



LEBONE II
College of the Royal Bafokeng

Headmasters Newsletter

Week ending: 4 December 2015

Dear Lebone II Parents, Students and Friends,

We are all privileged to be given the opportunity of working or being educated at Lebone II College. It is rare that one finds yourself in an environment which deliberately seeks the excitement of evolving. Lebone II continues to strive to enrich lives, to deliver outstanding learning opportunities and to create the space in which we can all move towards flourishing. We honour this privilege by making the most of every moment.

Many positive moments have littered the past months. Students have stretched themselves to give of their best, refusing to settle for 'ok'. Staff have devoted their every ounce to their roles in this school – I thank them on behalf of this school. Parents have remained supportive and involved in the life of Lebone II. For all of this I am grateful, every day.

In a recent Principal's workshop in Pretoria I was reminded about the changing times in our world. A principal shared a recent situation in their school in which students had used social media to bully other students. The damage to those students is devastating, never to be removed – it has now gone viral in social media world. The consequence for the group of young children who thought they were 'being funny' was equally devastating – they each now have a criminal record. As principals we grappled with this. The consequence of adolescent impulsiveness seems to be very different now. Their unthoughtful action now carries a different weight. Social media is a part of our world. Are we truly mindful of its impact? What we realized is that we as schools, and you as parents, need to be investing deliberate action into educating towards digital citizenship – how do we act in this new age, and what should be guiding our decision making. We need to have bold conversations with young people who now need to make more mature decisions at earlier ages. And we as the adults need to model the right decision making, need to model responsible use of social media, need to have the difficult discussion, need to engage with our child.

We need to learn to make wise choices. To not listen to impulse. To think before we 'press send'. I invite you as a Lebone II parent to be involved in your child's life. It is necessary. It is vital.

It is my privilege as a teacher to work in a world of wonderment and learning every day. The moment when you know that a student has enjoyed an a-ha moment. The joy of sharing their learning and having them share their interpretations with us. Teachers at Lebone II have this privilege every day. They live for it, teach for it, are on the lookout for it. I share a beautiful poem which speaks to me of why I do what I do every day. I have, for myself as a parent, read it in such a way that I replace 'teach' with 'parent'. Enjoy.

I Teach for the Fire
By Taylor Mali

**I teach for the fire, the moment of ignition, the spark,
the lightbulb of cognition going on in the dark over an adolescent's head.
O beautiful incandescence, dazzling the dead air all around the room;
he tries and he tries and he tries and BOOM, he gets it and you can see it in his eyes!
I teach for that moment.**

**I teach for the moment all the elephants realize they have wings and fly up out of the gutter,
my room aflutter with a thousand hummingbirds –
hovering in place, rapt expression on every face,
feeding on my words for one wild minute like ideas were wildflowers.
I teach for that moment.**

**I teach for the same reason every teacher teaches.
The pebble never knows how far the ripple's reach is,
but I restart my heart each day and learn things about myself like I were an empty bucket and every student a wishing well.**

**They say those who seek to teach must never cease to learn.
I teach for the moment everything catches fire and finally starts to burn.**

The world needs these Fires; this passion, this joy at discovery and resilience to every challenge that stands in the way.

I wish you and your family a healthy, blessed, peace-filled and loving time together over this festive season. Take time to find joy in being together and be sure to rest. There is so much to be thankful for.

We look forward to an awesome 2016.

Sincerely,

David du Toit.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

I have chosen a few selected highlights from this term that I would like to share with you. They represent the holistic breadth of our education and also the dual mandate of our school, which is to be a model of excellence and a resource to other schools in the RBN and more broadly.

