



NEWSLETTER No. 31
22 September 2009

Dear Parents, boys and staff

We have worked with an excellent theme this term of the "Precious Present". While we are in the Precious Present we always should try to act on those moments where we feel the urge to say words like "I love you" or "Well done" or "sorry". Too often we hear stories where people fail to express their feelings or say things which empower and grow others resulting in missed opportunities. The worst scenario is that the person you want to talk to happens to die before you can say or do what is on your heart.

If we are to really live positively in the present where we make a contribution in empowering and uplifting others then we need to listen to that 'small still voice' or our 'gut feelings' and act. We must not put it off for another time. There is no time like the present. In this story, the importance of acting on a feeling of empathy and compassion is clearly demonstrated. I hope you enjoy reading it.

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd." I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running towards him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives." He looked at me and said, "Hey thanks!" there was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to a private school before now. I would have never have hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play football on Saturday with me and my friends. He said yes.

We hung all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him. And my friends thought the same of him. Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Damn boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!" He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the mile would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship. Kyle was valedictorian of our class.

I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak.

On Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than me and all the girls loved him! Boy, sometimes I was jealous. Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech.

So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks," he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach ... but most of all your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story." I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable." I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and Dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others. Don't be selfish. To be a real friend is to give generously to someone else without ever being selfish.

"Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly." By not being greedy and selfish we can do wonderful things for others. Small acts of kindness can change people's lives forever. Always look at the person next to you and act on your 'gut feelings', this may save someone's life.

Simon Weaver
Headmaster

Birthdays

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

Jack Edmonds, Busisa Mtimkulu	22 September
Bradley Harris, Justin Harris, Andrew Mentzel	23 September
Thomas Conolly, Ross Huxtable, Caylim Lochner, Robert Mitchell	24 September
Akhona Dlamini	25 September
Daniel van der Watt, Mrs Blunt	28 September
Ben Adey, Slade Botha	29 September
Timothy Houghting, Mrs Ndlovu	01 October
Samuel Crookes, Mr Scott	03 October
Matthew Marshall	04 October
Kieran Blunt	06 October

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

Family News

Our condolences go to Sadie Hoppin and her family on the passing away of her father over the weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Deputy Head – Academics

It was announced during my long leave that Trevor von Berg had been appointed as our new Deputy head (Academics) from January 2010. However a week ago, Trevor informed us of his appointment as Headmaster of Woodridge Prep School due to the resignation of the current Head Mr Alan Campbell. This has meant that we have had to secure the services of someone else to fill this important position at Cordwalles.

The selection committee, including our Chairman of the Board, Mr Locke Purdon, were very happy to endorse the appointment of John Huggett who had done exceptionally well in the selection process.

John is a young and dynamic teacher who is currently on the Executive at St Peter's Prep School in Johannesburg where he is also the Grade 7 co-ordinator and Housemaster. He teaches English, Maths, Life Orientation and Design Technology. On the sport side he coaches hockey and is master in charge of swimming.

Before teaching at St Peter's, John was a high school teacher at Wynberg Boys High where he taught English to matric, Maths to Grade 8 and 9, as well as Design Technology, Computer literacy and Drama. He also coached hockey and water polo.

John has also had a stint working in the United Kingdom where he taught at Warwick Park School in London and Hay Management Consultants where he was involved with "Transforming Learning". Prior to this John worked at Dale College Boys' High School in King Williams Town where he taught English, Physical Education, Guidance, Computer Literacy, Biology and Mathematics. He was also master-in-charge of Physical Education.

John qualified from the University of Port Elizabeth with a B.A. Ed (Human Movement Science) majoring in Human Movement and English. He is a St Stithian's Old Boy. We look forward to welcoming John, his wife Su and their two young daughters to Cordwalles in the new year.

Staff News

We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Gill Hall has been appointed HOD of the Junior Primary from 2010. Gill is well known to the Cordwalles community. She returned to us at the beginning of last year as a Grade 3 teacher having taught in the UK since 2002. Gill was our Junior Primary HOD from 1994 – 2001. She started teaching at Cordwalles in January 1989. Gill graduated from Natal College of Education Cum Laude in 1987 and also has a National Diploma in Hotel Management. Congratulations Gill, we are thrilled to have you back on our Executive team.

We are also very pleased to announce that we have appointed Mr Luke Hounsom to the teaching staff of Cordwalles. Luke has a B.Social Science Degree and is a highly skilled sportsman having played 1st team cricket and rugby for Durban High School and KZN Provincial Inland Cricket from 2003 – 2005. He still plays league cricket for UKZN. Luke has a Level 1 Rugby Coaching Certificate and a Level 2 Cricket Coaching Certificate. He will be coaching our 1st team cricket in 2010.

Senior Prize Giving 2009

As per the calendar card, Grade 4 – 7 boys are required to attend Speech & Prize Giving Day on Saturday 28 November. No boys will be excused from this event. Please make travel arrangements for after 12h30 on Saturday 28 November.

