



# The Westwood WEB

Monday, 28th November 2011  
Week 12, Term 3.

## From the Deputy Head of School

### The past two weeks have been extremely busy and productive.

Our Year 6 students marked the end of their Primary schooling at the PYP Exhibition. Students inquired into a unit on 'Industries' and investigated ways that they can make a difference. Last week they shared their efforts with fellow students, staff and parents. It was a wonderful event, and served as a reminder that even at twelve years old, you can make a positive contribution to society. Thanks to the Year 6 team and staff mentors who helped make the exhibition such a success.

Year 11 and 13 students (and parents!) can breathe a sigh of relief now that exams are over. Last Thursday, our Year 13 Diploma Students had their graduation ceremony – a chance to reflect on their time at WIS and look forward to everything the future holds. I extend to them, and every other graduating student, my best wishes as they make the transition from WIS to the wider world.

### For the upcoming year:

#### Placement of children in classes

At Westwood we strive to provide students with quality teaching and learning experiences. In order to ensure that teachers can provide for the individual and diverse needs of students within their classes, class size is significant. Another important factor is ensuring that each class has a balance of students.

Factors taken into account when placing children in classes and ensuring this balance include gender, age, nationality, ability levels, teaching/learner styles, peer dynamics, etc.

The process of determining a class list is a consultative one, involving teachers and specialists from the Student Support Services team. At all times, the primary consideration when placing a student in a particular class is what will be best for that student. We request that parents allow the school to make sound educational placements for the students in the school and, therefore, request that parents do not submit requests that their children be placed in a particular teacher's class. Such requests will only be

considered in **exceptional circumstances** and with valid justification. Any such request must be directed to the Head of School.

Unless there is no other teacher to teach a particular year level or a particular subject, students of teaching staff will not be taught by their own parent.

*From Parent-Student Handbook*

### Upcoming events:

Friday, December 2 – IB1/IG1 exams end  
Tuesday, December 6 – Recognition Ceremony  
Friday, December 9 – Whole-school assembly/  
Last day of school

Amanda Williams  
Deputy Head of School

## Dear Parents, Teachers and Students

Years 4A and 4B are having a sale on Friday 2nd December. The sale is for their Unit of Inquiry Summative Assessment—Industries.

Please bring a lot of money.

Thank you.

Louise Betts  
4B

## PTA News

The long-awaited **Westwood International Cookbook** is on its way! This delectable collection of over 50 delicious family favourites will be on sale the last week of school. Bundle the Cookbook with one of our beautiful new **Westwood aprons** to make a perfect Christmas gift package for family and friends, near and far.

Cookbook: 100 PULA  
Apron: 125 PULA  
Cookbook + Apron: 200 PULA (YOU SAVE 25 PULA!)

A very special THANK YOU goes to Westwood parent Viki Jurisic of VIGOSOFT for donating her time and expertise on the cookbook layout and design.

### **Westwood School Calendar**

Once again, the beautiful artwork of our students has been collected and preserved in the annual Westwood School calendar! These handy calendars pull together all important school dates and holidays in one place! Don't miss your chance to get one of these lovely and practical keepsakes. Calendars will start selling the last week of school at the very reasonable price of 50 PULA each!

THANKS VERY MUCH to Westwood parent Sandy Davies for all her efforts putting this year's Calendar together!

### **Don't forget Cinderella!**

The school may be closed, but the show goes on! Westwood Drama teacher Aldo Brincat will be staging his production of **Cinderella** in Mantlwaneng Hall from Dec. 10 - 24. Mr. Brincat's take on this classic tale with an African twist will delight young and old alike, and the production showcases many of the fine talents from Westwood own student body. Tickets can be purchased at the Front Office. NOT TO BE MISSED!

Sheila Comeau  
PTA Secretary

### **Children Behind Bars**

Thank you to those families who have contributed so generously to the Children Behind Bars collection. We will continue the collection up until school closes for those who still wish to make a donation and bring comfort and joy to a child.

Bronwyn Wilson

### **Sports News**

The girls who were selected for the softball Southern Schools team had a match with the Northern Schools team on 19th November 2011 at Broadhurst Primary. Tadiwa, Lane, Danielle

Patricia Mutepfa

### **Alumni News**

One of our former IB students, Merwan Hade (2006-2007), will be joining Microsoft in Seattle as a Program Manager from January. Merwan expresses his heartfelt thanks to all his teachers at Westwood for their role in shaping his future.

Anandhi Lakshminarayanan  
IGCSE programme co-ordinator

## **Alumnus Address to Westwood International School IB Graduation Ceremony**

Good Morning Westwood students, Graduates, Teachers, Parents and loved ones. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the IB Coordinator, Mrs. Mall and Teacher of IB Spanish and Chemistry, Mr. Martinez for the invitation to join you the graduates in celebrating your completion of the IB Diploma program. As Mrs. Mall said, indeed I am one of you. I graduated from IB in 2007 and went on to Malaysia to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Writing, with a Minor in Journalism from Monash University. Today I, your school and your loved ones congratulate you. You have reached the finish line of a grueling two year program, and impressively, you managed to wake up this morning to make it to your last day of High School. I haven't seen anyone nodding off as yet, which is great. I am so excited for you. I am excited for what this day really means: It is a day that represents the end to a journey, but at the same time, the beginning of a new chapter in your lives as you now hold the IB baton in hand and walk on to see what fruits your skills will bear in the near and far off future.

