



# RHODES PARK SCHOOL

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Monday 5 May 2008

## BEGINNING OF TERM TWO NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### WELCOME

We wish to welcome all our pupils back to school. We hope they all had enough time to discuss their school work with parents or guardians. We are excited to have them back in school because they are entering the busiest term of the year which embodies most of the work planned for the academic year.

We are thankful to the Almighty God for having protected all our teachers throughout the vacation, as they are all ready to start teaching again.

### TERM TWO WEATHER

The predominant weather of the second term is quite unpleasant and most pupils are affected by it. We expect temperatures to lower extremely during Term Two. The School Shop has been fully equipped with all the necessary sizes of the School Jersey. Kindly ensure that your particular children are protected from the cold by buying the jerseys for them so that they are fully equipped for the season. This is the only way they can brave the unpleasant weather and report to school each school day.

The school will greatly appreciate all necessary information about those children who need extra attention during this season. Parents of children in this category are required to contact Mrs. Zimba for the Secondary Pupils and Mrs. Siabwanta for Primary Pupils.

### GOOD NEWS - THE IT LABORATORY

We are thankful to the Board of Directors of Rhodes Park School for having restocked the Information and Communication Technology Laboratory with ten more new computers. This is in line with the School Policy and Mission Statement. Several old desk computers were removed from the network because their lifespan had lapsed.

### HOLIDAY ASSIGNMENTS

All our pupils in the Primary and Secondary Sections were given holiday assignments when the school closed on Thursday 10 April. All assignments will be collected and marked during Week One. We therefore expect all completed assignments to be brought to school between today and Saturday 10 May because teachers will be extremely busy after the first week.

### TERM TWO SCHOOL FEES

School fees for this term were due and payable by Friday 11 April. We wish to advise all the parents or guardians who have not yet paid Term Two tuition fees for their children to ensure that the fees are settled as soon as possible because fees paid late retard the school's progress and inconvenience late payers through payment of penalty.

## AFTERNOON PREPARATIONS

Afternoon Preparation for Grade Seven to Twelve will commence on Tuesday 6 May. All pupils in these classes are required to take advantage of the afternoons to revise unknown covered concepts and to do their individual study.

## SPECIAL LESSONS FOR EXAMINATION CLASSES

There will be special lessons for Grade Seven, Nine and Twelve each afternoon from Monday to Friday. The lessons will be covering examination practice. All pupils in these classes are required to take the lessons seriously.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to support teachers in the work they will be doing with their particular children. This is the only way each one of them can be prepared to face examinations and excel.

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Co-curricular activities for this term will commence on Tuesday 13 May. 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.

Co-curricular activities are meant to supplement the core functions of the school system. It is for this reason learners need parental support in these vital skills training activities.

Class Teachers and Club Patrons can be consulted for details regarding all club related-matters.

## COMMENCEMENT OF SPORTS TRAINING

Training in Competitive Sporting Activities will commence on Tuesday 6 May. All pupils wishing to take part in Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Netball, Tennis, Rugby, Table Tennis, Hockey, Cricket Badminton and other sporting games should have letters of consent from their parents or guardians. This is in line with children's physiological background. New pupils will be allocated into sporting activities after the Head teacher's meeting with their parents, on Thursday 8 May.

The Sports Committee of the school will ensure that parents and guardians are given their children's particular training schedules.

## MEETING WITH PARENTS OF NEW PUPILS

The Head teacher will meet parents of all new entrants on Thursday 8 May at 17 30 hours in the staff room. This meeting will be for parents or guardians of all new children on both campuses of the school.

## PREPARATION FOR FINAL EXAMINATIONS FOR GRADE 7, 9 AND 12

Preparation for the 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. We shall send schedules of our work-plans to all parents or guardians with children in these classes. The schedules will indicate how the learners will be taught in course segments.

The purpose of the schedule is to allow parents or guardians to take part in the process of getting the children ready for their examinations and for them to support the learners together with their teachers as they work.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

School newsletters, calendars and other written information packs from school seek to deliver very important information to parents and guardians.

We wish to appeal to all our dear parents and guardians to read all the information that is sent home from school. We have noted that gaps between home and school are created when parents and guardians do not read what is sent to them from school.

Non-reading of school newsletters has led to disappointments on the part of parents and guardians. A good number have visited the school at awkward times and have been disappointed and yet the school had communicated adequately. Good rapport between home and school is an important tool because it enables us to take appropriate steps towards achieving set goals.

#### PUPILS' EXERCISE BOOKS

Class and Subject Teachers need support in the handling of these books, especially those that are taken home on each school day. Pupils in all classes ranging from Grade Five to Twelve carry their exercise books to and from school on working days of the week because they have to use the exercise books even at home.

Most of the pupils are looking after their books well and are using them according to expectations. There are however, a good number who are wasteful and careless in the way they handle their books.

It is for this reason that we wish to appeal to all our parents and guardians to help us guide the children towards careful handling of their exercise books. These books are of greatest value to them because they store reflections of all their participative academic responses.

#### 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 Monday 9 Friday 20 June for the Secondary section and Wednesday 18 to Friday 20 June for the Primary section. School reports for the same examinations will be ready for collection on the School Open Day that falls on Friday 4 July.

#### MID-YEAR ACADEMIC OPEN DAY

Friday 4 July will be the Mid-Year Academic Open Day. This is the day when prizes and certificates will be awarded to pupils who will be outstanding in various school subjects during the first half of the school year.

On this day, all our parents will be required to come and have summary discussions with teachers and later collect children's school reports. This will be between 14 00 and 16 30 hours. All pupils will knock off at 12 45 hours and 13 10 hours for primary and secondary school, respectively.

