



HOËRSKOOL PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL

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Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

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Dear Parents

I can barely believe that we are at the end of the second term and that I have nearly been at Parel Vallei for two months! It is truly unbelievable how time flies when you enjoy what you are doing. The welcome that my family and I have received is nothing short of overwhelming and our thanks go out to everybody for opening their hearts and accepting us. The staff at Parel Vallei has been most supportive and I thank them for their patience as they get used to a new Headmaster with all his ideas and ways. Mr Gouws left our school in a very healthy state and everyone is committed to continue building and seeking excellence, just as he did. I salute a fine Headmaster and wish him a fabulous retirement.

At my first assembly I quoted Luke 12 vs 48 (the second half of the verse):

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” (Good News Bible)

The essence of this highlighted the responsibilities that our children have when they become part of the Parel Vallei family. This is not just a school – it is much more than that! This is an institution with a history of excellence, poised to enter the next phase of development that will position it in the same league as other traditional schools in the Western Cape. In order for this progress to take place there needs to be a realisation on the part of the children of what it is that they actually have. When this happens there will be a deep sense of pride visibly evident in everything they do. Our pupils are all ambassadors for the school and I will be expecting them to act accordingly.

The next few months will see a phase of consolidation where the staff will focus on the basics of good conduct including general manners (e.g. how to address adults and visitors to the school), uniform, hair, general behaviour (especially in the classrooms and corridors), homework, attendance (sport and class) and support. In this regard I would like to appeal to you, the parents, to assist us because, “it takes a village to raise a child”. There are three elements to this: the child, the parents and the school. With any side gone, the triangle fails and we pick up problems. I am very concerned with the state of many of our children as they wait for parents or walk home. Sloppy dress will no longer be tolerated. I will be using assembly time to carefully explain what they can and cannot do and then we will start following up and taking action where necessary. Ignorance will not be an excuse.

Running parallel to this process will be an intensification of activities from Griselda Botha in our marketing department. Griselda has been very active facilitating

inclusions in the local media and my interview on Radio Helderberg (there is a link available on our website under “Message from the Headmaster” if you wish to listen to this). A very exciting development will be a short clip on Parel Vallei on the 19th of July, channel 144 (kykNET), anytime from 07:30 to 09:00 – be sure to tune in! The school’s branding is also being looked at and a decision has been made that the learners will wear only the school badge on clothing/uniform items from now on and the PVH logo will be reserved for adults. I will provide more information on this in the new term. The bulldog proudly remains the school mascot symbolising determination, strength, loyalty and commitment – attributes I want to see evident in every Parel Valleier. We are also engaging with our website designers and there will soon be improvements with a new look and regular updates.

Another exciting development is the launch of the Parel Vallei Past Pupils Association. An interim committee has been elected until August at which point a more permanent committee will take up office and grow the association from strength to strength. I urge all “Old Dogs” to get in touch with Lesa McEwan on the PV staff or visit the link on the school’s web page, which will soon be a lot more active. I would like to appeal to all past pupils to come back to their school and join in the next phase of development at Parel Vallei. We want your support!

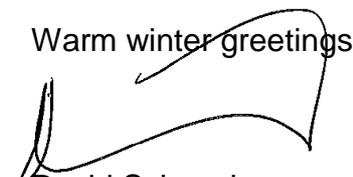
We have just come out of the mid-year exams and I urge you to engage actively with your child/children and their report. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any queries and we will be sure to help and advise. Academics remain our number one priority and where intervention is required, it will be administered. Please note that the school terms begin and end according to the calendar laid down by the WCED, and I appeal to parents to please stick to these dates and avoid removing children early or arriving late.

In closing I would like to highlight the following quick points:

- The form of the newsletter will change and will be available on the Communicator and the website, appearing fortnightly.
- News, results, fixtures and information will appear daily/weekly on the communicator and I ask you please to make use of this facility and support the school at sport and cultural functions.
- We are in the middle of winter – children/cyclists must please wear appropriate safety/reflective gear and watch for motorists.
- Please make sure our children get home safely in the afternoons by walking in groups and not showing electronic devices in public – headphones are a dead giveaway.

I look forward to seeing everybody at the start of next term and wish you all a splendid, winter break: log fires, hot chocolate and movie time!

Warm winter greetings



David Schenck
HEADMASTER