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2020

SEPTEMBER

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CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

RON BOON

A year ago who would have thought that all of us would be living in a 'new world' just one year later! COVID-19 has been to the human race what a tornado or a hurricane can be to the area in which it wreaks its devastation. It wreaks havoc, flinging both property and people in all directions.

Yes, there is turmoil and a mixture of feelings after something like a hurricane, but the fact of the matter is that things do recover and return to normal – at least until the next tornado or hurricane arrives. Once one has been exposed to something like a tornado or a hurricane, measures are put in place to better deal with such a situation to ensure less future destruction and loss of life. All the while, life goes on. Such occurrences see needs and expectations changing.

Life in general and life in business, amongst both suppliers and customers, is impacted. At Rundle College, this relates to the education being provided and to those using the offering. The critical touch points and value systems can either be enhanced or diluted. The fact of the matter is that, unlike an existent offering such as clothing; a car or a building, emotions and emotional connections, which are the very essence of life, cannot easily be measured and accounted for.

In the initial phases of the Covid-19 lockdown, focus was on resistance to being infected by the virus, to survival, both from a personal and an economic perspective, for the breadwinners in the home.

In education, it is no easy task to create innovations that can overcome shortcomings caused by an uncontrollable force. Innovative and futuristic ability is a skill possessed by a few and those that have this ability tend to be at the forefront of their field. Being able to challenge norms, to question and redesign regular experiences, leads to greater future success. An excellent inherent system makes it easier to survive and progress once the hurricane hits!

The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged Rundle College but it has simultaneously shown that Rundle College is an innovator and a leader in its field of education. Think for a moment about recent history. The fact that 9 Rundle College students have won Top Student Awards from Cambridge International Education in the last 5 years endorses the innovation and the quality of offering at the school. Dr Stuart Colesky has previously told me that he used to manage schools that had thousands of students enrolled and in a decade, they were unable to win even one Top Student Award. He was concerned that the initial success enjoyed by Rundle College would be difficult to sustain, but time has shown that it has not only been sustained but it has been built upon.

Rundle College will continue to revamp our students' school experience, cultivating creative thinkers with resilient and effective minds and thought processes. A good school experience leads to greater commitment, purpose and satisfaction and a better future life.

Covid-19 has shown that:

- Student and staff safety and well-being will remain of paramount importance. During the past few months, some students may have felt a little stressed and isolated, whilst others may have enjoyed the change of process and working virtually but alone at home. Whatever the status, the fact is that Covid-19 has changed perceptions and routines.
- It can generally be accepted that the top achievers sustained and even increased their efforts whilst in lockdown. For this group an example of a positive from being alone rather than in a class is that there are fewer distractions when alone, with consequent greater focus.
- The majority of students have found school a little more challenging. There are both real and emotional reasons for this. Aside from missing the companionship of peers and colleagues at school, elements of stress can lead to reduced engagement and inferior performance (against each student's norms).
- Productivity (in terms of output) and effectiveness propel focus and accountability. At the same time personal well-being and collaboration with teachers and peers is important. Besides improving productivity, they can also provide early warnings if a student is feeling stressed.
- Well-being and collaboration measures include touch points between teachers and students, individual mood levels and how students are coping with their work.
- The team needs to be connected. This relates to both teachers and students. Regular interaction helps to sustain a united team and a sense of community, even when those involved are working remotely.
- Frequent touch points present opportunities to discuss things like performance versus expectations, personal well-being and what needs to be prioritised. It also allows success to be acknowledged and celebrated.

Congratulations must go to Dr Stuart Colesky and his high quality team of teachers for working so successfully in uncharted territory these past few months. They have displayed excellent skills and they have sustained high standards of education, despite the challenges that have been encountered. Thanks are also due to the Rundle College families for their continued support and appreciation during this challenging time. Despite the Covid-19 hurricane, we are in a good space!

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

DR STUART COLESKY

I somehow feel that this year has passed by extremely quickly. Let us be honest, 2020 so far is not exactly a year we would want to have repeated. In just over a week we will break for a well-deserved holiday and start the external Cambridge exams only a few weeks after that. Effectively then the seniors of the school will start their external examinations and their year will have come to an end.

