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# Acknowledgements



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**RIEBEEK COLLEGE 2020 SCHOOL MAGAZINE**

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### One Little Rose

I would rather have one little rose  
from a garden of a friend  
than to have the choicest flowers  
when my stay on earth must end

I would rather have one pleasant word  
in kindness said to me  
than flattery when my heart is still  
and life has ceased to be

I would rather have a loving smile  
from friends I know are true  
than tears shed around my casket  
when I bid this world adieu  
bring all your flowers today  
whether pink or white or red

I'd rather have one blossom now  
than a basketful when I'm dead

### Fondly Remembered:

Mr Fani: Father of Emihle, Grade 9, and Qhamani, Grade 5

Una Rudman Myburgh: Mother of staff member, Mrs Gerber, Old Girl (Class of 1960)

Des Stark: Husband of staff member, Mrs Stark

Jenny Gouws Hannington: Old Girl

Jenny Townsend Rennie: Old Girl

Grandmother of, a mother figure to, Nobuhle Moyo, Grade 10, and Tadiwa Moyo, Grade 9

Mrs Rene de Ridder: former staff member

Melanie Gertenbach Calitz: Wife of staff member, Mr Calitz

Yolanda Pityana: Old Girl (Class of 2011)

Lu-Maasha van Aardt Isaacs: Old Girl (Class of 2001)

Yvonne Boo: former staff member

Mother in Law of Mr Jonas

Mother in Law of Mrs Jonas

Mother in Law of Mrs Bean

Mother In Law of Mrs C du Plessis

Michelle Crouse McAuley: Wife of Gordon McAuley, SGB member, and Old Girl (Class of 1988)

Uncle of, a father figure to, Muhle Luke, Grade 8

Father of Naledi van Roodt, Grade 4, and Rethabile van Roodt, Grade 9







This has certainly not been the year we expected or planned for; and yet we have endured the year with remarkable resilience and competence. This was achieved through wonderful superhuman efforts. The efforts of learners was evident as they learnt self-control and independence and they sought ways to keep up with their work. There was the efforts of parents who supported their daughters and monitored their progress. There was the remarkable budgeting and foresight of the SGB who managed the practical aspects of our Covid-19 responses. There was the extraordinary efforts the teachers put in to assist home-schoolers, adapt the curriculum and assessments and teach in the platooning system in a whole different way.

It might seem as if this was a horrible and disastrous year, and in many ways it was, but we can find much to be thankful for in this year as we were afforded the opportunities to grow in ways we could not have expected possible and to develop a keen sense of appreciation for the things that really matter: love, good health, security and the values of digging deep to get the job done and reaching out to others in need.

I doubt that education will ever be the same again. Teachers and learners have experienced new ways of doing things, out of necessity, and much of these lessons will infuse how we approach work in the future. Out of the lack of extra-murals, it is hoped that learners will wholeheartedly take on extra murals when it is again possible.

As the year draws to a close and we wrap up the school year, I find it hard to believe that we have lived with the new normal for so long. I cannot even begin to explain how complex this year has been from a management perspective and I marvel at the ingenuity and innovation we introduced in our approaches. Countless duty lists, timetables, revisions of procedures later; I can say that the staff are tired. They are tired in the way one is when you have given your all and then some more. They are tired because there has been so much criticism with every move analysed and negatively picked apart by some. They are tired because of the precautions they have had to take and alertness they had to maintain to keep the precious girls of Riebeek safe. They are tired because teaching is, in essence, a thankless job and the time of entitlement has only exacerbated the lack of understanding of just how much a teacher gives.

From a financial perspective, this has been an expensive year and we will feel the effects of the drain on our income and the increase in our expenditures for a long time. Future projects are on hold and we are keeping tight reins on the budget.

This has also been a difficult year internationally as the world grapples with many issues. This has spilled into our learners' lives in terms of frustration they feel and anger experienced. The school finds itself being held accountable for the inadequacies in our societies. It breaks our hearts to see the challenges our Riebeek families endure and we want to provide pastoral care and love while still having the security of knowing that there is a team spirit among us.

In spite of all the challenges, though, it is clear that every cloud has a silver lining. The silver lining of this year has been that we have found that we are stronger together, that we can endure hardship with grace and dignity and that it is our attitude that ultimately determines how we respond to and cope with situations.

It is remarkable that in this difficult year we are able to present you with a school magazine that is as jam packed as in a normal year, albeit in some cases because of virtual events. Though much was different this year, there is still much to report on and for it to be part of our archives as a record of a year like no other, a year in which we continued to love, grow and learn, a year in which we continued to believe that, in spite of everything, the world really is a wonderful place made better by the wonderful souls and hearts of our Riebeek Family.

Rachel Carson wrote "A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood. If I had influence with the good fairy, who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from sources of our strength."

# Principal's Remarks

"If you want to witness a natural display of a sense of wonder, just observe a child. A child's whole world is viewed through the eyes of wonder and excitement. A child has no judgements of why things are so, but rather a child is in awe and views life through 'innocence, purity and curiosity'."

Mary Paleologos





Mrs Stear, the staff and the SGB would like to congratulate the Class of 2019 on their hard work and perseverance. We celebrate the continued 100% pass rate and are incredibly proud of each member of the Class of 2019. Once again, we compare very well with similar schools in our district. In fact, we have been named the 3<sup>rd</sup> Best School in the province when it comes to our results.

There were 144 subject distinctions from a class of 75 learners, with 94,7% Bachelor passes and 5,3% Diploma passes. Nine of our learners achieved A aggregates, while 22 achieved B aggregates. This means that nearly half of the 2019 class received either an A or B aggregate, which I think is pretty impressive!

There were also very good subject aggregates. Afrikaans, Xhosa, Life Orientation and History all had aggregates over 70%, while English, Maths Literacy, Geography and Physical Sciences all had aggregates over 60%. In the district, the IsiXhosa Home Language teachers set a target to reach 30% distinctions per school. Riebeek came out tops, attaining 29% distinctions. We are incredibly proud of Mrs Mapoma and the class!

Our top achievers were Meaghan Botha, Zeenat Lukie, Casey Els, Liyabona Mgushelo, Lerise Johnson, Monique Balie, Amy Higgins, Aarifah Liberty and Rayna Gajjar.

We wish the Class of 2019 well in all their future endeavours. If these results are anything to go by, we know that you will make a success of anything you put your mind to. In the words of Zeenat Lukie, Head Girl 2019, "Let's say hello to a new adventure. Hello to new opportunities, growth, and happiness. It's time for us to follow our dreams and become who and what we've always wanted to be. It won't be easy, but nothing worthwhile ever is."



Meaghan Botha was Riebeek College's top achiever, with 7 distinctions. Meaghan said about her recipe for success: "A good combination of hard work throughout the year and sacrifice resulted in me surpassing my own expectations. None of this would have been possible without my parents and I will continue to be grateful for their sacrifices. If I had to explain Grade 12 to future matriculants, I'd compare it to a roller-coaster.

There will be highs and lows. There will be moments when you feel as though you're about to fall flat on your face, but the adrenaline rush makes it all worth it, or as in this case your results. It is easy to become overwhelmed by the workload but take it easy. Maintain a healthy balance between schoolwork and your social life. You need a well-deserved break from time to time. My most important bit of advice would be to get a good night's rest before an exam. Your mind cannot think straight if you're tired especially during those 3 hour papers! Trust and believe in yourself, if you put in the effort your hard work will be paid off a hundred times over".



The vibrant Casey Els, with 5 distinctions, shares her story with us: "Matric is not a nightmare. Matric can seem daunting, especially hearing past experiences from previous matric learners. I will not lie it is not a walk in the park, but nothing worth your while ever is. I wanted to use this as a platform to reassure the class of 2020 that they are more than capable of successfully achieving all their goals in matric. Work hard when you must, but also give yourself time to enjoy the journey. Take part in school activity that you can, you will make memories that last for a lifetime. Be enthusiastic and energetic. This is your time so work hard and shine. You have been well prepared for the upcoming year".







	English HL	IsiXhosa HL	Afrikaans FAL	Mathematics	Mathematical Literacy	Life Orientation	Accounting	Business Studies	CAT	Consumer Studies	Geography	History	Life Sciences	Physical Sciences
<b>No. of learners</b>	75	34	41	36	39	75	13	35	7	21	17	56	53	25
<b>Average mark</b>	66,2	77,4	78,7	57,8	68,2	87,7	56,5	48,5	49,3	55,5	61,4	76,1	57,6	60
<b>Subject A's</b>	8	10	20	1	10	65	0	0	0	0	1	22	6	1
<b>Subject B's</b>	16	17	14	4	10	7	3	2	0	1	4	17	12	4

Our Head Girl of 2019, Zeenat Lukie, obtained 5 distinctions, and had the following to say: "My advice for future matrics is to work hard consistently. 'Don't quit before the miracle' Somewhere along your path you will struggle, and you'll feel like giving up, but remember that you are not alone in your struggle. Seek help and do not neglect your mental health. All that matters is that you do your personal best to achieve your goals. I would like to thank all the teachers who have been a part of my schooling journey, particularly in my matric year. This last year was the most difficult, but with your guidance, motivation and support I was able to succeed, and I cannot thank you enough for all your kindness. When preparing for exams I would encourage everyone to work through as many past papers as possible. Grade 12 was undoubtedly the biggest challenge, trying to balance all spheres of home and school life. It is not always easy to maintain a positive mindset, but when you surround yourself with people who try to uplift you rather than contribute to negative energy, it becomes much easier".



Liyabona Mgushelo achieved 5 distinctions, and her advice to the Class of 2020 is as follows: "Behaviour is a mirror in which everyone displays their own image ." - anonymous. My advice for the Class of 2020 is for them to keep their goals and ambitions in mind and to prioritise their education more than anything else because it is the one thing that guarantees them a bright future, everything else will follow. Utilise the opportunities given to you and never take anything for granted. The work you put in now determines how far you will go. Push yourself harder on the days where giving up seems like a solution, because winners never quit, and quitters never win. Surround yourself with people who have the same mind-set as you. And do not let anyone tell you that your goals are too big, instead let them be your motivation. One of the best study methods for me was using mnemonics to help me remember the work and revising new work at home and on the bus on my way home from school. Working through past papers also helped immensely as it gave me a better idea of what to expect in the exams and how to go about answering the questions. I shall carry all the Riebeek teachings with me as I venture into the big, bad world, and I will hold dear all the memories I made. I am a living testament of "Your attitude determines your altitude".



Aarifah Liberty said that after achieving 4 distinctions, her advice would be: My advice for future matriculants is that practice will not always make perfection, but it does make progress. The study method that worked best for me was going through past papers. Although matric can be daunting, the Class of 2020 should just keep a positive mind-set. They should also surround themselves with people who want the best for them and who are positive. Matric was definitely a year of hard work, but at the end it was worth it. A quote that always puts things in perspective for me is: "Remember that wherever your heart is, there you will find your treasure."



