



Established 1897

## RONDEBOSCH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

Canigou Avenue Rondebosch 7700 Cape Town  
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Headmaster : M Barker B.A. Hons (Rhodes), U.E.D (Natal)

23 September 2009

Dear Parents

I am happy to report that the Headmaster, **Mr Martin Barker**, is well on his way to a full recovery after his hip operation and will in all probability be back on the first day of the fourth term.

It is hard to believe we are three quarters of the way through the year. And what a busy 3<sup>rd</sup> term we have had! We have an extensive curricular and co-curricular programme which keeps the boys involved in a vast array of activities. We also expect all our boys to be committed and to participate in these activities. Your role as parents should be to encourage them to do exactly that.

Many of you have also enjoyed the performances and matches that were on offer this past term. Some of you who have sons in Matric will look back with a bit of sadness. Not only was it your son's last winter season, but the time is fast approaching that he will wear his uniform for the last time.

### 1. Staff Matters

**Mr John Whitehead** and **Mr Sean Friedenthal** are also both doing well after their operations. Congratulations to **Mr and Mrs Rob Dalrymple** and **Mr and Mrs Bassier Halday** on the birth of their daughters, Rebecca and Zahraa. **Mr Craig Milligan** is moving back to Gauteng at the end of the year. He has made a tremendous contribution to the school and will be sorely missed. **Mr Kyle Dowie** will join us in January to fill the post left vacant by Mr Milligan's departure. Thank you to **Mrs Marie Gerber** for standing in for our Librarian, **Mrs Marilyn Hawkins**, in the last three weeks.

### 2. Academic Matters

- 2.1 **Matric Mock Exams:** The exams ended on Tuesday 22 September and went off well. The matrics will receive their **reports** on Friday 9 October 2009. You need to go through your son's report with him to ascertain whether remedial action needs to be taken in the time that is still available before the final exams, which start on Friday 9 October with IT (practical). The bulk of the boys will start their exams on Friday 30 October with Afrikaans Paper 1. The last exam is on Friday 4 December when EGD Paper 2 is written. There is not a lot of time left before the first exam and it is imperative that this coming holiday is used to prepare for the most important exam in your son's school career. If you need to discuss any matter concerning your son's academics, feel free to contact his Grade Head early next term.
- 2.2 **Grade 8 – 11:** Assessments for this term in Grades 8 to 11 consisted of tests and assignments only. It is therefore possible that your son's marks could be inflated. The Grade 9's will start with the CTA's (Section A), which is an external form of assessment, early next term. They will then write internal exam as well as the second half of the CTA (Section B) in the exam period at the end of the year.
- 2.3 Mr Roy Hellenberg was one of 38 international delegates selected to attend a Holocaust seminar in London earlier this term. This in itself is a signal honour. Six of our History boys have been selected from all over South Africa to attend the Young African Leaders Conference at the end of the term.
- 2.4 A large number of our boys have once again done extremely well in the Physical Science and Mathematics Olympiads this term.

### 3. Sport

- 3.1 We were fortunate to have tremendous support from parents and Old Boys throughout the Winter season. This contributed greatly to the spirit that was so evident next to the fields this year. Thank you. The Rugby and Hockey teams did particularly well against our traditional rivals.
- 3.2 Congratulations to the first Squash team who represented Western Province at the annual Top Schools' Tournament held in Pietermaritzburg where they came fifth and to the U14 A hockey team for winning the knockout tournament. The

Sevens Rugby team lost in the finals of the Villagers tournament. Congratulations to **Gareth Topkin (Rugby), Robin Blampied (Hockey), Nicholas Melck (Water Polo)** and **Craig Emslie, Kurt Benjamin, Niel de Villiers (all Swimming)** who were selected for national teams. **Kyle Brown (Squash)** is ranked number 2 in his age group in South Africa. We are truly proud of these boys. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Golf Team ended with a credible 16th place at the prestigious St John's Tournament in Sun City.

- 3.3 A number of teams are also involved in festivals and tournaments over the September holidays. The **1<sup>st</sup> Water Polo** team will participate in the SACS tournament and the **1<sup>st</sup> Cricket** team will play against St Andrews' College, Union High, Queen's College and Dale College in the annual Cape Schools' Cricket Week. All our matches will be played on Cricket A. The **U14 Cricket** team will participate in the Hilton College tournament. We wish all these teams well. We held our inaugural U14 Water Polo Festival this past weekend and I would like to thank **Mr Gary Endley** and all the Water Polo parents who contributed to the success of this festival.

#### **4. Music and Cultural Matters**

- 4.1 The music department has again done us proud with various performances during the term. The **Chamber Choir, String Orchestra** and **Matric music students** will be performing before the start of the Whale Festival in Hermanus on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 September.
- 4.2 The **White Rhino** and **Orange River** excursions will again be undertaken during the September holidays.
- 4.3 Congratulations to the **Junior Debating Team** for winning the prestigious Rotary Debating Competition and to the Senior Team that came second.
- 4.4 Outdoor Society: Mr Paul le Grange is taking a group of boys to the Cederberg.

#### **5. Disciplinary Matters:**

I want to state it quite clearly that we will not tolerate any disruptive behaviour by the matrics during the so-called "silly season" next term. As parents you have a very important role to play in ensuring that your sons' behaviour and appearance comply with the rules and regulations of the school. We have to deal on a daily basis with boys who have not shaved for days and hair that is outrageously long. It is your duty as a parent to ensure that your son cuts his hair regularly and that he shaves daily. We will have a hair inspection on the first day of the term.

#### **6. Important Dates**

- 6.1 Monday 5 Oct 2009: First day of the 4<sup>th</sup> term. School starts at 08h00.  
Friday 9 Oct 2009: Final Examinations for Matrics start (IT Prac).  
Tuesday 13 Oct 2009: Matric Art and Design Exhibition at 18h00.  
Tuesday 20 Oct 2009: Final AP Maths Exam. Cabaret-in-the-Quad starts.  
Wednesday 21 Oct 2009: Speech Night and Matric Prize Giving at 20h00.  
Thursday 22 Oct 2009: Valedictory Service at 12h30.  
Friday 30 Oct 2009: Final Exams for the majority of the Matrics start (Afrikaans).  
Tuesday 10 Nov 2009: Parents' Budget Approval Meeting at 19h30.  
Monday 16 Nov 2009: Examinations start (Grades 9, 10 and 11).  
Monday 23 Nov 2009: Examinations for Grade 8 start.  
Thursday 3 Dec 2009: Examinations end.  
Friday 4 Dec 2009: Final Examinations for Matrics end.  
Friday 11 Dec 2009: School closes for Learners and Educators.

The staff joins me in wishing you a pleasant and relaxing time with your sons over the holidays. Happy Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim learners and their families.

Yours sincerely

L M ERASMUS  
ACTING HEADMASTER