



# Woodlands International College

## Junior College Newsletter

### 18 January 2019

Dear Woodlands Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to everyone! I had the distinct privilege of being part of the new grade ones' first day of "big school". It was incredible to see their excitement, apprehension, bewilderment and joy all rolled into one huge mixed emotion. There were surprisingly few tears, and lots of smiling faces for Moms' and Dads' photos...

I was also able to witness the 2018 grade 3s starting their year in the Middle College (Intermediate Phase). In their case, no tears, just excitement and a feeling of accomplishment.

We also came back to the continuation of the new hall being built, and a very exciting prospect it is. However, it does bring with it the accompanying frustrations related to parking and dropping children off. We appreciate your patience in this regard. The "drop and go" system has been working very well over the course of the first two days of school. We will be introducing an enhanced system in this regard in February. We have had to look at our safety and security measures very carefully, and one problem area was the fact that there are too many unidentified people on the campus during drop-off and pick-up times. Therefore, as of Friday February the 1<sup>st</sup>, no parents will be allowed onto the campus without making a prior appointment with the teacher or specific staff member. Obviously, an exception will be made for our grade ones, whose parents will still be allowed to accompany their children into school in the morning, until the midterm break, and then for a week again after the break. In the meantime, we would encourage you to use the drop and go system and not park and walk into school with your child. The same will apply in the afternoons where children will be collected from the gate, not their classrooms.

On that note we have become aware of many children arriving late for school. Remember we start classes/line-up at 7.30am, any time after that, and your child is late for school. Unfortunately, we will have to start implementing demerits for latecomers, which would seem unfair as it is the parent rather than the child who is often the cause for being late. The new system will mean that you will have to leave your child at the gate, and then the child will have to report to reception to collect a latecomer's slip (and accompanying demerit), and then report to class.

We look forward to the fun and excitement of the Inter House Athletics Meeting on Saturday, where individuals and houses will be competing for honours. We decided to hold the meeting on a Saturday this year in order to give parents a better chance to watch their children competing for the House Trophy, and attempting to make the Woodlands Athletics Team.

As regards communication, we will be using the D6 system only for alerts in the future (please download the D6 on your phone, if you haven't already). We will be using Ed Admin much more extensively this year. It is an excellent, comprehensive system. You should have received this newsletter via email, but it is also available on Ed Admin.

Remember, never, ever, give up.

**Dr G Pienaar**