

# RIDGEWAY COLLEGE



## NEWSLETTER

**Dear Parents**

### **A mind once stretched to a new idea never returns to its original dimensions**

It is always interesting to watch pupils and see who gets actively involved in projects, who shies away entirely, who merely observe and who criticizes. I wonder how many look back on their school days and say : “I wish I had tried...”. It is our job to provide the opportunities; to encourage and to foster the confidence in our learners to try new things... to take a risk... to run a project or to sing that solo. Only then will life learning happen.

Examples of this abound this week. On Tuesday, a number of matric pupils took the assembly slot to do a presentation to each class on study skills and tips. It is often more valuable when the advice comes from a peer! Thank you to Alex Fourie, Emmatjie Msindhu, Ntebeti Ntini, Risuna Shivambi, Nyandano Ramushweu, Gudani Manuga, Dede Bessong, Nsovo Marivate, Thendo Mafela and Tinashe Kujinga for all their efforts.

Later that day, the Blood Clinic arrived. While some of our staff and pupils shied away from the needle, I was bowled over by the attitude and willingness of so many of our scholars to be brave and donate blood. These seemingly small acts of selflessness are impressive. They uphold the values of our school and I salute all those who donated blood to save the lives of others. All of our first time donors had their photos taken to celebrate and acknowledge the event.

On Wednesday, one of our matrics, Mphioa Machaba, asked if she could run a blanket drive to help those in need in the coming winter months. She herself had felt the cold and was worried about the less fortunate she had seen in town and how they would cope. Today, two grade 11's asked if they could organize someone to talk about mental health because they were concerned about some friends. These initiatives, like the ones I mentioned last week, are wonderful. I give both projects my full support and hope you do too.

There are photos below of the winners of the origami competition featured last week – they too pushed themselves in terms of creativity and learning, trying a new skill and making the effort.

### FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

*Study skills*  
*Blanket drive*  
*Blood drive*  
*Origami winners*  
*Presidents Awards*  
*Dede Bessong*  
*Netball and Hockey*  
*Tshivenda Culture*

Let's share  
the warmth

help out by  
donating  
a blanket or  
bring R10  
or more

Change  
A life





**Grade 8 Origami Competition**  
**Winner: Marilyn Munyoka**  
**Certificates for creativity:**  
**Annie Chakwizira and Rabelani Dzambureki**  
**Certificate for effort:**  
**Tebogo Thulare and Atshilaho Ramuthivheli**



**Grade 9 Origami Competition**  
**Winner: Anesu Mapfumo**  
**Certificate for creativity:**  
**Lufuno Magada**  
**Certificate for effort:**  
**Zohra Osman and Charity Mashige**

*Origami winners*



**DEDE BESSONG**

2ND IN THE 3RD ROUND OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY COMPETITION

Then, in celebration of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's life, the founder of the President's Award, (of which our school is part) participants from around the world have been invited to record themselves singing the 'World in Union' in order to create a global choir. Four of our President's Award participants have risen to the challenge. We cannot wait to see the finished product!

Well done too to our netball girls, who played their first fixture in over a year against Hoërskool Louis Trichardt on Tuesday, especially to our u14 A team who won! Our u14 hockey girls played out of their socks, so to speak. Without a goalie, they took on the First team from Hoërskool Louis Trichardt and did exceptionally well to lose only 3-1. They then held their u15 team to a 0-0 draw. Our little school has spirit that abounds and a desire to do well.



As parents know, we offer conversational Tshivenda in Grade 8 and 9. The acquisition of any language stretches a mind and teaches not only language structures but culture too and with that, a fostering of understanding. Mrs Winnie Moshapo put together an excellent morning for her grade 8 classes, with groups presenting orals on the origin, culture, food and attire of the Venda people. Some of the food presented was delicious but I will admit I avoided the mopani worms! Many thanks to Mr. Fielies and Mr. Madzhiye for judging.

And then we received news that Dede Bessong has been placed tie second (from just under a thousand participants) in the third round of the International Biology Competition. This is an extraordinary achievement from a young woman who takes every chance given to learn and to challenge herself. We are beyond proud.

The social media course is starting this week and I thank parents for supporting this initiative. As with this course as well as a talk next week on the laws around cannabis and the consequences of the use thereof, we as educators need to engage and teach beyond the curriculum. These are life skills and life knowledge our pupils need.

YOURS IN EDUCATION

*Dionne Redfern*

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NSOVO MARIVATE  
 PRESENTING STUDY  
 SKILLS IDEAS





# Ridgeway Blood drive

FIRST TIME



## SONG ENTRANTS

### President's Award



From left to right  
Mfungo Maluleke -Tsonga attire  
Masechaba Mathonsi- Xhosa attire  
Ndivho Mukoma- Venda attire  
Martilly Mabulele -Tsonga attire



BELIEVE

*In Yourself*

NDI FUNA  
MBVELELO YA  
HASHU

# Tshivenda