



NEWSLETTER No. 33
15 October 2009

Dear Parents, boys and staff

"Take games and coaching games away from my teaching life and you would take away so much: the conversations, the self-expression and self-discovery, the comedy, the hours of application, the crazy highs, the injustices, the lucky escapes and the insights into human nature. That's why I've done it, and why I believe competitive sport should be a part of every child's school days. As an experience it beats the hell out of much else that's on offer."

This quote is taken from the book 'The Learning Game – a teacher's inspirational story.' It is written by Jonathan Smith, a born teacher and writer, and takes the reader on his personal journey from his first days as a pupil through to the challenges of his professional and private life on the other side of the desk.

This book was recommended to me by a past Cordwalles parent and teacher who read it while he was still working in the private sector. It had such an influence on him that after reading it, he decided to join our noble profession. I found it hugely inspiring and especially enjoyed a chapter entitled: "A place for games". This is a subject very close to my heart.

He describes England as a country where millions of pupils miss out on competitive team games. Children in England are not exposed to competitive games as very few schools organize them. Millions of pupils, who would enjoy nothing more than representing their school in games, never have that chance. There has been an anti-competition games lobby in schools which has resulted in a decline in schools' sport. Jonathan Smith says that this has come about because the powers that be believe that competitive sport is bad. "It's bad because someone has to lose, and we can't have that because it's unkind, isn't it, children, it really isn't very nice to be a loser, so we won't play at all, so there!"

So children now lose out on the opportunity of that physical and mental challenge and that physical and mental pleasure. They no longer have to learn to deal with winning and losing. There is no need to learn to win and lose graciously. And as we all know this is what most children find very difficult. But, difficult or not, this is a very important part of education. "When you have lost, saying 'thank you' (though gutted while biting your lip) to some opposition players let alone the referee – is acting of the highest order." Sport must be fun but it is also tough and it is another way of learning about yourself.

As teachers and coaches, we know what a wonderful window sport is to learn and observe different facets of little personalities. Sport allows us to see our pupils in situations that academic life would never give us and we are able to use this information in the classroom.

I was horrified to read about Jonathan Smith's daughter's experience at school. She was a very competitive little girl who loved sport and had a natural killer instinct. When she went to high school, sport was no longer compulsory and no longer competitive. Jonathan was saddened by the fact that it was too easy for her to give up sport and take up coffee and chats with her mates instead. He believed that her body and an important part of her personality was not being exercised.

As our Grade 6's and 7's move into their weeks of Academic Assessments, I was very glad to see Jonathan Smith state that pupils are every bit as likely to succeed in tests, they may even do better, if they take some form of exercise. "They may need the change of scene, the change of focus, the fresh air, the physical exercise, the fun and the farce, and – above all – the chance to forget themselves in play."

In many ways, Jonathan Smith and Cordwalles' thoughts on competitive sport are very similar. We both believe that competitive sport is an essential part of a child's school career. The team level is unimportant; it is the participation and the giving of one's best that is important. I agree strongly with him when he says that winning isn't everything. Some of the best sportsmanship can be observed in a team that loses. Mr Smith puts it so well in his book; "It is satisfying seeing the individual and collective effort, the mutual support, the refusal to give in and in a group of players who don't hide. How often have you seen all these things in defeat, especially in close games against superior opposition, with everyone fighting in the belief that it can still be won against all odds and everyone giving their best until the last moment."

Thank you Jonathan Smith for putting it so eloquently!

Lance Veenstra
3rd Master and Director of Sport

Birthdays

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

Mark Hadley-Grave	16 October
Nicolas Hohls, Curtis Louw	17 October
Thomas Koller, Mr Johannes Dlamini	19 October
Siyabonga Mpontshane, Ru Oosthuizen	20 October
Joel Sibiya	21 October
Cameron Durow	22 October

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

Recycling - G. Hall

As you may have noticed, the fence is being erected around the recycling point. Unfortunately, it is taking longer than anticipated. However, please bear with us and carry on collecting your recycling at home. Thank you for your patience.

Please could you separate the 3 different types of plastic at home and remove all lids. The plastic lids will go with the 'PP 5' plastic. I have had some kind offers of help, but still need a few more volunteers. It will entail committing to one hour a week: 07h00 – 08h00, on either a Tuesday, Wednesday **or** Thursday. Many thanks.

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.

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.

Toy Story - Janine Claassen

Every year, East Coast Radio embarks on a campaign that aims to bring festive cheer to those in need. But more so, it recognizes that thousands of children in KwaZulu Natal are without the basic necessities to live sustainably, and runs this campaign to help make a difference.

This campaign is "TOY STORY"

Toy Story 2009 launched early last month.

I have arranged with East Coast Radio to have Toy Story Collection Boxes placed at Cordwalles for any toys, food items, etc that you wish to donate to a very worthy cause. One will be placed in the entrance to the Pre-Primary, one in front of Ruth Forder's office and one will be placed outside the Grade 2 classrooms.

We collected a substantial number of toys, food, etc last year and believe we can do it again this year!!

Please open your hearts this festive season and make a donation – let us, as the Cordwalles family, help make a difference in someone's life. I strongly feel that our boys could all learn that "GIVING IS BETTER THAN RECEIVING".

Staff News

As you are aware, we have a number of staff members leaving at the end of this year. Should anyone like to contribute towards a gift for them from the school community, please will you place your contribution in an envelope marked for the Bursar's attention. Please indicate which staff member's gift you are contributing towards.

