



Woodlands International College

Junior College Newsletter

24 JANUARY 2020

Dear Woodlands Family,

Involvement

Firstly, thank you to all of you for bearing with us in terms of the parking and “hug and go” situation. Obviously we are experiencing teething problems with the implementation of the new system at the Matthews Hall. We are working very hard in terms of trying to figure out the best system for everyone. The safety of our little people remains paramount, and whatever changes we make, we will always be focused on their safety. Obviously, your convenience is also important to us, and that is also a part of our thinking and planning. We will be considering a double stream of traffic (both in and out) at both gates, as well as extended “hug and go” zones. We will also be introducing a scholar patrol system, but that will only be after extensive training and registration for our children and teachers. As always I value the input of everyone, so if you have any ideas for us based on your own experience or expertise, please feel free to send your ideas to me, and all ideas will be carefully considered.

Secondly, we completed our Inter House Athletics event last Saturday, and what a huge success it was! To see all the gazebos and umbrellas and parents watching their children was truly wonderful. It was also great fun to see all our little grade ones competing in the sprint event. Who knew that some of these little people could run so fast? Or that for others, all they wanted, was to make sure that their parents saw them and were involved. Stunning! Not even the rain could hold them (or us) back!

Thirdly, it is with a measure of sadness that we bid farewell to Mr Chris Van Niekerk of our Senior College. He has taken up the opportunity of a senior position in education, very much in line with his experience and expertise. So it is therefore also with a measure of happiness for him, that we wish him well. His contribution to the College may have been short in tenure, but many of his ideas and innovations will remain with the College for many years to come, and will be his legacy. I have personally enjoyed working very closely with him. The Junior College is very happy that the Directors have appointed Mrs Alli as the new Deputy (and Acting) Principal for the Senior College for 2020. Mrs Robinson, our retired Senior College principal, will also be on hand as a consultant for the College.

Finally, our topic for this week is involvement (as briefly mentioned above). Just how involved are you with your child? Involved in their emotional wellbeing? Involved in their day-to-day lives? Involved in their homework and studying? Or (hopefully AND) involved in their schooling? If you are reading this then you have already proved yourself to be involved in your child’s schooling. Another possible way of being involved with your child and their schooling, is becoming involved with the Woodlands College Parents’ Association. The Woodlands PA is well established and very ably led by Mrs Jo Wiggill and Mrs Liesl Dos Santos and their team (and before that by Mrs Yvonne Stokes). These ladies and gentlemen are always willing to get involved with the College and give up much of their personal time to be involved with our children. Their annual general meeting is coming up on the 10th February. I would urge you to attend the meeting and become involved with them, and therefore be more involved with your children.

So remember, never, ever give up!

Dr G Pienaar