



HOËRSKOOL PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL

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Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

Dear Parents and friends

We live in possibly the richest floristic kingdom in the world with more species per km² than almost any other place on the planet. The extremely high percentage of endemic species is staggering and provides very sensitive ecological niches within which the Cape Fauna and Flora has existed for longer than recorded history. It is therefore very sad when it burns!

Late summer is fire season in the Cape and this year has proven to be particularly bad. The fires that raged along the Peninsula Mountains coincided with the hottest day in Cape Town in a very long time. The Jonkershoek fire also flared up and came right up to Lourensford – in our backyard. Property was lost in these fires but it is thanks to the efforts of our brave emergency personnel that it was kept to a minimum and no lives were lost. These men and women are heroes and deserve all the recognition they get.

The Fynbos needs fire to regenerate and so out of the ashes will grow the next cycle of life as our beautiful mountains once again turn green. It is certainly worth waiting for. Roll on winter!

It is with great sadness that I share with you the passing away of Mr Melvyn Caroline – the director of the Metropole East Education District. Mr Caroline passed away on Saturday 14 March after heart complications arose linked to pneumonia. Mr Caroline was a great supporter of Parel Vallei and we were blessed to have had his wisdom and guidance. The district blossomed under his leadership and I am sure the effects of his work will still be felt for years to come. Our heart-felt condolences go to his family. He will be sorely missed; may he rest in peace.



The SGB election was held on 16 March. I would like to thank all those who made themselves available for election and to all the parents who voted. We managed to achieve the required quorum and the electoral officer, Mr W. Cillié, declared the election duly completed. The following parents, educators and non-educators will constitute the SGB for the next 3 year cycle:



Back: Mr W. Steenkamp (educator), Mr B. van Rensburg (vice-chairman), Mr A. Muller (deputy-principal), Mr A. Buÿs, Dr I. Malherbe (chairman), Mr K. van Wyk, Mr H. du Toit, Mr S. Helder.

Front: Mrs M. Boshoff (co-opted secretary), Mrs Y. Gerber (non-educator), Miss A. Ward (head girl), Mr D. Schenck (headmaster), Mr J. Gericke (head boy), Mrs M. du Preez (educator), Mr M. Botha (treasurer).

I look forward to working alongside this group for the next three years. PV is in good hands.

The winter sports season is upon us and there is a great deal of preparation going on to get everyone organised and in shape. Netball held a most successful camp sleepover at school and rugby benefitted from a camp in Grabouw. Some of the teams have already been in action and have returned very good results: the girls 1st XI hockey are through to the next round of the Spar knockout Series and the u14 boys' and girls' both did very well recently, only losing 1 match each at their respective tournaments and bringing back awards for the best hockey played and best conduct on and off the field. Well done!

The photograph below is of the first XV at the Boland Landbou Rugby Day where they beat Fairburn 5-0 and drew with Hopefield 10-10.



The change of seasons also brings a change of uniform and will see the school revert to winter uniform with blazers every day for the 2nd and 3rd terms. Also please note that house shirts, 'optog' shirts and ordinary civvies is not permitted at sports practices and, or matches. Tracksuits must be worn after practice or a match. The school is looking smarter every day but there are areas that still need polishing.

I have two areas of concern I wish to highlight:

The first is the abuse of social media and the apparent ignorance of the children in this regard. I addressed the issue in a recent assembly but I think it is also important to ask parents to keep an eye on what is going on at home. The following warning comes from Emma Sadlier, an expert on the topic, ***“If you don’t want any of the five Ps – principal, parents, police, predators and potential employer – to see it, don’t post it.”*** The various forms of social media available to us provide a wonderful opportunity for immediate, cost effective communication but with it come a host of dangers and concerns. In this regard please familiarise yourself with the school’s cell phone policy and bring it to the attention of your children. It is available on the website. I encourage our children to use social media responsibly – it is in their best interest!

The second area of concern is the very high number of children who are absent, late or leave early. Legitimate cases are perfectly understandable but there are too many children feigning illness after tests on Tuesday and Thursday. If your child is able to attend school to write the test then he or she can stay for the day. If he or she is truly ill then please keep them at home until they are better and send a doctor’s note. I am working alongside the grade heads and the school psychologist to see how this matter can be better addressed in future. It would be of great assistance to us if parents were more reluctant to fetch children for the odd “sniffle” or headache and let them finish the day at school. It is very important that the 3 sides of the ‘Parent, School, Child’ triangle remain linked and support each other.

I would like to bring to your attention the exciting news that last year's award-winning, teenage drama, *Wolkkop*, has been invited to perform at the KKNK in Oudtshoorn this year. This is truly an amazing achievement and we wish them all the very best for the run. I know they would love your support if you are in the area.

Congratulations to one of our learners in Matric, Michelle Fisher, who was recently named as the Western Cape School Sportswoman of the Year, for Chess. This is a phenomenal achievement – well done, Michelle!



ROLA – reminder!



I would like to remind you all of the relationship that Parel Vallei has with the Rola Motor Group. If you are in the market for a new or used car please contact Tilly Montanari at their Head Office (Tel. no.: 021 841 8328 / Cell no.: 083 270 7735) and she will link you up with one of their franchises. They will facilitate a good deal for you and there is a financial benefit paid to the school.

We are excited about growing our association with this established local brand. Please click on the hyperlink to view the brands they offer. [Rola Motor Group](http://www.rola.co.za)

The end of the term is upon us and with it comes Easter. May you have a blessed Easter with your family. It is a Holy event for Christians and it is my wish that God give you the time to be able to reflect and celebrate appropriately with your loved ones.

Please travel safely and add your names to the list of those who drove defensively and arrived alive. I look forward to seeing my sons in the Eastern Cape but not before I spend 3 days in the Southern Cape with the u14 rugby boys in George. The senior hockey boys and girls are off to Bloemfontein – we wish them well.

God's richest blessings on you all this Easter.

Warm PV regards,

Dave