

18 February 2009

Dear Parents

BOG Newsletter : February 2009.

The year started on a sombre note with the passing away of Professor Tinkie Heyns on 6 January 2009. He was an icon of RBHS and will be sorely missed after serving the school in many different capacities, including as a member of the BOG, for many decades.

Since the last newsletter Mr Suresh Naidoo was elected as a member of the BOG. We are looking forward to working with him in the future. Mr Dennis Rewitzky retired officially at the end of 2008 as the Financial Manager of both schools. We would like to thank him for his service and commitment to the success of both schools. We wish him well as he enters the next phase of his life and would like him to stay in touch. We have appointed Mr Peter Coutts as the Business Manager of the school. This is a new role in that all the non-academic functions will report to him. We believe that this structure will allow the educators more time to focus on academic matters. Mr Coutts' son was at RBHS and as such he has been part of the Rondebosch family.

It is also heart-warming to see Mr Leon Erasmus back at the school after a period of recuperation. He is looking fit and healthy.

A warm welcome to all new staff members and new parents. We are confident that you have made the right decision to join this great school.

We are planning to conduct the mandatory BOG election during the second term. We have already had a number of parents indicating their willingness to serve the school. Should you require more detail about the role of a Governor please feel free to contact me via the School Secretary, Mrs Lyall. Once the date of the election is finalised please diarise to attend this important event.

On behalf of the BOG I would like to congratulate the 2008 matriculants on a good set of results. As this was the first group to have written the new National Senior Certificate exams there were a number of insights, which will be applied in future to prepare the learners. Haroon Moolla was our top achiever and also achieved second place in the Western Cape with 8 subject distinctions. We are very proud of him and would like to wish him well with his studies at UCT. This is the third time in four years that one of our young men was among the Top 20 candidates in the province. The school also for the third year running won the Science award based on the number of learners who passed and the highest subject average.

The school finances at the end of 2008 reflected a healthy position. This would not have been possible without the commitment of our parents to pay the required fees. It is imperative that we maintain this high rate of fee collections as it enables us to provide our learners with an environment and level of education that are comparable with the best in the country and positions them well for the future in a world that is very challenging and competitive. We do have a facility for parents to make additional voluntary contributions which are tax deductible. All contributions will be welcomed. Please contact Mr Peter Coutts to obtain more information, particularly as the tax year ends on 28 February 2009.

You would have noticed that the construction of the Carleton Lloyd Stand is underway. We have encountered a setback in the construction process. A letter was sent to all parents earlier this week to detail the plan of action to correct the situation. It is still intended to have the project completed in time for our first home game on 9 May 2009. Construction of the Design, Art and Technology facilities also commenced during January 2009. The E1942 Centenary Pavilion facilities are also being upgraded at the same time.

On completion of the Carleton Lloyd Stand the development of the parking facility and access way next to the Aquatic Centre will commence. Our appreciation must once again be extended to the Carleton Lloyd Trust and the Old Boys Union for their generous contributions to the above projects.

Towards the end of 2008 a new telephone system was installed and our new website was launched. We trust that your communication with, and information about, the school have been enhanced by these developments.

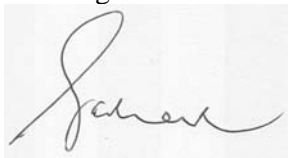
We are still in the process of finalising the lease agreement details with the Cape Town City Council after the Council approved the granting of the lease in May 2008.

A number of sport tours have already taken place and more are planned for this term and during the April holidays. We would like to wish all the players and coaches every success and would urge you to attend as many events as possible. The boys and coaches really value your interest and support.

The new Grade 8's have settled in well. Parents are encouraged to be involved as much as possible in all facets of the school and to volunteer your services for the many activities at the school. The greater your involvement the bigger the benefit for the boys and the school.

We hope that 2009 will be an enjoyable and successful year for the learners, educators and the broader Rondebosch community.

Kind regards



Deon de Kock
Chairman : School Governing Body

