



Headmaster / Skoolhoof: David Schenck

Dear Parents and friends

It has been a while since last I put pen to paper and a great deal has happened in the interim. The Communicator is up to date with all events, arrangements and results serving as a focal point for all our communication and I am most grateful for the work that the admin staff does in this regard. I would, however, like to highlight a few of the really significant “feel good” moments of the term.

I would like to welcome a new member of staff to Parel Vallei. Mr Albie Steenkamp joins us as the assistant estate manager and he will be responsible for the playing surfaces and gardens. Mr Steenkamp has a wealth of knowledge regarding turf management and we will be looking to him to ensure that our fields, gardens and playing surfaces are in tip-top condition. We look forward to a long and happy association with Mr Steenkamp.



Parel Vallei is a school that strives to provide as many opportunities as possible for its learners and it is therefore with great excitement that I announce that we will be introducing a new student leadership structure with immediate effect. The Learner Council will be replaced with a prefect body elected through various portfolios representing specific constituencies. Voting will take place for each of the portfolios following the display of the candidates’ manifesto. Voter registration will be required in certain portfolios before a voter may exercise the right to vote. Each of the portfolios will be headed up by a teacher who will give guidance and attend all meetings. One of these 8 portfolios will be the RCL (Representative Council of Learners) with representation from all the grades reporting directly to the SGB through the head boy and head girl.

Tomorrow’s leaders are the children who sit at our school desks today and we have a responsibility to expose them to leadership roles and to provide opportunities and basic training. Each of these portfolios will have a committee made up of children across all the grades which when combined with the prefects, sports captains and other opportunities in the school, provides leadership exposure for over 200 children. This is very exciting and will be further reinforced through courses and guest speakers providing training and individual growth as the new structure cements itself into the fabric of PV.

In a complete departure from previous years, the prefects and head boy and girl will be announced on Founders' Day in front of the whole school.

More exciting news comes from the other sectors of the school where PV learners have excelled in a variety of activities:

- Parel Vallei was placed 4th out of 180 schools at the UCT Maths competition. This is the second consecutive year we have placed 4th;
- SAMF Olympiad (previously Harmonie Olympiad) – 7 PV pupils placed in the top 100 (out of 80 000 in SA) and PV came 4th, in SA;
- 'Dink of Sink' debate – PV's junior team progressed to the final;
- Drama – Mia van der Merwe won best junior at the National Acting Competition;
- Eisteddfod – PV won 14 prizes, 11 trophies, 8 medals, 43 Cum Laudes and 33 Gold+ awards at the Stellenbosch Eisteddfod;
- 1st XI girls unbeaten at the Kingswood Festival;
- 1st XI girls beat Paarl Gym for the first time in PV's history;
- 1st XI boys won the Fairmont Tournament;
- 41 PV hockey players have been selected to represent various Boland sides this year;
- Mountain biking – Matthew Keyser was crowned Western Cape junior cross country champion;
- 5 mountain bikers received WC colours;
- Rugby – 5 u19 players were selected to go to New Zealand after the SCST week in George.

We are also delighted to announce that construction of a roof over the rugby field pavilion will commence during the holidays and should be finished early next term. The moment of the term for me was the sports day against Strand. The pavilion was filled with spectators and supporters from both schools, with people even standing at the back due to a lack of space. Children ran from all over the campus to form the tunnel for the teams to run through and the spirit was fantastic! It was a true demonstration of what the **Blue Thread** is all about and I hope to see much more support like this.



The June reports are out and I again encourage you to engage with your child/children; analyse the good and the bad. All our children need love and encouragement (and a bit of pushing!).

The Parel Vallei Golf Day is just around the corner and the organisation committee is very busy planning for the event. I am aware that from time to time we ask parents to donate small items to the school and I try to keep it to a minimum. We will once again be asking classes to bring small items in for prizes but this year and for the foreseeable future, PV will be holding a raffle running parallel to the Golf Day. We want to make one big push every year to raise funds and we want to do it properly. There are 3 main prizes in the raffle:

- 1st Prize - R20 000 holiday in Thailand,
- 2nd Prize - R18 000 Miele coffee machine,
- 3rd Prize - R3000 iPad.

There will also be class and individual prizes for most tickets sold (e.g. class outing for the day, all expenses paid). Tickets are R20 each and we would like each child to sell 20 tickets. Please assist us with this so we can make an even greater difference in the life of your child.

The cold weather is here just in time for the holidays, so log fires, potjiekos, hot chocolate and sleeping late will no doubt be the order of the day. Enjoy the time together as a family and travel safely if you are using the roads. The Schencks are off on their annual E-Cape pilgrimage, paying a visit to the Bushman's river to do a spot of hunting and fishing. It is biltong and red wine time!

Be safe and bring back the **Blue Thread** spirit, revived and rejuvenated.

Warm PV greetings
David