



# Riverside College

Corner Cellars & Carmine Drive Burgundy Estate  
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30 October 2020

Dear Parents,

The struggles of our lives:

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter.

He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in. Turning to her, he asked. *"Daughter, what do you see?"*

*"Potatoes, eggs and coffee,"* she hastily replied. *"Look closer"* he said, *"and touch the potatoes."* She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

*"Father, what does this mean?"* she asked. He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity - the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new. *"Which one are you?"* he asked his daughter.

"When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

## Moral of the story:

In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is how you choose to react to it and what you make out of it. Life is all about learning, adopting and converting all the struggles that we experience into something positive.

Ms Chapman

## Important dates

Term 4	06 October – 11 December <i>Teachers return 05 October – 15 December</i>
05 November	Gr 12 Final Exams Start
16 November	School finishes at 13:00 during exams
16 Nov – 9 Dec	Gr 7 – 11 Final Exams
11 December	Prize Giving for Gr 7-11 (no parents; learners only)
<b>11 December</b>	<b>Last day of school for 2020 (Gr 7-11 finish at 11h30)</b>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR GRADE 12 LEARNERS WRITE UNTIL THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER!**

### **Examination Timetable**

Learners were handed the revised exam timetable today and it will be emailed to parents in due course.

### **Examination Rules and Regulations**

All learners from Grade 4 – 11 have received the rules and regulations pertaining to the November examination period. Please go through the rules with your child to ensure that they understand the importance of abiding by these rules. Please sign and return the tear off slip to the class teacher by Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2020.

### **Individual and Sibling Photographs**

Order forms for individual and sibling photos were handed out today. Please complete order form and return to your class teacher. Deadline for orders is 6 November 2020.

### **Return of Trophies**

Learners who received trophies last year and have not returned them must please do so by Monday 2 November 2020.

### **Message from our principal Mr. D Swart**

Today marked the end of the academic school year for the matriculants of 2020. They are now in full study mode and will start their final exams on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

In the not too distant future, your own child will be standing at this very scary, yet amazing point in their lives and we trust that they will be ready to take on the responsibilities that go with the territory.

The only way we can ensure that they are ready is to show them through our own actions what they need to be doing and how they should be doing it. This is not a time for, just do what I say, but rather, a time for us to step up and lead the way for our children. It is very easy to pass the responsibility to the school, the teachers and the sport coaches, but the onus still and always will rest with the parents.

Parenting is definitely not the easiest job in the world but by the time your child gets to school you should have had enough practice to know how to support them through the tough times.

Your child is responsible for his/her homework, tasks and studying, but they cannot do this alone. They need you to help them – not dictate to them or do it for them – help them organize themselves, allow them uninterrupted time for studying, a quiet corner where they are comfortable and have access to the materials they need. They need to eat balanced meals and they need to get enough sleep.

You will be surprised how important a word of encouragement every now and then is to them, and lots and lots of love and praise for the little things that they do get right. It is so easy to forget that they too have feelings that get hurt...that they too feel down some days and that just like you and I there are days that they just can't get a grip on everything.

Be kind with your words and genuine with your love and affection ... life is valuable but oh so fragile!

Have an awesome weekend  
Keep safe  
High School Staff