Monique Balie shares her matric journey and gives advice after achieving 4 distinctions: My advice is to take your time. Don't rush through your matric year. Set goals for yourself and work continuously towards those goals. Remember that time management is very important. I worked through as many past papers as I could find. This helped me to see if I knew my work and gave me insight on how questions were asked. Finding the balance between focusing on my studies and my extra mural involvement was a challenge. However, I do believe that learning how to juggle both has only benefited me. Thank you to my teachers who always went the extra mile to ensure that we were completely prepared for our exams.



Riebeek College Girls' High School in Uitenhage is filled with young ladies from Grade 4 to 12 and young-at-heart staff who wanted to spend the year celebrating! The celebrations would have been part of our 2020 theme of celebrating the wonder of our world as we strive to spread good news, good vibes and positivity while drawing attention to the need for a greener world.

We particularly celebrated the great news of the Class of 2019 who thrilled us with their 100% pass rate and the personal milestones they reached in the areas of cultural, service and character building. Our isiXhosa Home Language class attained the most subject distinctions in the district. Nine of our wonderful learners attained A aggregates, and Riebeek was placed third in the Eastern Cape.

We wanted to celebrate too the hive of activity at the school, as befits the bee motif of our school. A leadership camp to Zuurberg was a welcome retreat to nature and celebration of a beautiful and wonderful world where all things are possible when one is positive. Our little Grade 4s were warmly welcomed with an out-of-this-world theme on a space welcoming adventure. Nearly 200 learners took part in the club challenge of the Alice In Wonderland team building afternoon with 18 clubs competing in fun activities to build team spirit, and our annual Sports and Clubs Assembly and Fair encouraged extra-mural involvement. And, learners have experienced the thrill of opening their eyes to what the world needs to be saved and recognising

that the learners are the generation who will define the future of this planet. And so, the corridors and fields were abuzz in Term 1 as our busy bees take on enriching activities and were as busy as the bees that are so critical to our world's biodiversity.

We wanted this to be the year of no fake news, of only good, uplifting news and of smelling the roses. The staff started the year committed to the belief that when we put faith, hope and love together, teachers and parents can raise positive children in an increasingly negative world.

We welcomed to our staff Mrs Goeiman, Miss Oliphant and Mrs Haynes-Africa and were astounded how quickly they became part of our family.

Our first assembly featured the introducing of new girls to the school, badges for Top 10 based on the end of Term 4's marks and the introduction of the theme of a wonderful world.

We held an orientation programme for Grade 8s to give them the best possible chance of success in high school.

SCA attended a leadership camp with their Muir counterparts and much fun was had on the canoes and in worship.

The Cultural Board hit the term running with the Society and Sport Fair and the favourite of the first term calendar, the team building afternoon for committees.

Our junior prefects were voted for, announced and inducted at a special ceremony. And the learners left for their annual prefects' camp with the juniors and seniors attending together and learning much.

We hosted two staff development seminars. One was a report back on the principal's attendance at the international principal's conference and the other an enlightening talk by Miss Mxoli to engender Cultural Sensitivity.

We held parents meetings for our parents to meet the teachers and learn of our expectations and procedures.

We understood focus weeks where we emphasized a particular area for development each week. A video accompanied each of these focus areas and then the week's drive focused on this aspect. In January, we covered the importance of being positive in a negative world, anti-litter, our theme and the importance of covering textbooks and protecting them.

The staff and school governing body met at the student centre for a Riebeek Family Braai.

Megan Mac Gorman returned to her alma mater to give gifts to her teacher. We were thrilled and touched!

So it was that the very busy month of the first term was active and exciting. It was as we had set out to prove, "When you put faith, hope and love together, you can raise positive children in a negative world!"







# The Year Reviewed: January





To every child – I dream of a world where you can laugh,  
dance, sing, learn, live in peace and be happy. Malala  
Yousafzai







March saw the end of the test week and a fantastic fun gala for the juniors. Staff were finalising marks and doing remedial work with learners when on a Sunday evening, the president announced that schools would close early. Fortunately, we had completed our assessments for the term and reports would be ready in time for handing out.

The Dalai Lama said, "When we meet real tragedy in life we can react in two ways, either by losing hope and falling into self-destructive habits or by using the challenge to find our inner strength."

On 17 March school closed earlier than expected. We did not have assembly in the hall. We did not sing or play videos or congratulate people's achievements as we usually do at the end of term. We all remained in our classes and Mrs Stear delivered her speech through the intercom. The way of doing things had changed.

The Matric Farewell and items on school calendar for April cancelled. At the time, it was hoped that new dates could be found.

The March holidays were being started early and would be extended and schools would only reopen on 14 April, after the Easter weekend, with the expectation that learners would be given work to do. At first, everyone was excited over the prospect of staying home an extra two weeks. Even though they'd have to take work home with them or download it from the D6, which saw an unprecedented spike in new downloads and users. The teachers also did something they probably never imagined they'd have to do... start a WhatsApp group with their learners! It was a frantic few days as learners received notes and instructions on what to do. Sadly, there were girls who chose to not attend schools these critical days who could not have known what serious implications this could have.

Right from the outset, when the learners received work they would query whether this work had to be done since it was technically holidays and the teachers would have to explain, as they learnt nothing if not patience in this period, that learners could have a few days holiday but that work also needed to take place.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced Lockdown in South Africa for 21 days on Monday (23/03) for 21 days from 26 March to 16 April to contain the spread of the coronavirus. On 9 April, the president announced that the lockdown was being extended for another two weeks. The words "my fellow South Africans" would soon take on an ominous meaning. Excitement gave way to worry and fear. Parents would have to be teachers longer than they had anticipated and children had to be their own disciplinarians.

We had entered a new normal, new routines and rituals. Some had taken on new hobbies and exercise regimes or have had to watch their family do it. Jordan Oldham said "My dad has been doing his own thing during the day and my mom and I usually bake, play games and clean up, which is usually my cue to go back to studying. Some challenges I have faced from working from home would be that I am out of routine which I don't like, as well as missing out on birthdays. The only thing that has been unusual during this lockdown is when my mom decided it was time to start working out - that did not end well."

Sara Gopal had a slightly different experience she said "My family has been following a lockdown routine very similar to our usual routine. My parents continue to work, and my brothers and I do our homework and studying during 'school times'." Zaara Rockman added, "Although I have had the privilege of going to bed and waking up anytime I please, I am often faced with a ton of work once I decide to dedicate my time to doing it. This would

leave me cooped up inside the house for hours while doing homework or simply relaxing, without thinking much of going outside to get a little bit of fresh air."

Not everyone got to stay home during the lockdown. As the levels started to become more and more lenient that meant a lot more parents were going back to work. This was another added stress because the learners were losing their substitute teachers, meaning all the work and understanding would, in large part fall back to them. Nurses, doctors, those who work at supermarkets and filling stations. Esethu Bontsi said "It's been very stressful for me. My mother is a nurse at Provincial Hospital. She must go to work every day. It is challenging because I must do a lot of work by myself." and Amahle Mдинека had a slightly different approach to the matter "My parents are essential workers. My father is a senior forensic analyst at the SAPS. It was nice being home alone for a little while." Sara Gopal, whose parents are both medical professionals, said her father, a surgeon at Livingstone Hospital "encountered many challenges in these last weeks but he has learned to adapt to the protocols" her mother is a general practitioner and has volunteered her services online by providing advice on Covid 19 related issues.

Beyond health, the other pressing matter related to the crisis was the progression of the academic school year. Sadly, the cultural and sporting calendar was lost but the books could still be saved. Although, this endeavour also presented challenges. How were teachers to teach if there was no school to teach in or children physically in front of them? We have well and truly entered the internet age, and everyone had their eyes on the education system to see if it could keep up. The disparities of our social structures became excruciatingly evident. Not only in our Riebeek family, but the world over.

The girls had received work at the end of the term but as the weeks stretched on more work had to be sent home. A lot of the girls said they received their work through the D6 or WhatsApp groups created by their subject teachers. Some educators even taught themselves a new skill- zoom conferencing, which wasn't without its hiccups or anxieties. The learners said they found additional assistance on sites like Worksheet Cloud, the Vodacom eschool, Siyavula, Youtube and watching educational programs on television. A lot of the girls accessed their learning material through their cell phones and tablets but on limited data plans. This meant that their school at home lives had to be planned well and required vigorous discipline. Some were lucky enough to have access to laptops and unlimited data plans and parents who were able to print the work out for them.

Riebeek girls are unflinchingly and unapologetically an optimistic group of people. When they cannot find the silver lining, they paint their own. Tamia Smith in Grade 9 wrote, "I hope my peers will BE POSITIVE. Use the resources you have and make the best out of it. Calm yourself, the storm will pass." Jordan Oldham added, "My advice to everyone is that we are all in this together and will get through it together, for now, all we can do is work our best and prioritize. Have faith in your abilities and don't procrastinate too much." Where others saw crisis, many Riebeek girls saw a challenge, an opportunity, a time to reflect. The Covid 19 pandemic took away our assembly but it could never take away our ability to come together. Even if its only from a distance.



## The Year Reviewed: March-April





# Learner Lockdown







"To see a World in a Grain of Sand  
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,

Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand  
And Eternity in an hour." — William Blake







Mrs Stear wrote on 3 April, "We are now one week into the enforced nationwide lockdown. In the pre-coronavirus outbreak timeframe, the schools would have started this week for the beginning of the second term. The reality is that South Africa is in a total shut down and our schools are closed as our government rolled out drastic measures amid the COVID 19 pandemic. Schools have been identified as one of the biggest threats in terms of transmission.

There is currently a great deal of uncertainty in the education sector. We do not know when the schools will reopen, we do not know how lost time will be made up. We do not know what the dates of the next quarters will be, etc. We do know that the rest of 2020 will be a disrupted school year, and that many sports, cultural, social and fundraising activities have been postponed or cancelled. However, I wish to emphasize that the **schools' core business is academia - providing quality education to every learner.** The staff at Riebeek will ensure that the school's core business can be continued successfully with the key words at present being, "*learning at home*". We strive to achieve success academically in 2020. Of course, sports, culture and social activities are part of normal schooling, but when we operate under pressure, we must prioritise and make sure that we do everything possible to ensure that education can continue. Abnormal circumstances require abnormal solutions.

A word of caution, social media is at present overflowing with so-called "learning sites" offering assistance. It may be confusing to the learners to make use of all these "helping hands in the cloud" on top of what their teachers have given them. Please be guided by what the teachers have provided to the learners on the d6.