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.

My school card – Lisa Fourie

A reminder once more about swiping your My School Card at all participating shops. So far, all our efforts have paid for a drum kit for the Music Department and the sound systems in the Hamilton Media Centre, the dining room and the Tatham Lecture Theatre. The school has also just acquired a new juice machine for the boys in the dining room thanks to the My School fundraising scheme. The next possible purchase could be a much needed ice machine.

So please don't forget your My School card when out shopping especially with Christmas looming as every cent counts towards those wonderful 'extras'!!

Makro Rebate Program – Ruth Forder

Remember the Makro rebate program too, which is another excellent fundraising scheme for Cordwalles. The first amount of money received went towards the purchasing of 15 new Cordwalles umbrellas. If you do not have a card please collect an application form from Ruth.

Additional school shop times

From the last week in October, November, December and January there will be **additional** opening times **by appointment only**.

In November, appointments are available daily from Monday to Friday at different times.

December : Tuesday 1st December (08h30 – 11h30) Wednesday 2nd December (08h30 – 15h00)
 Thursday 3rd December (13h30 – 15h30) Friday 4th December (08h30 – 12h00)

January : Various times from Monday 11th January to Monday 18th January (excluding weekends).

Boarders : Return to school on Tuesday 19th January. Unfortunately due to staff meeting throughout the day the school shop will not be open.

Payment : Cash or Cheque for new parents (no credit card facilities). Current parents may pay on account unless buying full uniform then cash is required.

Please make your appointment (**including the January appointments**) with Lynn Clark by no later than Tuesday 1st December - phone 033 3423077 or email : clark_lynn@cordwalles.co.za.

Should parents of boys who are changing uniform (ie from Inky uniform to Pre-primary khakis) wish to purchase the uniforms during **normal shop hours** in October or November, please make an appointment with Sister Bastard in order to avoid congestion and long waits. Contact Lynn Clark – details above.

FROM THE SPORTS DESK - Lance Veenstra

Please note: the **U9C** have a game against St Charles at St Charles on the 31 October. This is not in the term calendar.

KZN Inland Under 13 Cricket Squad

Congratulations to Michael Dedekind, Matthew Lovatt, Ross Talmage and James Martin on their selection into the KZN Inland U13 cricket squad. They will play against teams from Free State, Griquas and KZN Coastals over the mid term break at St Charles College. After these matches, the Inland A and B teams will be announced at practice on 6th November.

KZN Midlands Under 12 Cricket Festival

This past weekend Mr Bause took 12 Cordwalles boys to the KZN Midlands U12 cricket festival at St Charles College and they played some excellent cricket which augurs well for next year. Those boys representing Northern Suburbs were Vaughan Bentley, Thomas Brink, Landon Campbell, Marc Conlon, Matthew Dahl, Victor Foster, John Haines, Daniel Hirshowitz, Dasyan Nair, Keagan Naude, James Strachan and Julian Yeats. As a 12th man for the Pietermaritzburg Invitational, Dasyan captured 4 wickets against Pmb (West) and Landon scored 30 runs against Pmb (North).

Northern Suburbs 148 for 4 in 30 overs (D.Hirschowitz 58 not out, J.Yeats 26, V.Foster 20 not out)

Northern Districts 22 for 1 in 4 overs.

No result due to rain.

Northern Suburbs 209 for 6 in 30 overs (D.Hirschowitz 37 not out, M.Conlon 37, J.Yeats 31, J.Strachan 28)

Central 103 all out in 27 overs (K.Naude 3-16)

Won by 106 runs.

Northern Suburbs 99 for 8 in 20 overs (M.Dahl 41) Pmb (East) 81 for 7 in 20 overs (V.Foster 3-14)

Won by 18 runs.

Chess Results

Results from the chess matches held on 12 October 2009:

Juniors

Cordwalles	14	Clifton (NR)	2
Cordwalles	9	Cowan House	7

Seniors

Cordwalles	11	Clifton (NR)	5
Cordwalles	6	Cowan House	10

Wednesday 14 October

Team	Opponent	Batted First	Batted Second	Result	Special Mention
5 th XI	Merchiston 5 th XI	Merchiston 208	Cordwalles 80 all out	Cordwalles lost by 128 runs	N Panas 18 D Anderson 13 D Nair 13
6 th XI	Merchiston 6 th XI	Cordwalles 77 all out	Merchiston 79	Merchiston won by 10 wickets	S Luthuli 26
7 th XI	Merchiston 7 th XI	Cordwalles 10 all out	Merchiston 11 for 4	Merchiston won by 6 wickets	
U11C	Merchiston U11C	Merchiston 98 for 1	Cordwalles 30 for 4	Cordwalles lost by 68 runs	
U11D	Merchiston U11D	Cordwalles 60 all out	Merchiston 61 for 2	Merchiston won by 8 wickets	A Cuturi 12 J Morar 2 for 17
U10C	Merchiston U10C	Merchiston 117 for 7	Cordwalles 100 all out	Cordwalles lost by 3 wickets	T Ntshulani 2 for 23 M Shozi 2 for 17 T Ntshulani 27*
U9B	Merchiston U9B	Cordwalles 70 for 6	Merchiston 71 for 3	Merchiston won by 7 wickets	
U9C	Merchiston U9D	Merchiston 97 for 3	Cordwalles 90 for 4	Merchiston won by 7 runs	C Hölls 14* L Xaba 17*