

WESTERN PROVINCE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



“Faithfulness and Gentleness”

Newsletter

02 November 2018

From the Headmaster's Desk

Last week I attended the ISASA (Independent Schools Association of South Africa) and SAHISA (South African Heads of Independent Schools Association) conferences in Sandton, Johannesburg. These provide an opportunity for all the Heads and Bursars to get together, and discuss common issues and hear talks on aspects that we may face in the future. The main thrust of both conferences was diversity and transformation. As Independent Schools, we are committed to transforming our schools. I was fortunate to attend a session in which five black teachers discussed their experiences of working in predominantly white staffrooms. This was an interesting eye-opening session and it laid bare the many complications that people moving into our communities experience on a daily basis. Justice Leona Theron spoke to us with great compassion and emotion about her struggles growing up in a township, and then ultimately becoming a judge in the new South Africa. She explained how she was inspired and spurred on by her primary school headmaster to believe in herself and reach for her dreams. She not only won a Fulbright Scholarship, but went on to meet the Queen of England and Oprah Winfrey due to her ability to overcome the odds and excel.

We listened to many inspiring talks. The young headmaster of Eton College, Simon Henderson, spoke to us about the relevance of a liberal education in the 21st century. His insights were thought-provoking. Les Aupiais spoke about how to deal with the media, and scared us with looking at what could happen in our schools when dealing with the media and the ever-growing litigious society in which we live.

However, the talk that made the greatest impression on me was the one delivered by David Grier. David is a Wetpups Old Boy who, after school, became a chef and he now owns and runs a very successful restaurant in Bellville called De Oude Welgemoed. In the early 2000s David decided that he needed to turn his life around and, instead of being critical of what was happening in the world, he set out to see what he could do to contribute to making a positive impact on the world. He went on to establish the Miles for Smiles Foundation that raises money for the corrective surgery of those children born with cleft palates.

In 2006, David and Braam Malherbe decided to run the 4200 km length of the Great Wall of China in 100 days. This meant running a standard marathon of 42 km each day. They were able to complete this in just 93 days and, in so doing, broke many records. In March this year he was challenged to run the same wall in the other direction. He set off to do this in just 70 days, which meant he would do about 70 km a day. He completed the challenge, but experienced many hardships and unexpected obstacles on the way.

David has now run The Great wall of China twice, run the entire coastline of South Africa, 3300 km in 80 days, paddled from Africa to Madagascar 500 km in 12 days, run the Island of

Madagascar South to north 2700 km in 67 days, run the entire length of India 4008 km in 93 days. In all, David has run 25000 km raising millions of rands for this life-changing surgery for children. He has set a wonderful example of a Wetpups solutionary who is making a meaningful difference in our society!

In his talk, he explained how he realised that although we do not have control over the external aspects that influence our lives, we do have control over the internal aspects and can all make a difference. What he found in these extreme challenges was that the closer he got to success, the greater the temptation was to give up. He was told by Tim Noakes that the Great Wall of China run was not possible for a human being. However, he found that when the mind and the body fuse as one, then it is incredible what can be achieved.

David is a wonderful inspiration to us all. He joins two other Wetpups Old Boys Ranulph Fiennes and Chris Bertish, who are also extreme adventurers, and have inspired us to reach for our dreams and to remain focused on our goals. They show us that life is full of possibility and we should never say I can't.

SIMON WEAVER



Christmas Collection for Kitchen and Ground Staff

WPPS is organising a Christmas collection for our kitchen and ground staff, who spend much time and energy ensuring the happiness of the boys and staff. We will purchase food vouchers with all funds raised.

Donations may be electronically transferred to the school's bank account | FNB, Branch: 204209, Account No: 50152664890, Ref: Christmas Hamper.

Thank you for your generosity.

Thought for the Week

“Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.”

American *Dr Benjamin Spock* (1903-1998)

In This Issue

- From the Headmaster' Desk
- Christmas Collection for Kitchen and Ground Staff
- Thought for the Week
- Weekly Sports Wrap
- Christmas Market
- Grade 1 Games
- Adam Vally Mahomed
- Eden Road Notes
- Remembrance Day Invite

Weekly Sports Wrap

TENNIS

We played in incredibly tough conditions this week. If it wasn't almost 40 degrees, then we were being blown off of the court. The boys tried their best and actually had a lot of fun trying to play in such harsh conditions. The teams also used this time to have a discussion with the coaches about those skills they might need to focus on during the next practice.

