



Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

Dear Parents and friends

To begin this letter with a sad event is never easy but I would like to acknowledge the passing of one of our matrics from 2015, Jesse Gouws, in the early hours of Saturday, 12 March. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Jesse.

The 2016 school year is flying past and already we are at the end of the 1st term. It has been a VERY busy term and having one week less than normal has not really helped matters. Teachers, children and parents have all been very stressed by the congested academic programme and everyone is looking forward to a break. I hope next term settles into a steady routine from the start as we build up to the June exams. There is nothing more important than the academic programme and I would like to ask all parents to sit down with their children to help them work out a schedule so they can fit everything in.

The spirit in the school is AMAZING! The victory at Inter-schools' is a prime example and I want to pay tribute to the whole school for the way they all pulled together. The Blue Thread has become infectious and there is more pride and involvement than ever before – so much so that we have had to bring in more coaches to deal with the demand. I would like to see this move in a new direction as we encourage the children to support their first teams and to remain part of the day after their matches are finished. Eunice Kets has initiated a movement to create parent committees for all the sports and I urge you to get involved – even if it just means supporting our teams at events. It is very important that the children learn to support each other and invest emotionally into their school. We are in winter-sport mode already and it is the perfect time for the larger PV family to spend time together on Saturday mornings in support of each other. Next term, I will be highlighting four dates where we will focus on recruiting a very large group of supporters.

PV INTERSCHOOLS' WINNERS 2016!



From left: Thomas Brett (vice-captain: boys), Paul Smuts (captain), David Schenck (headmaster), Liné Boshoff (captain), Ashley de Villiers (vice-captain: girls). Front: Eunice Kets (sport head).

With winter approaching it is worth noting that winter uniform and blazers are compulsory from next term. We have seen a wonderful improvement in the appearance of the children.

I am very excited about the new white socks that the grade 8s are wearing.



They have a blue stripe near the top and look stylish. They are available at R20 per pair and I would like to see all the girls wearing them by 2017. I am also concerned with our girls' skirts and we will be launching an investigation to remedy the problem.

The school communicator is regularly updated with the latest news, arrangements, results and requests so please download it if you have not already done so and visit it regularly. The good old reply slip was the order of the day when I was at school and you could end up in serious trouble if you did not return your slip to your class teacher. It is very different today with the emphasis being placed on e-communication so parents are able to access information on a daily basis. This has certainly revolutionised communication and enables us to inform and update parents, past pupils and friends far more efficiently than before. It is a form of social media that works really well.

Another revolution of our time is the emergence of interactive social media networks that allow for sharing of information and opinions. We did not have this in the 80s and 90s so sometimes it is difficult for us to grasp what life must be like for a teenager growing up now, not quite possessing the maturity to know what is appropriate and inappropriate to share on forums with multiple users. It is far easier to pass a nasty comment over a social site than it is to do it face to face and children end up in situations that they do not know how to handle. It is almost as if the tried and tested methods of respect and good manners appear to be inapplicable when direct human contact is removed. The management and staff at Parel Vallei have identified a need to re-establish the basic principles of manners and respect so starting from the first day of next term, Parel Vallei is going to strive to be a school known for its impeccably mannered and respectful students. It must be second nature for all PV young men and women to be courteous at school, and in their private lives. The impression created by a well-mannered, respectful young adult is invaluable in today's society of consumerism and self-idolisation.

Please assist us in this regard as we work hard to provide our children with the necessary skills to lead a successful adult life.

My feel good moment for the term came on Tuesday, 15 March, in a meeting when Mr Muller informed me that the detention numbers for term 1 are the lowest the school has ever seen – this includes Saturday DT. There has been a drastic reduction! I believe that there is a link between this and the improvement in school

pride and involvement, manners, appearance etc. and the continued demand for excellence in the academic programme. Well done to one and all – let's keep this up.

I am also delighted to announce that Parel Vallei has been acknowledged by Stellenbosch University as a leading school, contributing talented students to the university over the last 5 years. This is confirmation of the quality of teaching that is offered at Parel Vallei and the on-going pursuit of excellence.

Certificate from the University of Stellenbosch



Mr Schenck with the schools' two deputy heads: Mr Muller and Mrs Duvenage.

We have a number of tours going away this holiday:

- U.19 and U.14 rugby to George
- U.15 and U.16 rugby to Riebeek Kasteel
- U.18 netball to Potchefstroom
- Hikers to Limietberg
- U.18 girls' and boys' hockey to Fairmont
- U.14 hockey to Somerset College
- 4 athletes to SA Championships in Bloemfontein

We wish them all safe travels and successful matches. I know they will do us proud and show everyone what The Blue Thread is about. I will follow the tour to George and support at Fairmont.

I would like to wish you a blessed Easter and a wonderful rest with your children. Please travel safely and come back next term ready for the next chapter.

Warm PV greetings

David