



WATERSTONE

C O L L E G E

Dear Parents

One of the great joys of working in a school is having different types of conversations with toddlers, teenagers, staff members and parents almost every day of my working life. These interactions assure me that despite the warnings from academics and educational experts that junk food, materialistic marketing, over-competitive schooling and an increasing reliance on electronic entertainment and social media are turning our children into porridge brained, shapeless blimps, for the most part our children continue to thrive, flourish and impress.

At Waterstone College, the issuing of reports is followed by scores of meetings with parents and those children who have caused some worry to those in the school who care for them. The dynamic of each conversation is different. Sometimes, parents feeling embarrassed or exposed – berate their children. More often, parents feel the need to fight their children's corner and provide excuses and justifications for underperformance.

There is a Macedonian proverb that encapsulates the duality of parenting: 'nothing is sweeter, nor more bitter, than one's own children'.

The pupils themselves, however, if questioned about their results, are very often able to sum up – with the texting brevity that only a teenager can pull off – the reason for their miserable performance. And sometimes, if they are pushed, they will even provide a solution that is accurate and appropriate. Putting their insights into practise is not always quite so efficient. The fact is that in spite of the fact that more children are diagnosed with learning difficulties and consume mood stabilising attention-focusing, anxiety - reducing, sleep-promoting and immune-boosting medications, our children are more assured, confident, self-aware, emotionally tuned in, socially aware and capable of empathy than children of a generation ago.

Our job of nurturing and caring for children as teachers and parents has not changed even if the way we do it has; to provide the boundaries, and to strike the right balance between being overly interfering and too careless, cloyingly protective or dangerously permissive, and to allow our children to take their place in this world which they are in a better position to own and to heal than we are.

Our children are our hope for the future. They give us an opportunity to leave the world in better hands than when we found it. Children are the triumph of hope, rebirth and optimism over cynicism, despondency and resignation.

Parenting and teaching can be terrifying at times – and perhaps this is as it should be. The responsibility is enormous, but it should not be overwhelming or crippling. Spike Milligan’s poem on children, ‘Kids’ sums it up nicely: “If then we kids/ Cause such a fuss, / Why do you go on, / Having us?”

Construction

I am nervous to make the statement that our building project will be completed by end of term. This has been a long and arduous process, nevertheless our car park, new drainage system, Primary school sports field and upgrades to our hockey turf is complete. We are currently in the final planning stages for the extension to the High School, Astro turf lights, and additional classrooms for the foundation phase, Castle parking lot and new tennis courts and cricket nets and pitches. I am hoping that we can start this construction at the end of next term.

Introduction of an African Language

After much investigation and studying the survey results, we have decided to introduce an African Language as an alternative to Afrikaans. We also had to consider the resources available and potential teacher availability. We have decided that as from 2017 we will start introducing isiZulu as a First Additional Language starting off with Grade 1 – 4 and from Grade 8 – 10. We will obviously expand the subject in 2018 into Grade 5 – 7 and Grade 11.

Family Festival – 3 September 2016

We are extremely excited about the first family festival to be hosted by Waterstone College. The festival will be open to all of the Waterstone family and will include school bands, entertainment in the arena, food stalls, rides, market, and beer

garden, and will culminate with a music concert with the main performer being the ever popular *Micasa*. This promises to be a fun-filled day enjoyed by the entire family. More details to follow.

School Golf Day

I would like to invite you to play in our annual school golf day. This year we will be playing at the popular “Eye of Africa” golf course. This will take place on 27 October 2016. Please save the date as more details will follow. The funds raised will go to the ERIFEANS with 10% of the turn over being donated to a school in need.

In closing

I would like to thank all our teachers, pupils and parents for the success of Term 2. We do not only view our school as an aspiring business, but also as a humanistic institution dedicated unselfishly to the well-being of its members. The school has had a most productive term and there is little reason to doubt that Term 3 will be the same.

Vernon Rorich
Executive Head
Waterstone College