



RHODES PARK SCHOOL

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BEGINNING OF TERM THREE NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We wish to welcome all our returning pupils and new entrants back to school. The third term being the busiest term will have in place many new lessons and revision concepts meant to prepare learners for the future and for examinations. We shall this year have four examination classes sitting National Examinations. We have put in place adequate preparations for all our examination classes. All the learners in these classes are required to attend school consistently so that they do not miss important preparatory concepts and examination-centred instructions. We expect all our pupils to take full advantage of what their teachers will provide and use the teaching aids provided by the school appropriately.

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

School Fees for Term 3 were due and payable by Friday 3 August. Late payment of school fees negatively affects all school operations and especially preparations for the new term. As you are aware, school places are contingent on timely payment of fees, and thus the School will have no other option other than excluding the affected pupils from its register.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The third term will have in place many co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for all our pupils in the school. Documents showing the type and level of work the children are doing at various levels are in the possession of Class Teachers. We shall distribute forms to all new parents for them to fill in for their children during Week 1. The School Deputy Head Teachers' offices will be readily available to assist all old parents who may be in need of further clarification of any matters concerning academic programmes.

TERM TWO SCHOOL REPORT FORMS

We are thankful to all those parents and guardians who collected their children's School Report Forms for Term 2. We however wish to inform those parents or guardians whose children's School Report Forms were not collected that Class Teachers will attach them to the Parent-Teacher booklets and send them home through the children. Parents in this category need to check their children's bags for the School Report Forms.

OBITUARY

We regret to inform you that Hope Makusa of Grade Ten Green departed the world on Thursday 23 August 2007. We shall greatly miss her. May her soul rest in the Almighty God's Eternal Peace.

HEAD TEACHER'S MEETING WITH PARENTS OF NEW ENTRANTS

The Head teacher will meet all parents and guardians of new entrants in the school on Thursday 6 September at 17 30 hours in the Staff Room. The meeting is for all parents of new children on both campuses of the school.

EXAMINATION CLASSES

Pupils in Grades 7, 9 and 12 have to work extremely hard in Term 3 to prepare for their Final Examinations. Their Final Examinations will commence on Tuesday 16 October. We gave them final examination timetables during Term 2.

This means they only have a month of preparation remaining. We urge them all to do a lot of individual work at home because they will be on their own during the examinations. This will help them catch up in their weaker areas. They are also required to use appropriate tools and apparatus during their practice time. Those wishing to stay late and use the library each evening are free to do so after registering with Class Teachers.

As you may be aware, this will be the first time that Grade 12 candidates at Rhodes Park School will sit the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). We thank the academic team, the School Guidance Counsellor, Mrs. Audrey Mwanza, and Mr. Pandwell Chibwe, the School Information and Communication Technology Technician, for all the work put in over the past three years to prepare for this major milestone.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTRE

Rhodes Park School is often described as the fastest growing and most developmental private school in Zambia. Over the past fourteen years, our school facilities have improved dramatically and the latest project we have undertaken is the construction of the School Media Centre at Sibweni Road campus, which is now underway.

This three storey structure in the very heart of the campus will house two libraries (for primary and secondary including librarians' offices and reference room), two computer laboratories (with server rooms and offices), two language laboratories, new staff room and preparation rooms, several auxiliary offices and thirteen classrooms. We urge all our pupils to stay away from the building site.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TUCKSHOP

The new and improved tuckshop at the western side of the Sibweni Campus is almost complete and should be operational in the next few weeks.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

Term 3 will have three monthly open afternoons and one closing open day for collection of End of Year School Report Forms for all non-examination classes on Friday 7 December. Individual parents or guardians are encouraged to come to school to discuss their particular children's progress in school on these afternoons.

Parents and guardians are also free to make appointments with teachers whenever they feel so. We encourage early morning (before classes) and home time chats with Class Teachers. This will help us build closer understanding between home and school.

SCHOOL IDENTITY CARDS

All pupils in the school are in possession of very important bar-coded Identity Cards. Children use the cards to borrow and return books from and to the library respectively. All the pupils are required to look after their cards very well. We shall ask for replacement of lost cards at a cost.

For pupils in Grade Seven, Nine and Twelve, the cards will also serve as Identification Cards during the examination period.

GATE PASSES FOR PUPILS WHO WALK TO AND FROM SCHOOL

All pupils who walk to and from school are required to be in possession of gate passes. We wish to remind their parents and guardians that it is for the children's safety that they should be in possession of gate passes.

We expect all the children in this category to use the gate passes wisely. The school will confiscate all abused gate passes.

PUPIL ENROLMENT FOR 2008

Interviews for Reception, Grade One, Grade Eight and Ten entrants will commence on Monday 15 October. We invite all parents or guardians with children outside Rhodes Park School to register names of interviewees with the School Secretary. The contact phone numbers for the School Secretary are 291634, 293297 or 097-112702 during working hours. We shall inform all parents whose children are on our register in transitional levels about their children's results immediately after the tests.

NEW WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS – DOWNLOAD CIRCULARS

As Rhodes Park School keeps up with modern trends and communicative approaches, our school website now has a facility for downloading the school circulars. These are available in *pdf* format which is read by common programs such as Adobe Acrobat. Please click on the link on main menu of the website to get to the right page.

