



WATERFORD KAMHLABA

United World College of Southern Africa

Dear Parents and Guardians

Letter 9/2010

Last Saturday 200 students wrote the WK entrance tests. This is roughly double the number that wrote last year, and last year there was more demand for places than in any year in the last 10 years. For the over 100 students who wrote entrance tests for IB, the 'competition' is particularly tough, as fewer than 10 places are on offer from this testing day. On the basis of the entrance tests and a consideration of the students' current school reports, a short-list will be drawn up and candidates interviewed on the 12th April. Of course candidates need to meet academic criteria. But, like selective universities and colleges, the selection team is as interested in how the student has contributed to his or her society, how the student has shown initiative, resourcefulness and determination within the opportunities presented to him or her. Entrance at a Form 1 or 2 level is not based on interview but rather on a combination of the students test results and school report.

Further testing for entry to the Forms takes place at WK on Saturday 10th April. Already 75 students have registered to write these tests. Regional testing for both the Forms and IB entrance takes place on Saturday 8th March in Gaborone, Lilongwe, Dar es Salaam and Nairobi, and on Saturday 5th June in Maputo. I encourage parents and guardians with prospective WK students NOT to wait for testing and interviews beyond these dates.

At testing days, one of the things I say is that WK is *not* a sporting school. That is true in the sense that we do not have scores of teams playing matches every Saturday, as is possible in several schools in South Africa. WK focuses much more on healthy participation, on as many as possible of our students being well-exercised and fit. But current teams in a variety of codes have won honour this term:

The Boys and Girls Basketball teams both won southern African regional tournaments

The Boys and Girls Volleyball teams both won southern African regional tournaments

The Swimming team won the Swaziland Interschool Gala

The Boys Cricket team won the Swaziland Interschool tournament

The Senior Boys Soccer team is in superb form, and is entered in a southern African regional tournament over the Easter weekend.

Athletics Meeting at WK

This Saturday the Swaziland independent schools are holding an athletics meeting, at WK, scheduled to run from 9am to 3pm. A WK team of 60 athletes has been training hard over the last 8 weeks, and in the last fortnight this has involved training sessions from 6 to 7am three mornings a week as well as two afternoon sessions per week. I invite parents, guardians and friends to come and support the athletics meeting.

Other Special Events

This evening (Friday 26th), the Form 5 students have prepared a 'V' show to raise funds for the WK Haiti appeal. It starts at 6.30pm in the Michael Stern Assembly Hall. I have been assured that it will be far more to students' taste than to mine. Interested parents and guardians are cautioned accordingly!

On Tuesday (30th) the Midrand Graduate Institute will be giving a presentation at 4pm in the Lecture Lab. This is of potential interest to any student considering studying in South Africa, including those in Forms 4 and 5.

On Wednesday (31st) CTI Education Group from South Africa will be visiting WK to give a Careers Guidance presentation and to conduct free aptitude and careers testing. If your child is in Form 5 or above (and is unsure about life after WK) and you feel they would benefit from this sort of exercise then please encourage them to attend. 2.30pm in the Assembly Hall.

Global Perspectives Symposium

WK is part of a piloting scheme for the IGCSE Global Perspectives curriculum. We are of the view that a course of this nature helps students equip themselves better as global citizens, and is very much in line with a UWC approach with students below the IB Diploma level. Mrs Cave, who has led this piloting at WK, is being sponsored by Cambridge to attend a symposium next week in the UK with some of the leaders at other pilot schools.



Easter Long Weekend

Lessons close at 12.40pm on Thursday 1st and resume at 8am on Wednesday 7th April. Traditionally it is over Easter that many families in southern Africa travel to be together, and I wish families joyful reunions.

Waterford Kamhlaba Parent Staff Association Annual General Meeting 18th March 2010

The following are excerpts of the report delivered by outgoing PSA Chair, Laurie Gulaid:

What is the PSA? The PSA is a committee of Parent members working directly with the Principal, the Staff Representative and the Development Officer three major objectives.

- 1) **First, the PSA acts as a supporting and advisory body to the Principal and the school.** Each month at our meetings, the Principal or his representative and the PSA members bring current issues to the table. For example, we have discussed the growth of the school, the IGCSE curriculum and water quality among other pertinent issues that have emerged this year. We have weighed in on the expansion of the global perspectives curriculum, school security, the leavers' ceremonies, catering concerns, school bus service and the Language Philosophy Statement among others. The Principal and Administration provide open and honest responses to the concerns of the PSA, engage in discussions when there are divergent views and investigate further or take action when indicated.
- 2) **Second, the PSA serves as a link between the school and the community and fosters communication among parents, staff, students and the larger community.** As parents and members of that wider community, we are able to provide a unique resource for the school, both in terms of our views as well as our networks and contacts. For example, we have increased our role in the Link Parent program. We have also assisted to find work placements for IB students on their term breaks, secure organizations for the annual careers fair and identify speakers for special themes and topics, such as HIV/AIDS week and Human Rights Day. In addition, through our fundraising work we have sustained networks with more than 90 businesses in the community.
- 3) **Finally, the PSA raises and allocates funding in support of the school and its various projects and departments.** In 2009 we supported the fundraising efforts of the Community Service Program by running the Used Book Sale and Raffle at the annual Fete. Our major PSA fundraiser was the Golf Day held at the Royal Swazi Spa in October. This year we organized one additional fundraiser. It was a medieval themed Dinner and Fun Auction that attracted more than 120 guests. We have introduced a proposal format and guidelines for the allocation of PSA funds. With this system in place, we are better able to review and follow up on the various requests. During the past year, we raised a record breaking E150,000 and funded many novel and useful projects, including:
 - E30,000 and a pizza dough roller for community service
 - Frames for student art
 - An additional rolling toaster for the dining hall
 - Two new water fountains
 - Treated poles for a nature walk behind the fields
 - Fabric for the leavers' ceremonies (reusable)
 - Speakers for the SRC socials and microphone equipment for the music department
 - Exercise equipment for the gym
 - And more!!

We encourage parents to join the PSA and strongly believe they will be glad that they did. If you are interested, please plan to attend the **first meeting on Wednesday 31 March at 5:30pm in the school library**. If you want further information, please write to us at psa@waterford.sz. Should you choose not to join, we invite you to please communicate with us via that email address with your issues, concerns and encouragement! We are a small group working hard to represent the parent body and we want your voice to be heard.

Yours sincerely

Laurence Nodder
Principal

