



Principal's Newsletter

17th September,
2021

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We started the year with the theme 'Play Your Part' and perhaps it is time to remind ourselves of this. Any organization is comparable to the body. The body is made of many parts; the functions of the various parts may have obvious value but there are many parts whose value is not so obvious. We only realise the true value of that part when things go wrong and then we will find that our whole body is either affected or has to make adjustments to cope with the ailing part. The school can be divided into 4 major areas; the parents, students, staff and facilities. Each part having several roles within the body called Hillcrest Schools. If the different parts cannot perform their role efficiently the whole body will suffer and sometimes it takes time for some of the effects to reveal themselves. Every once in a while, we need to take stock of ourselves to determine how well we are playing our parts so that Hillcrest Schools can fulfill its mission statement and vision.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Mr. Ryan Vickery and his wife Hilary to Hillcrest Schools and wish their tenure with us will have a positive impact for both them and Hillcrest Prep School. You will find his introductory letter in the Prep School section.

1. Change of Timetable

With effect from Monday 20th September, the College reverts to the normal timetable where school ends at 4.45pm. The school transport will leave school at 4.55pm. The afternoon timetable will consist of a full complement of the normal summer sporting disciplines and clubs. We will observe all the Covid-19 protocols as we meet, coach and take practice sessions. An Afternoon Timetable is accompanying this letter for your information.

2. Extramural Program

Historically and traditionally boys' competitive swimming has never been part of the School's extramural program because the College shares a swimming pool with the Preparatory School. It has therefore proven to be difficult to schedule Boys' Swimming. The School is, however, in a position to address this issue on a case by case basis. In the meantime all boys are expected to have a swimming trunk to use when there is free swimming taking place, for the Inter-House Swimming Gala and for using during their camps and expeditions.

3. Signing Out Students from School

Students are expected to be in school from the start of the day until 4.45pm. If at all there is need for a Student to leave school at any other time before 4.45pm permission will have to be sought from the Deputy Heads, Senior Mistress, Senior Master and the House Parents. A Student should be in the possession of a signed and stamped Gate Pass if they are to leave school before the set time.

4. 1000 Pad Campaign

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Valerie Lobo, one of our Upper 6 students, on the successful campaign to assist over 300 less privileged Grade 7 girl learners in the Mutasa District of Manicaland with sanitary wear. She spearheaded this campaign and with the assistance of her colleagues, M. Shonhiwa, L. Muteerwa, T. Bandama, R. Muhala, N. Kadziyanike, T. Basera and A. Mdala, they managed to raise over 1000 pads. These were handed over at Tsvingwe Primary School at an event that was graced by a number of Government dignitaries including the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs, Manicaland Province, Mrs. N. Matsikinyire. The girls did us proud.

5. The Week Ahead

Please find, accompanying this letter, the Schools' Week Ahead for your information.

OFF MR. VICKERY'S DESK

It has been an exciting prospect for many months for Hilary and me to make the move to Hillcrest Schools. We are delighted to join the Hillcrest Schools team to help advance and put into place ideas for the future which are required in the very fast, changing world that is education. Opportunities in the futures of all our children are varied, more than ever, and are numerous.

Hillcrest is a beautiful, well-presented school in a wonderful setting and we must all make it our business to keep it that way. Every little bit of help we are offered to improve its appearance will always be welcome. Drawing our attention to small things that will enhance our image to visitors will not be considered criticism at all, and if assistance with the repair or improvement in any form whatsoever accompanies any brief from any one of our stakeholders, Hillcrest, Mutare, Manicaland, Zimbabwe and the world will be better for it.

I have had an extremely interesting four days getting a feel of this beautifully set Preparatory School, having arrived in Mutare on Saturday from Falcon College where I was a Mathematics teacher and Housemaster. I have taught mathematics in a variety of schools. I have held the positions of Senior Master, Acting Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster and Head of Department of Mathematics in these schools.

My passions are education and rugby, but I did spend over twenty years in commerce, three of them in Mutare, and therefore understand a great deal of both sides of the coin when it comes to meeting the needs of a family, particularly in uncertain and financially volatile times. Survival requires huge sacrifices in these times.

Hilary and I look forward to meeting more of our valued stakeholders. Those we have met have made us feel extremely welcome and we look forward to a fantastic future for our schools, working as a team to achieve this, going forward.

I wish you a safe, pleasant and healthy weekend with your families.

SIMBA MATE!

1. Farewell & Welcome Assembly - 14th September, 2021

At this moving assembly, Mr. Fernandes paid tribute to Mr. Josh Mutangadura for, among other things, the remarkable and loyal service rendered to Hillcrest Preparatory School as well as improvement in academic results during his term as Head. Vanessa Sango, on behalf of the learners, gave a lovely appreciation speech, card and presents. Mr Mutangadura expressed how he felt humbled by everything on the day. He wished everyone well and symbolically passed the 'baton' in this case, microphone to Mr. Vickery to take over and continue with the race.

2. Covid -19

We can never drop our guard with the threat of this pandemic at any moment and must therefore insist that everyone practises masking -up, sanitization, washing of hands with soap under running water and disinfection of our hand luggage.

3. Coach Eddy

We welcome Coach Eddy Samunetsi once again this term to the Physical Education department where he joins Ms. Ncube in promoting all-round skills development of our learners.

4. Lost & Found Property

We continue to urge parents and guardians to regularly check learners' personal property, condition and if permanently marked or embroidered. This helps identify the owner quickly whenever the item is misplaced or lost.

5. Load Shedding

With the above in mind, the school has daily PREP sessions for the junior school Grade 3 to7 pupils. Please encourage your child to take advantage of this by completing homework at school while daily reading is done at home.


6. Swimming & Tennis Coaching

Please find accompanying this letter fliers for the Border Dolphins Swimming Club and for Mantas Tennis Academy for your information.

We continue to encourage the community and the Hillcrest Schools family to observe all the Covid-19 protocols in order to minimise infections. We also hold in our prayers families who have been affected by this pandemic and we pray specifically for our Exam students as they make their near final preparations for their Cambridge examinations.

Do have a good weekend.

Kind regards,



ORLANDO FERNANDES
PRINCIPAL – HILLCREST SCHOOLS