



Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

Dear parents and friends

The 4th term of the school year is a time of celebration, excitement and sadness. It is a celebration as we recognise excellence at the sport, cultural and academic prize-giving ceremonies. It is exciting because we are planning for the new year and look forward to all that it holds. It is sad because it is a time of saying goodbye to staff who have become household names and to the matric class of 2015.

The term started with a bang as we celebrated the annual cultural and academic prize-givings. (The sport prize giving was last term). It was very special to have Mr Bun Booyens as our guest at the academic prize-giving. He is currently the editor of *Die Burger* and it was enriching to listen to his address and get a small glimpse into how he thinks and the experiences he has had. I felt very proud of our children as I sat on the stage and watched them filing past to receive their prizes. I felt equally proud of our staff as I looked at them sitting in the hall knowing that without them such excellence would not have been possible. It was a glorious evening and I felt honoured to have my wife with me on stage to hand out the prizes. Who would have thought that this would have happened when I met her 24 years ago!

Congratulations to all our learners who received prizes at the 3 prize-givings! We are proud of you.

TOP PRIZE WINNERS



Back row, from left. Melissa Swindon; Michelle Marais; Suné van Zyl; Liam Walsh; Teneille Nel; Jasper Frith; Jessica Whitfield; Zelmarié Barnard.

Front row, from left. Nerina Theunissen; Dr. Ian Malherbe (governing body – chairman); Mr Bun Booyens (editor of *Die Burger* - guest speaker); Mr David Schenck; Liam de Bliqy.

I have now been headmaster for 19 months (and it feels like yesterday when I took over) and I really am starting to feel the pulse of the school. The senior staff are now in the planning phase for next year and discussions are taking place around many events and activities. It is a wonderful process that serves largely to confirm we are doing things right but at the same time allows for improvement where it is needed. It is quite a process compiling the calendar for next year and we are starting to entrench certain events so they become tradition at PV, to leave a legacy for those who follow.

Part of this planning is the integration of the 2016 grade 8 class into the PV Blue Thread with the camp at Back to Basics. This will be the 2nd year that we run the camp and we hope to build on the huge success of last year's camp. I believe that this camp lays the foundation for the 5 years that lie ahead at high school and bonds the children as a grade.



PV is now old enough to start entrenching certain traditions as we establish our identity as a leading school. Events such as Founders' Day, the grade 8 camp, Valedictory and the prize-givings will be the occasions for the school to publicly display excellence and unity while at the same time generate a great sense of pride and belonging amongst the children.

We are also excited to welcome 4 new staff for next year but I will expand on that in my last letter for 2015.

The new staff we have appointed are as a direct result of the retirement of 4 stalwarts of Parel Vallei who together have contributed 72 years of dedicated service to the school. Mrs Pat Pienaar, Mrs Margaret Van Staden, Mrs Mariaan Rabie and Mr Nico Smit have come to the end of their careers and a well-earned respite. We honoured these 4 veterans at a breakfast in the staffroom recently and there were many wet eyes to be seen. They will be greatly missed. PV is privileged to have had these 4 fine professionals for so long. They can be satisfied in the knowledge of a job well done and find comfort having made a difference in the lives of hundreds of children. Their influence will be felt for years to come.



*Back, from left. Mrs Margaret Van Staden; Mrs Mariaan Rabie;
Mr Nico Smit and Mrs Pat Pienaar.*

We also took leave of our 2015 matrics with a service in the hall, and a tea for their parents and staff in the old hall. It was a moving occasion (as Valedictory always is) and for many parents it was the last formal school function for their family. I would like to thank them for the contribution they have made and wish them all everything of the very best for the future. They are part of the Blue Thread that runs through all of us and we would like to see them back supporting their alma mater. We look forward to their results in the final exams – they are academically a very strong group and they have set a very good example for the rest of the school to follow.

The school is a very quiet place at the moment as the children write their final exams but there is certainly tension in the air as pen is put to paper and the final report looms. Parel Vallei has excellent teachers and I am confident of good results.

In closing, I would like to point out that 28 teachers will leave before the end of the term to go and mark the final matric papers. We will therefore return scripts on **Monday the 30th November** and end the day with the final assembly for the year. I expect all pupils to be here on that day in full, school uniform. Reports will be ready for collection in the sports hall on **Wednesday the 9th December** from 09:00 till 10:00. Students or their parents may collect and sign for the report.

Warm PV greetings

David