



# Woodlands International College

## Junior College Newsletter

9 May 2019

*Dear Woodlands Family,*

Welcome back everyone! I was excited to be back at school this term and I was immensely pleased to see the huge smiles, I received on the first day, from all the little (and bigger) people of our school. I believe our teachers came back refreshed and ready for the new term.

We opened the term with an assembly for the entire Junior College yesterday, and as you all know, we like to celebrate participation and achievement at Woodlands. There are times when I like to celebrate the fact that a child is part of team, whether it is an "A" team or "C" team or a member of a choir rather than a lead singer, but on this occasion I wanted to celebrate excellence. We have a young boy by the name of Ayden Varney in grade 1 who displays exceptional talent. This young boy was sent up to see me in the first term by his teacher, as she was astounded by his natural abilities. Early in the first term of Grade one, already, Ayden was able to read any piece of writing that he was given: completely unprepared, and he understood the content very well. I have reproduced the piece of writing I asked him to read aloud in front of almost 500 children and all the teachers. The piece is in keeping with my theme of "never giving up":

"Stay true to yourself, yet always be open to learn. Work hard, and never give up on your dreams, even when nobody else believes they can come true, but you. These are not clichés but real tools you need no matter what you do in life. Stay focused on your path." This was said by Phillip Sweet, a famous musician and producer. Ayden read this piece without hesitation (he only battled with the words "clichés" and "musician").

Another celebration of excellence related to a young lady called Aamani Sallie from Grade 3. I came upon this young lady during the holidays at the Aftercare facility. She was busy teaching many of the children at Aftercare how to play Chess. She was both wise and patient with them. I then challenged her to a game, and, although she was hesitant to play against the Principal at first, she was confident enough to do so. Our game lasted a long time (I'm not going to say who won ☺). Aamani displayed the exact spirit that I would like to inculcate in all our children: a willingness to share her expertise, patience, and boldness.

A further level of excellence that we celebrated in our assembly was that of the Top 10 academics in each grade. Congratulations to all those children (their names appear elsewhere in this newsletter).

*Dr G Pienaar*