



# Woodlands International College

## Junior College Newsletter

### 17 May 2019

*Dear Woodlands Family,*

We are busy with the planning of our annual Friendship Cup Derby with Shangri-La (to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June) and it made me think of what it is to be a friend. I would like to share one of my favourite quotes regarding friendship with you:

If ever there is tomorrow when we're not together. There is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think. But the most important thing is, even if we're apart... I'll always be with you. (Probably the most famous quote from Pooh Bear or AA Milne)

So what about friendship with your own children? Can you actually be friends with your child? Many people say that you cannot. They say that the relationship should have severe barriers and distance between a parent and a child. The following quote from one of my favourite movies and books, "Matilda" by Roald Dahl kind of sums up that approach: "I'm right and you're wrong, I'm big and you're small, and there's nothing you can do about it."

Well, I would say to all those people, you can be friends with your child. Who better than you as a parent to instill confidence in your child. Imagine if you didn't believe in your own child? How would they ever gain confidence in themselves? Children often like to emulate their friends or their friend's behaviour, so once again, show them the correct example, let them emulate your positive behaviour. What do friends do? They spend time together – so spend time with your child – that's being a friend. Friends will often chat about things and even differ in opinions in the beginning, but after chatting and negotiation, they may change their point of view: be open to negotiation with your child. Friends always have common interests, so make sure that you take an interest in your children and find out what interests them, and then do it with them. So, even if you love playing soccer outdoors and your child prefers FIFA 19...play the video game with him/her, and in that way you will eventually be able to encourage him/her to play soccer outside with you. Of course there will be times where your experience and maturity as an adult will mean that you will have to guide your children against their will, or that a particular situation will be non-negotiable.

So, you can be friends with your child, in fact, be their best friend.

So remember, never, ever, give up.

*Dr G Pienaar*