

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I do not mean to jinx our weather, but finally the rains are here and it is amazing to see how the vegetation has perked up and improved the appearance of our surroundings. Psychologically rain has a grim outlook. It is dim, depressing and associated with being sullen or depressed. However, spiritually, rain is associated with God's blessings; it is refreshing, revitalising and brings hope. Environmentally, it can cause erosion and damage, but it can also provide much needed water to sustain both plants and animals. One word with so many different meanings all depending on our outlook on life. One website says that having a positive outlook has the following benefits: Less stress, lower rates of depression, health benefits (more resistance to the common cold, reduced risk of cardiovascular disease, better physical and social well-being) and so on. May we embrace the rains and the revitalisation it brings with it.

## 1. Manicaland Swimming Champs

The Prep School hosted the Manicaland Swimming Championships Gala on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> of November. I would like to thank the Border Dolphin Swimming Club Staff who coordinated and ran the programme. I would also like to thank the Prep and College Staff who, in their various capacities, assisted during the two days. I would like to congratulate the swimmers who have qualified for the next round of competitions which will be held next year during the 1<sup>st</sup> Term. Please find attached the results.

## 2. National Eisteddfod

Some of our Students participated in various musical competitions at various levels at the National Allied Arts Festival held in Harare during the 1<sup>st</sup> Term. We recently received their results and it is so unfortunate that some of our winners have since left Hillcrest after having written their final External Exams. Nonetheless, we are proud of them and wish to congratulate them all. The following are the winners;

### Individual & Duet Competitions

|                |   |                   |
|----------------|---|-------------------|
| • T. Mtisi     | Vocal Solo, African Religious (Form 4-6)    | Honours Grade     |
| • B. Rusawo    | Vocal Solo, African Contemporary (Form 4-6) | First Grade Plus  |
|                | Vocal Duet, African (Form4-6)               | First Grade Plus  |
| • T. Mtisi     | Vocal Duet, African (Form4-6)               | First Grade Plus  |
| • F. Ravhu     | Vocal Solo, African Religious (Form 4-6)    | First Grade       |
| • M. Shoniwa   | Mbira Nyunga-Nyunga Duet (Form 4-6)         | Second Grade Plus |
| • N. Mabulala  | Mbira Nyunga-Nyunga Duet (Form 4-6)         | Second Grade Plus |
| • P. Chiundo   | Marimba Solo (Form 4-6)                     | Second Grade Plus |
| • Z. Zingoni   | Vocal Solo, African Contemporary (Form 4-6) | Second Grade Plus |
| • R. Njagu     | Vocal Solo, African Contemporary (Form 4-6) | Second Grade Plus |
| • P. Khosa     | Marimba Duet (Form 4-6)                     | Third Grade       |
| • T. Chemwaira | Marimba Duet (Form 4-6)                     | Third Grade       |

### Band/Group Competitions

- Hillcrest College Acapella Ensemble Group 'B' received the AFRICAN MUSIC AWARD for the Best Ensemble (Form 4-6)
- Hillcrest College Vocal Ensemble African Acapella Group 'B' (Senior School) received an Honours Grade
- Hillcrest College Acapella Ensemble Group 'A' received a Second Grade Plus
- Hillcrest College Junior Marimba Band (Form 1-3) received a Second Grade Plus
- Hillcrest College Senior Marimba Band (Form 4-6) received a Second Grade Plus

### **3. Leadership Camp**

I regret to have to advise that we have had to postpone the Lower 6 Leadership Camp to next year. We have scheduled it in to take place during the Mid-Term Break of the First Term. We had to come to this decision because of the sudden rising positive cases of Covid-19 in and around other schools in Zimbabwe. It is better to play it safe.

### **4. End of term plans**

We have agreed as a School that we will close at 1.00pm on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December after the Grade 7 Pupils have finished writing their last Grade 7 Zimsec Exam on the same day. We will allow students and pupils to dismiss for the holiday and teachers will remain behind for a few days to complete the compiling of Reports.

## **OFF MR. MUTANGADURA'S DESK**

### **1. Grade 7 ZIMSEC Exams**

3<sup>rd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. English Paper 1 and Maths Paper 1 have been written so far and eight more papers will be concluded by the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Candidates are looking forward to attaining a good set of academic results.

### **2. End of Year Reports**

These documents are being compiled and will be emailed to you on the closing day. Please go over them to gain an insight into your child's performance. If there are any queries, please get in touch directly with your teacher.

### **3. End of Term Arrangements**

The following arrangements will be implemented to conclude the term:

- ECD Graduation - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 1100hrs in the Rec Centre
- Prize Giving (Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December) - Grade 1 & 2 at 0900hrs  
Grade 3 & 4 at 1130hrs  
Grade 5, 6 & 7 at 1400

The Prize Giving video will be released hopefully on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.

### **4. National Institute of Allied Arts Performing Arts**

Congratulations to the Marimba Band for achieving a First Grade in Marimba Ensemble: Grade 4-7.

### **5. National Institute of Allied Arts Literary Arts**

This year we celebrate with our students who achieved the following grades:

- T. Maravanyika - Honours Grade in Grade 3 Prose
- C. Fernandes - Honours Grade in Grade 7 Poetry
- M. Mautsa - Honours in Grade 7 Prose
- T. Marembo - First Grade in Grade 4 Poetry
- W. Tuluka - Second Grade in Grade 5 Prose
- M. Chuma - Second Grade in Grade 2 Prose
- T. Musikavanhu - Third Grade in Grade 5 Prose
- T. Tinoona - Third Grade in Grade 2 Prose

## 6. 2021 Grade & Class

As previously stated, all classes at the Prep school are going up a grade - the learners and the teacher are looking forward to that. Please allow administration to allocate classes as has always been the case. Request for particular classes will not be entertained. Everything we do is designed with the best interests of the learners at heart.

