

RIDGEWAY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

You can't wait
until life isn't
hard anymore
before you
decide to be
happy.

-Nightbirde-



Dear Parents

This week saw the marking of Youth Day – but I wonder how much there is to celebrate for the youth of our country. Yet another school year is in disarray, with the goal posts shifting like desert sand and the end of COVID proving as elusive as the end of a rainbow. Sport has been cancelled, matric dances are in doubt and each day, the growing number of COVID cases is placing an untenable, tangible pressure on us all. The youth of our country are fighting against not only COVID, but rising unemployment, the cost of higher education, crime and a million other woes. So what is there to celebrate?

Life has drilled down to the little things. Denied easy access to crowds of friends, parties, church gatherings and all those other activities we took for granted, we have no choice but to focus on what we can do and what we can achieve. The other day, a friend sent me these words:

We are all tired. Really, we are. It's a hard road, but it's also a beautiful one. Perhaps we expect too much from ourselves and from others. Perhaps humanity can only make slow progress, like an inchworm. Perhaps we need to celebrate how far we have come. And rest more. And relish simple pleasures. And look for love everywhere. There is a river near where I live. It meanders slowly, peacefully. It doesn't ask itself why it isn't an ocean, or a raging river, or some other thing. It just surrenders to what it is.

Maybe, at this extraordinary time in human history, we too need to surrender for a moment and breathe. Conserve our energy for what we can control rather than raging against what we cannot. Fight for family time. Fight for love. Fight for perspective. Fight for calm and peace and kindness.

There is an extraordinary clip on Facebook at the moment. It's from America's Got Talent and it is the audition of a young woman who performs under the name of Nightbirde. Please watch it. Her key message is summarized in the quote I have included in this letter. That is my mantra for this month.



Last week of term:

In the name of safety, I think it is prudent to hold the pupils at school only for what is absolutely necessary. Going through the examinations to understand where one has lost marks, doing the corrections and checking that everything has been marked and added up properly is very important. The attached timetable allows for this to happen as well as for a guest facilitator to talk to the classes about gender based violence and for the junior classes to be given a fitness programme after most of them failed the fitness test. As the timetable shows, we will dismiss grades 8-9 on Wed at 12 and the remaining grades on Thurs. Reports will be available for collection from the school on Friday from 9 am to 2pm. Please note the Admin Office will be closed from Friday 25 at 2pm and will re-open on Friday 16 July.

YOURS IN EDUCATION

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