



NEWSLETTER No. 38  
19 November 2009

Dear Parents, Staff and boys

We are once again coming to the end of yet another very successful year at Cordwalles and I would like to spend some time in this newsletter thanking those who have contributed to this success. I am doing this in an attempt to shorten my speech on speech day as I am very aware that the boys are really only interested in listening to our guest speaker and then they want to see who gets prizes.

I have often said that the school community can be compared to a potjie. The three legs of the potjie which hold up the pot and ensure that the ingredients (the boys) are cooked to perfection comprise of the parents, the Board and the staff. Without the valuable contribution of one of these legs, the pot falls and the ingredients spill out. At Cordwalles we are very lucky to have sturdy legs that ensure the success of this very special school.

The first part of the potjie that I would like to thank for the success of 2009 is the ingredients ie the boys. It is really great to work with and empower such generally motivated and determined boys. We as teachers, really enjoy our jobs because of the children we encounter in the classroom, on the sports field and on the stage. Our boys at this school are talented and involved and this makes our job as the staff so much easier.

The second part I would like to recognize is the staff leg. Cordwalles is indeed privileged to have such a dedicated, hardworking and committed staff. Our teachers work way beyond the call of duty often assisting our boys after hours and at weekends. Their main motivation is to empower each of the boys in their care. They are the most important resource of the school and they are excellent at what they do. We owe them a great amount of gratitude for all they do.

At this point I would specifically like to thank our very hard working and professional executive. Mark Whitelaw has done an outstanding job with the day to day running of the school, the discipline, the senior primary academics, and the development of staff and parent relationships. Lance Veenstra has effectively and proficiently ensured that the sport is organized and run superbly. It has been amazing how quickly he has grown into this particular job. We thank Franzl Bause for his enormous contribution to the Boarding House and the Chapel. Sharon Scott has done an excellent job in leading and running the Junior Primary section. The Pre Primary has been very ably lead by Carol Fourie and this year she and her staff have been especially busy due to their moving into their new buildings. Our finances at the school are very carefully and expertly handled by Antoinette Hankinson who controls the money in a proficient and professional manner. Ruth Forder is our very hardworking, loyal and energetic PRO and Marketing person who gets through an enormous amount of work each day. We really appreciate the enormous amount of work each of these executive members do for the school.

I would like to mention a further two ladies who make a huge contribution to the school and they rarely receive the recognition they deserve. Our two hardworking secretaries Lynn Clark and Jane Elsworth are outstanding assets to Cordwalles. Their friendly and positive dispositions as well as their professionalism, diligence and loyalty need to be saluted. Thank you so much for all you do.

As far as our staff is concerned, we also thank our support staff at the school. The grounds and maintenance staff, the cleaners and kitchen staff as well as their very hard working managers, Fred Potter, Michael Webster, Gayle Bastard and Denise van der Merwe should be applauded for all they do for the school.

We now turn to the second leg, namely the Board. We are most grateful to all our Board members who spend many hours in meeting discussing and contributing to the future success of this school. Locke Purdon, our dedicated and involved chairman, must be thanked for all the time he gives to Cordwalles and for the wise counsel he provides. Each of the Heads of the sub committees of the Board also should be thanked for their contribution. Gill Platt heads up the PRO and Marketing committee, while Duncan Taylor is in charge of the finance committee. Graham Evans heads up and leads our Property and Maintenance committee. We really appreciate all that our Board Members do so willingly and without financial reward for the school.

The third leg of the potjie constitutes the parents at the school. Generally Cordwalles parents are supportive and engaged with the life of the school. Many of our parents serve on various committees and others assist the school in numerous ways. Our Parents Association is ably led by Cameron Mackenzie. We are most grateful to this group of parents who assist us with raising funds for the school, being a channel of communication between parents and the school as well as providing opportunities for parents to interact and connect on a social level. We applaud the PA of 2009 who were able to raise of R200 000 for the school. This money has been put to very good use by assisting with the staff housing upgrade and the upgrade of the Hollows cricket nets.

We are most appreciative of all the hard work our class parents have done through the year. They meet with me twice a term to discuss issues of concern but they also contribute by doing, amongst other things, assisting our class teachers, helping new boys and parents acclimatize to the school, organizing the admin block flowers, decorating the foyer to the theatre and communicating to the parents in the class for the PA. We thank them most sincerely for all they do.

Bev Brink and the Parents who Care meet every Wednesday morning to pray for our school. We really appreciate what they continue to do for Cordwalles and the many prayers and thoughts they offer up for the benefit of the school.

Other individual parents who should be thanked for their enormous contribution include Patrick Ledin who has assisted us with our computers. He has helped set up a data base for Charlotte Usher and the old boys club. He has also assisted me with devising a computer generated bully survey. He has done all this out of the kindness of his heart. Sonja Purdon needs to be congratulated and thanked for all she does for our excellent Cordwalles website.

