



HOËRSKOOL PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and friends of Parel Vallei

The 2 weeks since my last letter have simply flown past and here we are at the end of the winter sport season and already I see the light creeping past the curtains as I get going in the mornings. Getting up to go to work at PV is a pleasure and I look forward to each day, its challenges and rewards. The view from the stoep at Ledbury is truly special and it is "lekker" to see the kids ambling in to school as I sip my coffee.

I often find myself gazing at the kids and marvelling at the potential that lies within each one and what it is that I need to do to get them to believe in themselves and get involved. If only they knew just what they could do if they really tried! There are many, however, who do make use of the opportunities on offer at the school and we have been able to celebrate some amazing success on the theatrical, sporting and A level fronts over the last fortnight.

The recent performances of "The Project", "Die man in die lugballon" and "Wolkop" have set the stage on fire and PV has walked away with armfuls of Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. We are enormously proud of them. We are also proud of our students in the photo below who achieved 80% + in their respective A level courses. This is truly a notable achievement.



*Back: Johan Smit; Andrew Harrison-Migochi ; Giovanni Matthews ; Mr D. Schenck
Front: Rebecca Allsopp; Melissa Swindon; Andrea Harrison; Sian Bester; Danijela Savic.
Absent: Michael Steyn*

On the sporting front, I am delighted to be able to share with you that our U14A boys and girls both won their Somerset College Derby matches on Wednesday and that means that the girls have ended the season unbeaten! Let's hope this is the start of big things to come and we can build on the stunning performances of the 1st hockey sides. Ranking school sports' teams is a fickle task at the best of times but it is interesting to note that the SA Schools Sports' website ranks our 1st team boys at 26th in the country and the 1st team girls at 37th. Congratulations also goes to our U15 team who beat Fairbairn on Saturday 9th August and have now won their last 3 league matches in a row. I hope to see this trend continue over the next few seasons.

The most exciting news, however, was that history was made this week with the official launch of the Parel Vallei past pupils and associated member organisation. This organisation will be known as

the PVU – Parel Vallei Unie/Union. Francois Wahl (class of 2004) has been elected as chairman of the interim committee and we were delighted to have him in assembly on Monday 11th August where he addressed the school and made the announcement. The PVU has designed a badge, with the school window now open, symbolising access to a world after school and adopted a motto – LEGACIE ET CAMARADERIE that speaks to build and grow the legacy of Parel Vallei through working together with a common bond.

The photograph below shows the new PVU logo in the background with a copy of the minutes of the first meeting, presented to the school by Mr Wahl to commemorate the event.



What does this mean for the school?

Up until now, PV has been a place where children enrol for grade 8 and leave after 5 years. PV and all the fine people who have walked through its doors deserve a place they can call home once they matriculate. Valedictory must not be an end but rather a beginning. The beginning of a life long association with YOUR school. PV is already a place to be very proud of and now, together, we can take it to even greater heights and place it on the map alongside the other great schools of South Africa. We have the students and the teachers to do it AND, now, we have the PVU.

The great schools of this country are made great by people who give back to the school once they have left. I do not necessarily mean financial support (although this is crucial in the long run) but rather spiritual support. There is no better example of this than what I saw on TV recently when 30 000 people descended on Faure street stadium in Paarl to watch the Interschool clash. There is only one word for that – GEES! PV also has GEES and the PVU now provides an opportunity for everyone to make a contribution and BELONG to a bigger organisation. I am really excited by this and look forward to the sustained growth of the PVU, and, more importantly, to seeing more and more support at school matches and functions.

Every organisation needs a clubhouse and I am delighted to announce that at the SGB meeting on the 13th August 2014 it was agreed that the Club house next to the main rugby field will be offered to the PVU to adopt, upgrade and use as their own. Such a venue (once upgraded) will provide a place for all parents, staff, past pupils and friends to meet and interact socially and act as a nucleus from which to support the school. These are exciting times and the potential upgrade of the clubhouse provides opportunity for sponsorship and exposure by providing a classy function venue that will serve the broader PV community.

I call on all past pupils, parents and friends of the school to join us as we seek to continue improving our facilities and provide a place where we can all meet for many years to come.

On a more domestic note, I have been in discussions with the clothing shop and I will dedicate the next letter to uniform items and developments along that front.

Proud to be a Parel Valleier!

David

