

WATERFORD KAMHLABA UWC SA

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Letter 6/2006

Dear Parents

As I write the IB Visual Arts students and the senior basketball players are in Johannesburg. Both parties are due to return on Sunday.

On Saturday the Ekukhuleni boarders (forms 2 and 3) are going on a retreat to Hawane, returning on Sunday. A group of students returns to continue work on the construction of the Ngwempisi Hiking Trail, also returning on Sunday. In addition, on Saturday morning our swimmers are taking part in an inter-school swimming gala at Sifundzani school and the first session of entrance testing for 2007 takes place.

Since Wednesday we have had the privilege of having Zoey Lapinsky working with our Theatre Arts students. She will be giving a performance at 7pm on Sunday in the Michael Stern Hall (E5 entrance, all welcome).

Next Tuesday (14th) the Form 2K class is due to visit the Lighthouse project at Hawane to give further assistance in the pre-school and to help on the farm. This continues an important extension of community service into the lower Forms.

My major focus for the week ahead will be the UWC Heads retreat and the UWC International Board meeting at Waterford. During the retreat the heads of ten of the eleven Colleges will be discussing a number of matters relating to further improving the educational experience offered by UWC Colleges. These range from common welfare policies to improving the UWC self-evaluation process to our responsibilities in implementing the UWC Mission and Vision. These matters will be taken up at the International Board meetings next Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Other Board business includes consideration by the Board of the results of the search process for a new Chair of UWC (International), a final decision on whether or not to proceed with a new College in Bosnia with a prospective starting date in September 2006, and new College proposals (including Kenya, Netherlands, Mexico, the Middle East, Tanzania, New Zealand and China) (though I suspect not all of these will come to fruition). The Board will also receive and review the reports of the UWC National Committees from around the world.

I am increasingly of the view that it is critical for UWC to speak and act with one voice (not necessarily in unison but certainly in harmony) so that we can have a continuing impact on the way the world educates for peace and a sustainable future. And our impact will remain less than optimal if we do not take seriously our responsibility of mutual responsibility within the UWC movement.

Yours sincerely
Laurence Nodder
Principal