



HOËRSKOOL PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL

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Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

Dear Parents and friends

Just as we all thought that spring was upon us, winter steps in and sends us all running for our warm gear. At least Braai Day was a nice day – but we are brave here in the Basin and would have braai'd anyway! I encourage you all to send me your braai day photos and I will include one or two in the next letter.

It has been a sad week in the Schenck household as Lynn and I have had to pack up our 2 older sons and send them back to Grahamstown. It was great having them home for a few days and it is good to see how quickly our children move into adulthood and are able to stand independently. We miss them.

The main news of the last week has undoubtedly been the PV Golf day. The weather gods did their best to rain on our parade but finally the heavens cleared and glorious sunshine covered the course in gold! It turned out to be a truly splendid afternoon. I would like to thank EVERY individual, family or business who contributed to the day in any way whatsoever. The prizes were awesome, the goodie bags were stuffed full, the raffle was tremendous and the organisation was well oiled. You have all made a valuable contribution to PV.

The evening was topped off splendidly by Trevor Quirk and Robin Jackman – aka Washy and the Fox! They regaled us with stories of their many travels abroad and gave some insight into the upcoming Cricket World Cup.



The final calculations and payments are just about complete and I am delighted that we have managed to boost the school's coffers by R55 000 and at the same time build friendships and spread the good name of Parel Vallei. Next year's golf day is not to be missed as we plan to build on this year's success and confirm the day in the Helderberg community calendar.

The job of the Headmaster in a school like PV does not really afford me the time to get into the classroom and teach, BUT I was delighted to spend an hour with the Gr11 consumer studies class where we explored biltong making techniques. We deboned 2 Mountain Reedbuck legs, sliced them into pieces and then treated them with the necessary vinegar and spices. I will pop the pieces into the drier and we will all taste the biltong next week. I had a wonderful time with them and hope they enjoyed it too.



The term is rapidly drawing to a close and I find it difficult to believe that I have been here for 5 months already. It has been a remarkable journey of exploration and discovery. Assembly time is very important to me as it is the occasion I have to link with all the children in the school and build a relationship. One of the discoveries I have made is just how friendly and warm our children are. (They are also too talkative at times, but we will work on that!)

I have also discovered that they do not really have a good working knowledge of the uniform rules so I will be dedicating my next assembly to uniform and conduct issues. I will communicate this to you in the next newsletter too.

The Matric September exam session has now drawn to a close and I hope to see top class results. I urge the Matrics not to take too much time off as the Finals are just around the corner. The next few weeks should be a period of consolidation through dedicated study – they have the rest of their lives to party. The only exceptions to this should be the Matric dance and the Valedictory service.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful (short) holiday as we prepare for the various prize givings, valedictory and the run in to the final 2014 Gr 8 – 11 exams. It is a shorter term but no less stressful. I will use the break to do some planning for 2015 but I am sure there will be time for the odd fishing trip.

See you all next term.

Warm PV greetings

David