Last week we held the matric farewell. Gone are the days of partners arriving in fancy cars being welcomed by fellow students and onlookers. Circumstances dictated a very different event. A small function was held at the Augusta Grill restaurant where a few of the matrices and their partners got together for a meal. With numbers being limited, the group was small but we were still able to have a pleasant evening with a great opportunity to celebrate together and share a meal. I am sure Hanlerie will share some photographs next term so keep an eye out for them!

This year we were also forced to do our IGCSE subject selection evening in a very different format. This is when the student selects their subjects for IGCSE for the first time. This usually takes place around August in grade 9 and we start with a short career orientation to help the students start thinking about careers and subjects that will best suit their careers. We select seven subjects to align with a particular career track. We have found that seven subjects are an ideal number of subjects giving us a wide enough range to plan for a career. Usually this takes place at Kenako with parents included so that they can ask questions and become involved in the discussion of subject selection and career orientation. Due to circumstances this year, we have done this at school with the students only and had discussions around the various subjects and their impact on career choices. I have also offered the opportunity to parents who wish to make an appointment to meet with me and discuss this in greater detail.

The same applies for the students in their second year of IGCSE. They have already selected their AS subjects and, where necessary, we have met to discuss subject choices to ensure that the required combination of subjects is selected to match the career direction. It seems as if the lockdown has had another impact on some students in that some have decided to delay their university studies and instead opt to take a number of A-level subjects next year. Next year is going to be very interesting and, if the responses from the students are anything to go by, we will have a large cohort of A-level students.

A few of our matrices have already been accepted provisionally into various universities for next year. We are extremely proud of them and look forward to hearing about their achievements and successes next year.

We wish you all a well-deserved break and look forward to seeing you again at the beginning of next term.



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LITERACY INITIATIVE



Outstanding Achievements

Saving Lives - Rundle College Blood Drive

Blood is a precious resource that ANYONE over the age of 16 can give to someone in need. If it were not for blood donors, life-saving medical treatment for children with life-threatening anaemia, trauma victims, and women with pregnancy related complications; organ transplants; bone marrow transplants; complicated surgical procedures and cancer treatments would not be possible.

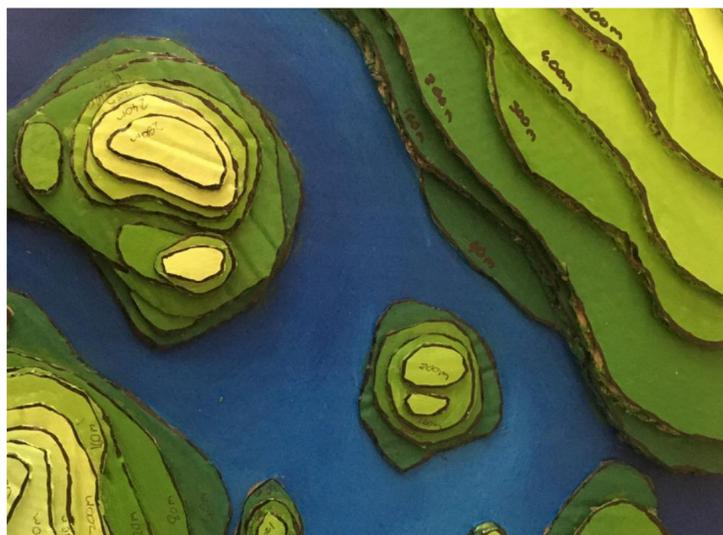
On Thursday, 20 August, the Western Cape Blood Service and Rundle College teamed up for a community blood drive. Thank you to all the students, parents, teachers and members of the public who donated blood and to the Western Cape Blood Service professional staff members who always take such great care of everyone and make it an enjoyable experience.

Blood stock levels in the Western Cape are currently on two days. Please donate blood urgently at your closest blood donation venue. The Coronavirus (Covid-19) cannot be transmitted through a blood transfusion. All members willing to donate blood will need to wear a face mask and sanitize their hands before entering the premises.



What are Contour Lines?

Contour lines are lines on a map which join places of equal height on a topographical map. They also help map readers to identify the type of relief which can be found in a certain area. The Checkpoint 3 Rundle College students had to use their knowledge of contour lines to create 3-D models based on the contour lines they designed themselves.



