



WATERFORD KAMHLABA

United World College of Southern Africa

19th February 2010

Letter 4/2010

Dear Parents

Last week I wrote about the necessity of our working to enhance society, working for the public good, in order for us to be able to aspire towards contributing to the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. In an interview Archbishop Desmond Tutu granted WK last August, he spoke about the type of approach we should be taking: "Most of all, you want (to demonstrate and teach) a leadership that is accountable. When leaders are accountable, it is very difficult to become corrupt. It is right to inculcate in the students the attributes of a good leader, the need for integrity, the need for transparency, getting to know you are a leader for the sake of the land not for self advancement. Develop the mindset that says "but why?", a mindset that is not sycophantic. For goodness sake, learn the difference between authoritative and authoritarian. The authoritative is someone who has demonstrated that they have a grasp of their subject, has a record of integrity, and is someone you can trust. An authoritarian is the one who says "you do it because I tell you". Christians speak of a servant leader. When you look at some of the great leaders, one of the strongest qualities you see about them is how they really did dedicate themselves for the welfare of their people. So if you did nothing but inculcate in these young people that there is this concept of the leader who does so by expending himself or herself (on behalf of others), you'd have done especially Africa a very good turn indeed."

In this spirit, I want to commend the work of two IB2 students, Trevor Dougherty and Simphiwe Hlophe who are working with Swazi TV to produce a 13-episode TV show, which will tell the story of Swazis who are demonstrating personal sacrifice to benefit other people, or people who are working to improve their community or fighting to alleviate poverty and disease. Parents are invited to forward names of such people to me.

At Wednesday's assembly I spoke about the need for all of us, adults and students, to live the UWC ideals not only within WK but especially as we interact with those beyond school. In this way we can add to the spreading of these ideals. Then our interaction with people through service activities, sporting events, cultural activities, both formal and informal, has a deeper meaning than simple interaction.

Last Wednesday we welcomed students from KaBoyce High School to WK for a debate on religious education in Swazi primary schools. KaBoyce is one of the leading schools in Swaziland.

Today we welcome Form 5 drama students from Maru a Pula school in Botswana, for a weekend of workshops with the WK drama students. Like WK, Maru a Pula has always been a non-racial school, even in the days when this went against the thinking and wishes of South African authorities.

On Saturday we welcome a number of U14 and U18 girls' soccer teams for an independent schools' festival. The tournament is scheduled to run from 9am to 3pm, and all are invited.

On Sunday afternoon the WK Model United Nations students meet at 4pm to debate a variety of motions. All are invited.

The Debating Society has scheduled a debate at 4pm on Monday 22nd. The motion: "This house would ban immoral dancing at WK events." (I must mention that the type of dancing I observe at WK is very little different to that which I observed on and off stage at UWC-USA!) All are invited.

A new creative activity, the 'Group for Creative Cooking', meets (and cooks?) for the first time on Monday evening.

The Interhouse Swimming Gala is scheduled from 10am to 1pm on Wednesday 24th. All are invited.

Waterford Book Day

Mrs Mensah, the Librarian, writes: WK will celebrate its Book Day on the 3rd March, ahead of World Book Day which falls in April during our school holiday. There will be a special assembly focusing on reading and creative writing. Our guest speaker will be Ms Joy Dumsile Ndwandwe, a writer and motivational speaker. Winners of our short story, poetry, poster and book review competitions will receive their prizes at the special assembly.

There will also be a book sale to which parents and guardians are invited. Should you be willing for your child to buy books on account, please send a note to the school or email library@waterford.sz stating the maximum amount which your child is allowed to spend at the book sale. They can bring cash instead, if that is your preference.

A recently formed Haiti Committee will also launch their fundraising appeal at the Book Day Assembly.

Security

I am most grateful to the US Department of State for providing a grant for some security upgrades at WK.

Absences from School and Late Arrivals

Mr Alexander, Lower School Academic Coordinator, reminds us all: It is very important that we know who is on campus at any point in time.

Please may we remind parents of day students to call the school as soon as possible if a child is sick on a particular day. When they return please send a written note to cover their absence, to be handed in at registration.

If students need to miss school for planned absences, they must first seek advance permission from their Academic Coordinator and all of the teachers concerned, making provision to catch up on work by assigning a 'buddy' to take notes for them.

If a student arrives late and misses normal registration they must register as 'late' at Reception as soon as they arrive at school and before they enter any classes.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in these matters.

Midterm Break

Lessons close at 12.40pm on Thursday 25th February and resume at 8am on Monday 1st March.

OR Tambo Airport arrangements are: depart WK at 6.30 am on Thursday 25th, and depart OR Tambo Airport bus terminus at 2pm on Sunday 28th February.

Maputo arrangements are: depart WK at 2pm on Thursday 25th, and depart Maputo International School at 2pm on Sunday 28th February. There are separate charges for these bus arrangements.

Parent Staff Association 'Fun Auction'

The PSA still has tickets available for the 'Medieval Fun Auction' on the 6th March. Ms Laurie Gulaid, PSA Chair, received no telephone calls after last week's message. We understand that this is an event primarily for local parents. Ms Gulaid may be contacted at 6443201. We are still collecting interesting items for auction.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely
Laurence Nodder
Principal