




**WATERFALL COLLEGE**

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# NEWSLETTER

August 2018

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Issue no. 5



Dear Parents

Welcome back to school for the third term this year. A special welcome is extended to the eight new sets of parents and your children. We invite you to take part in all aspects of Waterfall College (WFC) and to join one of the Parent Action Group committees, which play such an important part in our school. These are:

- Campus Development
- Fundraising and Donations
- Events and Functions
- Culture
- Sport
- Environment and Social Responsibility

We are all aware of the wide-reaching changes taking place in our world and, here at Waterfall College, we want to equip our students to cope with whatever may come their way. Following a presentation that I attended at the SAHISA mini-conference on Generation Z (into which our students fall) and

a meeting I had with eight WFC parents, our management team has discussed and agreed the need to focus on the social and emotional development of our students. Interpersonal skills, communication, relationships and EQ are areas found to be lacking in today's "screen-based" generation – something that we want to address.

Without compromising our current Code of Conduct or the solid foundation of Christian-based values and ethics of WFC, we will establish a seventh pillar called "social intelligence", which will supplement our existing pillars, namely:

- Academics
- Technology
- Sport
- Culture
- Leadership
- Service

In this regard, students will be encouraged to interact to a greater extent at breaks and in our various extra-mural activities, outdoor programmes and clubs. Students will be allowed to independently frequent the College Kitshop and the Campus Café at particular times. They will have access to counselling by Carri Simmons, Head of our Counselling Department, who will arrange workshops during Term 3, relating to social intelligence.

To this end, Parents, I request that you continue to work with us to educate your children to interact

responsibly and to communicate with other students and adults in an appropriate manner that always exudes kindness, tolerance and respect.

Recently, we have enjoyed a number of significant visits – firstly, by David Wilkinson, KZN Director of ISASA, and Sandy Sagar, ISASA Director of Membership and Operations. They were blown away by the warm welcome they received and the passion shown by staff and students across the campus. Considering their involvement with independent schools on a national level, we are particularly inspired by their positive feedback. Secondly, from past pupils, including Thomas Langford, Hannah Munnery, Michaela Christophers and Megan Clifton. We so enjoy seeing how these young people are thriving. And, finally, by past board member and Education specialist, Dr Manfred Schroenn. He has played an invaluable role in the growth of our school and it is always an honour to have him spend time with us.

May we all enjoy a term filled with happy moments and with God's continue blessing and protection.

Warm regards

*Jeanette van der Merwe*  
Principal



## Class of 2018

With less than three months until their final examinations start, the pressure is on for our class of 2018 to put in the effort required to be their best.

There is a wonderful vibe both in and out of the classroom, and the arrival of the long-awaited (and much-loved) matric jackets got the term off to a great start.

“We look forward to paying tribute to this group early next term at our annual Speech Day and wish them all the best as earnest preparation for Trials begins,” said Mrs Green.

## Tech in the classroom



Waterfall College is registered as a Google School, which means that staff and students make use of the Google suite of apps.

There are a number of benefits to this, including the fact that there

are no licence fees, the apps are Cloud based (so users can access their work from any device with an Internet connection) and storage is unlimited. “We are phasing Google apps in across the school,

where they are appropriate,” says IT teacher Mrs Edwards. “This is not a case of replacing traditional teaching techniques, but rather adapting them to benefit our students.

“Technology opens up a world of possibility and our teachers’ role is evolving to help guide our students as they explore and learn, helping them to develop self-discipline and determine which information sources are reliable. Many of them are tech savvy when it comes to games and entertainment, but we want to teach them to use these tools to enhance their learning too. It’s incredible to see the students’ excitement when they discover something new.

“If technology is going to be part of their world, it must be part of their education too,” Mrs Edwards concludes.



## SPORTS UPDATE: Success on the sports field

Term 2 was a successful season for our sports teams. Our rugby team competed in the annual Wembley Sevens tournament, with Gareth Peace leading his team to third place out of 11 teams – only losing three games. Bret Gibson performed exceptionally, scoring 34 tries for his team during the season!

Our Netball team played frequent matches and tournaments against top-flight teams. First team captain, Penelope Dlamini, played a crucial role in organising the team and leading them to their first victory: 7-2 against Domino Servite School.

With the development of the Insele (or Honey Badger) Trail, Waterfall College was able to host our first cross-country meet. This event saw 420 runners participating. The Cross Country team participated in seven events,

with Luke Chili running in all seven and coming third out of 57 runners in the u15 age category. Joshua Cowan came 19th out of 47 in the u17 category in the final race of the season. A big thank you to the runners, everyone who was involved in developing the Insele Trail and in organising the events.

During the July holidays, Cathryn Meisegeier (pictured right) competed at the SAMCA (South African Majorette and Cheerleading Association) National Championships in Oudtshoorn, with the Durban Girls Drum Majorettes team. Cathryn achieved medals for her performances in small drill, large drill, large drill sub leader section and Overall Third for the team. As a result, the team has been invited to compete at the World Championships in Cape Town in

September. What an honour!

*Liam Smith,  
Sports Co-ordinator*



## Stellar drama performance

Towards the end of second term, our Grade 12 drama class prepared an individual practical to be assessed by the IEB moderator. The students had to devise their own piece, incorporating song, dance and movement, and commenting on Post Modern rebellion in South Africa. The marks constitute 25% of their year mark. All six students received an A for the performance, with a top mark of 92%. "This is a wonderful achievement and we are very proud of our students," said Mr Kyle.





## Campus maintenance

Our estate maintenance and landscaping teams were hard at work during the July holidays, making improvements across the campus. These included painting the exterior of Rooms 4 to 18, installing doors in the ablution facilities, erecting a new sign on Ngwele Road (to replace the one

damaged in a storm, last term) and creating a beautiful feature garden around the Hall.

This month, we welcome our new Estate Manager, Stephen Clark (right), to the team. He joins us with a wealth of experience and we look forward to working with him as we develop our school.



## Partnering with parents

The Parent Action Group (PAG) has entered a new chapter with Kevin Waterston elected as Chairman and Jacqui Fouché as secretary. Kevin takes over from Roger Wood.

“On behalf of the College staff, students and parents, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the selfless service Roger offered during his time as chairperson of the WFC Governing Body (2015-

2018) and the Convenor of Finance and Administration (2014-2016),” said Mrs van der Merwe. “We thank Roger for the role he played to ensure the seamless transition to the new Memorandum of Inclusion for the new Board of Directors for Waterfall Schools, as well as the new Charter for the PAG for Waterfall Schools. We wish him every success.”

Kevin Waterston joined the WFC

community in 2016, when his son started in Grade 8. “I have always felt that with a small school, we need the close involvement of parents, and serving on the PAG is one way I can contribute. As we embark on a change from a governing body to a PAG and we bring in both Prep and College into one parent body, I see the PAG role as a support to the principals in making the schools as efficient, effective, inclusive and appealing as possible to all stakeholders. This is a very exciting time for Waterfall Schools, as we continue to create an amazing education facility.”

Jacqui was introduced to WFC when the marketing team and prefects visited Winston Park Primary. “I was impressed with the children’s manner, humility and pride in their school. From the moment I stepped onto the school grounds, I knew this would be a wonderful place to educate my daughter.”



## Expanding our school

A big thank you to those parents who have invested their time and energy in fundraising efforts this year, as well as those who have supported these events. To date, a total of R41 054.87 has been raised through the Walkathon, High Tea, Movie Night, Rugby Day and the students' involvement in the Waterfall SUPERSPAR stock take. These funds have been used in three main areas:

Media Centre – purchasing software, two Chrome Books and creating a welcoming, practical space – R32 754.10. We are also

looking to buy chess tables and chairs for use outside.

Multi-purpose posts for the bottom field – a wonderful addition to the Waterfall Schools' sports facilities. These costs were shared with the Prep – R4 087.50

Counselling Room – decorating this area, which forms an important part of our drive to develop our students' Social Intelligence – R1 731.02

We have an amount of R10 757.12, which includes funds carried over from 2017 and has yet to be allocated.



## Let's honour each other



In a recent assembly, Head Boy Dylan Cooper shared his thoughts on honouring oneself

and others, and the significance of that act.

"When we honour someone, we are telling them who God says they are. We unlock the beauty instilled in them and call them higher than what they might be at that time. We empower them with the knowledge that they can do great things, and that who they are is incredible.

When you are digging for gold, you have to look at the hard and dirty ground, and believe that there will be gold underneath it. You sometimes have to work hard to dig it out, but when you do it is so powerful. It is the same with honouring. Telling someone who

really hates themselves and is having an extremely tough time at home, who could be acting out at school, that Jesus loves them and is proud of them, could change their life.

When it comes to honouring people, we have to be really intentional about it. As it says in the Bible, go out of your way to honour people. Tell them that God sees them as powerful and that the way they work through life is really awesome. Tell them about the amazing things that God thinks about them when He sees them. In so doing, you build your relationship with that person and with God."

## First aid course

During the July holidays, some of our staff and students took part in a First Aid course at Waterfall Prep. Thank you for giving up your time to learn such valuable skills.

**Left to right: Tristan Orwin, Jordan Clark, Emmah Zatinah and Fortunate Bhengu. Not in the picture: Mr Shange**



# Waterfall Pre-Primary



## Big walk

Our annual Big Walk gets better each year! We were amazed by the number of families who got involved. Thank you to our immensely creative teachers for setting up the awesome course.

## First steps

Did you know that the Pre-Primary accepts children from the age of 12 months? The 2019 class has a few spaces available. To find out more, contact Sam on 031 710 1813 or [info@waterfallpreprimary.co.za](mailto:info@waterfallpreprimary.co.za).

## The importance of play

In Term 2, we hosted our first "Importance of Play" workshop with Director Sharron Lane. We looked at the developmental stages that little ones need to go through before they can be considered ready for Grade R and the positive impact of play on this process. We look forward to hosting more informative workshops throughout the year.

## Community connection

In April, we hosted the principals from Embo Child Educare and Siyabubula crèche, based in the Embo community, for an information sharing session with our Principal, Paula Mason. We look forward to welcoming other selected teachers to show them first-hand how our Early Childhood Development programme is run.

## Winter warmth drive

We were overwhelmed by the amazing contributions towards our Winter Warmth Drive for S'thandokuhle Creche, one of the eight Pre-Schools that Focus on iThemba partners with. Thank you to our parents and little ones for this act of kindness!

# Waterfall Preparatory



Join us for our  
**OPEN EVENING**  
Grades 4 - 7

4:30-5:30pm | Thursday, 23 August

031 710 1814 or [hello@waterfallprep.co.za](mailto:hello@waterfallprep.co.za)



On Saturday 23 July, the Prep hosted its first Family Soccer Morning. We had a wonderful turn-out and would like to thank everyone who attended for making this such a good opportunity to grow as a community.



## IMPORTANT EVENTS TO DIARISE

**Thursday 9 August**  
National Women's Day

**Friday 10 August**  
School closed

**Saturday 11 August**  
Skonk Nicholson Rugby Festival u18

**Tuesday 21 August**  
Blood Bank

**Wednesday 22 August to Friday 24 August**  
Grade 11 Outdoor – Camp Solomon

**Friday 24 August and 31 August**  
Grade 9 Aptitude feedback

**Tuesday 28 August**  
Grade 12 Trial Examinations start

**Wednesday 5 September and  
Thursday 6 September**  
Grade 9 subject choice parent/teacher meetings

VISIT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT [WWW.WATERFALLCOLLEGE.CO.ZA](http://WWW.WATERFALLCOLLEGE.CO.ZA)

## Did you know?

Focus on iThemba has facilitated the training of 46 Pre-School teachers through NELRU over the past two years. Through the generosity of our donors these teachers have received a wealth of knowledge resulting in enhanced Early Childhood Development for the 500 children at the 8 Pre-Schools we partner with. Now that's a fact worth celebrating!

Partner with us as we  
Grow Hearts and Minds.



# Share your news here



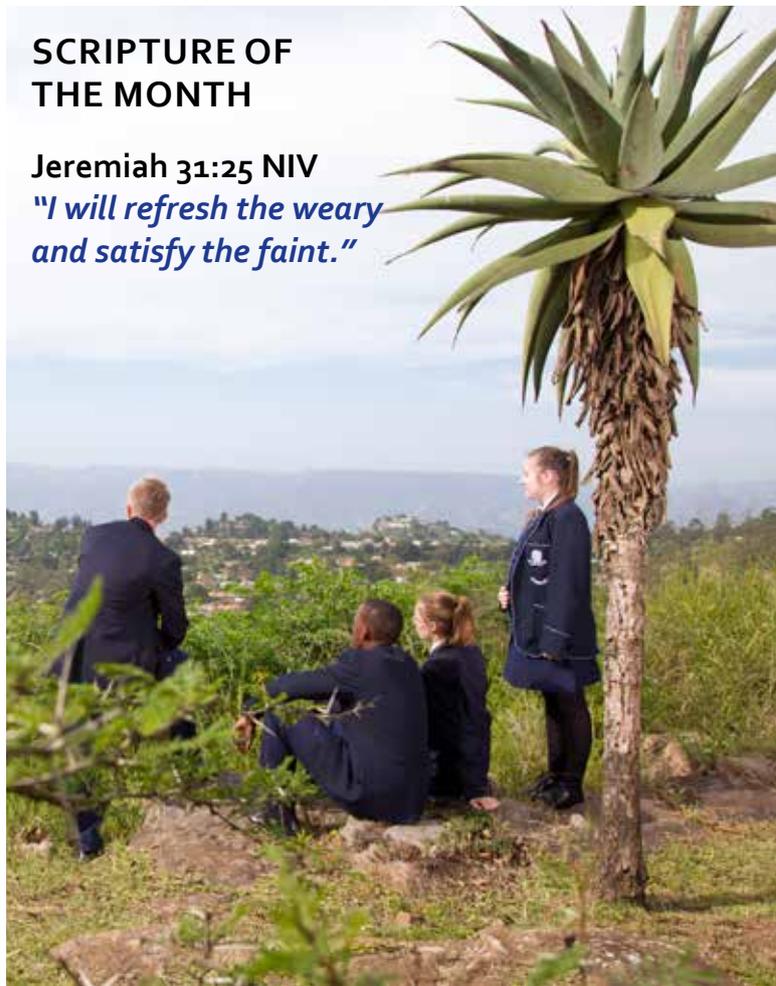
Do you have a business, event or item for sale that you would like to promote?

To secure your space in our newsletters, which reach an audience of more than 400 people, email [marketing@waterfallschools.co.za](mailto:marketing@waterfallschools.co.za) or call 031 710 1821.

\*Terms and conditions apply.

## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Jeremiah 31:25 NIV  
*"I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."*



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R0	December
R0	November
R0	October
R0	September
R0	August
R0	July
R1095.86	June
R1044.27	May
R1399.76	April
R1529.01	March
R1308.70	February
R1423.40	January

**funds raised**