#### OPEN AFTERNOONS

There will be three open afternoons for all parents or guardians during Term Two. These are shown on the school calendar attached to this newsletter.

We wish to remind all our dear parents and guardians that Rhodes Park School operates in an OPEN DOOR policy and invites parents and guardians to visit and consult with Class Teachers more regularly than just during such functions. All parents and guardians have to do is to call the School Secretary to make appointments with teachers.

#### THE MATHEMATICS WEEK

This year's Mathematics Week will commence on Monday 14 July and close on Friday 18 July. 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 games and puzzles in the learning area.

#### ANNUAL ATHLETICS WEEK

We wish to inform you that there will be three athletics days during the term. This is to accommodate the three population segments of the school.

Reception and Lower Basic will have their athletics on Wednesday 20, Middle Basic on Thursday 21 and Secondary School Pupils on Friday 22 May.

Selected pupils from Rhodes Park School will also participate in the Independent Schools Association of Zambia (ISAZ) Inter-Schools Sports Day that will be held later.

## AUGUST EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

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

Payments for the Grade Seven Trip to the Victoria Falls Region and Namibia as well as the Grade Twelve trip to Walvis Bay (NAMPORT) in Namibia will commence after the destinations will have been contacted. Parents with children in Grade Six will also be written to about the intended trip to one of Zambia's National Parks.

Our school buses will be used to transport children to the Victoria Falls Region and Namibia. Grade Six Pupils and their teachers will use hired buses because our school buses are too low for National Park Tracks.

Only fifty (50) pupils per trip, will travel to both the Victoria Falls Region and Namibia. Seventy-two (72) Grade Six Children will travel to the National Park. We wish to state that as soon as the numbers are made up, payment will be halted.

## SCHOOL STANDING ORDERS

Apart from teaching them the Golden Rule, "Do for other as you like them to do for you", our school emphasises rigorous training of its attendants. We avail to them our School Standing Orders (School Rules) and the Citizenship Curriculum.

Each school transition has assembly weekly where very important teachings are shared by teachers, prefects, child-councillors, clubs and other assembly representatives. All these are meant to touch the divergently talented individuals entrusted to us.

We would like to remind our dear parents or guardians to read the Citizenship Curriculum and the School Standing Orders with their children. This is the only way our children will be reminded about their responsibilities, their own rights, other people's rights and respect as well as appreciation for the wider world.

Kindly remind the learners that the following vices are not allowed at Rhodes Park School: **vulgar language, drug abuse, obscene literature, pornographic songs, pornographic materials, unnecessary coupling, riotous behaviour, carrying harmful substances and objects (weapons inclusive), hooliganism, vandalism, fighting, late reporting, thieving, truancy, wrong uniform, rudeness, immoral behaviour, noise making, breaking bounds, loitering, lying (dishonesty), fancy hair styles, examination malpractice, failure to do any school work, littering and trespassing.**

Please note that these are punishable and may even lead to expulsion from school.

## ZESCO LOAD SHEDDING

We are humbly appealing to all parents or guardians to ensure that learners are taken home early. The table below shows the final child-picking time limits for all transitions in the school.

TRANSITION	RECEPTION	GRADE 1 AND 2	GRADE 3 TO 6	GRADE 7, 8, 10 & 11	GRADE 9 AND 12
FINAL TIME LIMIT	12 20 hours	15 20 hours	15 20 hours	16 30 hours	17 30 hours

Kindly note that Teachers on Duty will leave school ten (10) minutes after the final time limit for each transition. These time limits have taken club activities, extra lessons and examination classes' revision days into account.

## EVENING STUDY FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEARNERS

High School Pupils who wish to use the Library up to 20 00 hours will register with their Class Teachers and Mrs. Zimba. Parents are encouraged to study the ZESCO schedules of Load Shedding so that learners are not left in school when power will be installed late.

We are happy to inform you that our school will work very closely with ZESCO to ensure that correct Load Shedding schedules are given to parents and learners in time.

## PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION MATTERS

### BENEVOLENT FUND

The Parent-Teacher Association Executive Committee wishes to express its satisfaction with the work done by the Rhodes Park School PTA, this far. Fundraising in Term One was very successful. The committee wishes to commend members of the Benevolent Fund Committee for the manner in which they have proceeded from 23 February when we had our Annual General Meeting at the Holiday Inn. The committee has since done its homework and is hereby asking for contribution of fifty thousand Kwacha (K50 000.00) from each family per annum. This will be paid together with other PTA contributions in Term One.

We however, wish to inform you that due to the time taken in finalising the committee's work, the 2008 contribution will be made this term.

### PTA FUND-RAISING FUNCTION

There will be a Parent -Teacher Association Fundraising function on Saturday 12 July. All the details about the function will be communicated to you in due course.

### GRADE NINE FIELD TRIP TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

We praise God for 2008 Grade Nine trip to South Africa. It was undertaken according to schedule and with a lot of blessings. We are thankful to all those parents who supported us during preparations and the course of the trip.

### TERM ONE EQUATION-A-THON

We are very thankful to all the parents and guardians who collected money from their children's sponsors and cashed in with the school in Term One. The PTA Secretariat would however, like to receive all the forms and money from all the pupils who took part in the exercise.

A good number of unpaid for pupils have indicated that parents or guardians are still keeping their booklets and money collected from sponsors. We shall be happy to receive all the remaining sponsorship booklets and money.

The Parent-Teacher Association Executive Committee wishes to thank all the families that supported PTA functions in Term One. The term was a great success because of the families' participation. May God richly bless all the extended hands

We look forward to your unflinching support throughout Term Two. We wish all our learners and teachers a successful term.

## LET THERE BE LIGHT

Henry M. Kwalombota  
Head teacher