



# THE RIDGE SCHOOL



## From the Headmaster's Desk

June 2018 #9

### Dear Parents

The winter solstice is upon us which means that we can certainly expect to feel Jack Frost's icy grip with a good deal more intensity in the weeks immediately ahead. In addition, of course, the midway point of the year also coincides with our half-term break and the chance to enjoy a few days of relative quiet before gathering ourselves for a final five weeks and the related run-in to the end of term. Before doing so, however, this brief newsletter provides a chance for me to bring mums and dads up to speed on a few important matters.

### Staff News

With Mike MacFarlane (Head of Grade 6) leaving us at the end of the term in order to take up his position as Deputy Head at St John's Prep School, we are pleased to inform Grade 6 and 7 parents that Mike's teaching responsibilities for the 3rd Term will be taken up by Helen Popplewell. Helen is a recently retired headmistress who is eminently well suited to take on this locum position. A decision on a permanent replacement will be made in due course with that person starting in January 2019. Mike's class teacher duties and responsibilities will be handed over to Damian Pakkiri.

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news that Reuben Mandlazi, Head of JP Sport, will be leaving The Ridge at the end of July. Mr Mandlazi has been offered a once in a lifetime job opportunity by Gauteng Cricket. Reuben has enjoyed a stellar two and a half years with us and has taken JP sport to a completely new level. He will be sorely missed. I am pleased to share too, though, that we have found an exciting young locum to work under Reuben, for the month of July, in preparation for standing in for him during the 3rd Term. Chris Ndobe will be introduced to boys, staff and parents after half term.



### Management and Control of Discipline in the Senior Primary

Parents will be aware that with Mr Verster having needed to relinquish the role of Master-in-Charge of Discipline, it has been necessary to reassign this important boy-centred management portfolio. In the light of us taking this opportunity to consider and begin planning for a longer term management restructuring strategy, I have decided to institute a temporary system that will serve to provide the necessary manpower, safeguards and support. As such, I have asked Nico Seakamela (Head of Grade 5 and Head of Pastoral Care - Middle School) and Moeketsi Motsepe (Head of Whole School Transformation and Social Cohesion) to share the portfolio. Both men have been happy to do so. They have worked hard in recent days to familiarize themselves with related policies and practice, and so are already firmly in the driving seat.

### Driving behaviour and habits in and around the school grounds

Sadly, this would seem to have become a regular and, at the very least, a termly reminder and appeal. I'm afraid to say that we still have mums and dads who show scant regard for safe and correct driving behaviour and etiquette. Excessive speed, a

If they do it often,  
it isn't a mistake;  
it's just their behavior.

- Dr. Steve Maraboli

selfish mindset, and thoughtless parking / stopping habits have again been noticed on more than one occasion by certain people. I would hate to get to the stage when I am forced, in the interests of child safety, to name and shame offenders.



I am appealing again to all who are responsible for driving into and through the school grounds and parking areas, as well as all of us who travel through the neighbourhood of Westcliff, to drive with utmost caution, not to exceed the 10km/hour speed limit whilst in the school grounds, and to be courteous of other drivers and their passengers.

## Sporting Season Shifts

With the world's eyes firmly locked on Russia and the Football World Cup it is appropriate that we are able to focus attention on 'the beautiful game' here at The Ridge. With rugby having given way to football, the majority of lads will have started to enjoy the many happy experiences associated with the very popular 'round ball' game.



Whilst not being nearly as emotionally charged as rugby, there is, as always, lots to look forward to when as parents we can get involved in and enjoy supporting our Ridge teams during the month of July. A reminder that every boy, Grade 3 to 7 is expected to play football during the next five weeks as we anticipate a number of entertaining inter-school football fixtures against traditional rival schools.

## A Final Word

Still on the subject of the FIFA World Cup, William Mills presented the school with a one off, personalized, framed Liberian national football team kit worn and donated by George Weah. It will not be lost on too many that the same George Weah is the newly inaugurated President of Liberia having come into power on the 22 January 2018 following the 2017 general elections.

Through the thoughtful and generous interaction of Dr Greg Mills, The Ridge School is now the proud recipient of a truly unique memento that displays the actual football kit worn by one of Africa's greatest ever football players. George Weah became the first, and to date only, African player to win the FIFA World Player of the Year Award and the Ballon d'Or. This feat he achieved in 1995.

I wish you all a relaxing and quiet half term break, safe travels if you are journeying elsewhere, and God's blessings and covering.

Warm regards

Handwritten signature of Richard Stanley.

Richard Stanley  
Headmaster