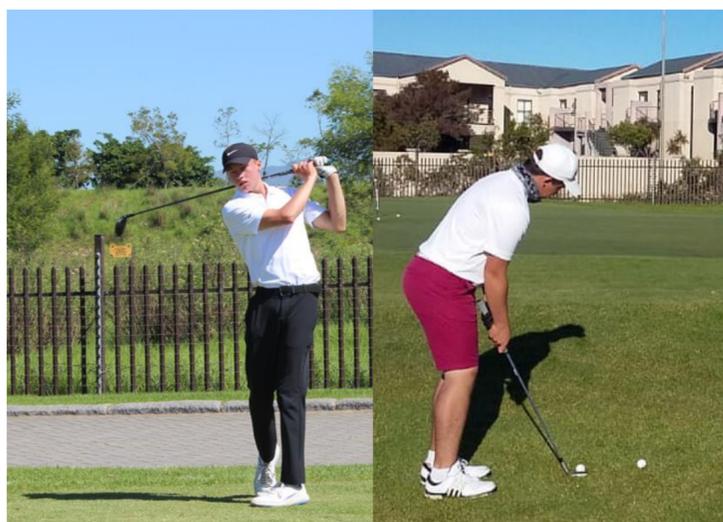
Jaydon Liddell T3rd in Patsy Parsons George Junior Open

Congratulations to KeNako Academy golfer and Rundle College IG1 (Grade 10) student Jaydon Liddell who finished tied 3rd in the Patsy Parsons George Junior Open that was played on Sunday, 2 August. Jaydon shot 5 over par 77 in the Southern Cape Golf Tournament. Well played Jaydon.



Matthew Bramford & Mike Saxer T13th in Pinnacle Point Open

On Sunday, 9 August, a field of amateur golfers teed off in the Pinnacle Point Open at Pinnacle Point Golf Club in Mossel Bay. Pinnacle Point is a beautiful course that is notoriously difficult when the wind blows! The best performing KeNako Academy golfers were Matthew Bramford and Mike Saxer who shot 6 over par 78 to finish tied 13th. Agib Hughes and Jay Nathwani were 1 shot behind them to finish tied 18th. It's really great for Rundle College that these 4 young men come from 4 different countries - Zimbabwe, Switzerland, Australia and Tanzania respectively.



PREPARATORY NEWS

As we start nearing the end of term 3, I can't quite fathom that we have managed to get through a whole term so quickly! I remember the uncertainty at the end of last term as though it was just yesterday, and what felt like a big hurdle in front of all us to attempt school back in the classroom.

I would like to thank and congratulate all the students, parents and teachers for handling the situation so well and adapting to our new 'normal' with such ease. It has been such a pleasure for all the teachers to be back in the classroom and doing what we are all so passionate about.

Last week, I handed out merit badges to the Grade 4 – 7 students. They were so incredibly proud to receive these badges and it is due to their hard work and effort that they have been rewarded. I would like to congratulate each one of them on this amazing achievement.

The merit system has been set up that after 3 merits a green alert will be sent home to the parents explaining what the 3 merits were awarded for. After 9 merits a merit certificate and badge is achieved. The merit certificates and badges categories are as follows: basic (9 merits), bronze (18 merits), silver (27 merits), gold (36 merits), platinum (45 merits) and diamond (54 merits).

Congratulations to the following students on their achievements, keep up the amazing work.

Grade 4:

Kylie Bester - Gold

Bamanye Blou - Silver

Justin Vercuil - Silver

Emma Labuschagne - Platinum

Grade 5:

Husnaa Adam - Platinum

Jacques Fouche - Platinum

Grade 6:

Henré Ferreira- Gold

Kristen Grant - Platinum

Luke Scott- Platinum

Grade 7:

Adin Kitching - Basic

Sima Pongoma - Basic

Ava Smith - Diamond

Lucia Venter - Basic

Logan Mostert - Basic

To those students who haven't received a badge yet, keep working, you still have a term to get there and we as teachers believe in you!

Enjoy the upcoming holiday, stay safe and we look forward to the last term of 2020.

SHARON ELAN-PUTTICK

Progressive Education; Extraordinary People

Progressive Education

Make Learning Interesting

Rundle College - where learning is not just about worksheets but education is introduced in creative and exciting ways to keep students engaged and excited. The Grade R learners had fun during their maths lesson with playdough number mats.



