



HOËRSKOOL PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL

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Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

Dear Parents and Friends,

Friday, the 24th October 2013, was the day that I reported for a weekend of interviews for the PV Headmaster Post. Here we are, a year on and I must surely be the luckiest and happiest Headmaster in the W Cape. How can one not be happy at a school such as ours?

The point was driven home, during the annual prize -giving season, where I was able to attend the Sport, Cultural and Academic prize -giving ceremonies. Wow! It was fantastic to see the level at which the PV children achieve and the variety of areas in which they participate and excel. It never ceases to amaze me just how talented our young people are. When I see it, it gives me renewed energy for the next generation of South Africans! Our country is in good hands – we must just nurture it.



Congratulations to all our prize –winners of this year.

It is our responsibility, as parents and teachers, to equip our children with the platform that continues to provide the opportunities for excellence. There are many facets to this task – one of which is the co-operative, buy- in, from all parties, in pursuit of this common goal. Discipline is the corner- stone of every successful institution and schools are no different. My prize-giving address touched on the work of Howard Gardner, who proposed the notion of multiple intelligences in his book *Frames of Mind: The theory of multiple intelligence (1983)*. He speaks of nine different types of intelligence:

- 1. Naturalist Intelligence (“Nature Smart”)**
Designates the human ability to discriminate among living things (plants, animals).
- 2. Musical Intelligence (“Musical Smart”)**
Musical intelligence is the capacity to discern pitch, rhythm, timbre, and tone.
- 3. Logical-Mathematical Intelligence (Number/Reasoning Smart)**
Logical-mathematical intelligence is the ability to calculate, quantify, consider propositions and hypotheses, and carry out complete mathematical operations.

4. **Existential Intelligence**
Sensitivity and capacity to tackle deep questions about human existence, such as the meaning of life, why do we die, and how did we get here.
5. **Interpersonal Intelligence (People Smart)**
The ability to understand and interact effectively with others.
6. **Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence (“Body Smart”)**
The capacity to manipulate objects and use a variety of physical skills. Athletes, dancers, surgeons and craftspeople exhibit well-developed bodily kinesthetic intelligence.
7. **Linguistic Intelligence (Word Smart)**
Linguistic intelligence is the ability to think in words and to use language to express and appreciate complex meanings.
8. **Intra-personal Intelligence (Self Smart)**
Intra-personal intelligence is the capacity to understand oneself and one’s thoughts and feelings, and to use such knowledge, in planning and directing one’s life.
9. **Spatial Intelligence (Picture Smart)**
Spatial intelligence is the ability to think in three dimensions. Sailors, pilots, sculptors, painters and architects all exhibit spatial intelligence.

Each of these types of intelligence requires its own brand of discipline, in order for success to be achieved. Being blessed with one or more forms of intelligence (and I believe we all are) is not enough for success – it must be backed up by hard work. Hard work is simply not possible without discipline! The very nature of hard work demands a strong focus which comes from a place of strong self-discipline. In order for there to be self-discipline, there has to be a framework for reference and guidance that clearly states the minimum requirement for basic achievement in a particular field. Parel Vallei offers numerous activities that all strive to nurture the concept of **Body, Mind and Spirit** that we hold so dear. In doing this, there is very strong support for the notion of multiple intelligences and the need to facilitate a program that allows our students to pursue a holistic education. Underpinning all, is the basic requirement that all students exercise appropriate discipline at all times.

The discipline that I speak of, is therefore, situationally appropriate by nature but with a common thread that is multi-disciplinary in effect. In other words, there is a set of rules that covers most things. Then, we expect each child to develop their own set of rules that will guide them through their life.

We are entering into the final exam- session for 2014 and it is critical that the emphasis is placed on academics for the next four weeks. A planned program of study and exercise is the proven recipe for success but it all hinges on self-discipline. I am confident that everyone can do well, if they put in some hard work.

Congratulations to our new Heads and Deputy heads of the school for 2015. I am excited to be able to work alongside Amy, Jacques, Liam, Michelle and the rest of the Learner Council, as we move into the new year and introduce new ideas to the school: Ideas that we hope will bring the school even closer together, as we stand as one, in everything we do and build on the proud achievements of the last 29 years. Well done to Jacques and Amy on their interview on Radio Helderberg – they did us proud!



Congratulations!

My thanks to the Matric class of 2014 for the wonderful gift to the school. The bronze bulldog was unveiled by Mr Gouws at the Valedictory Service and now has pride –of-place in the foyer at school. The bulldog is the school mascot. I therefore encourage all teams in the school to get a mascot that they take with them to matches and on tours.



It is not only the children who learn new things – sometimes the headmaster also gets a chance to broaden his horizons! Last Saturday, I had the chance to celebrate the joy of the harvest -season in the Swartland as the wheat was being cut. I sat in a modern combine harvester, got a lesson in farming and experienced the generosity of the people of the Swartland. In the short time I sat with the farmer, we took off about 25 tons of grain in a mobile, air-conditioned, state -of -the -art machine! What an experience! I washed the dust down later with a glass of the Winelands' finest, ate sour dough bread and felt privileged to be here. The fact that we then won the Currie Cup Final, served to prove that the Cape is truly a special place.

Some breaking news! *Wolkkop* has been invited to perform at the KKNK in Oudtshoorn next year. Stunning!

Parents, please note that we have now moved from winter to summer uniform. All learners must please dress appropriately. Mixing of uniforms will not be allowed. I am aware of the problems associated with the lengthening of the skirts but I appeal to you to please ensure that skirts are of a modest length and that shirts fit comfortably. The uniform must be worn with pride. All learners are expected to wear their blazers on the way home, unless they are collected from school in a vehicle. Children may only remove clothing items once they get home (ie ties, shirts etc) and are expected

to be in full uniform, if they accompany parents into shops, or other public places, on their way home.

Good luck and blessings to you all, as we move into the final lap for the year.

I look forward to seeing you all around school.

Warm PV greetings

David.

