



Woodlands International College

Junior College Newsletter

29 November 2019

Dear Woodlands Family,

Woodlands Junior College 2019

Wow, what a year we've had! We have now completed our exams and we look forward to our Christmas Market this afternoon and evening, as well as the Honours Evening on Monday night in our new Matthews Hall. I would like to thank the Directors for their vision and commitment to the College, and I'm looking forward to hosting many events in our new hall.

Let's have a look at some of the 2019 highlights of our Woodlands Junior International College:

In January we introduced a new Reading and Phonics programme to our Foundation Phase children. Our teachers worked very hard in terms of training and preparation for the new programme.

Another highlight was the continuation of the Granny reading system where retired ladies come and read with our little people. The children love the system. Thank you Reading Grannies!

In February we celebrated our College's 17th Birthday and we also successfully hosted the Interschools Athletics Meeting at the Boksburg Stadium. We also hosted the SISA Interschools Boot Camp

In March we received our Umalusi full accreditation after a rigorous process of inspection of the College programmes and facilities.

The results of our International Benchmarking Tests in English and Mathematics (IBTs) were once again excellent.

In April we had numerous performances of our Intermediate Phase musical, Mulan. It was a massive production and we thanked Mrs Plunkett and her team at the time for a totally professional production. Our children were truly magnificent. Who could ever forget the stunning performances of Lathi-Tha as Mushu the dragon and Chloe as Mulan? I know I won't ever forget Woodlands Mulan 2019.

In June we hosted the SISA Interschool speech competition where our speakers achieved excellent results

In July we were invited to the prestigious Grayston Choir festival, where our choir performed magnificently, and Mr Lesapo unveiled the song he had written specifically for Woodlands Junior College, I call it "Welcome to Woodlands". Go to our Woodlands College website for a link to this performance. It is wonderful to work with such talented people.

Our Community Involvement Team did an excellent job in terms of our Madiba day shoe collection. We encouraged our children to spend their 67 minutes washing and cleaning the shoes which were to be donated. The response from both parents and children was overwhelming and many hundreds of pairs of new and refurbished shoes were donated.

In the last term we continued our traditional participation in the Foundation Phase T-ball league and T-ball tournament where our A teams won all their games.

In 2019 we made a concerted effort to re-invigorate the Interhouse competitions, and we held successful Interhouse Soccer, Hockey, and Cross Country competitions throughout the year.

We also had many winning teams in terms of soccer, netball, hockey and cricket throughout the year. Thank you to Coach Mike and his team for guiding our little people so well in 2019.

Another huge area of success for us this year, was our swimming. We held our very first Interhouse Swimming gala in October, which was incredible.

Our "A" swimming team won their section of the inter-schools gala, and we will be swimming in a higher league next year. I am proud to say that we also had a second team in the gala, and they also performed very well. From very few swimmers just a few short years ago, to winning the league and producing two teams in the galas. Thank you to Mrs Moolman for her tireless efforts with swimming as a whole.

Next year Mr Moriarty, the Head of Sport in the Junior College, and his Phys Ed team will also be introducing a "Learn to Swim" component for the grade ones. He also introduced new sports such as Tennis and Mountain Biking in 2019.

Our cultural children who participated throughout the year in Eisteddfods, also performed magnificently well, where many progressed to the Greater Ekurhuleni and Greater Johannesburg competitions.

So, all in all, an outstanding year once again for the children of the Woodlands Junior College family! Well done to all our children, teachers, and coaches.

This will be our final newsletter for 2019. Have a wonderful break and we'll see each other again in 2020!

So remember, never, ever give up!

Dr G Pienaar

