



HOËRSKOOL PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL

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Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

Dear Parents, friends and supporters of Parel Vallei

We live in an age where there is an increase in people displaying a “sense of entitlement” and when they do not get what they want it results in protest that is often violent, destructive and counter-productive. Yes, these are tough economic times and everyone wants to earn more money and pay less but the reality of it is that quality and excellence does not come cheap.

I am saddened to see the violent nature of the protests at our universities around the country and I am concerned for the future of education in our country. Parel Vallei is a fee paying public school – not a non-fee paying state school. This means that the state only pays for a few teachers (34) and contributes less than R300 000 to the running costs of the school. Parel Vallei is responsible for **everything** else. PV employs more staff through the SGB than what the state provides. In order for us to provide the kind of education our children need, we have to carry the costs. We have also just been informed that our state paid staff complement has been cut by 1 post even though the school will grow by 60+ children next year. It is alarming that no new schools are being built in our area and yet we are still issued staff cuts. We are being told to do more and more with less.

It is therefore with a profound sense of gratitude that I express thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the raffle and the golf day. It has been a resounding success! I would like to make special mention of Kwikspar Lion’s Square for their support and the touch of class they brought to the golf day evening. Not only did they sponsor the day but they also provided 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in addition to all meals and table settings. I look forward to walking a path with them over the next few years. Please support them whenever you can; they support us! Theo, Karien Derrick, Marcel, Janine and Magda, thank you very much.



Goodie bags also sponsored by Kwikspar Lion's Square.

From left: David Schenck (headmaster), Hardie Strydom, Magda Strydom, Janine Fourie, Karien en Theo Strydom (owners of Kwikspar Lion's Square).

The golf day was a wonderful affair and very well attended despite the forced date change due to bad weather. Thank you to all those who played and all those who sponsored holes. We appreciate your support. A big thank you to Wouter and Trevor and all the staff at Somerset West Golf Club. The raffle draw was done on the evening under the watchful eye of GKN Audit. The winners are:

1 st Prize	Trip to Thailand worth R20 000	M. McDonald ticket no 07864
2 nd Prize	Miele coffee machine	B. Eyman ticket no 13400
3 rd Prize	Tablet worth R3000	Attie Van Zyl ticket no 22388

Well done to these 3 winners. We hope they enjoy their prize.

The money raised from these 2 fundraisers will be used to improve the lives of the children and staff at PV. We will allocate a sum of money for the children to decide how they would like to spend it, in recognition of the work they did in raising the funds. I am very proud of the school with this fine effort and look forward to an even bigger effort next year.

I am acutely aware of the need to create a space where PV parents and friends of the school can socialise after sports matches and host functions. I am also very aware of the need to build a pool, put lights around the Astro and the athletics track, and to build a gym. All of this takes money. I believe that if we pace ourselves correctly and all contribute small significant amounts then we can do it all. We have what we have today because of those who came before us. 'The best time to plant a tree was 30 years ago – the second best time is now'. We must "plant trees" for the future of PV.

My previous newsletter provided some of the winter season highlights emphasising what our children are capable of and I know that there is a lot more to come. We

have loads of potential in our school, and in the basin, and there is no reason why PV cannot be one of the very top schools in the country. It is our job to build the South Africa of tomorrow and leave this country in better hands than when we received it.

Despite all the negativity in the press at the moment, I am very upbeat about the future of our country. Our young democracy is starting to flex some muscle and citizens are casting discerning comments, looking for best practice in our politicians. Parel Vallei must stand at the forefront of producing excellence and balance. You and I have a collective responsibility in this. We cannot wait on the State to step in. We must be the difference we want to see and we must not accept NO as an answer; for the sake of our children!

I would like to wish you a happy, short October holiday with your child as we move towards the end of the year and the major exams next term. I am off on a 4 day fishing trip with the scientists of the Sea Fisheries Department, but more about this next time.

Warm PV greetings from a very proud headmaster.