

HOËRSKOOL PAREL VALLEI HIGH SCHOOL



PROUD TO BE A PAREL VALLEIER

Term 3

NEWSLETTER

22 September 2010

Dear Parents

Last week we probably had one of the best budget meetings I've experienced at Parel Vallei. Not only did we have a good turnout of parents, but we had a meaningful discussion between the SGB and parents. The questions which were asked, suggestions which were made, were all relevant and constructive. As a Governing Body, we all agreed that we wanted more of this type of intervention as it brought parents closer to the decisions which need to be made at the school. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend this meeting.

The budget was approved and so too the school fees for 2011. The annual school fee is set at R15 500.00 and parents may pay this off in 10 instalments of R1 550.00 from February to November. We also received unanimous support for a minimum levy for parents who are exempted from paying school fees. The burden upon paying parents has become huge and although we apply the relief formula to those parents who apply, the school is not a pure state school as it offers much more than such a school. The cost of continuous development at the school is a factor which has, by necessity, been neglected over the past few years as we have all felt the economic crunch. The suggestion that parents who could, would be encouraged to make a monthly contribution towards a development fund which would be applied to physical development as required. These two suggestions, which had the full support of parents, will be discussed at our next governing body meeting. The SGB will report back to you soon on the outcome.

There is also a newly formed hockey committee which is tasked with raising funds for the erection of a new Astro-turf. The SGB has given it's full support to this initiative although it is not able to allocate funding for this at this stage. The school

has in the meanwhile applied to the Lotto for funding. This will take a while and we expect a reply only in about 6 month's time. Thank you to the parents who have supported this initiative as well as to Mrs. Kets who is the dynamo behind this drive.

The Teacher Strike and Parel Vallei:

I'm very pleased to be able to announce that the strike had no impact on the education of our children at Parel Vallei. Our staff, although they supported the strike, felt that the education of our children far outweighed the demands which were being made by unions. There is a real need for the state to improve the salaries of teachers, but our pupils must not be affected by this. I thank the staff for this approach and I know that they will be rewarded in other ways. To you as parents, I urge you not to be swept up by the mass media when you hear of impending strike action. I assure you that I will at all times strive to protect the right of your children to have proper education. I refer you to my letter during the strike in which I spelled out what we as a school could and would do. Please do not just keep your children at home when you read or hear about strike action in the press or on the radio.

There are a few matters I want to bring to your attention at the end of the term and ask for your support in what we are trying to achieve.

(I apologise for the down-time of our computer at school and acknowledge that we had a problem from our side regarding communication during the last three weeks)

School Communicator:

Most families received a school communicator disc and downloaded this onto your computer. However, if you are not using it on a daily basis, it is not serving its communication purpose and

both you and the school are losing out. I appeal to you to please use this communicator to keep yourself and your child informed on a daily basis. This is our primary means of getting information to you. If you have somehow lost the software or through some computer error it has been wiped off your computer, please go to the website at www.pvallei.co.za and on the home page, top righthand side, click on the button on the far right and download the communicator software. Once you have done this, the line of communication between you and the school is open. I urge you to do this and to ensure that you keep up to date with all the activities at school. P.S. Should you have any photographs which you have taken at any school functions or events, please send these to akemp@pvallei.co.za and we will put these onto the gallery on the communicator.

Leaving school early:

There has been an alarming increase in the number of learners who are leaving school before the end of the day for a multitude of reasons. This is not acceptable as it becomes a norm that it is OK to leave school - as long as parents write a note! Please only use this facility when it is really necessary and not just to make life easy. There are also a number of children who call their parents directly and then say that they are not feeling well and parents then arrive to fetch their child and we at school are totally unaware of the situation. If your child is ill, they must report to the grade head and if it is necessary, in their opinion, they will call you.

Neatness / Dress code:

We have been struggling to get certain of our pupils to conform to the dress code and neatness code. Both boys' and girls' hair is often not neat and in the boys' case, too long as well. Long sleeve jerseys have holes in them, the children push their sleeves up to their elbows. Shoes are not polished, pants hang around their bottoms and generally the neatness is not up to scratch. Where we have punished, pupils have some excuse, often with parents' support for not doing the detention. We are not going to accept this bad habit of being untidy and the grade heads are going to take action on the day that the child defaults. Should your child's dress code and general neatness not be of the correct standard, they will do an hour detention on that day immediately after school. If this is going to inconvenience you, then unfortunately it will have to be so. We are going to insist that our learners wear their uniform neatly and that they are well groomed and generally neat in their person.

I ask you, even if it is going to be difficult for you, to support us in this as the life-lesson learnt in this way will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

Finally I wish to thank all the parents who are always positive towards the school and who support our policies. It is always a pleasure to receive this support and one can see this in the great majority of our learners who are totally committed to what the school expects of them.

From the first day next term, we are all in **SUMMER UNIFORM**. No scarves or gloves and winter jackets are to be worn. Obviously if it rains, the rain jacket may be worn.

- School starts on 4 October
- Prizegiving is on 12 October
- The first practical exam for matrics starts on 13 October
- The matric Valedictory is spread over two dates. On 13 October we will formally take leave of our matrics and on 22 October we will say farewell to them at a breakfast.
- The first big exam for our matrics is on 28 October
- Examinations for the rest of the school start on 11 November and end on 3 December
- Schools close on Friday 10 December

Yours sincerely



E. GOUWS
HEADMASTER