Dear Parents

I have recently attended a meeting about Parental involvement in high schools. What was interesting is that it was mentioned that as children grow older, the less involved their parents are in their lives. Obviously this is a generalisation but the trend is still that as our children become young adults, the more we allow them to take up more responsibility and to make decisions on their own.

A few things that were highlighted are:

1. Parents of high school children are less inclined to attend school related functions. Remember when your son or daughter attended his/her first day at school, how excited you were? Parents attended every school function, every concert, every fundraising event etc.

2. Parents allow their high school children to go out unsupervised with friends, while this would never have been the case in the primary school.

3. Teenagers, if placed in a situation where they have to choose, would prefer to go to social gatherings without their parents and rather with their friends.

4. Children, no matter of what age, need security, guidance and acceptance. If this is not provided at home, they will find this with their friends. This is an extremely risky situation because if they have to rely on their friends who are not mature enough to give the guidance needed to secure a solid grounding towards adulthood.

5. Children of parents who are supportive of their children’s education and their lives in general achieve higher successes in life and become good parents themselves.

6. Some parents of senior high school children tend to use their children’s schools as “Drop and Go” zones.

7. Parents should work in collaboration with their child’s school and create a united “care zone”. These parents build relationships with their child’s teachers and both teachers and parents are collaborative-ly supportive in ensuring that the child is holistically educated and prepared for life.

8. Modern working parents tend to compensate for their lack of involvement in their children’s lives by relaxing on necessary boundaries and rules and replacing their direct involvement by freely giving children material things and money.

Note from the new Editor

What a joy to be back behind the desk of the College Newsletter...
Thank you to Mr Billman for his hard work the past 16 months.
In this issue you will find news about the people, academics, sport and extramural activities at the College.

Anita Grové
Message from the Headmaster (cont)

9. Parents do not want to let their children experience the difficulties or hardship they sometimes had to endure as children themselves. Parents then forget what made them successful in their own lives and opt to change their own life's recipe by over-compensating and over-accommodating.

10. Some parents treat teenagers like mini-adults. Adulthood comes with responsibility.

I am urging our parent community to continue to stay involved in your child’s life: Some ideas to do this would be:

1. Attend school related functions, plays, displays etc.
2. Support your children in their extra mural activities
3. Provide opportunities for you and your children to spend family time together.
4. Give your children what they need and not necessarily what they want.
5. Put in place a “safe zone” for your child.
6. Get to know your child’s teacher and together create a collaborative and supportive environment.

Dr Phillip Kotze
College Headmaster

People News:

Welcome to Three New Staff Members

Mr Justin Barry, who is well-known to parents with children at the Preparatory School, has been appointed as Educational Therapist. He is also teaching Mathematics and English in Grade 7. According to him, his eleventh year of teaching feels as fresh as his first year and he really enjoys helping struggling children find their feet. His approach to teaching is simple: he practises the self-empowering concept of “the magic of self-esteem”. He believes that positive belief in oneself will motivate every student to achieve their absolute potential.

In his own words: “I have been in South African for two years and four months, having moved from Kingston-Upon-Thames following the completion of my Special Needs Masters Programme at Kingston University. I admit that I occasionally (still) feel like a tourist, especially on weekends, exploring the wonderful markets and parks that festoon this magnificent country. “It’s great to finally be here. I look forward to meeting you all.”

Mrs Retha Kok teaches Afrikaans (First Additional Language) in Grade 7 and 8A and also History in Grades 7 and 8. She is friendly, funny and down-to-earth, yet full of interesting surprises. Her most favourite pastime is reading crime novels, especially those by Scandinavian authors like Jo Nesbo, Lisa Marklund and Nesser. She also likes to watch crime movies and Midsummer Murders. Music is another of her loves, but according to her, she has “rhythm but no grace”. She adores her husband and her three dogs, called Roomys, Vlermuis and Otto.