Riebeek prides itself on values driven education. We have therefore taught our learners the value of resilience, time management, organizational skills and independence. We therefore believe that our learners are well equipped to settle into a routine at home of working diligently and responsibly, and seeking help from teachers when necessary. Work should not be left to accumulate as steady and continuous work on a daily basis with self-discipline will be most effective.

We are immensely proud of our teachers who have found innovative ways to continue the school work in manageable, constructive ways. For example, our senior Mathematics learners are writing online tests and our learners are receiving answers to questions to guide them as they go along. The teachers are also using this time to devise innovative catch-up plans."

By 10 April, Mrs Stear notified the parents that President Cyril Ramaphosa had extended the lockdown to the end of April. This meant that school could possibly reopen on 4 May. This was a learning curve for us all, teachers, learners and parents, as we navigated together new methods of teaching and learning. We thanked and encouraged our learners who had risen so admirably to the challenge and worked diligently at home, with their teachers to guide them. A group of Old Girls from the Class of 2019 assisted as tutors and mentors to the matric class of 2020. Tamia Smit, Casey Els, Monique Balie, Zeenat Lukie, Lerise Johnson, Meaghan Botha, Tara Wood and Sihlumile Majombozi, as well as Nicola McEwan, Headgirl of the class of 2014. Their kindness was heartwarming in these bleak times.

Distance learning came with its own set of unique challenges and we urged learners not to be too hard on themselves if they were struggling to keep up with the

An encouraging, precious message from our Head Girl:



*My  
fellow  
Riebeek  
Warriors*

I really do hope that you are all doing well. I must admit that today was quite an experience for me, so I am curious to know how you all are coping.

We are well aware that today would have been the beginning of our second term for 2020, and to be quite honest, I do not think I could have possibly done any more mental preparation to help me through this day alone. Now, it could be the cabin fever kicking in, but not even a day for "Netflix and Chill" seemed as enticing as my longing to simply wait out a whole seven hours before the 2 o'clock bell would cue our freedom. Suddenly, I found myself imagining what class discussions we would have in between lessons, leading to me acting out a full-blown dialogue I would have had with my friends under normal circumstances. (Again, this could just be me going crazy.)

This aside, however, I am sure all of us may share the feeling that something is "missing" and that we can do nothing more than wait out this period of isolation for the

weeks to come. However, I am sure we all know that, if anything, this waiting period should be our cue to pick up where we left off last term and gear up for the road ahead.

It is quite easy to feel discouraged. Surely, as humans, we are entitled to feelings of disheartenment. What with the loads of fake news reaching us, we are bound to feel a whole lot of emotions. Panic may tend to lace our waking thoughts, while some of us may have to force ourselves to swallow down our frustration. I must assure you that, given the circumstances we are faced with, these feelings are all normal. But instead of granting these feelings the power to consume us, let us rather try our best to focus on steering ourselves away from the trap that we call "giving up". After all, no one got anywhere through leaving things undone.

Matrics, we know this time is exceptionally difficult for us. It is okay to feel overwhelmed, as long as you allow yourself to find some form of light to assist you on the way out of this darkness. Let us strive to help one another, to build each other up instead of leaving one another to fight this alone. More than anything, let us remind ourselves that we will surely regret it tomorrow if we do not do our best today. I believe in all of you!

I would love to extend a hearty thank you to our amazing teachers and parents for their guidance and for being more than willing to give their time to overcome this ordeal with us. I can confidently say that we will all make an effort to work to our fullest capacity with your efforts in mind.

I hope to see you all soon and in high spirits for the road ahead of us. Remember, it isn't over until you have given up. So put on your best amour keep fighting until the end.

You've got this, Queens! Keep shining! Yours, Azraa





workload. We acknowledged that many of our learners have serious obstacles to overcome when working and studying at home. These obstacles included the possibility of distraction by young siblings, low data, no printer, overused devices, working from a small screen and no Wi-Fi, just to name a few. Learners were encouraged to keep on working at a steady pace without panic and feelings of insecurity. Mrs Stear wrote, "Mentally and emotionally, we need to take care of ourselves and to nurture a gentle acceptance of all the difficult emotions arising. We are going through a collective trauma, which is bringing up grief, loss, panic over livelihoods and the possible loss of life. We need more self-compassion in this time when our normality has been turned upside down and uncertainty makes sustained concentration a challenge. Anxiety may manifest in a variety of ways including anger, lack of focus, procrastination, difficulty sleeping, blame of others, avoidance, negativity and/or over-planning. We encouraged our parents and learners to monitor these behaviours."

New work was loaded onto the d6 and needed to be monitored frequently. (It is zero-rated for MTN incurring no data costs). We considered many factors when deciding on work: whether it is necessary, whether it is needed for further grades or assessments, whether it can be done with limited interaction, whether our learners can access it readily, whether they have the resources to do the work etc. Careful thought went into what is essential in each subject and what could be discarded for a period of time.

A request was made that all refrain from publicly scrutinizing teachers for the way they were teaching or the lessons and worksheets they assigned. We asked that everyone offer grace to the teacher as education is our number one priority. Our teachers love teaching and

did their absolute best. Different subjects required different approaches. The teachers worked hard to provide a balanced education while recognizing the difficulties our learners were experiencing and the challenges being faced. Do give our teachers the benefit of the doubt.

Mrs Stear made mention of the youngest of our learners: "Juniors, your teachers are missing you and we hope that you are reading a lot, helping out at home with chores and keeping yourself busy by doing your school work. Remember that you are special and we will help you when you return to school with catching up with the work. I encourage you all to take any positives you are able to out of these seemingly negative times. Enjoy close time with your families and be gentle with each other. Connect with one another on meaningful levels and spent time on reflection and meditation. I especially challenge the Riebeek girls to include some physical activity into their programme for each day as a healthy body creates a healthy mind. This too shall pass."

Because we had no idea when school would resume, the implication for our learners was that they needed to keep up with the work as there were no due dates. We encouraged our girls to keep working steadily and calmly through the homework supplied by the teachers. There were cases where certain girls did not do much of the homework set as they felt that they still had "plenty of time. There were also cases where girls were being extremely diligent and working as much as possible, seeking assistance from the teachers, other learners and from the Old Girl tutors.

The teachers missed seeing the smiley Riebeek faces and longed for the day when we could be reunited as a school and get back to our primary aim of educating our beautiful girls.

## LETTER FROM RIEBEEK'S CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGIST:

How do we get through Covid 19? We adapt. We acknowledge that we are all grieving for the life we have had nearly two months ago that we took for granted. We are grieving for the fact that we never got to finish our school life in the traditional way; that I can't hug my friend who's having a really tough time at the moment; that I missed having my 16th birthday party with my friends and family; that my grandma is in a nursing home that has been shut for three weeks and I may not see her again; that my baby cousin has been born and I can't hold him.....the list is literally never ending. We miss things we never even realised we would come to miss. All valid and real emotions.

We are all going through this together, yet each family will experience differing issues along the way, financial, health, emotional but hopefully, together we – you – me, can move forward together to solve problems and to find solutions. Remember – THIS IS NOT FOREVER.

Essential tools for your survival toolkit on your boat:  
Routine – this included sleep patterns.  
Find your purpose each day. Structure it. Set goals – targets.  
Do the simple tasks e.g. make your bed - take pride in the little things, one task completed turns into other tasks completed and before we know it, we have taken up knitting or baking!  
Socialising and keeping in contact with friends.  
Talk – whether that be with family, friends, or me.  
Keep a diary or a scrapbook.  
Being active – e.g. online classes or any form of exercise every day.

Some of us might feel a heightened level of anxiety as if you are emotionally hijacked. There are many techniques that you can use to help you to take control of your anxiety: Take time out for yourself.

Recognise troublesome patterns of anxious thoughts. Admit to yourself when you feel anxious and depressed and tell a trusted person.

Take control: Hone in on things that you can control.

Get organised: Planning your day and week. Set up routines (learning, class and exercise).

Use your time wisely and do not procrastinate.

Use positive affirmations: "I am stronger than I think" or "I will get through this" or "My challenges help me grow" or "I am in charge of my life"

Plan something nice to look forward to because this WILL NOT LAST FOREVER.

We have time to stop and enjoy things...appreciating the beauty in clouds and smelling the outside air as we open a window.

Value what you have.

ASK for help.

"I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning how to sail my ship" – Louisa May Alcott

As we are faced with the possibility of many more weeks of lockdown and isolation, it is vital that we endeavour to access our resilient self, reach out for support and adjust our sails accordingly.

Please continue to stay home and safe and access the support that is available to you.

Miss you all

Nerine Looock

Email: nerinewp@gmail.com

Cell: 0845156878





Data was probably the most important educational tool at the disposal of our learners and we asked that parents make every effort to provide sufficient data access to their daughter/s and that data be used sparingly by all when it came to entertainment sites, where data is limited, to allow the girls access to any available data in the household. We noted that where data was limited, learners could be innovative and use their notes and textbooks as tools for consistent revision and abundant reading.

Suggestions were offered to endure the continued lockdown: Create a purpose for each day: something you would like to achieve. It can be any number of things such as cleaning out a cupboard, doing some art work, sewing or knitting, running around your house a number of times. It will make you feel happy with yourself and you will feel upbeat. This is beside the homework that you are doing daily. Then try to do a certain amount of exercise daily as this definitely elevates your mood and makes you happier. Give your day structure instead of sitting around being bored. One of the best things you can be doing is READING. All girls from Grade 4 to Grade 12 should be reading! Remember to also look after yourself mentally and emotionally. Be gentle with yourself and those around you. Talk to your parents and siblings with meaning as this will also stave off boredom. How we respond to challenges is a mark of our character so try to be upbeat show your best side.

Mrs Stear noted, "The staff and I have tried hard to keep a spirit of unity and encouragement going in the past weeks as it is very important in these dire times for us to stick together and support each other, even though we are not physically together. In our attempts to do this, we have used social media extensively, and I have to make special mention of Mrs Gerber, who works tirelessly to keep our social media platforms alive with uplifting clips and photographs of our staff and learners. This will prove to be a valuable archive of the times of lockdown. We thank our learners, parents and teachers who have supplied uplifting material to try to cater to the psychological well-being of our community by keeping us connected. This, and our teachers' efforts to keep education going on various platforms, is all done from our hearts. I do not expect to receive criticism from learners on this, but rather I expect them to feel thankful that the staff are so committed to keeping Riebeek united and alive. Our teachers are so resilient and flexible and it has been absolutely incredible to see how these special people have embraced this challenge. They have evolved in such a short space of time into techno pros and crisis management experts. I salute all the school leaders and teachers out there!"

