



# WATERFORD KAMHLABA

## United World College of Southern Africa

5<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Letter 25/2007

Dear Parents

The UWC African National Committee meeting in Nairobi was a resounding success, with full discussion on how committees can be even more successful in selecting appropriate students from a wide cross-section of society. We discussed difficulties faced by students coming from different parts of Africa to the different United World Colleges, including that of funding of various costs, holiday arrangements for students from indigent backgrounds and far from home, and ongoing communication between National Committees, Colleges and students selected by National Committees. (WK seems to be the only college that sends parents and National Committees a weekly newsletter.) The impact of Shelby Davis' generosity allowing so many more of our students to proceed to the USA to further their studies has affected the short-term rate of return of students to their home countries. This has been perceived as a difficulty in some countries, a difficulty that has been off-set by the development of active graduate networks in some countries, networks that promote service opportunities even for those who have not returned full-time to their regions and networks that facilitate the re-integration of graduates when they do return. We heard of several inspiring examples of the difference UWC graduates have made. Particularly encouraging is the formation of National Committees in Rwanda and Sudan led by people committed to the building up of those societies and the bringing together of young people who would fall on different sides of historical divides.

All delegates had the opportunity of visiting the site of the proposed new UWC in Kenya, situated in the region of Ngong, Kajiado. It is a beautiful site, overlooking the Rift Valley and adjoining a nature conservancy area. The College, planned as a two-year IB College, is now scheduled for opening in September 2011, but much work needs to be done if this is to be a reality. The College will have three major themes: sustainability, simplicity and self-reliance.

### HIV and AIDS Awareness Week

The HIV and AIDS Awareness Week is to run from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Guest speakers include Dr Mark Mills (Head of the Mbabane Clinic), Khanya Mabuza (Assistant Director of NERCHA), Lomcebo Dlamini (ex WK and Director of Women and Law) and Vusi Matsebula and George Jones (both AIDS activists living with HIV). A number of special assemblies and other events are planned during the school day, and parents and other interested friends are invited to join students and staff at the following events beyond class time:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 7pm Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> October | Introduction by a doctor and the viewing of 'Slim', a film about youth living with AIDS                          |
| 7pm Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>    | Guest speaker: George Jones on 'Positive living: hope after testing positive' (for students from Form 4 upwards) |
| 3pm Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>      | Movie screening of 'Yesterday'   |
| 5pm Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>      | Sylvia Khuzwayo (a social worker) hosts a question and answer session  |
| 4pm Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>      | Debating Society: '(As role models) teachers should be compelled to disclose their HIV status'                   |

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5pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

Debating Society: 'Churches are responsible for the spread of HIV and AIDS'

7pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

Guest speaker: Nomcebo Dlamini on 'Women and HIV'

6.30pm Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Movie screening of 'Beat the Drum'

'Yesterday' and 'Beat the Drum' are both set in South Africa, and deal with the AIDS pandemic in rural and urban environments. 'Yesterday' is the first full-length film made in isiZulu and will be shown with English subtitles. The Debating Society topics were chosen by the students in that club.

There is an increasing call for people to 'know their status' and Dr Mark Mills is due to speak to students and staff about this and voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) at a special assembly on Friday 12<sup>th</sup>. I have agreed to a VCT unit from the 'New Start' NGO to be on campus on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October and on the afternoon of Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. They are not authorized to test any student under the age of 16 and testing for students 16 and older (and any other member of the public) will be entirely voluntary. Part of the education we need in these parts is for people to get over the stigma around HIV and AIDS and how to proceed with best care in what (especially for the unwary) is a dangerous health environment.