What I can say is that, what you hold in hand and in your heart from these past twenty-four or-so months, you will certainly use and will be continuously influenced by as you move forward. I have that as a personal testimony. When I read about the IB program on my way home to Botswana after living in Senegal in West Africa for most of my high school, I knew that this program was one I wanted to pursue. And I really can say that I truly enjoyed myself throughout the program. Graduates I am so excited to see you sitting here before me because it reminds me of how refreshed I was to have been seated where you are, draped in the black gowns and cap you are now wearing, having known that finally, yes, I made it to the end. I finished what I started. I came to testify to you that indeed you all made the right decision to take up this program. And that nothing that you have been introduced to, been refined in, and worked at during the IB program will ever, ever, go to waste. And I do not say this out of any obligation to my teachers or as an attempt to impress the school's seated guests.

I have never been one to sugar-coat what I really feel, but honestly, I promise you today that you have just acquired a mentality that has set you up to look at whatever else you pursue in your future with an attitude that says, "sure, I can do that, I just need to work at it." Looking over the past three years I spent in university and my short time since I returned home, I now realise how much the IB program influenced the steps I took and the mindset I had throughout university. Every semester break in Botswana I spent applying myself to some sort of freelance or internship activity. My first including freelance writing for local and Malaysian magazines, and a news writer intern at a local radio station. Later on before I had even entered my third year of my degree, I had officially edited the fourth novel of Botswana's first published English novelist and, my father, Andrew Sesinyi; and had also overseen the publishing and launch of his first published playwright. And I can assure you that he was no 'father' during this project, but a challenge like any other author who prefers his work left untouched. During my time in university I did not stop seeking to apply myself in extra-curricular activities as I went on to run for and win the post of editor of the Monash University International Students Services body, where I built a magazine team and together we published two issues that through consistent marketing, became an established part of the university's campus culture. I was also apart of a student founded-and-run body called the Monash University Volunteer Program and partook in setting up volunteer opportunities with Malaysian NGO's for students to enrich their academic life by taking an active part in teaching, mentoring and caring for another in their community. And there were more other activities here and there, all-in-all, I was still a student; having to read, study, write essays; write exams, present and research, and pass. Yes, it was quite a full plate. And where did I pick up that lifestyle of diversity from? The IB program. Remember; academics, Theory of Knowledge, plus C-A-S: the application of oneself in Creativity, Action and Service extra-curricular activities. This lifestyle of spreading one's wings became second nature to me to the point I even forgot what it was like to not be involved in an activity that involved some sort of innovation, history making or trend setting for the sake of pushing some sort of enrichment towards people around me. It became a habit. And graduates, this is what you will go on to do and much greater, if you keep what you have had cultivated within you from your time in this program.

The lifestyle acquired from the IB program which further influenced my life in university, has now still carried through in my life as towards the end of my degree I decided to take on a career in community development. I currently volunteer with an organisation called The King's Foundation. An organisation with a calling to minister the Gospel to children and youths, through sports. What is to minister? To take time out your schedule to take part in passing a message of hope and everyday motivation to those who are tomorrow's future leaders and goodwill citizens, if we but do our part and get out of our comfort zones.

Citizens and citizens in spirit, our country Botswana I believe is unfortunately but undeniably at one of its most troubled and confused moments in our history from before and after we became a republic. We live in uncertainty about our national values, our culture, our leadership, and our future as we seem to not be the united and growing nation in recent times, as we were known to be before worldwide. And this is not because there is not enough money, or resources, or time, but because we as a nation took to our comfort zones and relied too much on a government and sat back from being active citizens in our daily lives. And as a result, us the youth of today, have had such little motivation and have little to no solid vision to strive for in our country. Graduates and of course, Westwood High School, let it be today that you listen to another youth when I say: we and only we can change our current situation in our homes and in this nation. This is what education is for, to enable us the youth to take what we have learnt and apply, right now, to the world around us. And the world is not somewhere out there in theory, but in our homes, in our friendships, in this country. And I beckon you to join me in spirit and make the decision to from now on be active learners and doers of pushing for our country to move forward because we are the coming leaders. Volunteer in your community. We were designed to be that good change, and a strong one.

Maybe in our every day lives, the term children, minors or youths is represented and depicted to be synonyms of confused, rebellious, unable, or naïve. But history recorded a truth that says the total opposite of what we as the youth were designed to be, which are leaders. In the Bible, kings such as David and Solomon who were Kings of Ancient Israel were both minors, under the age of 21, when they were placed in roles of leadership. David was anywhere between 15 years old and 20 when he single-handedly killed the biggest soldier of the Babylonian empire, and was appointed Commander of 1,000 men in his army. King Solomon was even a teen or 20 years old when he became king of his nation, and was said to be the wealthiest king ever known and the wisest person ever born. And both of them in time brought such economic, political and cultural success that was never forgotten, and their lives and others of the Bible continue to be studied by many today.

And you too now are called to a destiny of leadership. Students, and graduates, today change your mind and make the decision to seek out the truth, and do not take lightly what you have learnt over the years and who you are. Not naïve, confused, rebellious, or troublesome, but designed to be massive change makers. I was blessed when I came to know that truth. And for you to be listening to me, another youth, and not a senior Minister, Teacher, Pastor or President, call you to be a change with me, I hope proves to you that indeed you are called to leadership, and we have been given the assignment to pick Botswana (or your native country) back up onto its feet. IB Graduates, take what you have acquired with you and be grateful for the platform you now stand on. And Congratulations. Thank You.

**By Renga Sesinyi**

**Thursday 24 November, 2011**