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PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

Jackie Otula

Today is a great day at Waterford Kamhlaba; the school turns 60! As I mentioned last week, this is a significant milestone, worthy of commemoration. 60 represents maturity, grace, abundance, and success. It is a reminder of the achievements and challenges that we have experienced as Waterford Kamhlaba over the years, and the lessons from these.

More than anything else, Waterford Kamhlaba is a product of resilience, something which has defined our DNA for the past 60 years. From the onset, when our founder Michael Stern became increasingly dissatisfied and frustrated with the pervasive environment of racial intolerance in South Africa, and after it was clear that he could not teach and live his ideals in South Africa, he committed himself to the idea of a multi-racial school in Eswatini. He then founded Waterford



Kamhlaba in Eswatini on 3 February 1963, in clear and expressed opposition to the South African Apartheid regime and its laws of racial segregation. As we turn 60, we commit to continuing with these values of social justice and non-racialism.

EDITORIAL

Last week, *The Phoenix* Editor had a conversation with the College's Outdoor Learning Coordinator, Nonzuzo Gumede. This is one of many meetings that our weekly publication usually has with various people on the WK campus in order to ascertain how best to communicate our initiatives or programmes. This meeting was quite informative and the Editor appreciated the plans around the 2023 *Nyatsela* project.

Nyatsela (a SiSwati verb meaning "to make a footprint") is a 21-day walk around Eswatini whereby our Form 3 students are divided into groups that travel around Eswatini. This year they will be out for 14 days. They walk about 5-15 km every day, passing through the beautiful landscape of Eswatini, and stay in camp-sites, at

homesteads and in school classrooms where they meet their hosts, cook their meals, wash their clothes and put up their tents if necessary.

They learn how to get on with the people in their group, to be resourceful in solving the situations they encounter along the way, to develop skills and behaviours that are crucial for learning in the "university of life" and to leave a light footprint on the earth by living simply. Their backpacks contain everything they use (one change of clothing, toiletries, gas stove, cooking pot and enough food to last until the next food-drop). This is part of our Outdoor Learning Programme at WK; we believe that there is more to learn for our students, far beyond the classroom.



Students during Nyatsela expedition in 2022.

NEW STAFF INTRODUCTION

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members:



INTERIM BURSAR

Milliscent Muchabaiwa is an Accounting Scientist who is passionate about making a change to society. She held the position of Credit Control Manager at [Eswatini Mobile](#) from May 2021 to December 2022. Prior to that, she worked at Phakama Investments and PricewaterhouseCoopers Auditing and accounting Articled Clerk.

Millicent enjoys travelling and exploring places, watching movies and being involved in outdoor activities. She has joined the Accounts departments.

LOWER SCIENCE TEACHER

Fisiwe Magagula is a dedicated professional who is determined in delivering instructional programs effectively to ensure student achievement. She graduated from the University of Eswatini where she obtained BSc. Degree in Biology and Chemistry. In December 2022 she completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Science Education (PGCE). She has been a private tutor for 2 years. Fisiwe enjoys reading, playing tennis and programming. She has joined the Science department.



ENGLISH TEACHER

Damian Van Selm is passionate about education, specifically the social education of young people. He has been an English teacher at Usutu Forest School in Eswatini from 2019 to 2022. Prior to joining Usutu, he was a private tutor, as well as English departmental tutor at the University of Kwazulu Natal and Rhodes University.

Damian enjoys reading, cooking, baking, hiking and he is a gamer and a cat lover. He has joined the English department.



ARTS & VISUAL TEACHER

Mbongeni Dlamini is a Waterford Kamhlaba alumnus who has recently joined the College's Visual Arts department as a teacher.



FROM THE CAS DEPARTMENT

MPAKA REFUGEE CAMP

On Saturday, 28 January the school took its first **CAS** trip of the year to Mpaka Refugee Camp in the Lubombo region, Eswatini. About 90 members of our community joined in this trip, from Form 1 all the way to IB2 and staff members. Here is what one student shared of the trip:

“Engaging with young people isn't something I am a fan of. But for the new year, I promised myself to begin new good habits and one of them is getting out of my comfort zone. This turned out to be a great decision, as I met beautiful kids with good energy that I got to play with and to share stories with, many of them could speak my mother language which was more than amazing. I got to be inspired and encouraged to be grateful for the life that I have and also to just have hope during times of torment. That activity was one of the greatest experiences I've had and I look forward to more like those.”

