



NEWSLETTER No. 32
8 October 2009

Dear Parents, boys and staff

I hope you all had a restful short September holiday. I was lucky enough to go on the music tour to Johannesburg which was a resounding success and then I spent a couple of very wet days down at the coast.

The fourth term is always extremely busy and full. This year is no exception; with a great number of events taking place that bring another very successful year at Cordwalles to a close.

As I have mentioned before, we are once again embarking on a strategic planning exercise for the school. Most of our objectives that we set out for the school in the plan that was developed in 2005 have been fulfilled and we now need to set our course for the next five years. We are entering a very exciting time in the life of the school as we approach our centenary in 2012. As such, Cordwalles needs to plan a great celebration for this year so as to mark this important milestone.

As part of the strategic planning process, we surveyed the school last year and we had an IQAA evaluation which was most complimentary of the school. Sue Gardener, as the director of IQAA, wrote the following about Cordwalles:

"The reading of the reports on the Model A evaluation at Cordwalles was exciting and illuminating. There emerged a portrait of a very fine school in excellent shape as it looks forward to completing its century of giving a foundation to the lives of generations of boys ...

The comprehensiveness, variety, energy, creativeness and stimulation permeating the school's activities, both within and beyond the classroom, make a huge impression as one reads list after list of things found to celebrate ...

IQAA records that Cordwalles is fully compliant for ISASA membership. IQAA joins the mentors in congratulating the school on the Cordwalles way of doing things and shares their confidence that the school will go forward successfully and happily."

Having surveyed the school community, it is now important to look at 'where to from here?' To this end we have decided to approach our strategic planning a little differently. In a 3-stage process we have decided to focus on formalizing and identifying those aspects which are important so that our boys are able to leave Cordwalles with a sure foundation and that they are able to function optimally in a modern, globalized and ever changing world.

We began the process with the first stage on Monday with the assistance of 6 invited speakers. Their brief was to inform us of what they expected of the boys going into Grade 8. The following speakers were involved:

Paul de Wet (Michaelhouse)
Debbie Martin (Maritzburg College)

Numeracy
Literacy

Yvonne Johnston (Gordon Road Girls)	EQ
Ann McCloughlin (Maritzburg College)	Thinking Skills
Matthew Conradie (Kearsney College)	ICT
Lynne McMillan (Hilton College)	EQ needed for boarding

I also spoke about the curriculum beyond teaching and learning which I gleaned from two excellent speakers that I encountered on my long leave. These two presenters stressed that the 21st century required schools to do more with pupils beyond teaching and learning.

There were some important themes which ran through all the presentations. Firstly, it is paramount to develop self confidence in our boys. Furthermore, the high schools requested that we make the different subjects fun and interesting so that the boys are passionate and motivated about them. It was clear that we are educating our boys to ensure that they are creative and flexible thinkers who can adapt to any learning situation. Our boys also need to learn how to live and interact with those around them showing empathy and compassion.

During the day we watched a very interesting presentation which comes from "YouTube" called "Shift Happens". It was designed by Karl Fisch who is a high school administrator of Arapahoe High School. It was then refined by Scott McLeod a professor at University of Minnesota. This short video showed us how the world has changed and how fast the world continues to change. For instance, did you know?

- ✓ The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that today's learner will have 10 – 14 jobs by the age of 38.
- ✓ According to former Secretary of Education in the U.S. Richard Riley, the top 10 in-demand jobs in 2010 did not exist in 2004. We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist using technologies that haven't been invented, in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet.
- ✓ There are over 2,7 billion searches performed on Google each month.
- ✓ 1 out of 8 couples married in the U.S. last year met on line.
- ✓ There are about 540 000 words in the English language – about 5 times as many as during Shakespeare's time.
- ✓ More than 3000 new books are published every day.
- ✓ It is estimated that a week's worth of New York Times ... contains more information that a person was likely to come across in a lifetime in the 18th Century.
- ✓ It is estimated that 40 exabytes ($4,0 \times 10^{19}$) of unique new information will be generated worldwide this year. That is more than in the previous 5000 years.
- ✓ The amount of new technical information was doubling every 2 years in 2007. For students starting a four-year technical or college degree this means that half of what they learn in their first year of study will be outdated by their third year of study. By 2010 it is predicted to double every 72 hours.
- ✓ Third generation fiber optics can now carry 10 trillion bits per second down a strand of fiber. That is 1900 CD's or 150 million phone calls every second. It is currently tripling every 6 months and is expected to do so for the next 20 years.

All this means that we are living in a very different and fast changing world where we are educating and preparing our boys for an uncertain and very dynamic future.

