



Woodlands International College

Junior College Newsletter

17 JANUARY 2020

Dear Woodlands Family,

Compassion

A huge welcome back to all our children and parents. 2019 was an incredible year for our Woodlands family and I'm sure 2020 is going to be even better. We have many exciting new ventures taking place throughout the year. A special welcome to all our new students and also to our new teachers: Mrs Fouche who will be teaching Afrikaans, Mrs Reynolds who is joining our grade one team, Mrs Nyawo who will be teaching isiZulu and sharpening all our Zulu skills, and also to Mrs Susanna-Jones who will be teaching English.

Unfortunately, on a very sad note, after school closed in December, our very brave and courageous little lady Kimeya Govender lost her battle with her kidney and related illnesses. This young lady demonstrated courage and determination throughout her short 11 years of life. Everyone in her Woodlands family was very aware of her strength and determination throughout her life. Kimeya just wanted to be part of a school environment, with friends, lessons and even exams (even in the midst of a severe illness, she still asked her Mom whether she would still be able to write her exams!) We will never forget Kimeya, and the Award for Courage and Determination, named in her honour, will forever be her legacy. The Woodlands family will miss Kimeya.

At the first assembly of 2020 I introduced one of our themes for the year, that of "compassion". I asked the children if they knew what compassion meant and one grade two child, Tiffany, even had an answer which was almost correct: thinking of others and caring. A larger definition of compassion could be as follows: "empathy, concern for the well-being of others, caring". A very cute story, was when one of the grade one teachers came to me just after the assembly with a little lady whose name actually means "compassion" in English!

I will be setting a "compassion" challenge for our children in the weeks and months to follow...watch this space...

Remember, never, ever, give up.

Dr G Pienaar

