



Headmaster's Newsletter December 2016

Dear Lebone Parents and Friends,

Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi regularly reminds our school that we must, at all times, remain **RELEVANT**, we must have **IMPACT** and that this school has an important **PURPOSE** to fulfill in our community. In a recent meeting with our Grade 12 students he also encouraged Lebone students and staff to be **PROUD AMBASSADORS** of this wonderful school that represents our Royal Family, the Royal Bafokeng Nation and our continent.

2016 has been a year of significant challenge in the South African education sphere: a year of fascinating international turmoil and confusing and unpredictable political intrigue. It has been a year in which the world seems to be calling out for strong and decisive leadership with a demand for transformation and dialogue. As we face these challenges, perhaps the words of Kgosi are a reminder to us of what we should be focusing on, as individuals, as a school, as a nation: *How can I ensure that what I am doing remains relevant? Am I having a positive impact on those around me? Am I a proud ambassador of myself, of my family, of Lebone, of our community?* Perhaps, if we focus on these questions, we may find some solutions to broader matters. I will be taking time in the next few weeks to answer these 3 questions for myself. I encourage you to join me in doing so.

The joy of school is that we work with young people that represent our future, who look forward positively and who have dreams of doing amazing things. Schools are places of HOPE. Our responsibility is to ensure that we never let that slip. At Lebone we will continue to look at the horizon and we will continue to focus on our values and on the potential and promise of what we do. We have had our challenges as a school this year. These challenges have been observed and noted, we are acting on them and we know that we will be stronger as a school community for them. Equally, we have seen some of the most beautiful things happen. There have been moments when we came together as a community, where we showcased the breathtaking talents of our staff and students, where we basked in the wonder of learning and achievement. Please take time to recall some of these beautiful moments. As a member of our Lebone family, what are the highlights of your child's school year? What are you grateful for?

In recent weeks we have held a few celebrations of student achievement and milestones. Music evenings, academic awards, sport successes, and recognition of the values and attitudes we espouse as a school – these moments have served as reminders of what we do, why we love this school and how we are shaping our community through a rich education. At all times we must fight hard to continue to have the highest expectations of all who are a part of Lebone II College.

As we prepare to head off for a well-earned holiday I would like to use this time to thank our school community for their total involvement, dedication and passion for what we are doing. Without a good, dedicated staff we cannot exist – I wish to thank the **Lebone Staff** for their selfless and professional attitude, sometimes in the face of real challenge. **Lebone Students** are involved, focused young people who face multiple challenges as they grow and mature, but who, on the whole, are making the most of their days at school and who find connection and belonging here.



The team is completed by our **Lebone Parents**, who find value in this school and what we do, and who are supportive, involved and who hold us to account. **KE A LEBOGA THATA! THANK YOU!**

My last thank you goes to our **College Board of Governors** and to my **Senior Management** team for their support of me over the last 12 months.

At the end of a challenging year let me share a few words from Haim Ginott, a teacher and a psychologist: *'Happiness... is not a destination: it is a manner of traveling. Happiness is not an end in itself. It is a by-product of working, playing, loving and living.'*

May you continue to travel happily!

I wish you and your family a healthy, blessed, peace-filled, happy 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 as we reflect on the year just passed and look forward in anticipation to 2017.

Continue to shine your lights!

Sincerely,

David du Toit

[Please remember that the new school year starts on Wednesday 18 January at 07h30 for all students. Boarders will move into Legae on Tuesday 17 January.]

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL LEBONE II FAMILIES

D6 School Communicator – where you can read the news!

Please take time over these holidays to ensure that your family members are connected to our communication tool: **D6 School Communicator**. If you are not a user, please become one by going onto the D6 website (type in D6 communicator in your web browser), click on School Downloads and follow the instructions. I recommend that you subscribe to be a user on your computer and smart phone if these options are both available to you.

As a school we would like to communicate with all families through this tool.



Staff News

The following Lebone II staff members will be leaving Lebone II at the end of 2016. I wish to thank them for their selfless commitment to this school and its community, and for their generous gifts of their every effort in ensuring that our Lebone students benefit.

