

## **PRINCIPAL'S ASSEMBLY MESSAGE: FRIDAY 2 JUNE 2017**

As the Grade 10-12s are writing exams today it is appropriate to direct my comments at the Grade 8s and 9s. Today I want to hand out some “bouquets and brickbats”; this is an idiom for ‘praise and criticism’. Let us start with the criticism first.

Over the past few weeks it has been brought to my attention that many of you in the junior grades have been using social media inappropriately, particularly WhatsApp. I want to remind you that anything you post on a group is in effect in the public domain. School WhatsApp groups should only be used for the purposes for which it is set up - for a class group, sports group etc. These platforms are not to be used for any other purpose, especially not for “dissing” or being unkind to others. Crude and inappropriate language is a no no. As a member of the group, it is your responsibility to bring those who are inappropriately behaved on the group to book, otherwise you are also complicit. As a rule of thumb, never post anything on any social media platform which does not pass the 3 P’s test. Ask the question, would you be happy for the Police, your Parents or the Principal to read the post? If the answer is no, then do not post it!

That is the brickbat for the week, now for the bouquet.

It has been a tough fortnight for us all at Bishops with the sudden passing of a parent, Michael Beachy Head, father of Luke in Grade 9 and Jake who matriculated last year. As you know, our payroll administrator, Mandy Spreeth, died last Thursday and Father Terry Wilke also took ill during the week. On Tuesday the Memorial Service for Mr Beachy Head was held at Thunder City.

The day after the Memorial Service I received the following messages from Mr and Mrs Fraser (Mrs Fraser teaches at the Pre-Prep.)

Mrs Fraser:

*I just wanted to let you know that I felt extremely proud to be affiliated to Bishops, watching how Jake and Luke's friends behaved yesterday. I was so impressed by the boys' manners, how they stood and didn't take up seats, how they greeted most people around them and how they stood together to support their friends in their time of need. I even noticed some ex-Bishops boys who were wearing normal clothes, who stood to make way for older members to sit. This really shows that what is taught to them remains even after they have left the college. My husband, Rowen, who was MC at the memorial, also mentioned to me how impressed he was at the boys' behaviour and how they rallied around Jake and Luke. John Caudwell, who spoke at the event, also remarked about the boys in uniform and wanted to know which school they were from.*

Mr Fraser:

*As a SACS junior and RBHS high school old boy, I would like to congratulate you on the conduct of the Bishops boys who attended the memorial of Mike Beachy Head's passing.*

*Your scholars remained standing throughout the long occasion (11 tributes) and did not occupy empty seats, which ensured that more senior adults, ladies and mothers were not left to stand. They were well behaved, very respectful when asked to vacate certain areas and a pleasure to have attending the service*

So, well done to those boys, another reminder that you are always a Bishops boy no matter where you are, and that you are always under the spotlight.

All the best for the hockey and rugby fixtures against Paarl Gym this weekend.