



Woodlands International College

Junior College Newsletter

12 July 2019

Dear Woodlands Family,

Welcome back after our midterm break. It was an exciting break for many, as we held both Hockey and Tennis clinics, as well as Cross Country Running and Mountain Biking practices. Tennis is being reintroduced to the sports offering of our College, so if your child would like to participate, please talk to our Head of Sport, Mr Moriarty. The same applies to children wanting to take part in Mountain Biking (completely new sport at our College) and Cross Country Running.

On a completely different tack, the theme for my assembly with the Foundation phase today relates to the fairy tale "The Ugly Duckling". I will be playing a short animated video movie of the fairy tale to the little people, and chatting about some of the themes. For those of you who haven't heard or read the story (where were your parents when you were little? ☺), it is about a swan who is born into a duck family, and as a result always feels like he is ugly and doesn't fit in or belong. Eventually, thankfully, he finds a swan family and suddenly he feels handsome, and feels like he belongs. So, those underlying themes really bother me: the feeling of not fitting because of what we look like; the idea that physical beauty is everything; the concept that possibly only your own flock of geese or ducks, or family or people will fully accept you. Wow, those really are disturbing concepts! I hate to think that they even exist, but I know that they do...all around us...every day. I would honestly hope that those ideas are not paramount in our College. I would like to believe that we do not focus on physical beauty only. I am desperate to believe that we accept everybody into the Woodlands Family immediately. One of the massive positive factors of our College is that I do not even know the racial or religious breakdown of our College in terms of numbers, at all. When certain people ask me what those ratios are, I can honestly say that I do not know. And I don't care. I love the makeup of our College.

So remember, never, ever, give up.

Dr G Pienaar

Other points to note: