



NEWSLETTER No. 22
23 July 2009

Dear Cordwalles

Welcome back after the mid year holidays. It is wonderful to be back at school hearing all the excitement of the boys telling all their stories. We hope you have been able to do all the things that you planned. If you went to exciting destinations that they lived up to your expectations and if you stayed at home you enjoyed the relaxation that being home bound bring to us all.

The new theme for the term is the Precious Present. The idea for this theme was derived from a book 'The Precious Present' by Spencer Johnson.

This theme links so many of our previous themes over the past two years – *Seize the Day* and *I Can* just to name two. The precious present is a story about a young man who gets told about a gift that will make him happy forever. At first he thinks it's a present like the ones we get for Christmas or birthdays. Then he goes in search of the Precious Present all over the world – on top of mountains as well as in caves and seas. After much searching he discovers that:

- ✓ The present has nothing to do with wishing or toys
- ✓ When you have the present you will be perfectly content to be where you are
- ✓ The present is not something that someone gives to you.
- ✓ The Present is something you give to yourself...

And then it clicked – it just happened. He realized the Precious Present was just that
THE PRESENT
Not the past and not the future but the Precious Present.

- ✓ It is wise for us to think about the past and to learn from our past.
BUT it is not wise for us to be in the past – we lose ourselves in the past.
- ✓ It is also wise to think about the future and to prepare for our future.
BUT it's not wise for us to be in the future – for that too, is how we lose ourselves.

When we look at ourselves – what do you see and wish for?

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Grade 7's | - Wish for high school. |
| | - To be old enough to do things like go to parties or age restricted movies or drive a car. |
| Grade 6's and 5's | can't wait to be in grade 7 and top of the school or to be a leader and a monitor |
| Grade R's | can't wait to be in Grade 1 with a uniform, learning how to read. |

We are always wishing for something instead of celebrating the here and now. THE PRECIOUS PRESENT

I can choose to be happy now. Or I can try to be happy when ... or if ...

The Present is:

Who I am

Just the way I am

Where I am.

We need to be comfortable with who we are. It is amazing that in all areas of bullying and conflict it is the people who bully and say hurtful things that are not comfortable with themselves. They are trying to hide something. Either they want to hide their weakness or their lack of confidence or self belief by putting someone else down. Or they want to make themselves look 'bigger' or 'main'.

We all need to work on being comfortable with who we are. We are all God's children, designed by him. We are all, each and every one of us, precious.

We are the Precious Present.

Remember the past, plan for the future but live in the present – the here and now. Enjoy what you are doing now to the fullest. Don't wait for tomorrow to do something you can do today.

You are the Precious Present.

Mark Whitelaw
Second Master

Birthdays

The following boys and staff will be celebrating their birthday during the holidays:

Joshua Waller	24 July
Mayruan Padayachi, Calvin Swart, William Swart, Mr Dlamini	25 July
Steven Kriel, Mrs Fourie, Ms Wilson	29 July

We wish each of you a wonderful day and year ahead.

Saturday School

All grade 3 – 7 boys are expected to attend school this Saturday – 25 July 2009.

Contact Details

Perhaps you have moved ...

Or perhaps changed your cell phone number

Do we know how to get hold of you?

Please ensure that the school has up-to-date contact details for your family.

Parents' Evening

As per our calendar card – we are holding a parents' evening on Tuesday 28 July (next week). We have a wonderful guest speaker Mr Bruce Steenhuizen who will address us on supporting self discipline at home and at school.

Please note that the initial meeting will be followed immediately with a meeting for Grade 1 – 4 parents regarding the use of THRASS at Cordwalles and Grade 6 parents will have a meeting regarding the process of choosing and applying to high schools for their sons. These meetings will be followed by a cocktail party in the brick quad.

All parents are encouraged to attend.

Cordwalles Staff

We are thrilled to welcome Alex Hall to the staff of Cordwalles. He and his wife Rose and their boys James and Jonathan are living on the property in a staff house. Alex has replaced James Guest as a Grade 5 class teacher.

