

3 June 2010

Dear Parents

We are fast approaching the mid-year break and we can look back on a successful second term. Parent interviews, the Eisteddfod, exams and Departmental assessments have been interspersed with derby days, interaction with Clarendon, Olympiads and several social occasions which have all kept us very busy.

Interviews for next years Pups' intake have been completed and I am pleased with the quality of families wishing to have their sons at Selborne. On Saturday 22 May I witnessed the involvement of Pups parents at their annual Games Day! It was outstanding to say the least and I look forward to this enthusiasm being carried over to the Primary come January next year!

The new IT centre adjoining the library is in the final stages of completion and will be in full operation next term. It will certainly provide the boys with the very best and further enhance the curriculum for some years to come. We thank the Governing Body for their foresight and for assisting with the project from its inception. The Governing Body has also seen fit to appoint an IT specialist who will be based here at Selborne and also assist Clarendon Primary maintain their IT programme. He will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> September and add much needed expertise to our two schools.

As I write, we are writing our final Provincial Assessment papers. The implementation of this assessment has not been without its problems. You have, I am sure, read of SADTU's illegal disruption at collection points, papers riddled with mistakes and in some cases being far too difficult for the boys. However we have completed the exercise and the results will be added in part to our own assessment for the term. Once again I ask you to spend time with your son and to take appropriate action should results not be up to scratch. Many of our boys have done exceptionally well and we congratulate them on their conscientious approach to their work.

A number of Grade 7's have not submitted their applications for the College. I have sent through those handed in at our office and the remainder must now be forwarded to the College personally. Please remember that even should you have applied at another chosen school it is always advisable to have a "back up" application submitted to the College should your chosen high school reject your application. Every year we have tears from boys who find themselves "homeless" come December.

The Womens' Committee held a very successful dinner/dance on Friday 28 May. A "full house" enjoyed the good food and music and demonstrated that Selbornians have the capacity to work and play exceptionally hard. Congratulations to Lynn Wood, Gail Connellan and their helpers for a "Xmas in Winter" to remember.

Towards the end of next term the PTA, Mom's Committee and Fathers' Club will combine to present Centre Stage in the big tent. Many of you will remember the "party of the year" with those talented musicians and you will have another opportunity this year of joining in the fun. The function will be held over two evenings Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

The Big Walk will also take place next term with the proceeds being dedicated to our new IT Lab. Technology is very expensive and we are looking forward to a bumper collection this year. All our classrooms have now been equipped with data projectors and our teachers with laptops. This will enable them to bring the internet to their classes which will greatly enhance their teaching.

Some areas of concern:-

1. Some boys are wearing uniforms which do nothing for the image of our school! Please check that clothing and shoes are in good repair before the boys return next term. Please mark each item!
2. The parking area is becoming more and more congested. We are seriously considering closing the campus to all vehicles other than staff. This is the case at most schools and the situation is, apart from anything else, dangerous for the boys who use the road in considerable numbers at certain times of the day. Please use the parking areas in Allenby Road and the Joan Harrison whenever possible.
3. A number of boys are being left at school long after normal sport ends. This not only inconveniences the guard who is only employed till 18h00 but borders on child abuse. Some staff have even taken boys home, fed and bathed them and when finally contact is made with the parent are greeted with "I thought he was at home!" This is totally unacceptable! Those few who are guilty – please make a plan.

After the rugby and hockey matches against Grey PE this weekend, the U13A Rugby team will be travelling to Cape Town to play Rondebosch, Wynberg and Paarl Boys. We wish them and their coaches Mr Robertson and Mr Andy Reeves everything of the best as they seek to return unbeaten.

To those travelling to PE travel safely and we look forward to a successful weekend both on and off the field. Let us all enter into the spirit of the games and refrain from any negativity which could spoil the experience for our boys.

To all our parents and their families we as the Selborne staff wish you a very happy holiday time together. To all of you who have contributed to the success of the second term – we appreciate your efforts no matter how small. Bless you!

Hopefully we South Africans will have something to celebrate over the next few weeks! May the World Cup be kind to us.

Kind regards

**D J VOKE**

Headmaster

P.S. We congratulate Gareth Sincock and Julie Beling on completing the Comrades within the stipulated time.

"Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow"

