

# HOËRSKOOL PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL



**PROUD TO BE A PAREL VALLEIER**

Term 4

## NEWSLETTER

10 December 2010

Dear Parents

The World Cup Soccer Tournament is over and all the fears have been proved to be unnecessary. Even the longer June holiday had a minimal effect. The teacher strike had a far greater negative impact on education in the country but happily it had no effect on us at Parel Vallei at all. We thank our teachers for their high level of personal discipline and very professional behaviour during this period. On top of all this, P.V. turned 25 this year and we celebrated without much fanfare in the light of our generally weaker economic position. Next year, when we are "really" 25, we will have a special service of thanks for the past 25 years, and set our sights on the next 25 years.

The Matric examination, generally speaking, was too easy in some subjects. I am always nervous when too many papers are too easy because when this is adjusted it never favours the strong learner. Let us hope that my fears aren't warranted and that there is no need to adjust marks.

**Finances:** 2010 was a difficult year financially but I must say a big thank you to those parents (thankfully in the majority) who have supported the school during this very difficult time. There are many parents who have received relief and I hope this trend will be reversed when the economy turns. Unfortunately there are some parents who don't meet their commitments. The School Governing Body will not show any mercy to these parents as they unashamedly ride on the backs of the parents who do pay! I have to send these parents a strong message of disapproval. Parel Vallei offers much more than a normal state school and this costs money!

**New minimum compulsory fee for those who qualify for relief:** At our Budget approval meeting with parents, the SGB proposed a compulsory

minimum "levy" which all parents who qualify for relief should make. It was unanimously supported and the SGB had to decide at its next meeting what this amount should be. The two amounts in our annual budget that "hurt" us most are: 1. Bad Debt of R1 233 935.00 and 2. Financial Relief of R1 200 000,00. These two budget items amount to R2,4million! This is far too much. At the SGB meeting it was decided to call for R200 per month as a minimum levy payable by all parents who qualify for relief. This will be a positive contribution from these parents towards retaining that which the school offers. This new levy will be payable from 1 January 2011.

**Planning for 2011:** Parel Vallei, along with many other schools in the Western Cape, as well as our feeder schools, decided to apply to start school 2 days earlier in 2011 in return for two extra days in April, giving us an 11-day break from 22 April, up to, and including, 2 May 2011. School will therefore start on 17 January for all pupils and on 13 January for staff.

**Musical:** Next year we have a musical again! I always look forward to this because I know just how much our pupils are enriched by this experience. I urge you to encourage your child to take part in this musical as it may be the only time in their lives when they have an opportunity to be part of such a production. The following days have been set aside for full rehearsals next year:

26 – 29 April 2011

16 & 17 Junie 2011

11 – 15 Julie 2011

The first week of the third term.

**2011!** While filling in dates for next year I again realised just how busy Parel Vallei is. This is wonderful! I'm really excited about next year and all the challenges we face. It is, in fact, these challenges which make us stronger and support

our growth.

We will be building again in 2011! This time the WCED has decided to add an extra 10 classrooms and two extra ablution blocks. We will therefore have at least 5 extra classes and grow to ±1350 in the next two years. We will continue to apply our strict admission policy and, in this way, ensure excellence in the classroom. This project will be completed at the end of 2011 and we will take in another extra class in 2012. We have already taken in an extra class for 2011, bringing us to 8 classes in grade 8.

**Dates for 2011:**

13 January 2011	Educators
14 January 2011	Grade 8
17 January 2011	Learners
21 January 2011	Inter House Athletics
27 January 2011	Inter House Gala
31 January 2011	New parents: Cheese and wine function
8 February 2011	Grade 10: National Gr 9 Maths Test
11 February 2011	Inter-Schools Athletics

**Subject changes:** Please read the subject grade change letter included in your child's report. We have to follow the guidelines strictly and will only allow changes according to the dates indicated.

**Christmas Holidays:** I wish you and your family a fantastic Christmas holiday. May you experience true Christmas joy and have a safe and peaceful holiday. I can already imagine how suntanned our pupils are when they arrive back at school – ready for a busy year!

Yours sincerely

E. GOUWS  
HEADMASTER