## Riebeek's Parents are Superheroes:

We thank our parents for their unstinting support of their daughters in these past weeks and for making great efforts to help with their studies. Parent involvement is crucial at this time. That does not mean that you as the parent can or should take the place of the teacher. You are there to give moral support to your daughter/s and to make them feel that they are not alone and that you are there to assist them in any way that you are able to. I urge parents to get involved in their daughter's studies and to monitor their progress.

I acknowledge that this is difficult for parents who are essential workers and we thank them for their services and sacrifices.

Maybe you were the parent who made printers appear in the Top 10 Takealot online searches. Maybe you were the creative-minded parent teaching percentages or the

## Online Survey

In order to reach as many of our learners as possible, the staff made use of a variety of methods to teach, bearing in mind that more than 52.2% of our families do not have access to any Wi-Fi at home and only 37% had more than 5GB a month, with 61.4% having limited data. 84% of our households indicated challenges with accessing printers to print the notes which were so diligently prepared and sent through. Many families do not own a computer. This led to the hybrid system used, from e-mails, the d6, WhatsApp to telephone calls and also the hard copy collection days. All of these were aimed at getting as wide a coverage of our learners as possible. We have received mainly very positive feedback and it appears that the system that was followed served its purpose very well. We are aware that some parents did expect more virtual intervention, but, as shown herewith, many of our parents do not have the facilities or financial means to access a virtual platform only. This means we would have been excluding a huge percentage of our learners and Riebeek supports inclusive education. It is very easy to criticise when you have not walked in a person's shoes.

We received 665 responses and we are grateful to our parents for their feedback. As to which platforms our learners / parents would find useful for receiving or monitoring the homework, the d6 communicator came out top with 55.5%, followed by WhatsApp groups 43.5% and emails to parents 41.3%. WhatsApp groups for parents 33.5% and, lastly, emails to learners scored the lowest at 5.1%. No system will be perfect and we are relieved that there is trust and co-operation with the systems we have been using. We note that 91% of the learners have been able to access the work so far and 62.6% of the learners are not able to print.

Teachers selected work that had intrinsic value in some or other manner. For example, getting learners to make summaries improves analysis and synthesis skills, asking learners to work through exercises establishes some pre-knowledge within the learner enabling the teaching and explaining of the work to be much easier when learners are back in the classroom. While it is tempting to believe that teachers should be online teaching for full school days, it is not realistic when we consider that this work will need to be relooked at when we return to school for the benefit of those who cannot access online learning at this stage. Frankly, teachers do not spend all day every day teaching during normal circumstances of a normal school day, as there is also a need for the learner to consolidate, explore, investigate and work with the work.

scientific-minded parent helping to describe the main character. Maybe you cheated and did a bit here and there (That was helping too).

Maybe you could not help with school work but you took on more chores around the house. Maybe, with finances tight, you said you were not hungry so you could make sure your child could do her homework with a full tummy. Maybe you bought her more data with your last bit of savings. Maybe you could not give homework help, but you gave her extra hugs and love or you gave tough love and strict discipline.

Maybe you worked late so she could use your device during the day. Maybe you were an essential worker, and could not be with her all the time, but were taking care of others for us all.

Maybe you did not realise that you are a superhero!





On Thursday 30 April, the Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga announced at a press conference the dates for the opening of the Education Sector:

4 May – The return to work of certain Department of Education (DoE) officials

11 May – All principals and SMT members and non-teaching staff.

18 May – All educators return to work.

1 June – Grade 7 and 12 learners return to school if all safety and other requirements have been met.

Dates for other grades were not mentioned.

The Eastern Cape Department of Education District Director of Nelson Mandela Bay then sent out a circular today that indicated that schools and offices are not ready to open and that the return of staff is postponed until further notice. It would be 8 June before the Grade 7s and 12s returned.

During the initial phases of lockdown, we wanted our learners to know that they were not alone and we wanted them to retain a sense of Riebeek belonging. For this reason, we embarked on a programme to keep the learners connected. On an academic level, this meant that the learners were in groups on Whatsapp with their teachers or with a learner who was the co-ordinator in conveying messages to and from the teacher. The learners were also engaged with the school through a variety of social media platforms. Online challenges were taken on and various societies put together videos, our hockey team took on the toilet paper challenge, the prefects send a chain message to learners and various cultural events went online such as our Cultural Civvies Day and club assembly and party. We also shared with the learners as many opportunities as possible to take part in online activities. This resulted in our learners being exposed to various online platforms for learning and for enhancement. We are so pleased that Tania Smith and Jessica Craill took up Professor Jansen's challenge to submit articles about their lockdown experiences. The Media Committee had compiled a questionnaire on lockdown experiences and learners had been submitting these for the school magazine and for our archives as we knew it was important that the experiences of these historic times be recorded. Learners were engaged in science experiments, creative arts and other forms of expression during lockdown keeping the Riebeek family active, engaged and interacting.

Behind the scenes, much work was being undertaken. Mrs Stear and the School Governing Body were in constant contact over the way forward and a Covid Fund was established to cover the expenses that would be incurred. Our magazine printing company, CADAR, became the company to produce posters on safety precaution. The company that had resurfaced our courts became our supplier of masks and sanitising equipment. Mr Koekemoer and the support staff were tasked with creating demarcation lines and a system for the screening processes. Policies had to be drawn up, reviewed and adjusted as new instructions came out.

The plan of action and operation for when the school would open including sourcing items such as sanitiser, a temperature scanner; among other things; and collecting quotations to have the school sanitised professionally. A risk assessment of the various areas of the school was been done and a procedure to follow created if a learner does become ill at school or develops a temperature. Training material for the school on the correct protocol to follow to protect us from the coronavirus was created. The budget was scrutinised to plan for the months ahead.

Appeals were made for the continuation of school fee payments. There were operational costs that do not stop because of lockdown and we needed to keep paying SGB salaries, electricity accounts, our security company; to name but a few.

The teachers began receiving revised syllabus instructions and revised assessment instructions. Little did they know that these instructions would become outdated and different instructions would follow.

Mrs Stear wrote, "I want to assure you that we are adopting best practices from industry and that the Governing Body and I have researched this extensively. The safety of our learners and staff is paramount and it is our number one priority. Riebeek will not reopen until we are sure that every precaution has been taken to safeguard the girls and staff."

We sourced two layered cotton masks. All girls would be given masks, a huge, unbudgeted and unplanned expense for the school. The masks are fully washable, in the school's colour and can be ironed. Requests were made for donations to the costs of the masks if parents felt they were able to do so. The amount was left to the parent's discretion if they were able to afford to do so. We were so pleased when Old Girls saw this request on facebook and responded with generous donations!

Should you be reading this and wish to make a donation, you could using this information:

Bank – FNB      Acc Name- Riebeek College GHS  
Acc Number – 53971284352      Branch code - 210316  
Reference – mask donation

A professional company sanitised the school in May. Hand sanitiser with 70% alcohol was ordered in large quantities, together with spray bottles and automatic dispensers that do not require to be hand operated. Paper towels were ordered in large quantities. Safety glasses for learners and face shields for staff were purchased. A thermal scanner capable of scanning a number of people at one time as they enter the building was bought and installed. An isolation room was created. A Restart Action Plan was drawn up. The School Governing Body is thanked for their immense contributions in managing these difficult times.

A new timetable would be needed as learners moving for 6 lessons and 2 breaks would breach safety protocols. Various venues were considered, various approaches were reviewed and countless drafts of the timing and subject allocations and duty lists were drawn up, revised and perfected.

8 May would have been Riebeek's Founder's Day. Sadly, there were no celebrations but we went online with some celebratory videos and posts. We promise to make the 2021 Founder's Day a very special, bumper celebration. This is the first time since the inception of Founder's Day celebrations in 1988 that we have not been able to celebrate it.

Even in this difficult times, we remained true to the mission statement of Riebeek College: "to prepare our learners to meet the challenges of a changing world by providing relevant education of a high standard and instilling sound values in a stimulating and happy environment."

A week of consolidation and catch up for our learners was held to allow them to catch up. The teachers loaded summaries of all work that they had issued to the girls. This would help both learners and parents to ensure that they have not missed anything. Great perseverance was needed.

# The Year Reviewed: May







1 June would have been the restart of school for Grade 7s and 12s and the school seemed especially quiet and sullen today as it seemed to yearn to be filled with the sounds of learning and teaching. These were complicated times and there was much confusion, discussion and reportage. It was all quite infuriating. Parents were encouraged to wait for official school announcements as the school was keeping abreast on the union statements, Department of Education instructions and consulted with various stakeholders.

The Minister of Basic Education said in her media briefing that the matrics and Grade 7s would return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> June and that teachers and support staff were to return earlier to “mop up” and prepare the school for reopening and to induct and orientate staff in the Covid-19 protocols to be followed at school. Riebeek completed that process the week before.

There was much discussion about home schooling and parents were encouraged to wait a while before making this big decision. The reasons allowed for in terms of working from home were: medical reason/s attaching to the learner, the home/ physical environment of the learner, transport, school environment or other.

We said learners would wear civvies on their return to school. We also indicated that school uniform or the school tracksuit can be worn. The important thing was that no item is worn again until washed. The Grade 7s were told they can bring a blanket, but it had to be washed before it is brought to school again. The Grade 12s travelled to subject classes so they did bring blankets as they were too bulky to carry with them.

Riebeek is ready to open but used the extra week to fine tune our processes and further refine our safety measures. We acquired shoe mats for the sanitising of shoes.

Mrs Stear wrote, “In the end, no matter what measures we put in place, it is the attitude and behaviour of your daughter that will most contribute to success in our safety measures. If our girls know the correct and incorrect actions then things will run more smoothly. I appeal to you to please talk through with them what your expectations and what the school’s expectations are with

regards to behaviour and rules at school. The learners will also receive induction and training on Covid-19 protocols to follow. The teachers of Riebeek will be under immense pressure during this time. They will continue supplying work for the learners of the grades not due to return yet. They will continue to supply some direction and work for the learners unable to return with their grade to school (This will not be to the same level as during lockdown but will give the learner support, guidance and whatever the teacher is able to supply.) They will also be monitoring behaviour on the school premises with morning, break and afternoon duties. They also have to stay very alert during lessons. This is a lot of pressure and I trust that the Riebeek Family will, as always, support them.”

By the end of the first week of having the Grade 12 and 7 learners back at school, the staff were exhausted but the week had proceeded remarkably well. The behaviour of the girls, in both Grade 7 and 12 was truly commendable. They conducted themselves with great maturity and discipline. The planning that went into receiving our girls back at school was meticulous and time consuming.

Mrs Stear wrote, “I would like to make a special mention of our support staff who have been outstanding in their sanitizing of the various venues between sessions. Throughout the day, there are teams of support staff making a way to sanitise and clean. It is a logical wonder and quite astounding to observe.

