

KINGSWOOD COLLEGE

College Head Newsletter



Wednesday, 25 October 2017

Dear Kingswoodian Family

As part of the message I shared with the Grade 12s at their Valedictory Service I said the following, which, on reflection over Half Term, I thought, might be useful to share with the broader Kingswood community.



In understanding the emergence of individual greatness Dale Wimbrow shares the following advice:

*"When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what the guy has to say*

*For it isn't your mother, your father, husband or wife
Whose judgment on you must pass
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
It is the guy staring back from the glass*

*He's the fellow to please, never mind the rest
For he's with you clean to the end
And you've passed your mostly dangerous and
Difficult test if the guy in the glass says you are a bum
If you cannot look him straight in the eye*

*You may fool the whole world. Down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass
But the final reward will be the heartache and tears
If you cheated the guy in the glass."*

It is the "guy in the mirror" with whom you will need, in the future, to reconcile yourself with. So in understanding yourself and striving to be the very best you can be, Admiral William McRaven, retired Commander of the US Navy Seals gave the following tips to graduates at the University of Texas. His first piece of wisdom was simple; get up every morning and make your bed. In making your bed you get a simple task in life right; this means that you will find tackling the big things in life easier. In striving for your significance and greatness McRaven went on to say that significance cannot be achieved on its own; you need to develop networks; you need others to support your vision; you need people who can help you paddle upstream when things get tough. He went on further to state that your significance will be measured by the size of your heart and your ability to engage and empathise with those around you. You will not be measured on external values such as wealth, status or position but rather on your character and spirit.

Do not be afraid to take risks. Develop your inner strength so that you can face the challenges, disappointments and adversities that life will present you with. In the words of Bill Gates, "life is not always fair – deal with it". Trust your values, be principled and be true to yourself. Remember you will fail – in fact sometimes failing is good. While it can be painful do not be afraid to fail. Some of the world's greatest moments have been built on the understanding that failure brings with it a new way of doing things. Do not accept any injustice and be prepared to stand up and be counted when it might be uncomfortable to do so. Similarly challenge the status quo when it might be in conflict with what is right. Do not allow yourself to sit on the side of conformity when conformity is at odds with good values and principles. Trust your intuition and be brave enough to stand your ground when others might be less willing to do so. Perhaps the last two of McRaven's principles on leading an effective and influential life are his most poignant. Dream big and be prepared to fight for your dreams. Take the necessary risks to make your dreams come true. Lastly, never be intimidated by bullies and there are many of them out there. Do not allow others the right to crush your spirit - every man and woman is equal in the eyes of God and no one has the right to impinge upon your God given rights. Lastly, remember your humanity, remember the less fortunate, the down trodden, the weaker man – for every man has the right to an opinion. Remember as you look in the mirror do not cheat the "guy in the glass".

As you read these reflections I hope that you will recognise that, as a school, we strive to do so much more than simply building academic, sporting or cultural success. It is so much more than this and what is immediately visible. It is about developing strength of character, a resilience and a tenacity, which will allow every Kingswoodian an opportunity of developing significance and influence.



The National Senior Certificate Examinations are up and running and I pay tribute to those who had to write their first examinations over the Half Term. It is now full steam ahead until the last examination,

(CAT) which will be written on Wednesday 29 November. We wish all our candidates every success in these examinations and hope that they realise their expectations and gain grades reflective of their hard work. The internal examinations start for Grade 10 and 11 on Monday 13 November while Grade 8 and 9 start writing later in November. The last examinations are written on Tuesday 5 December. Once again, please can I remind you that Travel Day is on 6th December and this marks the last day of term.

On the sports front, I appreciate there was some disappointment with the cancellation of Sports Day. The weather certainly conspired to making it impossible for us to complete the full programme of events. Having reviewed the calendar, considered the logistics of a re-run, and with our matriculants involved in their final examinations we are unable to complete the outstanding events for Sports Day this year. While deeply regrettable there are too many conflicting dynamics to finishing off the athletics programme.

Over Half Term the Senior Girls Water Polo team were in action at the St Stithians Festival in Johannesburg. Said to be the largest festival of its kind in the country, all the top Water Polo playing schools were in attendance. Our players acquitted themselves remarkably well, winning four, drawing one and losing two games. With this being a “stayers side” this exposure has given the team a wonderful platform for next year.



Scenes from the St Stithians Water Polo Festival

For your diaries between now and the end of term please note the following:

Sunday 12 November – Remembrance Day Service (Church Square)

Monday 13 November – Start of Grade 10 / 11 examinations

Friday 17 November – Start Grade 8 Examinations and Kingswoodian Club Golf Day and Function at Humewood in Port Elizabeth

Sunday 19 November – Thanksgiving and Leavers Service (Chapel)

Thursday 23 November - First group of Grade 12s complete their examinations

Tuesday 5 December – Last day of examinations for Grades 8 – 11

Wednesday 6 December – Travel Day

2 January – Release of Senior Certificate results.

Have a great week!

Jon Trafford
College Head

FEEL GOOD MOMENT OF THE WEEK

“As always at this time of the year the school gardens are looking magnificent with a wonderful splash of Spring colour. Our thanks go to Mrs Dowdle and her team for their hard work and green fingers”.

POINT TO PONDER

"Your visions will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside,

MUSIC



There is a Sundowner concert this Thursday at the Music School at 17h00. A number of the Trinity College (London) candidates are playing their exams next Tuesday (31 October), and are down to perform. Please check with your children to see if they are involved.

The Music Sunday Chapel service takes place this Sunday at 18h30. The aim of this service is to feature the celebration of music and musicianship, a vital and beloved part of church life. Music Sunday salutes, in words and music, the creativity, discipline, effort, and dedication of singers, instrumentalists, organists and music leaders in local churches.

OK CLUB NEWS:

Kingswood Golf Day

1894 - 2019

HUMEWOOD GOLF CLUB SOUTH AFRICA

DATE : Friday 17 November 2017
VENUE : Humewood Golf Club
TIME : 12h00 Shotgun start

GREEN FEES : R250 (includes snacks after golf)
R150 for Students

BOOKINGS : bookings@humewoodgolf.co.za or 041 583 3011

The Port Elizabeth Branch of the OK Club will be hosting a Golf Day that will take place at the Humewood Golf Club on 17 November 2017.

Parents, past parents, OKs, friends and staff are all encouraged to enter. If you are not a golfer please join us for fellowship in the evening.

Snack platters will be on sale for R50.

KJPA presents:



WINE
TASTING
& FOOD PAIRING

Friday 27 October

18h30

Wyvern Club

Tickets: R280pp includes a meal.

Tickets will be available at the
Junior School office



Wine supplied by:

The Wildekrans winemaking philosophy is one that begins from the premise that great wines begin in the vineyard. The winemaking process, similarly, adheres to principles of low intervention with a focus on capturing and retaining the essence of the vine and its terroir.



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WINE ESTATE