Mrs. Lize Prins	Upper School Coordinator, Head of Girls Boarding, Science Teacher (relocating to Pretoria)
Mrs. Heidi Graetz	Grade 6 teacher, Hockey Coach (relocating to Alberton)
Mrs. Linda Thompson	Grade R teacher; Locum teacher for 2016
Mr. Kaeden Arnold	Legae le Basimane duty teacher
Mrs. Casline Mmutle	Assistant in the Kitchen (resigned for medical reasons)
Mr. Kagiso Ntoane	Chef in the Kitchen (going to study further)
Mr. Edwin Mputle	Assistant in the Kitchen (studying to become a teacher)

In Term 4 we also celebrated the birth of **Mme Kelebhone Phalane's** (Marketing and Communications Department) daughter, Gontlafetse Juji Phalane. Both mother and baby are healthy and doing well.

In the Upper School we have made 3 new appointments of staff to streamline our processes and to become even more effective in what we offer to students and families:

Director of Academics	Mrs. Marie Reynolds
Director of Student Affairs	Mr. Luciano Antonio
Director of Boarding	Rre Kabu Mokgethwa

General News

- There are a number of Lebone students leaving our school at the end of 2016, almost entirely because of families relocating. We wish to thank these young people and their families for their service to this school and for their support for our dream. This school is richer because of every student and family who has been a part of our community. I wish all of these Lebone students well in their futures and know that they will continue to shine their lights brightly.
- Our Lebone II team consisting of **Mpho Monthso, Ramono Pilane and Gamaliel Taengwa** qualified for the national finals of the South African Institute of International Affairs' Young Researchers Symposium in which the champion team from each province participated in an Environmental Sustainability Project symposium which was held in Maropeng recently. Mpho was awarded the trophy as the best speaker at the event.
- **THANK YOU TO THE LEBONE COMMUNITY!** On Saturday 22 October we hosted our annual **Pick n Pay Mathaithai Trail Run**. This fundraising and community event was a massive success with over 1100 runners participating in the 35km, 10km or 5km runs. Pick n Pay is our title sponsor, with many other generous sponsors on board as well. This was a fun-filled family day. This year we added the **Mathaithai Mountain Biking** component to the event – ridden on Sunday, 23 October. We had over 200 riders enjoying our top class tracks in and around the school. This event was an excellent collaboration between our **staff and our PSO**. I wish to thank all involved in this significant success, in particular Ms. Herme Visser, Mr. Sean Lindsay, Mr. Jaco Diedericks, Mrs. Sue-Mare Spamer, Mr. Keith Hines and his PSO Committee, and Mrs. Vanessa



Hammond. I should also point out that a large number of Lebone students volunteered to assist on the day.

- **Grade 12 Dinner and Valediction**

The 2016 Grade 12 class enjoyed a beautiful send off. Their Dinner was a spectacular success, hosted in the Dining Hall and Amphitheatre. On Friday 16 October we held our Valediction ceremony. This was an emotional morning which was appreciated by the Grade 12 class and their parents. **Mr. George Harris**, our former Headmaster who is now going to be the Headmaster of Hilton College, was our Guest of Honour, delivering our Valediction Message.

- A group of our staff and Grade 10 students recently returned from very successful exchange trips to **Richmond in the USA, Bilbao in Spain and New Delhi in India**. The feedback received from all of these trips was excellent. Our students represented the school outstandingly well.
- We hosted Mmemogolo Semane Molotlegi's annual **Edward Patrick Lebone** memorial lecture on Saturday 24 October. Former President, **Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe** was the speaker. The event was well-attended and a superb advert for our college.
- **Daring Dad's Camp** – our Grade R – 4 dads had a camp out on our sport's field on Friday 29 October. This was very well attended and a fun evening was had by all. I wish to thank the parent and staff committee who made this event a memorable (even though there is very little sleep) night out for children and their fathers and uncles.
- **Chess** - 23 Lebone players have been selected to the Bojanala Regional team to compete at Nationals in December.
- **Grade 3 Entrepreneurs Day** – our Foundation Phase students once again proved that you are never too young to understand the concepts of capitalism. Many innovative products were sold!

All of these events demand huge commitment, effort and passion from our staff and students. I wish to salute them. This is a busy school which can only continue to succeed if we have this kind of consistent involvement.

Some important dates for January 2017

Please note that our full 2017 calendar is available on D6 School Communicator or on our website: www.lebonecollege.co.za

12 January	Staff return for 2017
17 January	Boarders Return
	Boarding Parents Meeting (14h00)
18 January	All students back at school for first school day of 2017
19 January	Lower School Parent Orientation Evening
23 – 25 January	Grade 8 Camp
27 January	Grade 3 – 6 Athletics Day
28 January	Upper School Athletics Day