- The Lower School have been very busy in this closing term: our annual sunrise Grade 1 breakfast; Gr 2's visited the Airport and Gr R children watched a play in Pretoria; Our LS new students orientation day was a success; Gr 6 students enjoyed their farewell breakfast; Grade 3-6 learners wrote the annual International Benchmarking Tests; Grade 3 children showed off their entrepreneurial skills in their market day; there were two educational trips - Grade 6 went to Sugar Bay near Durban and the Grade 4 classes enjoyed team building at Spirit of Adventure.
- Our 2015 Matric class enjoyed their Matric Dinner in the Black Box. Staff, under the guidance of Mrs Ronelle Lochner and together with our Grade 11s, prepared a dashing evening with fine dining and stunning décor. Our Matrics rose to the occasion, looking spectacular in their finest.
- On Friday 16 October our Class of 2015 had the privilege of Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi as their guest of honour at their Valediction Ceremony. Kgosi challenged our school leavers, to seek to contribute to the development of Africa, to establish fairness and promote justice, and to respect the privilege of having an outstanding education.
- We were equally blessed to host the 2015 Kgosi Edward Patrick Lebone Lecture, an annual event hosted by Mmemogolo Semane Molotlegi to honour her husband. This year we were privileged to have Dr. Mongane Wally Serote, a well-known South African poet and writer, a multi-award winner, and a legend of 'the struggle', as the guest speaker to deliver his lecture. This is always an important event for our school as there is an audience of approximately 350 influential South Africans who attend. It also affords many of our students the chance to meet these visitors and to hear the guest lecture.
- Our Grade 10 students who represented Lebone II and our community on exchanges in Bilbao (Spain) and Richmond (USA) returned at the beginning of Term 4, enriched, excited and inspired by what they experienced. This group of students brought the total number of Grade 10 students on exchange in 2015 to 30. I thank these students and the three staff members for representing us so well – I have heard outstanding feedback from the leadership of both schools which we visited.
- We wish to thank LS parents for their involvement in two social events in Term 4: Our Grade R – 4 fathers who loved our annual Daring Dads camp with their children and our Gr 5 and 6 parents who enjoyed a braai at the school, in the Intermediate Phase playground.

REPORTS

Please note that Lower School and Upper School reports have been distributed to students.

Reports not collected by your child will be available at the School Reception from Monday 7 to Wednesday 15 December, between 08h00 and 13h00.

SPORTS NEWS

Term 3 is traditionally a quiet one on the sporting front. The Upper School focus on exams and our athletes focus on preparations for athletics in Term 1.

Our Lower School students enjoyed the Grade R – 2 Sports Day, and the Grade 3 – 6 Interhouse Netball and Soccer. Some Lebone II individuals achieved successes:

- We are proud of Mohammed and Zara Amanjee who have excelled in Judo this year. They have both ended 2015 ranked no. 1 in South Africa in their respective weight and age groups. Mohammed has also been selected to attend trials from which the SA Team to attend the Commonwealth Games will be selected.
- Five Lebone hockey players have progressed to the final North West trials to be played early in the new year. They are Jack du Toit and Munaka Sefanyetso in the u16 Boys group and Bonga Khumalo, Papi Goaraelwe and Kutlwano Setlogetlo in the u18 age group.
- Lebone Chess players have excelled in 2015. No less than 15 of our students have been included in the North West teams to play in the National Finals in Cape Town in December. We congratulate: Thatego Lefyedi, Ntuma Moagi, Temo Segatle, Landa Matomane, Matthew van der Merwe, Ntsika Msingapantsi, Christopher Smith, Lesedi Tsitsi, Gerhardus van der Westhuizen, Oratile Juma, Resego Morei, Jeremy van der Westhuizen, Joshua Price, Mpho Matebesi and Thapelo Petlele

CULTURAL NEWS

- Our College Debating Team participated in the SAASTA National Debate Finals in Gauteng in October. We congratulate the team and their 'coach', Mr. Antonio, on being paced 4th out of the 9 national teams present.
- We enjoyed a few music events in Term 4. Our School Orchestra had their first public performance in a music concert in Phokeng, and many students performed in the Music Showcase in our hall.
- Our Music staff are very excited about the performance of our students in their individual instrument examinations. The results are as follows:
Royal School's Examination (ABRSM external exams)
41 students wrote. 88% passes (to pass you receive a minimum of 65%). 29% achieved results above 75%.
Internal Lebone II Examinations (for students who did not do the ABRSM yet)
129 students wrote. 81% of these students achieved above 70%.
Therefore 78% of all of our Music students wrote examinations.



