



# WATERFORD KAMHLABA

## United World College of Southern Africa

28<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians

Letter 15/2010

### UWC Mission and Values and IB Learner Profile

I hope that at WK there is little that we do simply because we wish to conform to the UWC Mission and Values and the IB Learner Profile in an artificially prescriptive manner. Rather, we try to do what is 'right' for us as ethical, learning individuals living in an increasingly complex and challenging world, based at a school in Swaziland. We seek linkages between the different subjects we study, how we live and how we serve. We aspire to the moral life, one that seeks afresh how to live in an open-minded and open-hearted way. "Open-mindedness connotes flexibility of mind. It describes a willingness to consider, and even seek out, contrasting viewpoints and different ways of tackling a task... Open-mindedness accompanies the ability to read and write thoughtfully, to listen attentively and sympathetically to others, and to entertain new ideas, new points of view, new suggestions for thought and action." It is an intellectual endeavour. On the other hand, open-heartedness "embraces emotional receptivity". Together, "open-mindedness and open-heartedness keep teaching and learning dynamic" (from Prof Hansen, Columbia University).

The IB Learner Profile, which has its origins in the IB Primary Years Program, describes a profile for learners that could be thought of applying to all WK students whatever their year group. It describes "open-minded" slightly differently to the description above, and I read to this definition at Wednesday's assembly in the context that all the profiles represent an ongoing journey: "(Learners) understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience."

What is true is that because of our opportunities to gather together people from such a range of backgrounds and life experiences, because we bring together people who have already expressed a desire to be open-minded and open-hearted, and because of our relative wealth of resources, WK and all UWCs find themselves in a position to mix idealism with pragmatism in ways that most schools would envy, and clearly to the benefit of our students and teachers. But it should also be clear that if we are to continue to embrace both open-heartedness and open-mindedness, WK and UWCs need this mix of idealism and pragmatism to be a dynamic one.

The UWC Mission and Values and the IB Learner Profile are all available on the school website [www.waterford.sz](http://www.waterford.sz) as well as on the inside covers of the Academic Diaries.

### Weekend Activities

Last Sunday, 30 students joined Mr O'Connor in helping remove non-indigenous and 'invader' wattle tress from campus. This has been a crusade led by Mr O'Connor over the past 20 years, and has led to a huge improvement in the school environment.

This weekend's activities are dominated by the Bushfire Festival and the sporting outing to the International School of South Africa, both mentioned in last week's letter. In addition, WK Debaters join with students from other schools for a morning of debating (in mixed-school teams). One of the motions: "This house would ban right-wing political parties in South Africa" speaks to dilemmas faced by political authorities in many parts of the world.

### New Afternoon Activity

An Art Club now meets from 4 to 5pm on Monday afternoons in the Community Service room.



### University Visit

A reminder: parents and guardians are invited to join students at a presentation by Colby College at 6.30pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May, in the Emhlabeni TV Room.

### Entrance Testing for Admission in 2011

The final scheduled testing and interviews for entry to WK in 2011 takes place at **9am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June at the VIP Hotel, Maputo**

As the school looks very full for 2011, would parents and guardians in Maputo please use this as a last opportunity for testing and interviewing for siblings and friends.

### Mountain Biking

Several members of staff including Mr Alexander and Ms Cabrita, who are keen on mountain biking, are hoping to organize the occasional gentle mountain bike ride with small groups of students. In order to do this, they are asking if anyone has a mountain bike that could be used by our boarders for the occasional trip. Part of the arrangement would be that bike users would clean and service the bike they used after the ride, so we would hope to return borrowed bikes in at least as good condition as we got them. Please send a message to Mr Alexander ([richardalexander@waterfordkamhlaba.org](mailto:richardalexander@waterfordkamhlaba.org)) if you might be able to help. Thank you very much.

### First Notice for support for the Community Service Fete. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010

The Waterford Kamhlaba annual fête is an opportunity for the school community, past and present, as well as local businesses to contribute to Waterford's Community Service Programme.

With the expansion of the IB Diploma classes our Community Service Programme now comprises 35 different projects, including orphan care, literacy teaching, sports for the disabled, AIDS and TB awareness and environmental initiatives.

We at Waterford Kamhlaba view giving back to the community as an important part of the school's ethos, a vital part of the education that our students receive, and a way of sharing resources for the benefit of those most in need in Swaziland. Therefore, it is crucial that we have reliable sources of funding to be able to carry out our various projects.

Although we receive overseas funding for specific projects such as orphan care and literacy projects, our primary funding comes from the annual fête and the stalls that are associated with it.

It is for this reason that we ask for your assistance. Ways that relatively local parents and guardians can assist at this stage is through the donation of 2<sup>nd</sup>-hand books, clothing and indeed any items that might be of value to someone else. Please send these with your children through to the WK community service centre.

A further form of initial assistance would be to publicize amongst your friends that WK welcomes stall-holders to run their own stalls for a modest fee of E150, so long as these do not involve the selling of food and 2<sup>nd</sup>-hand goods. Should you or a friend wish to book a stall, please contact Mrs Nodder at (+268) 76328630.

Finally, the tutor-group stalls and raffles always are in need of prizes, from the large to the modest. Donations of prizes will be acknowledged in the Fete literature.

Yours sincerely

Laurence Nodder  
Principal

