



Established 1897

RONDEBOSCH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

*Canigou Avenue Rondebosch 7700 Cape Town
Tel 021-686 3987/685 5317 Fax 021-689 9726
Headmaster : M Barker B.A. Hons (Rhodes), U.E.D (Natal)*

19 August 2009

Dear Parents

BOG Newsletter August 2009

The third term started with the sad news that Raeze Khan, a Grade 8 pupil, and Blake Hanafey, who matriculated in 2008, were both tragically killed in car accidents. Our condolences to the families and friends of both young men.

During the last week of the second term mandatory BOG elections were held. We easily surpassed the required quorum of 120 parents. This is indicative of the active interest that our parents display in the activities of the school. I would like to thank Messrs Brett Matthews (Treasurer), Dave Moir and Gary Endley (Educator representative) for their service and for the very important and unique contributions they made to the governance of the school during their tenure on the BOG. The new Board consists of the following members: Deon de Kock (Chairman), Dale Smith (Treasurer), Penny Keet (Secretary), Susan Blampied, Pierre Albertyn (Boarding House representative), Bruce Burmeister, Suresh Naidoo, Clive Rutherford, Martin Schweltnus, Paola Ghignone and Sean Harris (Educator representatives), Peter Coutts (Non-Educator representative), the Headmaster, Martin Barker, and 2 School Council members. The 2 Deputy Headmasters, Leon Erasmus and Chris Wren-Sargent, and Caroline Fowler (Marketing Manager) also serve on the BOG. Under the stewardship of the previous Board the school made very good progress on a number of fronts. I am confident that the newly elected Governing Body, together with the School Management, will continue on this path. The Board and a number of educators will review the strategic imperatives of the school for the next period to ensure that we are well positioned for the future.

The finances up to June 2009 are in line with the budget and the forecast is that the budget for the year will be achieved. The budget process for 2010 will commence shortly, culminating in a meeting with parents during early November 2009 to get approval for the budget. Given the current economic climate it is gratifying to report that the collection of school fees is also in line with budget. It is an indication of the importance that our parents attach to providing their boys with an excellent education. We have again experienced an increase in the Voluntary Fee Contributions, for which we would like to thank those parents that are contributing. The WCED makes a very small contribution to the operating costs of the school and we are thus obliged to raise significant additional funds to maintain and upgrade our infrastructure. We will be hard pressed over the next few years to maintain our school fee increases at the level of the past increases if we wish to continuously improve in all facets. Please contact Mr Peter Coutts, the Business Manager, for more information regarding the income tax benefits relating to Voluntary Fee Contributions.

The Carleton Lloyd Stand has been completed and was officially opened during the second term. There is general agreement that this development has brought a new dimension to the Campus. We have received numerous compliments regarding the stand. The Design, Art and Technology facilities have also been completed and occupation taken. The early response to these fantastic facilities has been overwhelmingly positive. Our appreciation once again to the Carleton Lloyd Education Trust and the Old Boys Union for making these excellent facilities possible. The additional ablution facilities at the E1942 Pavilion were also completed during the second term. We are very appreciative of the input of the professional team, the building contractors, and Mr Wally Wood and his team for their work done on the above projects.

We have gone to tender for the provision of the parking facility and access way next to the Aquatic Centre. We will engage with all interested parties before we commence this project. The current parking problems in the area, on which much has been reported on in the regional press, will be alleviated with this development.

A sub-committee has been appointed to investigate the feasibility of a hockey Astro turf – the various options for the location, the capital and operating costs, and a potential funding plan. A development of this nature requires major capital commitments and would thus only be possible through the injection of significant external capital. The lease agreement with the Council is currently being finalised and we hope to be able to sign the document in the near future.

During the last few weeks we were privileged to attend Vivaldi's Gloria, in conjunction with Rustenburg Girls' High School and SACS, and the Prestige Music Evening. The performances by our boys were superb. Congratulations to Mr Terrence Scarr and his team and the boys for their passion and hard work. We would also like to thank the great numbers of parents who attend these performances. Your support encourages the boys tremendously.

A number of boys were selected for provincial squads and some achieved national honours in sport. We are currently experiencing an unprecedented involvement in all sports. This is most encouraging as the school views participation in sport as a very important aspect in the development process of the boys.

The winter sport season is drawing to a close with the final round of matches against Bishops this coming Friday and Saturday. The enthusiasm of the coaches, players and parents has been great. We would like to invite you to bring your families and friends to support all our teams this weekend.

The teachers and the boys have been hard at work since the first day of the academic year. The parent-learner meetings have been well attended and we would encourage all parents to attend these meetings and to continue to show a keen interest in the academic progress of your sons. The Matric learners are starting their Mock exams towards the end of August 2009. We wish them every success in their preparation for this important stepping stone towards writing the National Senior Certificate.

Yours sincerely



Deon de Kock
Chairman : School Governing Body

bognewsletteraug09