



RHODES PARK SCHOOL

PLOT 11308, SIBWENI ROAD, NORTHMEAD, P.O. BOX 32755, LUSAKA, 10101, ZAMBIA
TELEPHONE: 291634, FAX: 295540, E-MAIL: info@rhodesparkschool.net
www.rhodesparkschool.net

7 May 2007

HMK/PAGUS/04/2007

BEGINNING OF TERM TWO 2007 NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We wish to welcome all our new and returning pupils to the second academic term of 2007. This is the term when most schoolwork is covered. We expect all our parents and guardians to encourage all the children to work extra hard during this term. This is the only way we can together cover most of the remaining work planned for the Academic Year. We hope you will all support us throughout the term.

TERM ONE SCHOOL REPORT FORMS

We are thankful to all those parents and guardians who collected their children's school report forms for Term One. We are however still keeping school report forms for some of our children. We are appealing to all the parents or guardians in this category to collect the report forms from their particular children's teachers before the close of Week One. Those report forms which will still be in school at the beginning of Week Two of Term Two will be sent to parents through their children.

GOOD NEWS

The Board of Directors wishes to inform you that construction of the School Media Centre at Sibweni Road campus will commence very soon. This will house Two Modern Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Labs, Two Libraries, a Language Laboratory, a Design and Technology Room and several new classrooms.

The purpose of the Media Centre is to match the ever growing demands of quality education for our children. Our present school infrastructure continues to grow to house more subject areas

We shall also soon start on the building of the new tuckshop, which will replace the existing facility.

2007 TERM TWO SCHOOL FEES

School fees for this term were due and payable by Thursday 5 April 2007. We wish to remind you that pupils will only be allowed in class after clearing 60% of the tuition fees for the term. This policy was communicated in the circular last term.

WEATHER DURING TERM TWO

The predominant weather of the second term is quite unpleasant and most school children are affected by it. Climatic indicators have shown that it may be very cold during this term because of the successful 2006/2007 hot wet season. This could lead to extreme lowering of temperatures during the cool dry season making it very harsh for school going children.

The School Shop is fully equipped with all necessary sizes of the school jersey. Kindly ensure that the children are fully prepared for the season so that they can brave the unpleasant weather and report to school consistently.

APRIL VACATION ASSIGNMENTS

All our pupils were given vacation assignments when the school closed on 5 April 2007. We hope they all worked according to our instructions. All completed assignments should be brought to school in the first week of Term Two 2007 for the teachers to mark and correct the children's work.

MEETING WITH PARENTS OF NEW ENTRANTS

The Head teacher will meet parents of all new entrants on Thursday 10 May 2007 at 17 30 hours in the staff room. This meeting will be for parents or guardians with new children on both campuses of the school.

PREPARATION FOR FINAL EXAMINATION – GRADES SEVEN, NINE AND TWELVE

Preparation for the 2007 Final Examinations at Grade Seven, Nine and Twelve levels will be emphasised this term. This is the most suitable term for the children to cover most of the remaining work towards their final examinations. The school will through the respective Class Teachers send you all the important work-plans for each class in due course. This will be done in order to allow parents or guardians to take part in the process of getting the children ready for their final examinations and for them to support the pupils and their teachers as they work.

TERM TWO 2007 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for Term Two 2007 is attached to this newsletter. All the important dates and school programmes are highlighted on it. Kindly study it so that we can successfully work together throughout the term.

PUPILS' EXERCISE BOOKS

Kindly inspect the children's exercise books each time they arrive back home. This will support our school centred efforts around pupils' exercise books. The child's exercise book is the most important component of the effective curriculum as it is the storage of whatever the child needs to recall for the purpose of examinations and life.

All pupils across the school are expected to look after their books with utmost care and use them appropriately. We are however sad to note that some of our pupils' exercise books are not looked after according to our expectations. Such books cannot last long. We have observed that this mostly affects those children whose parents do not attend parent-teacher days. We are looking forward to successful parent-teacher rapport during Term Two.