All the teams faced some strong opposition, yet it was great to see some of the boys not lose their determination. I want to urge all boys to give their best in every match, regardless of what they predict the outcome to be.



Weekly Sports Wrap

GENERAL

As we approach the end of the year, we would like parents to discuss their son's sport preferences with him, before the start of the new year. Boys will be required to participate in a team sport, rather than simply two afternoons a week of school sport. Team sports offer many benefits and life skills beyond just those of being active and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

At Werpups, water polo and cricket are classed as team sports, with swimming, tennis and athletics classed as individual sports. Please ensure, however, that your son's sport and cultural schedule does not see him oversubscribed with too many after school activities.

For the winter season (terms 2 and 3), boys will have the option of hockey and rugby, and may participate in squash and cross country additionally.

Please remember that whatever sport is chosen in term 1, needs to be continued in term 4. Similarly, in the winter season, what is chosen in term 2 must continue in term 3.

CRICKET

The third week of cricket fixtures produced some excellent results against Rondebosch. Our U10A, U12A, U13B and 1st XI boys can be proud of their efforts in their first Saturday fixture for the term. The matches were played in sweltering heat and the boys had their skills and mental toughness thoroughly tested.

A special mention must go to the U12A boys who pulled off a superb win. They can be proud of their recent performances including a win against the touring Lambrook School. Our round of mid-week fixtures were played in fine spirit, and saw some promising signs from our U10 age group. All three teams managed excellent wins. Unfortunately, the U10D fixture was cancelled and the boys were not able to pull off a clean sweep. The U10A team showed excellent character and a willingness to learn from their mistakes bouncing back from a loss over the weekend to record a convincing victory over a strong Rondebosch side.

Next week sees a full round of fixtures against another of our traditional rivals, Bishops, starting on Saturday and continuing into the week. We wish the boys well and look forward to another round of competitive fixtures.

SWIMMING

We hosted the final gala of the year, the C-League Gala. It was great to see the rest of the boys in the pool showing true Werpups spirit. There were some very good results, and the boys represented their school with pride. I would like to thank all the staff members who gave up their afternoon to help make the gala happen, and to all the parents who came to support.

WATER POLO

The water polo sides had a great outing against arch rivals Bishops last Friday. The U10 sides continued to improve their attacking style of play dominating play up front. The U11A side found themselves in a titanic, battle and can be very proud of the determination shown in the water. The U12 age group made huge strides this week, both participating in very tight encounters and thrilling the crowds with end-to-end water polo. The U13s played a very clinical brand of water polo This saw them dominating their opponents in all facets of play. Their approach and accuracy was fantastic to watch. Good luck to all the teams playing a mixed set of schools at WPPS next week.

Christmas Market

Grateful Thanks

We are most grateful to all who were involved with our very successful Christmas Market.

The energy, enthusiasm, and hard work put in by so many is so greatly appreciated. Thank you to our sponsors, donors, efficient and the hard-working Christmas Market team, helpful boys and staff, and the parents who came out to support the market.

There were so many wonderful compliments made about the day. The whole process ran like clockwork, and we sincerely thank you for helping to raise funds for Wetpups.

Please see below a number of compliments that were overheard or sent to us...

Hi Melanie

Nomalady and I want to thank you again for kindly giving us the opportunity to join your market.

It was such fun, the generosity of the couple who printed the posters, (please thank them again from us) the students who designed them, the kids and teacher who played music all day.

We are super happy with our sales.

*Kind regards
Eliese*

A quote from Christopher Lowndes (Alumni 2007) "Really great to be back at Wetpups and having the opportunity to sell our Colton James Timepiece watches. "



Grade 1 Games

Grade 1 played thinking games with grandparents. The boys had to think logically and creatively.



Adam Vally Mahomed

Well done to Adam Vally Mahomed who has spent the last six months designing and painting his long board deck. This was a personal project of his and he showed great patience and skill throughout the lengthy process of sketching, stenciling, spray painting and painting the deck. The result is outstanding! Happy skateboarding Adam!



Eden Road Notes

AFTERCARE

If your son is listed for Aftercare, but you happen to fetch him or he goes on a playdate, please let us know so that we can cross him off our list.



WPPS

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Friday, 9 November 2018

10:30

The Stansbury Hall

Tea will be served in The Old Library after the service.

Kindly RSVP mcculloch@wpps.org.za