Our website will continue to grow and be more interactive and we appreciate any constructive feedback.

2008 – 2012 FOLOTIYA MINOR AND MAJOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

This is our eleventh consecutive year of offering the four Folutiya Memorial Secondary School Scholarships. We shall conduct examinations for these scholarships in the second week of November on Tuesday 6 November. Rhodes Park School Grade Seven pupils will write the scholarship examinations in October. We urge all our Grade Seven Pupils to take advantage of this noble cause and do their best in these examinations.

Only pupils who will be thirteen years or less by 9 November and have been on the Rhodes Park School register for three or more years qualify for the Major Scholarships. Pupils who are less than three years old in the school and are in the same age range and those who are not on the Rhodes Park School register qualify for the Minor Scholarships.

Details of the Folutiya Memorial Scholarships are given on the school website.

PARENTAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC WORK

It is saddening to note that some of our pupils are not achieving the set goals due to lack of support from home.

We wish to remind all our dear parents and guardians that finding a good school for a child is only the initial step. Reaping the benefits of this school requires participation, with constant and continuous involvement. When a child enters a school, it represents a commitment on the part of both the parents and the child and gives a vote of confidence to the school that you believe it will do its best. The education of a child is above all a cooperative effort that involves the school, teachers, parents and the community.

Pupils who are not confident in facing school tasks need encouragement and support from their parents or guardians. When the school, parents, the child and teachers work together, collectivism is assumed and all planned activities are monitored through to the close of the academic year by all the concerned.

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

There will be many internal academic competitions during Term 3. These will cover all classes in the school from Reception to Grade Twelve. Academic competitions are confidence builders and help in preparing children for individual and group tasks, and raise them into excelling at examination time.

All our dear parents and guardians are invited to support us by finding out what their children will be taking part in and encouraging them to work extra hard in their competitions.

We conduct the competitions on selected afternoons, each week. Academic competitions help learners in tackling tough school concepts.

THE READING MOTIVATION WEEK

Our Reading Motivation Week will run from Monday 24 September to Friday 28 September. Children and their teachers are to read many books during the week. The highest and the best reading children will receive rewards at a closing ceremony on the last day of the week.

All members of the school community will be required to make collections of books and magazines for the reading week.

We shall be very grateful to receive all those books and magazines you have no use for. Mrs Sinkamba, the Head of Languages and Literature Department as well as the two Librarians, Mrs Njobvu and Miss Mwelwa, will be on hand to receive whatever you may have for us.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

We shall have two carol services, one for the Secondary and the other for the Primary Section.

The Christmas Carol Service for Reception to Grade Six will take place on Wednesday 28 November whilst that for the Secondary Section will be on Thursday 29 November. We shall communicate to you about all the important arrangements concerning the services in due course.

ACQUISITION OF PASSPORTS FOR ALL RHODES PARK SCHOOL PUPILS

We wish to express our gratitude towards those parents and guardians who have since obtained passports for their children. This makes our life very easy at the time of travelling with pupils to places outside Zambia.

We however wish to remind those parents and guardians who have not yet done so, to obtain passports for the children, as this is the only way we can win together when it is time for cross-border trips.

GIRL GUIDE'S TRIP TO DENMARK

We are delighted to inform you that the Girl Guides, who travelled to Denmark from 26 July to 6 August, had a successful trip. They took part in the International Jamboree, attended by more than 4000 Girl Guides from all over the world. While at

the jamboree, they witnessed enchanting campfires and took part in adventurous nature activities, daily life changing twilight hours (hours of spiritual reflection), exciting early morning physical exercises to keep fit, adventurous sporting activities and thrilling stage performances. We wish to thank all the parents whose children represented the school and the nation at large.

A variety of pictures from this trip can be viewed at the school website.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION MATTERS

We are grateful to the Parent-Teacher Association Executive Committee members for their unfailing impetus in fulfilling the promises made during the Annual General Meeting. Progress on the Sibweni Road project is well underway and almost complete. We wish them Godly guidance and the best of luck as we head towards the final fundraising events of the year.

MAJOR EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

We praise the Almighty God that we successfully covered the major educational field trips for the month of August.

We are thankful to all members of the Parent-Teacher Association for the overwhelming support we received throughout the period pupils and their teachers were travelling. We wish them all everlasting Godly presence.

TERM THREE AND FUTURE PTA FUNDRAISING FUNCTIONS

The Parent-Teacher Association intends to hold only two fundraising functions in Term 3. We shall also explore different ways of fundraising during the term. Parents and guardians are free to give us their suggestions.

CIVILIAN DAY

The Civilian Day for Term 3 will be Tuesday 23 October. We expect all pupils to be in traditional dress on this day. The charge for the day will be five thousand Kwacha (K5 000.00) per child.

FAMILY FUNDRAISING FUNFAIR

The Family Fundraising Funfair will be on Saturday 6 October. We look forward to all families taking part in this important event. Tickets will be on sale soon from our children's Class Teachers and the School Accounts Office.

We wish all our teachers and pupils Godly blessings in their end of year programmes.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

**H M KWALOMBOTA
HEAD TEACHER**