We appreciate all students' feedback on our community service days.

UPCOMING CAS TRIPS

On 9 February, Form 4 students will be taking their **CAS** day in the north of the country. They will visit Mnyokane Anglican Primary School, and Maguga Dam. We would like to request for a donation of clean and decent shoes to give to students in Mnyokane, some of whom do not have shoes for going to school. Donations can be dropped off in the Community Service Room for the next week.

On 25 February, we will be taking a trip to St Joseph's School in Manzini, an inclusive learning community for another day of fun. Students can sign up in the Community Service Room sign up board



A Visual Arts student's club meeting in the Community Service room yesterday.

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Instrumental lessons

There are still some spaces for students to learn an instrument or voice with our specialist teachers. Violin lessons are now full. Please see last week's newsletter for details on how to sign up for lessons.

Please contact [Mark Bradshaw](#) if you have questions.

Unplugged

Mark your diaries! This year's Unplugged concert will be open to the community. It will take place on Wednesday, March 1st at 6.30 pm. Unplugged is a concert of songs, pieces and performance poetry that celebrates our diversity, creativity and community.

Ensembles

Our College ensembles are up and running. Students can participate in a variety of music groups including choir, jazz band and marimba groups. We look forward to sharing our music with you later in the year.



Students in a Music Class this week.

COCA-COLA SCHOLARSHIP

Waterford Kamhlaba is pleased to partner with Coca-Cola Eswatini for our scholarship program.

Last year, Waterford Kamhlaba launched a scholarship program, known as *Circle of Friends*. *Circle of Friends* is a group of organizations that come together to support the provision of scholarships to students in Eswatini from inadequately resourced backgrounds.

Scholarships are a strategic priority for the nation in general. Gifts enhance the diversity of Waterford Kamhlaba and expand the reach of the Scholarship Program, thereby, creating rewarding experiences for students. Scholarships are offered to students who do well in the application process but cannot afford to attend WK. Financial aid is assessed and granted on a need and merit base.

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary milestone, it is an honour to welcome Coca-Cola/Conco, because this partnership signifies the legacy of our founder, Michael

Stern. Stern was intentional in establishing a bursary program. He wanted to ensure entry to Waterford would never be hindered by finances. We invite you to join the Circle of Friends by supporting and growing our scholarship fundraising program for deserving students.

Regarding their support to Waterford Kamhlaba, Conco General Manager Mícheál Geraghty said:

“As Conco we really appreciate the value of education. We are delighted to be in a position to support such talented students attend Waterford and continue their knowledge journey. As a company, we have been very impressed with the well-rounded education provided at Waterford covering Sports, the Arts, Science and Culture and are excited to see the students grow and learn in order to meet their life and career ambitions in the years ahead.”

Please contact the Advancement Office for more information on how 'Sipho Sakho' (Your Gift) can enhance a child's education.



From Left - Right: Conco's Penelope Mkhwanazi-Magagula, Conco GM Mícheál Geraghty and Waterford's Advancement Director Celiwe Dlamini during a visit to Conco on Wednesday.

CONTACT UPDATES

This is an appeal to share email addresses and your other contact details/numbers in case you have changed them so that we can update in the school database system. Please send an email to [Martha](#).

IMPORTANT DATES - 1ST TERM 2023

- 03 March: Half Term Begins
- 07 March: Half Term Ends
- 11 March (8 am): Entrance Testing For IBDP (including Eswatini National Committee) and Lower Forms
- 18 March (8 am): Entrance testing for Lower Forms only
- 07 April: Easter Holidays Start
- 10 April: Easter Holidays End with Easter Monday
- 19 April: Public Holiday in recognition of King Mswati III birthday
- 20 April: Lessons End
- 21 April: Term Ends

ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions and feedback, please don't hesitate to send an [email](#) to the principal. If the question is of broad interest, it will be published (with the permission of the writer and without the name) in the newsletter. Parents are also encouraged to be in touch with their child's tutor or residential head for any matters about which they may need assistance with.

Kind regards
Jackie Otula
Principal