THE MID-YEAR PRIZE GIVING AND OPEN DAY

Friday 6 July 2007 will be the Mid-Year Prize Giving and Academic Open Day. This is the day when prizes and certificates will be given to deserving pupils who will be outstanding in various categories during the first half of the school year. On this day, all the parents of the deserving pupils will be invited to school to witness the prize giving ceremony whilst all our parents and guardians will be required to come and have summary discussions with teachers and later collect children's school reports.

School report forms will be collected between 14 00 and 16 30 hours. All pupils will knock off at 12 45 hours and 13 10 hours for primary and secondary classes respectively.

Please be reminded that Rhodes Park School operates an **open door** policy and invites parents and guardians to visit and consult with class teachers more regularly than just during such functions.

2007 MOCK AND MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS

The Mid-year Examinations for non-examination classes and Mock Examinations for Grade Seven, Nine and Twelve will run from 13 to 22 June 2007 for the Secondary section and 20 to 22 June 2007 for the Primary section. School reports for the same examinations will be ready for collection on the School Open Day that falls on Friday 6 July 2007.

THE MATHEMATICS WEEK

This year's Mathematics Week will commence on Monday 9 July and close on Friday 13 July 2007. This is a week that falls within the second term of each year whose main purpose is to motivate the school community in numeracy and other mathematical properties. It is a week that involves the development of new ideas in Mathematics and the innovation of problem solving games and puzzles in the subject.

SCHOOL ATHLETICS DAYS

We wish to inform you that the 2007 Annual Athletics Days will run from Wednesday 30 May to Friday 1 June. Lower School pupils will hold theirs on the first day, followed by Upper Primary Section after which the Secondary Section will hold theirs last on Friday 1 June 2007. The best performers in the local events will represent the school at the Independent Schools Association of Zambia (ISAZ), Inter-Schools Athletics Day which will be held later than our Athletics Day.

USE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY

Term Two is a busy period in line with academics as pupils are subjected to Mock and Mid-year Examinations. We therefore wish to remind you to encourage the children to take advantage of the good weather that prevails during the term to work with utmost seriousness in readiness for examinations. The library has been stocked with new learning materials that the children should be encouraged to borrow.

Our pupils are also encouraged to use school facilities on Saturday, from 08 30 to 13 00 hours. However, for the sake of order and maintenance of discipline, the concerned pupils should report to school in uniform. Those children who will not comply with this requirement will not be allowed in school on Saturday.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Co-curricular activities for this term will commence on Tuesday 15 May 2007. New pupils will be given registration forms by their Class Teachers for them to take home so that their parents or guardians can choose clubs with them. We expect all old pupils to continue with the activities they registered for in Term One. Children need support in these vital skills training activities. Class Teachers and Club Patrons can be consulted for details regarding all club related-matters.

MATTERS ARISING FROM SCHOOL STANDING ORDERS

CLEANLINESS AND THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Kindly note that a school is a formal institution where learners are guided academically and morally. Immediately learners enter the school, they are exposed to a zone which requires total compliance to rules which emphasise training of the body, soul and mind. As such, our pupils are expected to dress formally throughout the time they are in school.

Boys are required to use belts that have normal buckles on pairs of trousers that should be worn properly around the waist and never *sagged*. Boys' hair should also be cut short. Girls are expected to have neat hair and never to use facial make-up or nail polish. Kindly note that hair dyes are not allowed for both boys and girls.

We wish to advise all our pupils to acquire appropriate sports attire in readiness for their Physical Education lessons and the Sports Day. Physical Education is a National Core Subject hence all our pupils are expected to comply with the school's regulations around it.