As you can see from the above, our Cordwalles potjie is very well positioned with supporting and hard working parents, staff and boys. We really do appreciate all that has been done by the many different people involved with Cordwalles. Each contribution has added enormously to the success of the school. 2009 has been an excellent year and this can be attributed to the wonderful teamwork we have.

Simon Weaver  
Headmaster

### **Birthdays**

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

Aashiv Soni	22 November
Ronald Goedeke, Robert Knoop, Tyron Warren	23 November
Thomas Brink, Nicholas Teichmann	24 November
Mikyle Reddy	26 November

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

### **East Coast Radio Toy Box** – Janine Claassen

Many schools have come on board to collect toys to help bring festive cheer to thousands of underprivileged children throughout KwaZulu Natal. We at Cordwalles need to be part of this amazing campaign too. Please bring your contribution and drop it into any one of the boxes that can be found either in the Andrew Rattray Pre-primary, outside Ruth Forder's office or outside Sharon Scott's Grade 2 classroom.

### **Back to School – Double MySchool Points in January 2010** Lisa Fourie

Toys R Us and Waltons are ready to support Cordwalles DOUBLE! Use your MySchool card at any Toys R Us or Waltons store during January 2010 and they will donate double their normal contribution to our school. *Please do not forget to use your MySchool card at any one of the many shops that are a member of this excellent fundraising scheme!*

### **Staff News**

We are very pleased to announce that Mr Chris Porter has been appointed Support Services Manager as from January 2010. Chris will be overseeing all the grounds, maintenance and cleaning staff as well as all project management of contractors. We look forward to welcoming Chris to our staff. We were hoping that Fred Potter would remain in our restructured maintenance team. However he has decided to leave the school at the end of the year. We thank him for the enormous contribution he has made to the school over the past 7 years and we wish him well in his new venture.

We are sad to announce that Mrs Carol Haines has decided to retire from teaching music at Cordwalles. Carol has taught music at Cordwalles for about 23 years. We wish her well in her retirement and hopes she enjoys being a fulltime granny.

Jenny Calitz has decided to concentrate all her time at The Wykeham Collegiate from next year, so unfortunately we will not benefit from her expertise next year. We wish her well and hope she enjoys only teaching the girls.

### **Leaving Staff Farewell Function**

The farewell function for the staff members who are leaving is on Thursday 26 November at 18h00. Please let your son's class teacher know if you are attending. All non Cordwalles parents who would like to attend this function are most welcome, however for catering purposes we do need to know if you are attending. Please contact Lynn Clark on 033 3423077 or [clark\\_lynn@cordwalles.co.za](mailto:clark_lynn@cordwalles.co.za)

### **Final Assembly**

Many boys in grades 4 – 7 will receive awards at Final Assembly on Wednesday 25 November 2009. All parents are most welcome to attend this function. It starts at 09h00 and will take about 2 hours.

## **FROM THE SPORTS DESK** - Lance Veenstra

- ✓ From next year all boys will be required to use cricket helmets. This is a directive from the KwaZulu Natal Cricket Union. Please remember that only blue or green helmets are allowed at Cordwalles.
- ✓ Rugby boots must be predominantly black and gum guards which are compulsory for rugby and hockey, must be either clear or white. Rugby headgear may be either black or grey.

### Cricket Results

#### **Thursday 12 November**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Batted First</b>	<b>Batted Second</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Special Mention</b>
U10B	Highbury	Highbury 164 for 2	Cordwalles 120 all out	Highbury won by 44 runs	J Oosthuizen 20 M Shozi 18

#### **Saturday 14 November**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Batted First</b>	<b>Batted Second</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Special Mention</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Highbury	Cordwalles 150 all out	Highbury 151 for 8	Highbury won by 2 wickets	M Conlon 40 J Strachan 30 M Hadley-Grave 5 - 17
4 <sup>th</sup> XI	Highbury	Cordwalles 95 for 8	Highbury 97 for 8	Highbury won by 2 wickets	B Smith 3 - 21 A Atuhaire 4 - 21
U11B	Highbury	Highbury 135 for 6	Cordwalles 30 all out	Highbury won by 105 runs	A Mthlane 2 – 11
U9C	St Charles	Cordwalles 64 for 2	St Charles 65 for 3	St Charles won by 7 wickets	J.C Torino 16

### **Holiday Programmes**

There are numerous flyers available from Mr Veenstra's office regarding a wide range of holiday programmes on offer.

#### **Learning through fun, adventure and friendship**

30 November – 4 December	Grades 4 – 7	R995
30 November – 4 December	Grades RR – 3	R725
7 December – 11 December	Grades 4 – 7	R995
7 December – 11 December	Grade RR – 3	R725

Forms are available from outside Mr Veenstra's sports equipment room. For further enquiries please phone 071 0718254 or email [experience@x-axis.co.za](mailto:experience@x-axis.co.za) for more details.