### Golden Lion Film Festival

Waterford supports and is supported by the Golden Lion Festival, Swaziland's international film festival that focuses on short films. *A short film is to a feature film what a short story is to a novel – a self-contained artistic unit with its own purpose and integrity. 'Short' refers to length, not value or impact.* – James Hall, Founder and Director of the Golden Lion Film Festival. Waterford hosts the viewing of short films submitted by students from around the world, this from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Parents and friends are invited to attend. There is no entrance charge. A panel from Waterford will select the winners in the student category. Waterford sponsors the 'Inkhanyeti Award' for the best student film.

In addition, the Festival organizers have kindly made available 60 free tickets for Waterford students wishing to attend the festival at 2pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October at the Theatre Club, Mbabane.

### Weekend activities

Last weekend Waterford hosted a volleyball festival, with participating teams from Sisikelo, Mananga, Enjabulweni and Sifundzani schools (senior and junior boys won and both girls' teams reached the semi-finals).

Also last weekend our tennis team won an inter-schools' tournament at the Mbabane Club.

The Waterford chess team participated in an inter-schools tournament in Manzini. For a long while we have regarded ourselves as the top 'chess school' in Swaziland; I am pleased to report that several schools have shown remarkable improvement in this area, including Bahai High, Evelyn Baring High and Living Waters Primary, and Waterford only managed 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the individual competition and 4<sup>th</sup> overall amongst the schools.

Approximately 120 Waterford students attended the Bush Fire International Festival of the Arts at House on Fire last weekend. This event, aimed at promoting the arts and raising funds for the Young Heroes programme, included musicians such as Hugh Masekela and the group 'Freshly Ground', as well as Thandiswa Mazwai (lead vocalist and songwriter of Bongo Muffin), Abaji (a Bedouin troubadour), Fanaza Tsabedze and Mbongiseni Ngubani (leading Swazi musicians).

This weekend over 40 students are writing the SAT examinations at WK, for entrance to USA colleges and universities. WK hosts the SAT examinations (written worldwide) in May, June, October

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and November. Preparatory sessions are run on several Wednesday afternoons to optimize students' chances of obtaining a strong score.

An inter-schools' senior basketball tournament is scheduled to be held at Waterford this Saturday (6<sup>th</sup>). Sifundzani High School traditionally organizes this event, and have asked to use our facilities this year. WK teams will be participating.

A team of students led by Mr Richard Boycott returns to continue developing the Ngwempisi Hiking Trail this weekend. This project is an excellent combination of participation in rural development, eco-friendly tourism and preserving the environment.

### Website

Mfundo Mohammed works in the Waterford Development Office and is responsible of the WK website (amongst other responsibilities). At its most recent meeting the PSA commented on how much improved the site is ([www.waterford.sz](http://www.waterford.sz)) and on how parents should be encouraged to visit the site from time to time. Amongst a wealth of other information is a record of the weekly letters to parents. Parents also are encouraged to visit the UWC website ([www.uwc.org](http://www.uwc.org)). A new section on the UWC site is a section of graduate profiles. This includes several Waterford graduates.

### United World

'United World', the magazine of the United World Colleges, was distributed to all students at today's tutor period. Often 'United World' carries content on Waterford. This is not the case this edition, but it makes for interesting reading especially on teacher training initiatives. If your child is a day student, please ask for a chance to read the magazine.

### Transport between Maputo and Waterford

Waterford enjoys the enrolment of many students from Mozambique. Some parents have used Thompsons Mozambique Advisor as a specialized bus service from Waterford to Maputo on Friday afternoons and then returning to Waterford on Sundays. Mr King and I have met with Joao Das Neves from Thompsons. Although there is no link between Waterford and Thompsons, we can vouch that up to now this has proved to be a safe and reliable service. Mr Das Neves' contact details are: +258 314041, mobile +258 82 000 000.

### Midterm Break reminder

Lessons close at 12.40pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October and resume at 8am on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Transport to Johannesburg will depart early on the Thursday morning and transport from Johannesburg will depart at 1pm from Park Station and at 2pm from O R Tambo International Airport on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>.

Yours sincerely

Laurence Nodder  
Principal