



MARITZBURG COLLEGE

Maritzburg College Boarding Establishment Newsletter

Dear College B.E. Community

It has been a very busy start to the year and we are proud of the attitude and approach that our boarders seem to have adopted so far this year. Many of you have had some form of correspondence from your son's housemaster - this is just an update on the boarding establishment as a whole.

I would like to take this opportunity to address the issue of the coronavirus that has had such an impact globally, and at the same time has affected us at College. Having to close early for the Easter holidays was obviously a decision that was made by our State President, and as a College community our main concern was the wellbeing of our boys. We believe that as a school we put measures in place to make sure that our boys and staff were well looked after and that their safety was our main concern from the time we realised that there was a possible crisis on our hands.

We do ask that during this extended holiday period your son follows the academic requirements that have been put in place to ensure that we keep up to date with the curriculum. This info will be updated regularly on the d6 as well as the school's Moodle platform.

Noting the social media coverage at this time, I came across something that I thought was a powerful statement made by an educator with regards to the coronavirus. A school superintendent said something profound in his address about cancelling school; "In the end, it will be impossible to know if we overreacted or did too much, but it will be quite apparent if we underreacted or did too little". Let's hope that, as a nation and as a school, we can bounce back in Term 2 and that the impact of Covid-19 is controlled as much as possible.

I would like to place on record my sincere gratitude to our team of San staff as well as our Kitchen staff who have really taken the responsibility personally and have been very proactive in their approach to looking after our boys. The housemasters and BE staff have also been of great service to College this term. Yes, it is our job, but the personal attention to detail and their commitment to our boys has been truly evident and is deeply appreciated.

We have had other challenges to face this term, what with many water issues that resulted in drastic measures being put in place to ensure that our B.E. remained open and that sanitation was maintained. We have had to deal with the electricity supply issues associated with load shedding as well as the generator having to be repaired after the fan belt snapped. In true College spirit, the boys and staff have remained resilient and have been, for the most part, responsible and cooperative during these challenges. A special mention needs to be made of Mr Hackland and his Estate Team who have often worked around the clock to resolve many of these issues. The proactive nature of our Estate Team is truly admirable and we thank them for all their assistance this term.

Our 2nd formers arrived on the Saturday before school started. As many of you are aware, this is a daunting time for these young fellows as they come into the unknown and join College as small fish in the big pond. Their approach to life as a College boarder has been commendable.

The boys were put through their paces during Vietnam and had the long three week wait until they could make contact with their families for the first time.

They have embraced this all and can be proud of the start that they have had at College. A special word of thanks to Mr Hoffman, his boarder's masters and the prefects for the role that they have played in helping these young men settle in to College life.



The term was a very busy one for the other boarders too.

The BE inter house obstacle course challenge is always a very fiercely contested event.

Hudson House had won the event for the past 5 years and once again came out as champions after pipping Clark House by 2 seconds.



Another really enjoyable activity during the first week included 250 boarders attending the Maritzburg United vs Amazulu soccer match at Harry Gwala stadium. The boys loved the festive atmosphere, the staff who joined them really enjoyed it too.

The Boarders RCL have met twice this term. Mr Swart and I have attended these meetings and some really good robust discussion has been had regarding life as a College boarder. It's very important that the boys have a voice to discuss matters openly. Matters are discussed in an open forum and the matters arising are then considered and actioned.



We also started a new termly activity which included the 5th and 6th form boys having a braai together on Barns. This was a great break in structured routine, it was wonderful to see boys of both forms playing touch rugby and soccer together as well as enjoying a braai and each other company.

We continued with our Old Boys interactive sessions that were started last year, we had over 25 Old Boys come back and share stories with the boys. This is a wonderful initiative and it's encouraging to see Old Collegians giving back to their school.

This term saw Graham "Dingo" Dinkelman, OC 1998 & reptile fanatic come and speak to the boys on his life experiences. Graham has been bitten by some of the most venomous snakes in the world and shared on how he has gained perspective on life. Dingo brought along some slithery accomplices which had the boys on the edge of their seats for most of the evening



There was also much excitement at the end of the 3rd week as the Nathan House boys were able to make contact with their families as well as get to see them over the weekend. Nathan House picnic was once again a great success.

One of the other exciting aspects to the first term is the following year's prospective boarder sleepover. We had 130 enthusiastic Grade 7 boys join us for an evening to experience a small taste of life as a College boarder.

The College B.E. has made serious strides in its approach to mentoring. We met in our Boarder Core Groups again this term, where the boarder masters and the boys in their core groups would meet and discuss everyday life issues as a group. These interactive sessions are always an enjoyable time for the boys as they get a break in routine, as well as get to know their core group leader a bit better. Some braaied together, others had hot chocolate and biscuits and much fun was had by all.

Mr Waters and Miss Hackland once again put together a fantastic Dads 'n Lads evening. Mr Nollie Duvenage was the guest speaker this year and his address on the role of a father and being present and involved in your sons' lives was well received by the large group of dads and lads who attended.

Unfortunately, because of having to close early, only three of the five boarding houses were able to have their formal dinners this term. These dinners are always exciting for the boys and Mrs Lawson and her team really spoil them with an extra-special meal. The housemasters go to a lot of effort to make the evening a memorable occasion for the boys in their houses.

It has been very encouraging to see how the new staff in the boarding houses have adapted to College life. Their energy and willingness to get involved has been great to see and I know that they have loved being a part of the College family thus far.

I would like to also place on record my sincere gratitude to the College Boarder Parent's Committee, chaired by Mr Joe Culverwell and well represented on behalf of families from all over the province. Their support has been greatly appreciated and we are in regular contact regarding aspects that need attention from a B.E. perspective.

In closing I would like to encourage parents to have regular conversations with your sons, keep on encouraging them to be the best that they can be. It is our vision in the Boarding Establishment to see your boys thrive, make friendships, and allow each individual boy to fulfil his potential. I am regularly reminded of how blessed we are to be a part of the College family, to be working in an environment that is really conducive to excellence, but most importantly, working with College boys who make us proud on a regular basis.

Please encourage your boys to adopt the same positive approach and attitude to the second term as they have had in the first. And let's hope that, under the circumstances, the term will proceed without disruption, and run as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Have a very blessed Easter Holiday and keep safe.

Kind regards



Ryan Kyle
Deputy Headmaster - Boarding

