave home than it is for us to check nearly 1200 of them at school. Please help us in this as it teaches them personal pride and good personal discipline for the future.

Communication: Our new website is launched and after several attempts to get it right, I believe we have done so now. Please visit the site at : www.pvallei.co.za

I'm sure you will feel as proud as I do when you see

what we have achieved at our school. We have a really beautiful school with a wonderful position, great facilities and beautiful grounds. Parel Vallei can justly be proud of what we have been able to achieve in a relatively short period (28) years. Our striving for excellence is paying dividends and we can all be proud of this. Please use the 'contact us' button to find the e-mail addresses of the various departments at the school for direct communication with the department you want to talk to. Also remember that the website will NOT carry all the recent information. We use the Communicator for this and reserve the website for the top achievements. So, please continue to use the Communicator and use the website as a reference source.

Supporting your school: We have a wonderful opportunity for parents who wish to support the school. You can make donations to the Parel Vallei Advanced Education Trust which directly supports Parel Vallei. Your donations into this trust will all be tax deductible because it is registered as a Non Profit Organisation established in support of Education. Please look on the website and look under TRUST where you will find the correct information for this type of donation.

Important dates for next term:

8 October:	Sport prize giving
10 October:	Culture prize giving
17 October:	Academic prize giving
18 October:	Valedictory
28 October:	NCS Examination starts
4 November:	Gr. 8 - 11: exam begins

I wish you all a lovely spring holiday and welcome all our learners back on Tuesday 1 October.

Yours sincerely



E. GOUWS
HEADMASTER

Postscript: On Monday 16 September the parents present at the Budget meeting unanimously voted to approve the budget for 2014. The school fees for 2014 will be:

Grade 9 - 12 =	R20 790 per annum.
Grade 8 =	R21 290 per annum.