I ask the girls, Riebeek families and staff to practice social distancing and to follow the correct protocol for Covid-19 even when you are not at school. Our safety protocols are not only about the measures we put in place at school. It is also about each of you and everyone around you.”

By 19 June, absenteeism from schools by our Grade 7s and 12s was a concern. We wholeheartedly supported a decision to keep children at home if ill. Our concern, though, was with the high absenteeism on the days that a task was due. On 21 June, one learner tested positive and the Department instructed the fogging and sanitisation of the school and that the building be empty for 48 hours. Over time, the Department of Health would



### Hard copy collections

In June, we gave out hard copies of work done to the learners who requested it or who required it as they were unable to access the work online. Some parents were unable to collect the hard copies at the allocated times. I do understand that it is difficult for parents, especially when they are working. However, the teachers are very busy as the school day is not as it was before Covid-19 and the staff find themselves fully occupied while they are at school. For parents who requested hard copies as they were unable to collect needed to give the teachers two days to put together the copies for your daughter/s. Visitors were not allowed at the school, by Department of Education regulation, and therefore the request has to be emailed or left with the guard and two days later the work needs to be collected from the guard. Hard copies were handed out from 5 June to 12 June with staggered time and different dates for different grades.

Because Grade 4,5,8 and 9 would only return in August, the teachers put together hard copies of July's work and there were compulsory collections of these packs by 1 member of each family on designated days and times on 24 June (Grade 4 and 8) and 25 June (Grade 5 and 9) between 8.30 and 9.30. There was compulsory handing in of completed work and a hard copy collection for Grades 4 and 8 on Thursday 16 July and for Grades 5 and 9 on Friday 17 July. Hard Copy Collection and SBA Tasks Handing in also took place from 6 to 17 August.



issue different directives and closing of the school would no longer be required. At one stage, with some of our learners isolated, class sizes were reduced to 1 to 5 learners at a time, leading to interesting memes being created.

What became abundantly clear to us in the few weeks was to not plan too far in advance as the situations remain fluid.

It was cold and staff would do one hour shifts outside, sometimes in the rain, always in the dark, to have the learners safe. Mr de Beer was the cheerleader chief and staff went out of their way to be cheerful and

encouraging each morning no matter if their feet were ice-blocks and their anxiety high. Teachers mastered the art of recognising girls behind the mask, not knocking the shield off while teaching and explaining work with hand gestures, hearing muffled remarks behind the mask of a learner, handing out notes at the start of a lesson instead of during the lesson and becoming a mobile classroom unit with all requirements accompanying the teacher to the venues set aside for teaching: the student centre, the hostel, the prefabs, the hall. Later, additional venues would be added as more grades returned.





On 4 July, another learner tested positive. Contact tracing was done that morning and learners would self-isolate. This, in effect, meant that we had various learners self-isolating, some shielding at home because of co-morbidities and other learners at home afflicted with anxiety or health and safety concerns.

The school was fogged on 1 July which was after the time that the latest case was identified. The school was sanitised and sprayed daily. Mrs Stear wrote, "I have again been in contact with the Department of Health. Having run through the actions the school has taken with them, the instructions I have received is that the school is NOT to close as all safety and health protocols have been followed and we remain low-risk."

It is a reality that we will see increases in positive cases. It is a reality that it is becoming increasingly difficult to gain access to testing in the public sector. I therefore am aware that there will be high absenteeism as learners self-isolate, and this forms part of the necessary precautions that need to be taken."

We welcomed back our Grade 6 and 11 learners in July. The girls quickly adapted to the new routines. Miss Nerine Loock, our consulting psychologist, met with the learners on their first day. The dates for the restart of schooling for some grades had been changed again and would again be changed!

Advice was given to the girls: Every day at school for a learner is a precious chance to enhance her education and marks. It should not be spent sleeping or wishing the time away, as there is no certainty when next the grade can be accommodated with a slot of being at school nor can we predict whether a learner may need to quarantine or self-isolate. Make the most of every lesson and every day at school!

There was concern about the number of learners who requested hard copies of work, and then these were not collected from the guard at the front of the school. The teachers bent over backward to help learners, and parents and learners needed to become part of the education process and ensure that the hard copies of work were collected on the correct dates and times.

Mrs Stear encouraged the girls to make sure that when they do hand in a piece of work for marking, or write a test, that it is work worthy of them and that it will gain them a good mark for their SBA (School Based Assessment). In these uncertain times, one does not know what is going to be needed to be promoted to the next grade. These SBA marks would become more

important for promotion to the next grade in 2021.

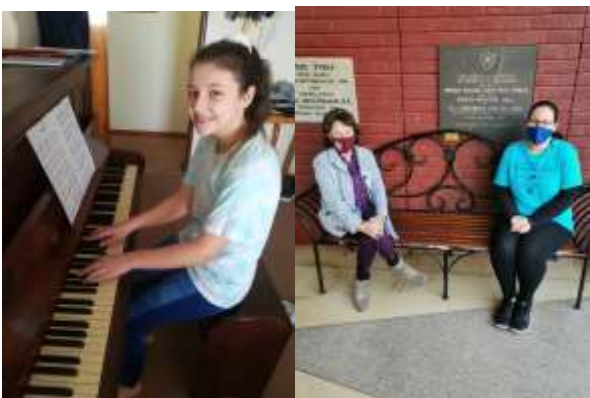
These were extremely stressful times that we were living in and we knew that parents, learners and teachers were anxious and sometimes overwrought, but Mrs Stear requested: "I ask you to please be courteous when making enquiries. Far more is gained by polite, civil interaction. Give us the benefit of the doubt, as we always give you the benefit of the doubt. I wish to appeal to learners to be polite, ethical and considerate in their interactions with teachers, particularly in terms of the WhatsApp groups. Please communicate with your teachers with the correct formal language usage and respect. These groups have been useful and necessary, but they blur the lines of a teacher's personal life versus work commitments. Please respect the teacher's family time by not expecting answers late at night or during weekend family time, unless there is an emergency. General questions not specific to the subject or class that the WhatsApp group is intended for should be directed through the correct channels."

STAINGATE hit and some clothing of learners were stained by the sanitisation. Learners were instructed to bring a plastic sheet or table-cloth to place on desks / chairs if there was a concern.

The Grade Ten learners were due to return to school on Monday 20th July. However, there were loud calls from concerned parents and the unions, SADTU and NAPTOSA, for the closing of schools until after South Africa has reached its peak of COVID-19 infections. The reasons for this call included the serious psychological effect that the exponential number of infections is having on teachers, education support personnel and learners; the changing science which now supports the possibility that there could be an airborne spread of the virus and an indication that the quarantine period could be shorter than initially established; the World Health Organization's (WHO) advice that schools should not remain open when the expected peak of the pandemic in a country is at hand. Schools were due to close for a short break on 7 August and to reopen on 12 August. Instead schools were closed at the end of July and no grades attended school from 27 to 31 July. From 3 to 7 August, only Grade 12s attended school. From 11 to 21 August, only Grade 7s and 12s attended school.



## The Year Reviewed: July



### Sister Success



Zoë Craill recently played her piano Grade 4 exam for Trinity College London. Due to Covid-19, the pieces were recorded and the recording submitted for marking. She achieved 82%, which is a pass with merit.

We proudly presented the 2020 What a Wonderful World T Shirt worn by the winner designer in the contest to design



Mrs Stear wrote, "As my weekly and periodic letters to you are the only means of communication with the school community including parents and learners, I wish to appeal to you all to read the letters carefully as important information is contained in them."

I wish to acknowledge our teachers and support staff who are the education frontline workers. They get up every morning, often filled with anxiety, but still show up for work. They are faced with inadequate support from authorities, but still they are working. Thank you all for your resolve. Staff have faced numerous unclear and often misguided instructions and regulations from authorities, only to have these instructions and regulations changed the next week. This lack of leadership and direction causes anxiety and stress and a far from ideal working environment. In spite of this, our team has remained positive and determined to make the academic year meaningful. I ask that you please support our staff by ensuring work is being done at home, you keep up to date with information we provide, that Schools Based Assessment is handed in on due dates and that our protocols are followed.

To date, Riebeek has had six reported cases of learners who have tested positive for the virus and have self-isolated. We have traced the close contacts of these girls who have then self-quarantined for 14 days. In some cases, the learner had not been at school for more than 14 days therefore there was no requirement for the school to do a deep sanitization or close as a result of this case. No staff have yet tested positive for the virus. I ask parents and learners to please not conceal their COVID-19 status, but to rather inform the school when they display symptoms, or have gone for testing and, especially, when they have tested positive for the virus. This is dealt with confidentially but has great value. A small group of people care only about their own health, and safety; but when it comes to others, they act recklessly. The fear of stigmatization is no reason to keep quiet about being infected. If ever we needed to display the spirit of Ubuntu, it is now. Silence about one's COVID-19 status could become lethal to someone else.

We are all painfully aware that the pandemic situation in South Africa is worsening daily, as was predicted by

scientists. When we will reach the pinnacle of infections remains uncertain, but it is speculated that it will be any time from the beginning of August to late September.

I am making an urgent appeal for parents and transport drivers to please not U-turn in front of the school, but to rather use the traffic circle at the top of North Street. U-turning places our learners and other vehicles in danger. I say a big thank you to the parents who do use the traffic circle at the top and bottom of North Street. Please also do not stop your vehicle in the school driveway or in front of the driveways across the street.

By 21 August, schooling was going full steam ahead after the one week break for our senior school staff and Grade 12s and the two week break for our junior school staff and Grade 7s. In addition, hard copy collections, submissions of SBA tasks and online messaging had ensured that our girls had been given constructive work to do. We also welcomed back our Grade 5s who reported being glad to be back!

On 24 August we welcomed back Grade 4, 6, 8 and 10. It was the first time back for our Grade 4s and 8s. Our Grade 7s had two weeks at home to consolidate the work covered with them in class and to continue with new work given. The Grade 12s embarked on a study break to prepare for the Matric Trials after wellness programmes, a Jerusalema challenge on 7 August, a talk by Miss Look, a Women's Day tribute by the Head Girl, an academic meeting on 20 August with their grade head and academic head to discuss trials and finals and an enjoyable Principal's Party to celebrate the milestone moment of completing the syllabus on 21 August. On the school grounds, staff and matrics were dressed up and we saw Catwoman, Harry Potter, Mickey Mouse, a cheerleader, essential workers, Belle from Beauty and the Beast, Dorothy of the Wizard of Oz and other colourful characters! We commended the Grade 7s and 12s on their excellent behaviour at school. Among all the negatives of Covid-19, there were silver linings and one of those is that the teachers and learners have bonded immensely over the last few weeks of being at times the sole focus of the teacher's attention and we will look back fondly at the shared journey we had of fear and unfamiliarity with this strange schooling environment in those in early days, and the bonding and appreciation that ensued. We are so touched by the gratitude and co-operation these young ladies have demonstrated.







