



Riverside College

Corner Cellars & Carmine Drive Burgundy Estate
Ph nr: 021 802 2001

19 June 2020

Dear Parents

Are you Listening?

There's an old story about six young men applying for one job at the telegraph office. The applicants all knew Morse code, so they filled out the applications the secretary gave them with confidence and sat waiting to be called into the office for an interview.

A few minutes later, one young man got up and walked into the office. The others were amazed at his nerve. But the secretary explained, "While you've all been sitting there, the telegraph was repeatedly tapping out a message. It said, 'If you can hear this, come in. You have got the job.'"

The message was there for all of them, but only one was listening.

It is intriguing to think that the world, and everything in it, might be a message sent to each of us, yet only some will receive it...

Are you listening?

C. Marais

Fees & school closures

There have been a number of articles lately reporting on the closure of smaller private schools due to the non-payment of school fees during lockdown. Many parents believe that schools are saving money during the lockdown and for this reason they don't have to pay fees. Unfortunately, it is not true that schools have a saving whilst they are "closed". Most of the running costs are fixed and when the payment for these cannot be honoured the school runs a risk of closing.

We therefore respectfully request that parents honour their school fee payments to avoid putting Riverside College at risk of having to lay off more staff or possibly default on payments.

Camp Fees

As you know, the learners were booked to go on camp in April. This was a booking that was made and paid for long in advance. When the lockdown was implemented, we preliminary postponed the camp to the 4th term. Should we not be able to go on camp later this year a credit will be passed on your last school fee invoice for 2020.

Important dates

| | |
|---------------|---|
| End of Term 2 | 18 June |
| Term 3 | 14 July – 22 September – <i>Teachers return on 13 July – 23 September</i> |
| Term 4 | 06 October – 2 December – <i>Teachers return 05 October – 4 December</i> |

Term 2 Reports

Please take note reports for Term 2 will be sent out after 24 June 2020.

Message from our principal Mr. D Swart

We are currently faced with so much change, so much we have to adapt to and accept and get used to that it almost feels as though everyone and everything around us is simply going crazy. People all around are looking like frightened deer and are permanently in "fight or flight" mode, which is creating so much more anxiety and panic than there should be. Stand still for just a moment...breathe...now look around you and notice all the beauty that you have been missing, all the natural wonders that are taking place all around you. Breathe in the fresh air and allow it to reach your lungs...can you feel that? Can you feel the air tickling the back of your throat, making its way down into your lungs? Feel the rush of blood coursing through your veins on its way to feed your limbs. That is the miracle and the beauty of life...enjoy it, be amazed by it, and appreciate it!

People, everything will return to normal again...yes, it might be a new normal, but since when has new been bad? Take a page from your children...they have come through this term and so many of them have excelled beyond expectation. Some have improved their results by as much as 20% in some areas, and yet they all started at the beginning not knowing what was going to happen. How would they manage online learning, how would they know what to do? It was all new and yet now that we are standing at the finish line, we realize that it all came so easily. It all came together because we all just did what we had to do, and we did it together without panic and mayhem. It might still take a while for us to realize and appreciate what we have accomplished, but I know that it was extra ordinary, because in a time of uncertainty and panic we as a community at Riverside College pulled together, stuck together and made a difference...we breathed in the face of panic and fear and we have set a new standard and a new pace for ourselves and you were all a part of that.

I am extremely proud of all our learners, our teachers and the parents who joined us on this magical journey that we have been on, thank you for not becoming part of the masses that wanted to spend all their time on negative thoughts. We have learned and taught our children some incredibly valuable lessons in the past few weeks and I know that we will all be better equipped should we face difficulties like this again. You were all amazing and I salute you, because it is always easier to shy away in fear and uncertainty than it is to face the battle and become a warrior of and for change.

Weekly Report on Health Screening at School:

| Description | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| • Number of screenings | 398 | 295 | 19 |
| • Highest Temperature | 37 | 37 | 36.6 |
| • Lowest Temperature | 33.6 | 35.6 | 35.4 |
| • Refusal for Entry | None | None | None |
| • Quarantine | None | None | None |

Have an amazing holiday and remember to experience the beauty around you!

Kind regards
High School Teachers