

WATERFORD KAMHLABA UWCSA

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Letter 7/2006

Dear Parents

The UWC Heads Retreat (13th to the 16th March) and the UWC International Board of Directors meeting at WK (16th to the 18th March) are now past, with insights gained and some important decisions having been taken.

Mr Timothy Toyne Sewell has been elected as the new Chair of the UWC International Board of Directors. Since 1994 Mr Toyne Smith has served as Director of Goodenough College, a residential Oxbridge-style college for 640 international post-graduate students in London. Under his leadership Goodenough College has gained a new lease of life, becoming a 'little United Nations' in London. Prior to this Mr Toyne Sewell had a distinguished professional military career, including as Commandant of The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst at the time when women officers were brought into the British Army, and as Commander of the British Military Training and Advisory Team in Zimbabwe and Mozambique from 1989 to 1991. Currently Mr Toyne Sewell serves as Chair or member of several cultural, sporting and medical bodies and trusts. We welcome Mr Toyne Sewell into UWC.

Decisions were also taken in respect of new UWCs. The formal approval of the UWC of Costa Rica was always anticipated. What was less certain was the position for a potential college in Mostar, Bosnia. The Board had set a deadline for this meeting for various arrangements to be in place, including funding, independent governance structures, staffing short-lists, renovation of the Mostar Gymnasium (which will house the UWC) and commitments for student selection from UWC National Committees. Much, much progress has been made, much still needs to be achieved before students can be welcomed into the new College. The Board resolved that the risks associated with a firm commitment to proceed were manageable, with the first cohort of students arriving in September 2006. Consequently, the College now has formal permission to open under the UWC name. What would have been disastrous would have been a lack of courage to proceed in a part of the world that truly needs the living example of students from different national, religious and cultural backgrounds studying and serving together. The UWC in Mostar is to be a joint UWC-IBO initiative.

Visit from Holy Family College, Durban

A team of younger students and their teachers from Holy Family College, Durban, arrived on Saturday for a three-day visit. The focus of the visit is to boost our junior students' debating skills. So far the following have been debated: whether or not (South Africa) should introduce a jury system in its courts, gun control and abortion. The last debate takes place at 8.15pm tonight on a mystery topic (day students and parents are invited to attend). Each team will be given a short period to prepare once the topic is announced.

Visit from the University of British Columbia

The international recruitment advisor from the University of British Columbia currently is visiting WK. He has interviewed several students today and will be addressing interested IB students this evening (7pm in Emhlabeni) on both his university and Canadian higher education.

International Peace Day

Tomorrow (21st March) WK has special programme to focus on peace. Lessons will proceed as usual for the first three periods, followed by an assembly and a special programme. School will close at the usual time. This day coincides with Human Rights Day in South Africa, and the 21st March is the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre.

Maths Olympiad

Many of our strong mathematicians from Form 2 to IB2 will be writing the first round of the South African Maths Olympiad on Thursday.

PSA AGM and Forms 1 and 2 Parent Teacher evening.

Please find attached a letter in respect of the Parent Staff Association AGM to be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 23rd March in the Michael Stern Hall. All relatively local parents are urged to attend.

This is to be followed by the Forms 1 and 2 Parent Teacher evening, which runs to 8.00pm, in the classroom block.

Snacks and refreshments will be served.

Sport

This coming Saturday (25th) WK hosts Sisekelo High School in the summer sporting codes. A group of Outdoor Pursuit students have a kayaking trip planned that morning.

Last weekend our senior cricket team won the Inter School Cricket Festival at Mananga College.

Ngwenya to Waterford Kamhlaba Half Marathon

The revived Ngwenya to Waterford Kamhlaba Half Marathon takes place on Sunday, starting at 8am at the Ngwenya/Oshoek border post. Entry is E20 per runner. A 5km fun run / walk will start at 8.30am at WK. The fun run will double as the WK inter-house cross-country. Entry is E10 (E5 for under 12 years old) (free for WK students running for their house).

Yours sincerely

Laurence Nodder
Principal