Mrs Kok previously taught at Orion and King David, where she discovered that she enjoys figuring out new and better ways of helping struggling pupils to learn. She believes in using a variety of practical teaching methods including singing and acting. Mrs Kok is modest about all her qualifications and did not want us to divulge too much information about this aspect of her career. She was only prepared to say that she’s crazy enough to still be studying at her age – that being a further qualification in Academic Support.

Lastly we also welcome our new Visual Arts teacher, Mrs E Seddon to our dynamic team. Mrs Seddon is a warm and friendly mommy of two little girls. Her kindness and patience are two outstanding qualities of her as a teacher.

Cont p 3

Mr Justin Barry

Mrs Retha Kok
More People News

New Staff Members (Continued from p 2)

She is an artist from the Eastern Cape, who studied teaching through UNISA (P.G.C.E) and Fine Arts at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). Mrs Seddon exhibited some of her art works in East London and Grahamstown.

She taught Visual Arts and Natural Science at St. Christopher’s Private School in King Williams Town, before moving up to Johannesburg. Some of you may recognize Mrs Seddon if you came from Summit College, as she did some additional training there a few years ago. She taught Visual Arts and Arts and Culture at Wendwood High School before choosing to join the Cedarwood family.

We are very excited to have such talented people on our team and wish them all the best.

Rider excels

Shannon Smeddle has been selected to participate at the FEI (Federation Equestrian Internationale) qualification rounds. She will be jumping her horse Confucius at the jumping show at Kyalami Equestrian Park on 13 to 18 May 2014. This could qualify her to ride at the FEI World Cup Games. To get this far, both Shannon and her horse had to maintain a very high standard of jumping, with only a low count of penalties allowed, for several months.

Congratulations Shannon! Ride well and remember to be the best you can be.

Welcome

James Hutchison (Voc 11) was welcomed back at school after his heart operation. The headmaster and staff are thankful together with his family for his recovery. James went for follow-up procedures this week.

James, we wish you well with the tests and angiogram and also hope that you will get well soon.

Welcome to Thando Mthetwa, Grade 8, who was here on a trial visit last week, and Krysten Jonk, Grade 9, who is visiting this week.

Three members of the happy Cedarwood “family”
Sport and Other Extramural Activities

Cedarwood College will offer the following activities during the second term:

**SPORTS**
- Soccer
- Netball
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Touch rugby

**CLUBS**
- Photography
- Mindfulness
- Inspirational arts and crafts
- Drama

The above mentioned clubs will continue throughout the year. This is because of their long term benefit to Cedarwood pupils. Meetings will be organised against different neighbouring schools.

Equipment needed for different disciplines has been put in place and practice is going on well.

Wish all the participants a wonderful sporting term and remember, failure is just a stepping stone to success.

- Byron Nyariri
EXTRA-MURALS COODINATOR

Mindfulness Club

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Fun Activities: Pizza Day

The Vocational 10 and 11 group organized a Pizza Break for the College on 14 May.
A FRIENDLY REMINDER that school fees have to be paid every month to help us meet our monthly commitments on time. Three months’ notice is required if you plan to take your child out of the school.

Our Cedarwood Equestrian Team will be going head-to-head with all the schools in Gauteng Central on the weekend of the 24th (Prep) and 25th (College) of May. If you have never attended a horse riding event, this is one not to be missed, as it is the second last qualifier for the year before we move onto Gauteng Finals. Join us at GHS (next door to the Lipizzaner’s). These are full day events, however, why not come through for lunch—the tuckshops are fantastic! - and experience something new with your families, out in the fresh air with one of the world’s most majestic animals—The Horse.

Cedarwood Blankets
Cedarwood Blankets are available from reception at only R90 each.

Parents (and pupils themselves) are invited to e-mail contributions regarding pupils’ outstanding performances for the newsletter to Mr G. Billman:
gbillman@cedarwoodschool.co.za

Midyear Exams start 9 June 2014
Exam timetables are available on the Web site