We do not allow beads, coloured ribbons and hair pieces in the girls' hair. The hair must be neatly combed or braided using black wigs. Kindly note that school shoes should be the ones that are prescribed as such and not any others. Suede shoes or any fancy shoes will not be allowed in the school. Let our children not think that uniform can be whatever they want it to be. They should give due regard to the uniform that is prescribed in the **School's Standing Orders**.

LATE REPORTING AND PICKING UP

We are appealing to all parents and guardians to bring their children to school in good time so that they do not miss very important tutorials conducted by their Class Teachers each morning. In addition, the weather this term is unfriendly so we are once again appealing to the parents to pick up the children early from school to avoid making them wait in the cold in the evenings.

FOOD BROUGHT TO SCHOOL DURING LUNCH

Kindly note that the School Office will no longer receive food for pupils during lunch or allow intruders in the classroom area close to lunch time. Those bringing food to children during this period should wait for the owners in the shelter until 12 45 hours for Primary and 13 10 hours for Secondary. Please, note that we do not allow visitors in and around the classrooms during learning and teaching time because there is no provision for that on the school timetable. Our School Tuck Shop has been refurbished and is now able to feed all those children who do not come to school with packed meals.

UNWANTED ITEMS

We wish to remind you that once unwanted items such as cellular phones, toys, jewellery and harmful substances are brought to school, they will be confiscated and no claims should be made by the pupils, their parents or other family members.

PERSONAL EFFECTS

We wish to remind you that the children's personal effects need to be labelled as they tend not to claim whatever they leave in school. This has led to children's personal effects accumulating to unacceptable numbers.

We shall therefore display all the lost but found items on the Basketball Court on 10 and 11 May 2007 in order for our pupils to collect what they could have lost. Whatever will remain unclaimed will be donated to charity as the school has limited space in the storerooms. Parents are encouraged to check for their children's lost items on those dates. It is sad when parents and guardians keep buying the same items for pupils over and over again when the old ones are still in school.

OUT OF SCHOOL BOUNDS

We wish to inform you that the school does not allow pupils to go to shopping centres for lunch. We are therefore appealing to you to discourage your children from going out of school unless they live within the proximity of the school and are in possession of school gate passes. A lot can happen when children are on their own hence the need for us to keep them in school where they are supervised by teachers.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION MATTERS

GRADE NINE FIELD TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

We are thankful to all our parents and guardians whose children travelled to South Africa during the April Vacation. We are also grateful to the teachers and support staff who accompanied the children on the trip. All, but one of the intended plants and other conceptual institutions were visited during the tour. This is despite the theft of one of their buses while they were in one of the museums exploring historical concepts. The stolen bus was an older one and not one of the recently acquired through Barclays Bank Leasing.

It is our prayer that all the children who took part in the trip will use the information they obtained to enrich their academic dreams. The tour is one of the richest amongst all the trips the school undertakes.

AUGUST 2007 EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

Educational field trips for the August school vacation are shown on the school calendar attached to this circular. Details about each trip will be communicated to the respective parents and guardians in due course.

TERM ONE 2007 SPELLATHON

We are thankful to all the parents, guardians and friends who helped our children in raising funds for our 2007 Spellathon. The function was a great success. We are however, still waiting for sponsorship money and forms from those who did not hand in their booklets and collections.

We shall not let go until we receive all the money and booklets because the PTA depends on fundraising for all its activities. The PTA Executive Committee would like to receive all the booklets and money from all the pupils who took part in the exercise. All booklets and money collected from the children's sponsors should be brought to the school as soon as possible so that we can together focus on fundraising functions for this term.

TERM TWO FUND RAISING FUNCTIONS

There will be Parent -Teacher Association fund-raising events during the term. The first event will be a School Play which will take place on Friday and Saturday 8 to 9 June 2007 and will be followed by the main event on Saturday 7 July 2007. Important details about all the fundraising functions will be communicated to you in due course.

We wish all our pupils and their teachers Godly blessings and a successful term.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

H.M. KWALOMBOTA
HEADTEACHER