Dear Parents

What an exciting, yet exhausting First Term this has been. The school has been a hive of activity since Day 1 with the orientation programme of the Grade 8s, right up to yesterday, with the running of the annual Senior Gala at our own pool. The format of this event has become a popular, relatively new tradition at the school, and is going from strength to strength – maximum participation being the main aim of the day!

Our webpage, facebook and new D6 Communicator system has been a huge source of almost immediate information on tap for not only the parents, but the girls, Old Girls and all the friends of Riebeek College. It is used by the school daily. Mrs Gerber is the teacher in charge and is doing a magnificent job. Please take note of the little note attached to your daughter’s report about downloading the D6 Communicator.

This system is a wonderful tool, as it alleviates the pressure of deadlines. News is uploaded and available to parents within minutes. As parents, you can rely on the Communicator, knowing that all news and information is in one place and we can even place information on the School Communicator from home, over the weekend, should the need arise (eg to inform parents that a tour group has arrived safely at a destination). Please assist us and co-operate by downloading this system and personalizing it so that you only get the information that you require, otherwise it could be a nuisance receiving all the grades’ information! In the long run, it is going to save the school thousands and thousands of rand that is spent on paper!

There is much duplication of news at the moment, **so from next term, we shall not be sending out a newsletter on hard copy, but via the D6 Communicator.** This is a one-stop shop tool that saves an enormous amount of unnecessary labour by the teachers and administrative staff. The sooner we get into the correct practice of using it correctly, the sooner our lives will become less complicated and the more direct communication will be with the school. Parents who do not have internet access via their phone or computer may request a printed version of the Communicator news from the office.

I trust that you will all support us in this new venture of “keeping up with the times”! Change is often tiresome but, when necessary, so exciting and challenging! We pride ourselves at Riebeek College of always keeping our thumb on the pulse of life. So, we do everything in our power to prepare your daughters, not just for the future, but for life.

I love the following quote that I received recently and would like to share it with all of you today:

*If you want to be sad*

*LIVE IN THE PAST*

*If you want to be anxious*

*LIVE IN THE FUTURE*

*If you want to be peaceful*

***LIVE IN THE NOW.***

So let us all try and live every day being at peace with who we are, what we have accomplished and what we still want to accomplish in our lives.

My best wishes for a wonderful, albeit short break with your daughters. May you all return back to your Riebeek College home feeling well-rested, at peace and ready to make amends to the first term’s shortcomings or to continue to improve on results that are already impressive! I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of school attendance next term. Please avoid making additional holiday plans during the term because of the many long weekends; as normal and vital teaching will continue on the school days between the long weekends.

Yours sincerely

MARILYN WOODS

PRINCIPAL