TRUTH &
RESPECT

STAFF NEWS

- At the end of this year we say farewell, and a very big thank you to a group of Staff and Interns who are moving on to new challenges and paths in their lives. These staff have served Lebone II superbly – we will miss them.
Teaching Staff leaving are: **Mrs Rachel du Toit (Grade 1 teacher); Mrs Alta Bester (Head of Library); Mrs Natalie Kapp (Speech and Language Therapist); Mr Mike Boyd (English Teacher); Mr Thero Modisagae (History Teacher).**
Administrative Staff: **Ms Mmakgotha Rakuba (US Secretary); Mme Thami Rangwaga (Librarian)**
Music Instrument Teachers: **Mr Andre Oosthuizen and 5 other NWU students who taught music for the year)**
Intern Teachers: (these young adults are all studying to be teachers and served Lebone as classroom assistants, or taught a few classes as a part of their growth as teachers) **Mr Orapaleng Mokgatle; Ms Dineo Sibiya; Ms Juliette Fourie; Mrs Zeporah Morobane**
- I also wish to thank **Mrs Verona Dietrich (English) and Mrs Danette Winterburn (LS Art)** who assisted the school as part time teachers in Term 3 and 4 whilst we had staff away.
- We celebrate with **Mrs Bianca van Breda (US Geography Teacher) and her husband Jaco** who were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, JP, in November.
- We wish speedy and successful recovery to **Mrs Heidi Graetz and Mrs Anri Frey** who have had medical procedures over the last few weeks.
- **Mr Mike Boyd** was married on Saturday 21 November. We congratulate him and Kate, and wish them well as they establish their lives together in Kenya.
- Two of our US House Directors, **Mrs Alet Nienaber (Mokgatle) and Rre Joe Cossa (Tumagole)** have stepped down from their responsibilities. They have served their houses, their students and the school excellently in their time as leaders. We congratulate **Mrs Anri Frey (Mokgalte) and Mr Luciano Antonio (Tumagole)** on being appointed in those posts for 2016.
- The Lebone family wishes to convey our condolences to **Mrs Hester Pavier (Catering Manager)** on the passing of her husband, Oom Willie, and **Rre Omogolo Nkwe (Chess Coach)** on the passing of his mother, in the last few weeks.
- We also continue to pray for a healthy recovery for **Mrs Ponthso Monei's** mother who is in hospital following a motor vehicle accident.

Please take note of:

- Our **GENERAL PARENT MEETING** will be held in the School Hall on Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 17h30. This meeting will be chaired by Mr. Keith Hines, Chairman of the Lebone II Parent Service Organisation.
- We will continue to host our Saturday morning **ParkRun** throughout the holiday. This is at 08h00 on every Saturday, and we will host an additional New Year Run on Friday 1 January (there will still be a run on Saturday 2 January) to begin your 2016 with a bang.

IMPORTANT DATES

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1	
Wednesday 6 January	Staff return
Tuesday 12 January	Boarders Return (12h00) General Parent Meeting (17h30)
Wednesday 13 January	School Opens
Thursday 14 January	Lower School Parent Meeting (17h30)
Friday 15 January	Lower School Athletics Day Report distribution (Middle School and Grade 12)
Saturday 16 January	Upper School Interhouse Athletics
Monday 18 January	Grade 12 Parent Evening (17h30)
18 – 20 January	Grade 8 Camp (Kloofwaters)
Wednesday 20 January	Lower School Inter School Athletics Day
Friday 22 January	New Student Welcome Assembly
22 - 24 January	Upper School Choir Camp
Monday 25 January	Grade 9 Parent Evening (17h30)
Thursday 28 January	Lower School Parent Interactive Evening (17h30)
Monday 1 February	Grade 10 and 11 Parent Evening (17h30)
Saturday 6 February	Boarding Parent Meeting
Monday 8 February	Grade 7 and 8 Parent Evening (17h30)
Wednesday 10 February	Upper School Inter School Athletics (Selly Park)
Friday 19 February	Lebone School Holiday (Long Weekend)
Saturday 5 March	Upper School Derby Day (African Leadership Academy and Maru-a-Pula) (hosted by ALA in Jhb)
Friday 18 March	School closes for holiday until 4 April (13h30)