



Northwood School

Easter

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents

As we head into the Easter Weekend break, I sit here contemplating the touch points that this religious holiday brings to our school's diverse religious community. For me the most clearly definable point would undoubtedly be compassion.

Recently I listened to the message delivered by a pastor; the pastor mentioned that if your compassion is your compass, it will direct your behaviour, being and focus.

If our actions can be guided by compassion, we would surely be able to operate in an environment where there is an understanding of each and everyone's background, circumstances and challenges. If compassion is our compass, we will all move in the same direction. We will all be a little bit more patient with each other. We will all care more for each other and we will all have a symbiotic, meaningful and "Ubuntu" relationship.

It does not mean that a heart filled with compassion is a weak one, far from it. We can still be uncompromising in our expectations of our staff, our boys and our school management team, but if we have compassion we will take the time to listen to each other, to improve each other and to understand each other's actions. When we only look at behavior and actions with the intent to find fault or to judge, we will miss what is really important, and that is the why. Compassion allows us to identify the struggles in each other's lives, it allows us to read the backstory to one's behavior and actions – it allows for consoling, empathy and forgiveness.

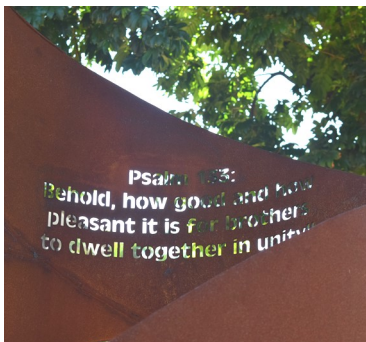
With compassion also comes gratitude; an understanding that even though we live in times of great struggle we still have each other and we still have so much to be grateful for. Let's have an attitude of gratitude, let us celebrate each other's successes but let us also take time to uplift those who are fighting desperate battles.

So as we move in our different directions this weekend let us take a minute to assess our own compass, our own direction and perhaps find the conviction to forgive if we need to forgive, be grateful if we are entitled, be humble if we are arrogant and be compassionate if we have been hurtful.

May the good Lord be with our boys, staff and parents during this precious time. Travel safely, be responsible and may God bless our beloved Northwood family.

PP Viljoen

Headmaster



The School Of Choice

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