

Pink  
October

# RIDGEWAY COLLEGE

## NEWSLETTER



*Dear Parents*

28 October 2022

The months of September and October focus our attention on the very real impact of cancer on our community and sadly often our immediate family.

September marked Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Although childhood cancer is relatively rare, the incidence rate has been increasing. According to a 2014 report by the American Cancer Society, it is now estimated that one in 408 children worldwide will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 15. Yet with early detection and treatment in paediatric oncology units, globally the survival rate can be as high as between 70% and 80%, with variance depending on the type of cancer.

Despite being relatively rare, in Western countries childhood cancer is the second most common cause of death in children aged 5 to 14 years, after accidents. In Africa it does not make it into the top 10 common causes.

It is estimated that currently less than half of children with cancer in South Africa are diagnosed, and many of those who are diagnosed are in advanced stage of illness. One of the reasons for this is a lack of awareness and knowledge in parts of the health system regarding the early warning signs of childhood cancer.

As a result, the Childhood Cancer Foundation South Africa (CHOC) initiated an Awareness Programme to disseminate the early warning signs that the South African Childhood Cancer Study Group drew up. The objectives of the programme include ensuring that all children with cancer in South Africa are diagnosed as early as possible and that the early warning signs of childhood cancer are well known in all parts of the health system (including primary healthcare clinics and all hospitals).

The designation of October as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" in South Africa reflects a nationwide drive by public and private healthcare structures to raise awareness of this debilitating disease across all races and class structures.

Our children will be making use of their civvies-day contributions today and their dress-up day contributions on Monday to gather some financial support for the organisations making a difference to cancer awareness.

*Believe in Yourself....*

*Best of luck to all our Matrics!*

## **YOU GOT THIS**

*Hard work pays off.....*

### **EXAMS ARE AROUND THE CORNER**

Having issued the finalised examination timetable, I trust that our children are beginning to make preparations toward their final exams. I would encourage parents to ensure, and possibly assist, their child in setting up a revision programme to span the lead-up to the commencement of exams. Any child who may need assistance in formulating a study programme is encouraged to spend a moment with their tutor teacher or Life Orientation teacher for guidance.

The final examination is weighted heavily in the compilation of the Year-Mark – in Grades 8 & 9 this exam is 60% of the Year-Mark and in Grades 10 & 11 it is 75% of the Year-Mark. As such, there can be great improvement in a child's results as a result of preparing and performing well in the final exam.

I encourage our children to make good use of the remaining time, set up a study schedule, try to stick to it, revise and practice in order to ensure they produce their best results.

All grades write their first exam on Wednesday 9 November.

Monday 7 November is a normal school day.

Tuesday 8 November will be a study day – this should allow our pupils to focus their preparation for the first paper.

Subject teachers are available to our children throughout the entire exam run should a child need clarity or additional support with a concept. Please could children make arrangements the day before to see a teacher as they will be in invigilation sessions for much of the day.

### **REMINDER – ROTARY EXCHANGE & MATH/SCIENCE WORKSHOP**

If I could remind parents of these two initiatives from last week's newsletter.

### **AFTERNOON SPORT**

Please note that sport, including the fitness and conditioning programme will end next Friday 4 November, just prior to the start of exams.

### **D6 COMMUNICATOR APP – RIDGEWAY COLLEGE**

We are excited to be launching the d6 School Communicator app at Ridgeway College in the very-near future. Staff had an intense training session on Wednesday afternoon and we will be moving to this app as our primary source of communication with our parent community very soon.

For our parents who have already made use of this app at a previous school you will understand the power of the app in communicating efficiently and immediately by pushing notifications straight to your phone, while protecting personal information.

To prepare for the migration, please would you download the application using the link below and select Ridgeway College as your community.

Download link: <https://onelink.to/school-communicator>

We will keep our parents abreast of the launch date.

KIND REGARDS

*Dr. G.W Elliott*

EXECUTIVE HEAD

head@ridgewaycollege.co.za



*Believe in Yourself....*