Mrs Muller, the Department of Education district subject advisor for Consumer Studies, handed over a certificate to Mrs Ferreira and Mrs Stear in recognition of excellence in the practical examination moderation of 2019.

In a first for us, the Moderation of Grade 12 isiXhosa in the district took place via Microsoft Teams. We are proud of our girls who presented themselves so well.



Mrs Stear wrote, "We had all been thrown into the deep end by the COVID-19 pandemic and we were immensely proud of the efforts that the Riebeek family made to keep our school ethos and work ethic afloat. When we first went into lockdown nobody expected that the initial three weeks would turn into an almost six month on/off for schooling.

The Grade 9 learners were finally welcomed back to school in September! They were full of spirit and positivity. I would like to thank them for their co-operation and positive attitude. The Grade 7 and 5 learners also attended school this week and they have become so accustomed to the programme here that all is running very smoothly.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our staff. They have rallied in these stressful times, worked together and supported each other. The spirit of the staff has been phenomenal. I am humbled by their absolute commitment, their efforts to keep everyone safe and their determination to educate holistically and finish their syllabuses. Our school staff have been through the same pandemic experiences that everyone has and then, additionally, had to plan and execute school work to ensure that our children do not fall behind. This they did admirably, having to do distance teaching and also cope with their own families, some with young children who could not be left alone."

On Monday, 14 September, the matric trial examinations began and ended on 7 October. We wished all our matrics the best of luck and urged them to put the stresses of COVID-19 to the back of their minds while writing and let us, the staff, worry about that on their behalf.

We made it very clear that regardless of the Lockdown Level and other circumstances, including negative attitudes related to SBA tasks due, we would not ease our protocols nor drop our expectations or standards.

## The Year Reviewed: September







"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction." — Rachel Carson





Due to the Cosatu strike on 7 October, the final two Matric trial exams were postponed until 8 October. On Friday 9 October, the Matrics were fortunate to have a day of rest at home and recharge their batteries as they would need to be energized for their last two weeks of schooling where the focus had to be on learning from trials to improve for the finals.

October was a difficult month as the pressures of the year mounted. Staff and learners were tired and anxious. There was a press to get missing marks onto the system and teachers needed learners to come in to write assessments they had not completed, while teachers grappled with the SASAMS system in working out how to implement departmental structures within the confines of the marks programme.

Invigilator training took place for teachers.

Reports were handed out to all grades on 22 and 23 October. A special video was made for the Grade 12s providing an overview of their years at Riebeek. Valedictory was held on 23 October. There was a one week holiday thereafter. Term 4 began in November, in a first for schooling.







# The Year Reviewed: November







## The Riebeek 2020

In November, the number of COVID-19 cases escalated in the past weeks as we entered our second wave of the pandemic. Riebeek was not untouched by this second wave and we had a few learners who tested positive. Along with many schools, Riebeek needed to remind parents to keep the school informed of Covid Contact or testing positive.

The email from MR HM MWELI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the Department of Education, of 9 November containing Circular E31 of 2020 states: Identification of Positive Cases and Legal Responsibility - "The parents, care-giver or a designated family member that intentionally conceals the COVID-19 positive status of the candidate in their care will face legal consequences should it be later revealed that this information was wilfully withheld by the parent."

The teaching staff found that the learners tended to have a more casual approach to the protocols of dealing with the virus, especially the need for social distancing. A warning was given that we did not want to hear of classes complaining to teachers about windows being open when ventilation is an important Covid-19 safety protocol. We saw learners being slack about the protocols and this is not acceptable. We again reminded that there should be NO stigmatisation, rumours or slander related to learners who test positive. A medical diagnosis is a confidential matter and not one that should be discussed by others.

We also reminded learners to be courteous and respectful, and to obey instructions given by the teachers. We noted a slackness and even rudeness in the behaviour of some learners as the year drew to a close, but good manners have no expiry date.

Some academic and sporting awards were handed out. We were not able to award all the normal awards, and limited the awarding to where we were able to identify a candidate in spite of the challenges of Covid-19! we realised parents and learners may be disappointed that there was no ceremony, but we appealed to all to rather

focus on the fact that we were able and willing to identify recipients rather than focussing on what we cannot offer. Congratulations to the recipients. We hope your parents will make a fuss and have a family ceremony at home.

The matrics were informed that there would be no Matric Farewell as the president had called for caution and no super spreaders. Though this was sad, it was hoped that the girls would perhaps celebrate with a parent or guardian at a posh dinner at home to mark the transition from childhood to young adulthood.

The Grade 10s and 11s enjoyed their marathon of tests on 26 November and we thanked them for their mature approach to the tests, arriving promptly at their various venues at the various times for their tests.

The Grad 8s finished on 20 November with a picnic hamper each and the announcement of the grade prizes, co-ordinated by Grade Head, Miss de Beer. Grade 9s last week needed to be adjusted because of the increase in cases and so they were tasked to only come in for imperative lessons or vital tests and not for full days of schooling.

The Grad 7s ended their year with a walk down the red carpet dressed as royalty, the creating of a time capsule to be opened in a matric and a special certificate for each learner. Other grades finished with games and line dancing.

The Department of Education announced that learners who tested positive or who needed to be isolating could still write exams. This about-turn was a relief for the matrics and required some quick thinking and planning for the school. We selected the enclosed swimming pool area as our isolation venue. Mrs Ferreira's husband kindly assisted us with the provisioning of Personal Protective Equipment and we hosted a steady stream of positive cases or those needing to write in isolation. The spirit and appreciation of the girls at this venue spoke to a respect for the lengths the school went to in order to accommodate our girls.



The Year Reviewed: November - December





We were delighted to hear that two of our former principals had a reunion in November. Mrs Woods, former Riebeek principal, visited Miss Bekker, former Riebeek principal, at Epworth, Pietermaritzburg, Natal. Miss Bekker is due to retire from education at the end of the year.

The Clothing Shop, it was announced. Would not be opening in 2020 as a precaution related to the rise in Covid-19 cases in the Eastern Cape. Learners will return to school in civvies at the start of 2021 until they have had sufficient time to stock up on school uniform needs.

We also received a circular informing us that social distancing would continue at the start of the new school,

and we were thrown into the mammoth task of creating the best arrangements for platooning. The tape measures came out and we frantically networked to find out best practices, as we tried to ascertain the best way forward.

December saw the school grounds quiet with only the Grade 12s still writing, until 11 December, and the staff prepared reports for handing out mid December and for what it seemed would be a bumpy 2021.

This has been a historic year. It has been a year of hurt, loss and change. It has also been a year of self-discovery and hope.







## SGB Family

**Mr I. Armoed:** father of Keira-Lee, Grade 6 and Kee-Lynn, Grade 5

**Mr K. Barnes:** father of Paige, Grade 7 and Mia, Grade 5

**Mrs R. Brink:** mother of Kiara, Grade 11, and Tylah, Grade 8

**Mr I. Craill:** father of Jessica, Grade 12 and Zoë, Grade 9

**Mrs A. Elie:** mother of Callan, Grade 7

**Mrs T. Henman:** mother of Tayla, Grade 4

**Mrs L. Mac Gorman:** mother of Lauren, Grade 10

**Mr S. Mandela:** father of Ayabulela, Grade 6

**Mr J. Potgieter:** father of Megan, Grade 10



Back row: Mr A Reynolds, Mr K Barnes, Mrs T Henman, Miss K Potgieter, Mr I Craill, Mr I Armoed  
Seated: Mrs C Snyman, Mrs L Mac Gorman, Mrs R Brink, Mrs K Stear

Absent: Mrs L Stroebel, Mrs A Elie, Mr S Mandela, Mr J Potgieter, Mr G McAuley, Mr V Koekemoer



The year 2020 started well and we had many hopes and dreams for the year. When the new coronavirus rapidly spread across the globe, evidence of its effect on children was still scanty and closing schools seemed the responsible thing to do. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has changed the world and in less than a year since the virus emerged, it has disrupted day-to-day lives across the globe. This crisis has indeed highlighted how vulnerable we are. Routines were broken and freedoms were restricted to save lives.

As a school we have not been left unscathed. Much needed projects and the maintenance of our aging buildings had to be set aside and the money was now diverted to the buying of a bulk thermal scanner, masks, sanitisers and PPE's instead of the much-needed learning resources and maintenance. Old buildings have more frequent age-related issues that can lead to high maintenance bills. As we all know school facilities maintenance is concerned about more than just resource management, it is about providing a clean and safe environment for learners.

The havoc wreaked by the Covid-19 pandemic has seen many households lose income, inadvertently affecting parents'

ability to meet their children's educational needs. This is reflected in our collection of school fees for the year 2020. Despite this setback the finances of the school remain in a healthy state for now due to the strict monitoring and the implementation of cost cutting measures by the Finance Committee.

As the SGB we've had a total mindshift in the way we do things. The virus has taken us from our comfort zone and reminded us that it is not business as usual. Due to the pandemic our regular in contact meetings are now replaced with video conferencing because of the coronavirus. Our monthly fincom meetings and quarterly SGB meetings take place via this channel. This has ensured that we could still meet to discuss trending issues. This pandemic has proved to us how resilient human beings are and that we have all the resources to deal with such extraordinary circumstances and to adapt to new circumstances.

Throughout the pandemic, we've seen both benefits and drawbacks of being cooped up with family and especially the added stress for families who have had to deal with remote learning situations for school-aged children.

Firstly I would like to thank the parents for their continued support and investment in making this year possible.

The SGB would like to thank, and commend the entire staff for going the extra mile and playing a major part in the continued education of the girls despite the lockdown.

Thank you to Mr. Koekemoer and the ground staff for their continuous commitment to make Riebeek College a clean and safe place for our learners, educators and parents.

The coronavirus pandemic has placed extraordinary demands on leaders and the SGB would like to extend our gratitude to Mrs Stear for exceptional leadership qualities displayed during this time.

I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank the SGB, for their support during the year and a special thank you to Mr. Craill. He has been tireless in his efforts to keep up with the ever changing requirements driven by various departments to conform to Covid 19 requirements.

May everybody have a good holiday and may we all be refreshed to take on 2021. Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all.



# Staff



Principal: Mrs K. Stear B.Sc.; H.D.E.

Deputy Principal: Mrs C. Snyman D.E.

Heads of Department:

Mrs S. Gerber B.A.; H.D.E.

Mrs X. Mapoma B.A.; S.T.D.

Mrs B. Viljoen B. Ed.

Teachers:

Miss S. Arthur H.D.E.

Mrs G. Bean B.Sc.; H.D.E.

Mrs J. Bowles B.Ed. Hons

Mr R. Bowles B.Ed.

