



# WATERFORD KAMHLABA

## United World College of Southern Africa

9<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians

Letter 21/2010

### Community Service Fete

The Fete runs from 11am to 3pm tomorrow, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

A transport service to and from WK will be provided for day students, who are asked to be at their usual pick-up points by 9am. The return service will leave after the close of the Fete.

There is an entrance fee of E5 for all visitors to the Fete (excluding WK students).

Relatively local parents and guardians may still donate cakes on Saturday morning!

Why the Community Service Fete? The fete is an annual opportunity for the school community, past and present, as well as local businesses to contribute to Waterford Kamhlaba's Community Service Programme. Put simply, we need everyone's support for the Community Service Programme, and for the Fete and Raffle which provide the majority of the funding for the different projects.

The following is an adaptation of the forward Mrs Nodder wrote for the 2009 Community Service Report:

Community Service provides a structured and practical programme to give expression to aspects of the lofty ideals enshrined in the UWC and Waterford Kamhlaba's mission statements. The current 35 projects include orphan care, literacy teaching, vision testing, sports for disabled people, AIDS and TB awareness and environmental initiatives. Yet beyond the real impact students have with the people and communities with whom they work, Community Service is a strong educational tool. Important educational aspects of Community Service at Waterford Kamhlaba include leadership training, building of teamwork, instilling the belief that you can make a difference and practical guidance in real-life situations. Critically, community service at Waterford Kamhlaba exposes students to challenges in society, especially to inequality and injustices in people's material lives. Through this exposure students are encouraged to be aware of and discomfited by the status-quo, yet open-minded and flexible in finding ways to making a personal contribution in responding to people in their personal circumstances and in building a better society.

Community Service provides many opportunities for the growth of leaders who make a positive impact in society. Such leaders need to respond to what they see to be the needs within a community and then to intervene in a ways that are meaningful. Community Service at Waterford Kamhlaba allows students to be exposed to the real demands of living in Swaziland and to expand their understanding of the society they live in by putting them into situations that change and often enlarge the circumscribed world view that they inherit. It allows them to experience first hand some of the pressing world issues, such as the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the effects of poverty.

In societies such as this where much of the population feels powerless to change overwhelming problems, small, manageable, practical interventions successfully implemented leave our students feeling empowered and with the deeply held view that they can do something. An example of this process of empowerment is seen in the experience of Johanne Simelane (SD WK97-98) in a student-led community service initiative in Mpolonjeni, a poor rural settlement on the plateau above Waterford Kamhlaba. His experience in this initiative motivated him to apply for a Davis Peace Prize for the construction of a soccer field and feeding centre in Mpolonjeni, funds which now have been granted. Johanne has returned for his 'summer' vacation from university in the USA to lead this construction project.



Student initiative is encouraged by giving students the opportunity to lead in situations that are new to most. Skills not seen in the classroom come to the fore. The opportunity to lead even in small ways, such as organizing an afternoon activity in the local orphanage, leads to confidence and a growth in self esteem. The bringing to the fore skills and abilities not always apparent in the classroom (including the ability to communicate in SiSwati!) counters some of the power differences sometimes found at Waterford Kamhlaba.

Leaders cannot function without working in collaboration with others. Teamwork is vital for successful service. Almost all services are undertaken as a group endeavor and although teamwork skills are not taught formally, Community Service supervisors find that it is a vital part of the ongoing formation that happens within service groups.

In 2010 Waterford Kamhlaba has 35 different services which are timetabled into the weekly curriculum: on Tuesday mornings for IB1s, Thursday mornings for IB2s and Friday afternoons for Form 5 students. In addition, some services are scheduled for evenings and over weekends. For the past three years the junior Forms have also contributed to Community Service through annual service days for each year group.

By scheduling Community Service during prime teaching and learning time, Waterford Kamhlaba asserts the value of service as an educational activity in living out the ideals of UWC and Waterford Kamhlaba.

#### Visiting Schools

This week WK has hosted students and staff from Marlborough College (UK) and Mulgrave School (Canada). Both sets of visitors have participated in the WK Community Service Programme and have attended classes with our students. On Sunday, 5 WK students and a teacher depart with the Marlborough College team to experience a Wilderness Leadership Walking trail in Mfolozi, South Africa.

#### S/IGCSE Day Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Every year WK prepares and hosts workshops for S/IGCSE teachers from Swazi high schools. Last year over 200 teachers attended these workshops. Various book publishers also have been invited to set up stalls this Wednesday, so that all attending teachers might have a fuller idea of the range of resources available to support them in their teaching.

#### Grahamstown South African National Arts Festival

Over the midterm break 45 WK students and 4 teachers traveled to spend a week at the South African National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. Freya Gosnold (UK, WK09-) devised and directed a piece of physical theatre that was performed by WK students at the Festival.

#### Swaziland Rugby Festival

This Saturday 15 senior WK rugby players participate in a rugby festival at Mananga.

#### Swaziland Careers Fair

The Swaziland Careers Fair is an initiative of the Careers Support Initiative community service. The Fair has outgrown Waterford Kamhlaba facilities, and this year, whilst organized by the Career Support Initiative, will be held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre on the 4<sup>th</sup> August. Would Parents and Guardians who might be willing to represent their professions for the benefit of students from WK and a wide range of Swazi high schools please contact Mr Storer at: [careers@waterford.sz](mailto:careers@waterford.sz)

Yours sincerely

Laurence Nodder  
Principal