Welcome to Cordwalles, Alex. We hope you and your family have many happy years here in Maritzburg and at Cordwalles.

We are also very pleased to welcome Sharon Ma'ani Hessari as our Aftercare Supervisor. Sharon comes to us with a wealth of teaching experience and we look forward to many happy times together.

Family News

Congratulations to:

Marsha and Mervin Chetty on the birth of their daughter – a sister for Jarooshan (Grade 2F), and Penny and James Francis on the birth of their son Blake – a brother for Mitchell (Blue Group).

Our condolences go to Mthuli Ncube on the passing away of his mother (grandmother to Zola and Monde) in Zimbabwe. We also extend our condolences to Eric Bentley on the passing of his mother (Vaughan's granny) during the holidays. Our thoughts and prayers are with both families.

New Boys

We welcome the following new boys this term:

- ✓ James Hall (Gr 3V)
- ✓ Jonathan Hall (Green Group)
- ✓ Tom Lewis (Gr2S)

We hope you enjoy your time at Cordwalles.

Patrick Mwelase

We were very sad to say goodbye to our weekday security guard Patrick, during the holidays. Patrick has served Cordwalles very well for the past 12 years and has now moved to Cedara Agricultural College where he plans to further his career in the farming sector. We thank Patrick for his faithful service to Cordwalles and wish him well.

***GOLF DAY!
SUNDAY 9 AUGUST 2009.***

This is a fun day for the boys, parents, sisters and "old Cordwalles boys"

***You can play 9 or 18 holes.
(From Juniors to Adults - special rates!)***

***To book :
Penny Yeats: 0823765605***

***We still need some support in the form of prizes or sponsorship! (anything is welcome)
A great thank you for those parents that are supporting all ready you are great!***

***Contact:
Miriam du Toit: 0825681264***

Many thanks see you there!!!

FROM THE SPORTS DESK - Lance Veenstra

Hockey Season

A reminder that gum guards are needed for hockey and that boys may only play in predominantly black boots.

Athletics

Boys are to wear house vests & blue shorts for heats and house vests & white shorts for finals (Grade 3 – 7)

Clothing & equipment

Please ensure that ALL sports equipment and clothing is well marked. There is an abundance of lost property lying around the school that is not marked.

A reminder to boys: they may not borrow from each other. Mr Veenstra has a small stock of old sports clothes/equipment which may be **borrowed**. Please note that this item of clothing must be returned to Mr Veenstra as soon as possible, having been washed.

Transport

Will all parents who so kindly give boys lifts to sports matches, please ensure that those same boys are not left at the venue. Should they not be collected by their parents, please return them to Cordwalles where staff members can then contact the relevant people.

Cross Country Team

Please will all cross country team members return their brown/white athletics vests to Mrs Whitelaw before the end of this week. These vests are needed next week for the athletics team.

Holiday Activities

Gymnastics

Allan du Toit and Chad Baxter competed in the East Zone Gymnastic competition in the holidays where they represented KZN. Chad come second overall in his age group (level 2) and Allan also came second in his age group (level 3).

Tennis

A number of boys competed in tennis tournaments this holiday.

Eshowe	Matthew Dahl:	1 st U12 singles & U14 mixed doubles 2 nd U14 doubles
Richmond	Gary Lesur & Ross Whitelaw Brett Whitelaw	1 st U10 doubles 1 st U12 mixed doubles, 2 nd U12 doubles
Wartburg	Josh Robertson & Gary Lesur	2 nd U10 doubles
Hilton	Benji Power & Dane Blunt participated.	

Benji Power and Nikolai Manchev played in the Coca Cola tournament in Durban. Nikolai reached the U12 singles semi finals and U12 doubles finals.

Nikolai also played in a tournament in Pretoria where he reached the U12 singles final and the Super 7 tournament in Johannesburg.

Squash: Ross Talmage and James Laidlaw played squash for KZN during the holidays in an interprovincial tournament.

Golf: Chad Fourie played in the KZN golf trials.

If your son participated in any sporting activity during the holidays, please let us know. It is wonderful to acknowledge each boy's achievements.