Miss M. Botha B.A.; P.G.C.E.

Mr A. Calitz B.A.; D.T.E.; P.G.C.E.

Mrs D. Carstens B.Prim. Ed. 4

Mr D. de Beer B.Comm.; P.G.C.E.

Miss L. de Beer B.Sc.; P.G.C.E.

Mrs C. du Plessis B.A.; B.Comm.;

H.D.E.; F.D.E.

Miss H. du Preez B.A. Hons; H.D.E.

Miss S. du Preez B.Sc.; P.G.C.E.

Mr S. Hartley B.SC. Hons; P.G.C.E.

Mrs Haynes-Africa Diploma Ed.

(Special Needs ACE)

Mrs H. Ferreira B. Home Ec. Ed.

Mrs M. Goeiman B.A.; P.G.C.E.

Mrs J. James B. Comm Hons;

P.G.C.E.

Miss A. Johnson H.D.E.

Mr B. Jonas D.E.; A.C.E. Man.

Mrs C. Jonas B.Ed. Hons

Mrs C. Kruger B.Sc. Hons

Mr B. Maschaka Dip. Music Ed.; B. Mus. Hons.

Mrs M. Mukamuri Dip. Ed; B.A.

Psych. B.A. Ed. Hons

Mrs J. Myburg B.A.; H.D.E.

Miss C. Oliphant B.A. Hons; P.G.C.E.

Miss K. Potgieter B.A.; P.G.C.E.

Mrs A. Peltason B.A. Hons; U.E.D.

Mrs M. Stark H.D.E. (Comm.)

Mrs L. Stroebe B.A. Psych.;

P.G.C.E.

Miss N. Tetani B.A.; PGCE

Mr K. Weidemann B.A.; P.G.C.E.

## Administrative Staff:

Credit Controller: Mrs J. Frost

Bursar: Mrs D. Barnard B.Comm.

Administrative Secretary:

Mrs L. Boscombe

Reception Secretary: Mrs C. Oldham

Estate Manager: Mr A. Reynolds,

Mr V. Koekemoer Diploma Building

Surveying

Senior Foreman: Mr P.N. David

**Interns:** Miss O. Mxoli, Miss S.

Klaas

## General Staff:

Miss M. Gqomo

Mr L. Johnson

Miss G. Ngxonono

Mr E. Plaatjies

Mr J. David

Miss Y. Boo

## HOSTEL:

Hostel Superintendent:

Mrs A. Peltason

Hostel Matrons:

Mrs L. Moss

Mrs J. Sandells

General Hostel Staff:

Mrs E. Landu

Miss N. J. Mgwana

Mrs B. Ratsibe

Day Care Superintendent: Mrs M.

Swanepoel

**Tuckshop Co-ordinator:** Mrs E

Zeelie

## Clothing Shop:

Mrs D. Evert, Mrs N. du Plessis

## Examination Invigilators:

Mrs M. Kosaber, Mrs R. Alberts

## Consulting Psychologist:

Miss Nerine Loock BA Hons

(Biokinetics;

MA (Counselling Psychology)

## Choir Conductor:

Mr B. Felkers Dip. Mus.ED. ATCL



Back row: Mr A Reynolds, Mr B Maschaka, Mrs J Frost, Mr A Calitz, Mrs C Oldham, Mrs G Bean, Mrs L Stroebe, Miss H du Preez, Mrs C Kruger, Mr D de Beer, Mr R Bowles

2<sup>nd</sup> row: Mrs M Goeiman, Miss K Potgieter, Mr V Koekemoer, Mrs H Ferreira, Mrs M Stark, Miss L de Beer, Mrs C du Plessis, Miss S du Preez, Mr B Jonas, Mrs D Barnard

1<sup>st</sup> row: Mr K Weidemann, Mrs J Bowles, Mrs C Jonas, Miss S Klaas, Mrs S Haynes-Africa, Mrs L Boscombe, Mrs A Peltason, Mrs M Mukamuri, Miss C Oliphant, Mrs J James

Seated: Miss O Mxoli, Miss S Arthur, Mrs X Mapoma, Mrs C Snyman, Mrs K Stear, Mrs B Viljoen, Miss A Johnson, Miss N Tetani

Absent: Mrs S Gerber





# Support Staff



First row: Mr A Reynolds, Mr J David, Mr L Johnson, Mr E Plaatjies, Mr V Koekemoer  
Seated: Ms M Gqomo, Mrs C Snyman, Mrs K Stear, Mrs G Ngxonono





Mrs Haynes-Africa, who is more affectionately known as Mamma Africa or Mamma A, was born and raised in Uitenhage.

She attended St Colmcille in Kirkwood where she matriculated in 1990. Our own Mrs Peltason was her English teacher in matric.

She obtained her Diploma in Education at Dower College of Education and later she specialised in Special Needs teaching at the University of Pretoria. She is reading for her Honours Degree in Education at Walter Sisulu University.

Mamma Africa is the mother of five beautiful children Brandon, Aidan-Mark, Lindsay-Grace, Daniel and Donè. Lindsay-Grace is now a Riebeek girl in Grade 5.

Mamma Africa is vibrant, energetic and full of life. She believes in the four C's: Be Committed to your goal, Be Consistent, Consolidate your plan and Communicate.

She said, "Challenging and exciting are two words that come to mind when I reflect about my experiences at Riebeek. We know that starting a new chapter in our lives come with challenges and this was no different. I decided to walk inside my story and own it. My story started when I decided to..."

**S** -stand firm

**T**-touch hearts and minds of children

**O**-own my story (path)

**R**-Remain Resilient

**Y**-Yes, to new beginnings!

The Riebeek family and community has welcomed me, I look forward to my time here given the special circumstances we find ourselves in. I encouraged all to walk inside their story..."

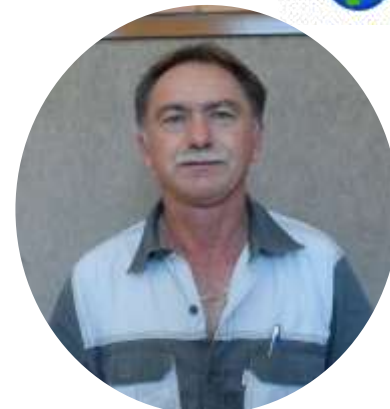


Miss Oliphant matriculated from Brandwag High School in 2012 and went on to study for her Bachelor of Arts degree, graduating in 2016, and her Honours degree in Afrikaans through the Nelson Mandela University in 2017. She obtained her PGCE Intermediate and Senior Phase at UNISA in 2019.

Miss Oliphant enjoys reading book on the Second World War and being outdoors in nature or at the beach, and spending time with family and friends. She values her close knit family and has one younger brother.

She is described as talkative, helpful and compassionate. She says "Honesty and integrity are very important to me. I believe we are capable of all things through Christ who strengthens us." She would love to travel and explore different cultures.

Miss Oliphant has made a wonderful contribution with her empathy for, and understanding of, the youngsters in her care. She is always willing to assist where needed and has shown great organizational skills. We are so pleased that she joined us.



Mr Koekemoer was born and raised in Uitenhage, where he attended Muir College Boys' High School and matriculated in 1982. He obtained his National Diploma in Building Surveying at Port Elizabeth Technicon.

Mr Koekemoer has a family connection to Riebeek. He is the brother of Old Girl and former teacher of Life Sciences, Mrs Janet Jooste, who now resides in Cape Town.

He has been described as hardworking, patient and soft hearted. He is a real life MacGyver and can fix almost anything. He spends his free time restoring antiques as can be seen with his 1942 Willys Jeep. He has a good sense of humour.

Mr Koekemoer is very happy to be joining the Riebeek family and said, "I hope my stay here will be long and pleasant."

Though he could not have known that the job description would come to mean being a health expert on sanitizing and the logistics of social distancing in the grounds and venues, he has certainly risen to the challenge. Every single morning, he has prepared the screening area in the early hours of the morning and has become a fixture of the morning scene!



Riebeek welcomes Mrs Meda Plaatjies Goeiman. Mrs Goeiman was raised in Uitenhage and is a Riebeek Old Girl from the Class of 2010. She returns to Riebeek in time for her 10 year reunion. At school, she had a keen interest in Drama, Debating and Badminton. She read for her BA degree in Psychology and English and completed her PGCE at Nelson Mandela University, graduating Cum Laude. She taught at Hillside High School in Port Elizabeth for 2 years.

Mrs Goeiman hopes to create a classroom where learners can reach their full potential inside and outside of it, a place where they can grow and challenge themselves to be their best. Her favourite quote is: "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." – Nelson Mandela

Mrs Goeiman enjoys spending leisure time with family and friends, traveling and spending time with her husband, a teacher at Muir College.

She says "I am very excited to be back at Riebeek, the school that groomed and moulded me into the young lady that I am today. I walked those corridors for nine years as a learner and now I am back as an educator. Things are very much still the same, but different. I say different because now I am allowed in the staffroom! I am very pleased to say that after a decade, Riebeek still holds its same values, principles and integrity. Stepping into the corridors of Riebeek College after 10 years has been nostalgic. I have been welcomed back with friendly faces and warm hearts. It has been a whirlwind and a rollercoaster but my learners and the educators at Riebeek have made it a lot easier. The girls are friendly, respectful and eager to learn. The teaching and non-teaching staff are supportive and thoughtful.







## Welcome, Mr Hartley

Riebeek welcomed Mr Simon Matthew Hartley. Mr Hartley is originally from Birmingham, UK. He acquired his General Certificate of Secondary Education at Statley Grammar School in 1987.

He studied microbiology at Leeds University and graduated in 2000. Mr Hartley has been happily married to his wife, Sarah, for 26 years. They have two sons, Tom, 20, who is studying at the University of the Western Cape and Ben, 18, who is studying at Nelson Mandela University.

Mr Hartley describes himself as a smiley, interesting geek. He enjoys reading, football and playing Xbox. He says he is looking forward to being part of the Riebeek community. When asked what makes his world a wonderful place he simply replied, "My family."

Mr Hartley took over Mrs Kruger's duties while she was on accouchment leave. He quickly became adept at working out where best he could make an impact, and we would find him doing morning screening duties or break duties even when he was not on the roster. It was this willing to step in and help out that endeared him to us all. He also enthralled the matrices at the Matric Celebration with a spectacular Science experiment akin to a fireworks display without the noise.

Welcome to the Riebeek family, Mr Hartley. We hope our family makes your world a little more wonderful. We are pleased to announce that Mr Hartley has accepted a post at Riebeek for 2021 and will be assisting in the Science and Life Sciences Departments.

## Welcome, Miss Botha

Riebeek welcomed Miss Montanna Grey Botha when Miss Goeiman went on accouchment leave.

