



Woodlands International College

Junior College Newsletter

6 March 2020

Dear Woodlands Family,

Obviously, one of the hot topics (trending on Twitter, Instagram) and around the world is the Corona Virus situation (now that one case in KZN has been positively identified). It is a serious situation and we need to be aware of everything we can do to prevent the possible spread of any virus or disease. We at Woodlands College are taking the matter seriously and below this section of the newsletter, our approach to the situation at the College is clearly outlined.

Ms Gray our Deputy Principal, is writing her final column for us this week in which she explores some of the topics and ideas she has tackled in her LO classes with the children of Woodlands. Thank you Ms Gray....

So remember, never, ever give up!

Dr G Pienaar

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“To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others.”

Tony Robbins

Powerful words indeed! I have had cause to reflect on my years as a Life Orientation teacher, and one of my focuses has always been the value of true and transparent communication with everyone who crosses one's path. Too often assumptions are made, and these are then passed on as truth. This, in turn, creates the proverbial snowball effect, and before one has even had time to process, a situation arises that creates conflict and / or mistrust.

In our world today, our students have to deal with so many untruths that are out there. Social media distorts what is real, and this creates perceptions about life, and how to handle life, that are often misleading. My aim is to empower our children - to allow them to speak the truth without fear of recrimination; to give them the confidence that their voices will be heard; to allow them to become sensible members of society as they grow to become our future leaders. In doing so, I try to instil in them the values of tolerance and understanding; to consider another person's life story before making judgements; the realisation that when we are happy, we laugh... when we are sad, we cry... when we are cut, we all bleed... We are all human beings who are entitled to be love and accepted.

We work hard together to empower one another to be accepting of the truth that is told, and to then use that truth as a life lesson to improve ourselves and our relationships with others. That is what makes Woodlands such a unique environment; I have been allowed to have this relationship with my students, and they in turn,

have been given the opportunity to know that they are in a safe space. Hiding behind lies exacerbates the situation, and one becomes so entwined in the tangle of lies, that sometimes it is seemingly impossible to extricate oneself from the web. As a result, our Life Orientation mantra is always to tell the truth, because the truth truly sets one free.

Ms Gray