The most important point that was made during the day was that values and morals are the one constant that we really need to hold fast. We need to continue teaching and emphasizing the positive values and our Christian ethos at Cordwalles in order to remain grounded and certain in the turbulent times of the future.

On Tuesday 13 October we move into the next stage of the process and look forward to a presentation which will be given to the staff and Board next week by Keith Coates. He will be looking at "Dealing with and understanding the generation gap against the background of global trends."

With these ideas and suggestions about the education of our boys in these uncertain times we will then move to Friday 16th October where the Executive and the Board will look at plotting the way forward over the next five years.

These are very exciting times that we are living in and it is a privilege to be part of this ongoing growth and development of our boys.

Simon Weaver
Headmaster

Birthdays

The following boys and staff will be celebrating their birthday this week:

Luke Cheary	9 October
Siyabulela Mbhele	10 October
Dylan Kriel, Mr Campbell	12 October
Ryan Jenkins	13 October
Jonathan Hall, Gian-Carlo Torino	14 October

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

Junior Primary – Important Information regarding Tuesday 13 October

All boys in the Junior Primary phase (grades 1,2 & 3) will finish school at 12h30. Lunch will only be served to aftercare boys. There will be NO sport for these boys on Tuesday 13 October.

MUSIC NEWS – L. Blunt

30 boys making up the Big Band, Rock Band, Drum Line and Djembe Troupe, 5 staff members and 3 mums had a very successful tour to Johannesburg during the holidays – report to be published soon! Well done boys, we are very proud of you.

"Reach Out" Charity Concert – Thursday 8 October 18.30 – City Hall

Cordwalles are hosting this very exciting event and we are hoping to raise a large amount for this very worthy cause. Athlone, Epworth, Cordwalles, Clarendon, Longmarket Girls, Pelham, PMB Children's Choir, St Charles, St John's & St Nicholas will all be performing two choir items and then the Cordwalles Rock Band, St John's Marimba Band and St Nicholas Steel Band will also be performing. Tickets will be on sale at the door or from me today at R30 per adult and R15 per pupil. Please support this event.

Musical Review

This event takes place on Thursday 15 October at 18h30. Boys from grades 4 – 7 and both choirs will be performing. After a short interval, the inter house song competition will take place. This is a great evening. Please support your sons in their musical endeavours. The evening should finish around 20h30.

ICT in the Classroom Conference

Colleen Borain and Gary Schneider attended the Intel ICT conference hosted by Durban Girls College during the school holidays. The first keynote speaker was from Australia and spoke of collaborative learning and its results when effectively used. The other, from Apple, showed us that today's youth are socialising more than we give them credit for - much of it electronically! We were given opportunities to learn from lectures and partake in workshops ranging from simple to relatively sophisticated ICT skills. This included using movie making and podcasts as learning tools. The extent to which technology is influencing teaching today, as well

as the huge impact that it is going to have in the years to come has given us insight in the way ahead for Cordwalles.

100 Club

We will be holding 100 Club on Wednesday 21 October at 18h00 for 18h30. Come and enjoy great Cordwalles community spirit at the last 100 club of the year.

Anyone who would like to donate prizes for the lucky draw, please contact Ruth Forder as soon as possible.

Staff News

We are very pleased to announce that Alison Kingsley has been appointed as a Grade 4 teacher from next year. Alison was at school at St Anne's where she was the Head Prefect (Day Girls). She then went to Rhodes University where she completed her B.Ed (Primary). She obtained a distinction for her teaching practicals and she won the Old Rhodian Chapman award as well as the B.Ed forth year class prize. She played in the Rhodes 1st team tennis. She taught at Clarendon Primary in East London in 2005 where she taught Grade 4. There she coached the U11A Girls Hockey team. Since 2006 Alison has taught Grade 6 at Clarendon Park Primary School in Port Elizabeth. She also coaches the U11A Girls hockey team and headed up an outreach initiative called "Carries Cares." Her husband has just moved to Hilton College as a teacher. We welcome her to the Cordwalles community and hope she has many years of happiness here.

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.

FROM THE SPORTS DESK - Lance Veenstra

School will be finishing at 12h30 on Tuesday 13 October due to the Strategic Planning meeting which all our teachers are involved in. Due to this there will be NO Grade 1 and Grade 2 mini cricket on this day.

Here is the sports schedule for **Tuesday 13 October ONLY**:

- ✓ All Open cricket sides will practice from 13h30 – 15h30. They may then go home.
- ✓ Swimming: U10D, U11D Squad will swim from 13h30 – 14h30. They may then go home.
- ✓ The A & B swimming squad for the TWC Ladder Gala must meet at 16h15 at Cordwalles.

Extra Mural Timetable

Grade 1 & 2 mini cricket starts on **Thursday 8 October**.