Students Awarded Merit Badges

Congratulations to all the Rundle College preparatory students who have shown excellent character and upheld the Rundle name by obtaining merit badges. Rundle College is proud of you! It was an honour for Preparatory Head Ms Sharon Puttick to hand out the badges to the students. In Grade 4: Kylie Bester, Bamanye Blou Justin Verkuil and Emma Labuschagne. In Grade 5: Husnaa Adam and Jacques Fouche. In Grade 6: Henré Ferreira, Kristen Grant (online student) and Luke Scott. In Grade 7 (Checkpoint 1): Adin Kitching, Sima Pongoma, Ava Smith, Lucia Venter (online student) and Logan Mostert (online student).



My Family, My Life Speech

The best gift given to all living beings on Earth is a family. The Grade 2 students enjoyed introducing their family members to the rest of their classmates during their first English oral. Some family members are wild at heart and make them laugh for hours on end, whilst others are full of fascinating stories about the past, others smother them with hugs and kisses and teach them valuable life lessons. It is wonderful to hear that the students are surrounded by love, joy and happiness.



Bubble Magic!

The Grade 4 and 5 Rundle College students studied the difference between solids, liquids and gases and in the process learnt about the science behind blowing bubbles. Jacques Fouche experimented with how to blow a bubble within another bubble and how each bubble has to accommodate the air trapped inside it with each new bubble that is blown. The mixture consisted of water, sugar and dishwashing liquid. So much science – so much fun!



How Much Flour?

Make and bake with a learning purpose. The Grade 2 class learnt all about measurements in mathematics. The students participated in a fun baking session guided by their teacher Ms Hester La Grange.



FORMER HEAD GIRL CHARNAY WILLIAMS ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

A heartfelt letter from former Rundle College Head Girl of 2015 and KeNako Academy golf student to Rundle College and KeNako Golf & Sports Academy Chairman and Founder Ron Boon:

Dear Uncle Ron,

I would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you for everything you have done getting me to where I am today. KeNako has had a major role in shaping me into who I am and my development as an adult. Not only did my passion for golf grow, I also received a great education at Rundle College, which has been a key to my success thus far. I have also grown tremendously as a person as a result of my experience at KeNako.

Throughout my high school career, I always had the dream of studying internationally, and at the time it seemed quite far-fetched. I remember mentioning it in a speech actually. Little did I know that it would become a reality.

I've had the privilege of being able to study in a college in the United States. And in May of last year, I graduated Magna Cum Laude. KeNako Academy and golf opened the door to the scholarship and Rundle College and its high quality international education provided an amazing foundation for my academic success at College in the USA. None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for your generosity, Uncle Ron. I just hope that my story inspires others to expand their horizons and follow their dreams regardless of their background. I also hope that others are motivated to completely invest themselves into the KeNako program because it is extremely rewarding.

I would also like to thank all the staff at KeNako Academy for encouraging me and helping me see my potential. The KeNako staff is a great team that is totally invested in the growth and success of every student. The same can be said of the management and teaching staff at Rundle College. I will continue to take what I have learnt into my future studies and endeavours. In my future I hope to be able to support upcoming students in the same way that you are, Uncle Ron.

Yours truly,

Charnay Williams



KENAKO SCHOOLS GOLF FESTIVAL

KeNako Golf & Sports Academy hosts the KeNako Schools Golf Festival every year and is open to all enthusiastic young school golfers. KeNako would like to invite all schools' golf teams to participate and compete in the upcoming three-day tournament from 21 – 23 March. 2021 will be the 10th annual event.

Thank you to all of the schools who have sent teams to participate in our annual festival in the past including; St John's College, Milnerton High, Paarl Gymnasium, Trinity House, Randpark Ridge, Suid-Natal High School, Paul Roos, De Kuilen, Villiersdorp, Strand High School, Melkbos Strand, just to name a few, with special thanks to those schools who have participated every year since the event was launched in 2012.

Remember to jot down the dates in your diary: 21 – 23 March. Contact marketing.events@kenakoacademy.com for more information regarding the tournament. KeNako creates a full package that includes meals, accommodation at the Protea Hotel King George, golf games at three beautiful courses in the Garden Route region, fun events and a special prize giving ceremony.



KENAKO
Golf & Sports Academy

SCHOOLS GOLF FESTIVAL

21 - 23 MARCH

**Kingswood Golf Estate
George Golf Club
Mossel Bay Golf Club**

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