



Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

Dear Parents and friends of Parel Vallei

At the end of my last letter I made mention of my upcoming research fishing trip to De Hoop Nature reserve and I promised I would say more in the next letter. Well, we had a great trip and I managed to tag and release 44 fish in four days with the highlight being three Mussel Crackers in a row early one morning. This is my “Happy Place” where I go whenever I get the chance. Anybody who has walked the Whale Trail will have walked past the spot where I caught them. We have a beautiful country!



Just as quickly as this trip became a memory so too is the year almost over and fast becoming a memory. And what a year it has been!

The greatest highlight for me has been how the **Blue Thread** is pulling us all together and everybody supports each other and celebrates successes in all activities. ***The whole is greater than the sum of its parts!*** We are only beginning to see what this school is capable of and it is already very exciting. I am not going to pick out any other specific areas to highlight as there are just too many to mention and I could easily leave out something. The school Communicator is regularly updated and all news is shared as events are completed.

I am delighted to announce that from next year we will be launching two official social media accounts: Instagram and Facebook. These will be the **ONLY** official PV accounts and they will be administered by Parel Vallei. I am aware that there are several platforms out there but none of them have been sanctioned by the school and are not administered by the school. These two official platforms will help us reach more people than ever before, appealing to the youth and older generations also allowing for interaction and strengthening of the **Blue Thread**. Now you can take PV with you wherever you go and keep up to date with events as they happen – almost like you were there!

Prefects 2017



Back: Hugo Uys, Sheldon J. v. Rensburg, Jason Oliemans, Jordyn Linklater, Steph Kolatsis, Abigail J.v. Rensburg, Jenna Beavon, Rory Lindt.

3rd row: Chanay Cronje, Rebecca Robinson, Sabrina Röhm, Caitlin Odendal, Kirsten Moffitt, Gabbi Lopes, Megan Kreft, Stefan le Roux.

2nd row: Gold prefects: Wicus Louw, Katja Majewski, Danielle Hendricks, Jessica v.d Walt, Rebecca Kaps, Jenna Helders, Leandre v.d. Merwe, Charl Wiehahn.

Front: Head prefects, Xander Venter and Rouxvè Meyer.

The new prefect system will start showing its strength next year as the individual portfolios reveal their plans and new committees are finalised offering involvement opportunities. The prefects will also be more visible in and around the school as we step up dress and behaviour compliance. We expect everyone to arrive on the first day properly groomed for the new term – there will be zero tolerance for non-compliance. Please note that all grade 8 to 10 learners should now be using the school bag with the badge on it and all girls must start moving across to the new white socks with the blue stripes on top (available at the clothing shop). Parel Vallei will set a new record next year with over 1 280 learners and we do not have time to chase after those who will not cooperate with the school's systems and requirements.

Please acquaint yourself with all the rules and regulations especially those dealing with missed assessments. We want children who want to be part of the **Blue Thread** and enrich their lives through academics, extramural involvement and support.

There are new exciting opportunities for 2017 – the main one being the new exchange with Pearson High School in Port Elizabeth. Details will be provided early next year but I am excited to announce that a bi-annual exchange with Pearson has been initiated and we are going to be sending all our winter sports teams, various cultural groups, selected academic activities and supporters to Pearson for a weekend of competition and performances. This will see hundreds of PV learners in a **Blue Thread** of 60 seater busses going to PE every two years and Pearson coming to us in between. We would like to encourage as many parents as possible to join us for the occasion on the weekend of the 12 August 2017.

We are also starting an exclusive PV – Memingen (Germany) exchange with the first outgoing group spending Christmas 2017 in Germany. I will also provide details of this next year but it will be open to PV pupils only with first option going to the students taking German and then anybody else in the school if there is place.

Thank you to everybody for their support during 2016. I am energised by the children, parents and supporters of PV and I salute you. I will be spending some time with my family at Kenton-on-Sea and then home for Christmas. The Matric results are available from 5 January 2017 and I look forward to sharing them with you.

All that remains is for me to wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas and New Year. Please stop and count your blessings and do something to brighten someone else's day. Remember what Christmas is all about and let's hold our country up in prayer.

Warm PV greetings

David