This year our guest speaker is Mr Gary Ralfe. Mr Ralfe is Chairman of the Board of Michaelhouse and a Cordwalles Old Boy.

Etiquette Lessons

All boys from grades 4 – 7 have had lessons on table manners and etiquette this term run by Fiona Kleinhans from KKS and Merrill King. This is part of our ongoing drive to assist our boys in becoming gentleman - we hope that you have noticed an improvement at home!

2010 Dates

Attached please find a revised list of term dates for 2010. We have made a few minor alterations to the dates originally published in order to accommodate parents who have daughters at The Wykeham Collegiate. These revised dates will also be published on the back of our calendar card next term.

1st 3 weeks & Extra Mural Timetable

The 1st three weeks of the fourth term calendar card and extra mural timetable will be emailed out towards the end of this week. Please watch your mail box for this important information.

Old Boy's news - Class of 2004 Matric Reunion

On Sunday evening, we were delighted to welcome back to school the Class of 2004 - many of whom you will remember – and who are now in their countdown to their Matric finals . Where have those five years gone!

Thirty three of the thirty eight boys returned, many with their parents, to be greeted by both Simon Weaver who became Headmaster in 2004 as well as Tim Evans, Headmaster in 2003. Needless to say there was much "my how you've grown" and "do you remember when we did this or that" and the parents seemed equally pleased to be reunited. Many of them had not seen the new developments at the school so drinks were held in the Andrew Rattray Pre-Primary where Mr. Weaver explained what had been happening since they left. After this everyone took a walk through the school and up to the Pavilion for dinner. Simon Weaver and Mark Whitelaw spoke about academic and cultural times and Franzl Bause reminded all the boys of their sporting achievements with statistics tripping off his tongue as if the matches had happened only yesterday. Andrew Craib, who had given the Grade 7 Leavers Speech in

2004 spoke confidently on behalf of the boys about how pleased they were to see everyone and about the foundation they had received here. It was wonderful for staff, parents and boys alike to get together and reminisce. We hope to see everyone here again at a reunion very soon.

The Class of 2004 Laurence Aadnesgaard; Johann Ackerman; Craig Berrange; Vukani Buthelezi; Nicholas Byrne; Jonathan Chileshe; Andrew Craib; Gareth Crouch; Jason Everard; James Fisher; Kyle Forder; Owen Gandar; Stephan Hartzenberg; Jason Hoepfl; Mivan Howard; Oliver Jones; Elmar Kruger; Cameron Lindsay; Wesley Lewis; Reef Nakin; Alex Poltera; Scott Rogers; Ian Scott; Karabo (JR) Sesupeng; Sanda Shandu; Matthew Shaw; Jonathan Stein; Matthew Vacy-Lyle; Chad Stephenson (Ware)
Mark van Heerden; James Walker; Joshua Williams; Geoffrey Woollatt

Absent Friends: Haydyn Jordaan (studying at Glenwood); Gary de Allende (emigrated to the UK); Sean Fox (emigrated to Australia) Daniel-Marc Dolpire and Jason Hammond.

To everyone – good luck with the Matric Exams and for whatever next year holds and do keep in touch with the Old Boys' Office

Charlotte Usher
Cordwalles Old Boys e-mail: oldboys@cordwalles.co.za

FROM THE SPORTS DESK - Lance Veenstra

Congratulations to the following boys on being selected to play for Midlands U13 Cricket sides:

Ross Talmage	Matthew Lovatt
Michael Dedekind	Matthew Dahl
James Laidlaw	James Martin
Viren Thupsie	Jashayan Govender
Robert Lee	

These boys will be playing in a tournament from Wednesday which is the trials for the KZN Cricket U13 teams. Mr Bause is the Convenor of Selectors for the KZN Cricket U13. We wish our boys and Mr Bause good weather and excellent cricket for the week.

Extra Mural Timetable

The Grade 3 – 7 Extra Mural timetable (sport & music) begins on the first day back (Tuesday 6 October).
Grade 1 & 2 mini cricket starts on **Thursday 8 October**.

Inter House Tennis

The juniors will play inter house tennis on Tuesday 6 October.
The seniors will play inter house tennis matches on Wednesday 7 October.

Those involved in these matches will be informed by the end of this term.

TENNIS RESULTS

Tennis League results from Thursday 17 September. These matches were affected by the rain, but most teams managed at least a few games.

Team	Opponents	Result
1 st	The Wykeham Collegiate	TWC won 18 – 14
2 nd	St Charles	Cordwalles won 8 – 4 (Unfinished - rain affected)
3 rd	Match cancelled	
4 th	New Hanover	Cordwalles won 24 – 12
U11A	Athlone	Cordwalles won 15 – 13
U11B	Athlone	Cordwalles won 21 – 7
U11C	Match cancelled	