## 7. Christmas Cheer Goodies

Thank you for the effort made so far by your family. We look forward to a **Christmas** with a difference but **special** as we shall hand your donations to **Nzeve Deaf School, Strickland Old Age Home and Zororai Old Age Homes.**

## 8. On-Line Lessons

We still have a few students who were affected by the lock-down whilst outside Zimbabwe. These students have proceeded with their schooling via on-line lessons and will be moving up to their next grade in 2021.

## 9. Rainy Day Programme

We encourage pupils to bring umbrellas or raincoats (labelled). Hot lunches will be collected from the **Rec Centre** on a rainy day.

## 10. School Books

We would be so grateful for any school books, textbooks, core-readers, supplementary readers (sups), etc that are at home. Please have these brought to school any day and no questions will be asked. Thanking you in advance.



*After Internal Exams, Lessons and Revision have been ongoing*



Congratulations to the following **Merit and Effort Badge Winners!**

| Class | Merit: Name of Pupil(s)                              | Merit: Reason for commendation                      | Effort: Name of Pupil(s)        | Effort: Reason for commendation                         |
|-------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1M    | <a href="#">C. Chinembiri, N. Maraire, M. Kangai</a> | For great improvement in the English spelling work. | <a href="#">M. Makiwa</a>       | Settling in well and working steadily in her new class. |
| 1T    | <a href="#">M. Gombakomba</a>                        | For being smart and helpful.                        | <a href="#">M. Chidawanyika</a> | Great improvement noted in English Reading.             |
| 2M    | <a href="#">E. Ngirishi</a>                          | Good performance in the spelling test               | <a href="#">R. Saunyama</a>     | Improved handwriting                                    |

|                        |   |   |   |  |
|------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <b>2R</b>              | T. Mawoyo   | For doing well in number test.  | K. Makoni & L. Nakhozwe                 | For doing well in spelling test.   |
| <b>3C</b>              | E. Bete<br>N. Mudzviti  | Pleasing work in all subjects.  | E. Sabeta,<br>D. Marume,<br>T. Muzavazi | Steady progress and participation in Maths and English.  |
| <b>3M</b>              | A. Munhande   | For great effort and active online participation during class assembly presentation.  | All 3M students                         | For wonderful dedication in preparing for Class Assembly Presentation. Well done boys and girls, keep it up. |
| <b>4D</b>              | M. Saunyama   | Working diligently in her exams   | B. Simango                              | Putting lots of effort in her exams  |
| <b>4M</b>              | T. Mazungunye,<br>Z. Berejena, T. Marembo, M. Evans,<br>N. Nyagondore | Working so hard in their exams  | T. Mugadza,<br>N. Marisa                | Great improvement in the end of year exams   |
| <b>5M</b>              | S. Chikukwa   | Great performance in revision exercises.  | K. Taziwa<br>R. Chafesuka               | Smartly dressed and settled well in a new class. Great improvement in Mathematical skills.                   |
| <b>5N</b>              | K. Chakandinakira,<br>O. James, W. Tuluka                             | Working diligently in the exams.  | B. Mangwiro                             | Improvement in Creative writing.   |
| <b>6N</b>              | N. Kapumha  | For good progress in English  | T. Zvirawa                              | Good results in Social Sciences  |
| <b>7N</b>              | M. Mautsa, K. Pisirai<br>T. Phiri & D. Gwanyanya                      | Maranatha and Kupakwashe for being very helpful to the teacher.<br>Tabeel and Daniella for making excellent thank you cards to our parents on behalf of the Grade 7 class | T. Kumbirai & D. Nyanzunda              | For the tremendous effort put into their revision work.  |
| <b>7W</b>              | M. Masamha  | Doing very well in most papers  | E. Dumbura                              | For consistency in Mathematics   |
| <b>SHONA 5, 6, 7</b>   | C. Fernandes 7 N  | For being so consistent all year round.   | K. Isa                                  | For her active participation both oral and written work. Should keep up the good work.                       |
| <b>ICT</b>             | M. Pemhenayi, 1M  | Able to open a program on the computer and later shutting down the computer properly.   | T. Chioperekwei                         | Pleasing effort in the CHISZ ICT exam.   |
| <b>SPORT/P.E.</b>      | R. Bezuidenhout   | Outstanding performance at the Manicaland champs gala   | T. Chakonda                             | Good performance at the Manicaland championship gala   |
| <b>Laverock Hostel</b> | R. Machumi  | Always neat and tidy.   |   |  |

## 11. Passing the Pass

The Weekly Road Carnage at The Christmas Pass should be a cause for concern by the authorities to find a lasting solution. Ironically Christmas Pass is a marvel of an engineering feat in road design/construction by world standards. Aesthetically breath-taking views of Majestic Mutare are guaranteed any day or night. Statistics for "The Pass", however, tell a tale of a mounting trend in loss of life and limb, environmental contamination, economic loss in millions of (US\$). As you drive up or down the PASS, please always take great care.

As we slowly and gradually wind down the remainder of the term, may I encourage parents and students alike to remain conscious of the Covid-19 Pandemic we face as a nation and as a world. We tend to relax as long as nothing close to home has occurred but do we need to be more cautious once one of our own is affected? I doubt that - so please continue to practise social distancing, constantly sanitize or wash our hands and always wear our masks whenever we are in public. Let us remain safe.

Do have a lovely and restful weekend.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "O. Fernandez".

**Orlando**