Miss Botha has had her fair share of hometowns. She has lived in Port Elizabeth, East London, Jeffery's Bay and Dax, France. She's attended five different primary schools and attended Pearson High School, matriculating in 2015.

Miss Botha studied towards a B.A degree at Nelson Mandela University (NMU) as she wished to study as much English, History and Psychology as possible! She graduated in 2018 and registered for her Post Graduate Certificate in Education graduating Cum Laude.

She has a younger sister, Keegan, who is in first year at NMU. She says that her sister is the funniest person who she knows. Her mother is a true Joburger, strong and hardworking. Miss Botha says that she gets her love of sport from her father who played rugby professionally. "My parents are my biggest supporters. They encourage me to reach for my dreams every day." However, the prize for the most spoilt family member has to go to her dog, Petunia. She freely admits that it is a strange name for a dog but declares. "If you meet her, you'll understand. There is no better name for her."

Miss Botha loves sport. When she is not glued to the television watching it, she sometimes participates. She has participated in the Sunday's River Mile and

Corporate Triathlon numerous times. She enjoys reading, baking and binge-watching *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*.

When asked what makes her world a wonderful place, she said, "Nature! I love animals, watching a beautiful sunset with friends or jbeing in the sea. The world is also a wonderful place because I get to follow my dreams, meet new people and share my passion. Hopefully, I'll have a positive impact on others."

On her arrival, Miss Botha described herself as passionate and loyal. We soon discovered this to be true as Miss Botha was willing to take learners under her wing for extra tuition and supervision, took on additional teaching and helped out in the Life Orientation and History Departments for extra measure. Nothing was too much trouble for her and she was always willing to step in and step up. We are indeed very jealous of our brother school, Muir College, who appointed Miss Botha to a post at Muir for 2021. We will be watching her career with great interest and pride.



Welcome, staff

## Student Teachers

As we moved to lower levels of lockdown, we saw a trickle of student teachers spend time at our school. We thank them for their assistance as our platooning system and the need for more duty rosters for every aspect of every day made the extra hands and eyes much appreciated.



# Welcome, Staff



## Welcome, Mrs Carstens

This had its own joy and challenges.

However, the time arrived where she wished to start working again and she says, "I was extremely grateful to have found a position here, at Riebeek. What an awesome place to teach!"

When asked what made her world a wonderful place, Mrs Carstens said, "Waking up and going for an early morning run, spending time with family and saying a prayer filled with love and thankfulness at the end of the day."

Mrs Carstens describes herself as happy and determined. She is kind and makes any space that she inhabits a little warmer. The staff were astounded when she knew every person's names within a few days of arriving. We were touched by the care she lovingly gave, such as

Riebeek welcomed Mrs Desiree Anne Carstens. Mrs Carstens is originally from George. She attended York High School where he matriculated in 1986. She wasn't quite sure what to study but she says, "The Department of Education offered me a teaching bursary and made my choice much easier." She studied at Stellenbosch University and graduated with a B.Prim.Ed in 1991.

After completing her studies, she worked and travelled simultaneously. The highlight of her travel was teaching in London for a year and skiing in Austria. When her daughter, Juliette, was born, she decided to stay at home and be a full-time mom.

## The Riebeek 2020

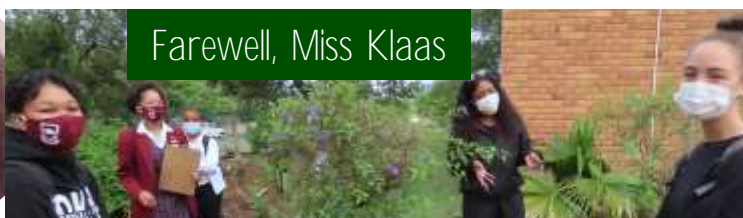


complimenting a person on their outfit or checking in on how a person was doing. She lovingly made a cake for Miss Johnson's birthday and donated an incredible prize to the SPCA.

She could not have expected the baptism of fire into teaching of having to convert to online teaching, yet she learnt how the d6 School Communicator worked with speed and created creative tasks for her learners. She praised them for their efforts and proudly displayed their work in the foyer and on the school's social media pages. She has made a difference.

Initially, she was at Riebeek from February to May in Mrs Viljoen's place, but then she filled Mr Maschaka's post when he left, Next year she will teach Creative Arts in the junior school and head up the Life Orientation Department in the high school.

# Farewell, Staff



## Farewell, Miss Klaas

Miss Klaas joined our staff in 2019 as a student teacher studying towards a Bachelor of Education through UNISA. In March, she applied for an internship post for the high school section although she was studying to teach in the Intermediate and Senior Phases.

Miss Klaas in an Old Girl who made her mark as a school girl on the hockey fields as a team player, on the sidelines of matches for First Aid Duty, as a member of the Debating Committee, as an active Drama Club member, and in our hearts. Her sunny and bubbly disposition led to Mrs Myburg calling her Sunny, not to be confused with abbreviating her first name. Mrs Myburg worked closely in

Miss Klaas' school days and Mrs Myburg treasured her for her positive nature and immense contributions.

As an intern, Miss Klaas was innovative, resourceful, dedicated and fun. She undertook teaching Grade 8 English, Grade 10 History and Life Orientation in various grades. Adept at coping under pressure and a master at multi-tasking, Miss Klaas took on a lot and it was often at the same time. Miss Klaas was a hostel duty teacher. accompanied girls on hockey tours and helped struggling learners with tutoring.

What will we miss about Miss Klaas? Her fashion sense and glamorous looks, her knowledge of teenage

colloquialisms and trending matters, her wit and sense of humour, her ability to find

answers to questions we had, her immense speed at googling, her ingenuity in tracing a document, her insights into the state of the world, and her capacity to work with unflinching care.

Miss Klaas said. "Having my past teachers help me evolve into who I am meant to become is something for which I am grateful."

Miss Klaas is sure to thrive in teaching as she has much to offer, and she has been well prepared in the world of education through her experiences here and the mentoring she gained in her internship. We wish her the best and look forward to hearing of all her adventures.

## Farewell, Mrs Sandells

Described by the hostel girls as one of the sweetest, most real and loving souls, Mrs Sandells retires as a hostel matron after 23 years! Mrs Sandells' granddaughter, Emma, is in Grade 10 at Riebeek. The girls remember laughs and talks in the kitchen of the hostel. Her son, Dean, in the UK, wrote; "Even though you can still run rings around those a lot younger than you, enjoy your well deserved retirement. 23 years is a great innings and service and looked after a lot of kids along the way. Stay young and don't sit back, find something else you are passionate about or come enjoy the English summer with us next year."



Farewell, Mrs Evert and Mrs du Plessis



In 2009, Le Professional was the title of the school magazine article by Amy Bennette and Mrs J. Jooste: "Hidden away in a far, conveniently sized corner of the school is the Riebeek College Clothing Shop, which is frequently visited by learners and sporty types who need a wardrobe fashion makeover, the Riebeek way. If you walk through the entrance of the well-furnished shop, you are sure to be welcomed by an array of black, white and maroon materials and greeted by warm smiles from the friendly shop staff. Mrs Delene Evert and Mrs Nicci du Plessis kindly give up their time to ensure that we possess all the clothing necessities required to look like a Riebeek girl. The ladies of the Clothing Shop are extremely helpful when it comes to buying and choosing appropriate outfits to match those special school occasions. Once again, a very big thank you must go to Mrs du Plessis and Mrs Evert for their dedication to the school and making sure that all the girls walk out of the shop looking oh so "Le Professional!"







## Farewell, Mrs Boscombe

In 2013, it was Kim Daniels, now a SABC reporter, who wrote a welcome article for Mrs Boscombe with these words: "It is always a pleasure to welcome a friendly face to Riebeek College. She describes working at Riebeek as an opportunity to be back at her alma mater. Her first day back on the school grounds as a staff member was extremely chaotic. However, Mrs Boscombe said the girls and the staff members were incredibly kind, helpful and supportive. She describes herself as blessed, as she gets to be at school with her daughter and work with some of her old teachers. Mrs Boscombe loves working at Riebeek as she felt welcome from the very beginning."

Mrs Boscombe is an Old Girl from the Class of 1985. She qualified with an N4 Secretarial and N5 Computers qualification at the then Port Elizabeth Technicon. After her studies, Mrs Boscombe decided to pursue her passion and work at Volkswagen where was the PA to a manager at VWSA and where she learnt the valuable skills of multi-tasking and working under pressure. She then worked at Muir College.

In 2013, Mrs Boscombe moved from our brother school to residing in the front office. And so it was that from 2013 to 1 November 2020, Mrs Boscombe served the school with passion and due diligence. She was at Riebeek when her daughter, Tayla, matriculated in 2015 and it was a beautiful sight to behold her pride as Tayla amassed awards and achievements, such as being elected as the Uitenhage Junior Mayor and a school prefect. Mrs Boscombe was equally proud of her son, Jarred, who graduated with a B.Sc from NMMU.

When Mrs Nel moved to George in October 2019, Mrs Boscombe made a move too as she swapped desks and position from being the School Receptionist to being the Principal's Secretary. It was in this position that she truly flourished as she was cool and calm when everybody wanted to see Mrs Stear at the same time, with multiple files open on her computer and piles of paperwork to send to the department and multiple queries



all at once. Mrs Boscombe was unflappable and thoroughly organised. This should have been a hard transition with a different job description, but Mrs Boscombe learned the ropes as if magically.

Mrs Boscombe enjoyed the early morning hugs from the junior girls as it was to her a wonderful way to start the day, being sung to her on her birthday by the prefects, countless drawing, pictures, messages and letters from the girls, helping girls with grazed knees feel better with love and a Band Aid, Secretaries' Day lunches and the staff development at Tsitsikamma when the staff took on zip-lining.

We will remember her term of endearment for the girls of "little sausage". We will remember her infinite patience with the little ones and how caring she was when a lift had not arrived, when a child was distraught, when kind words were needed. We will remember that Mrs Boscombe showed compassion and discretion with her colleagues and endeavoured to make the world a better place. We will remember her stint as a hostel duty teacher and how her family grew as she took on mothering the girls of the hostel. We will remember the precision of her work and her capacity to keep it together when there was chaos.

Mrs Boscombe accepted in October a position at Grey High School as secretary to the rector and many have commented that she will spread love wherever she goes, that her joyful personality, kindness and warm smile will touch lives wherever she goes.

Nomaya Mtengenya described our feelings well when she wrote on the Riebeek Facebook Page: "Bittersweet news. Where will we get that welcoming smile again? You

represented Riebeek well through that window. All the best in your future endeavours."

Mrs Stear, principal of Riebeek College, wrote, "Loren has been a discreet, kind, consummate professional who thrived in her time at Riebeek. I am very jealous that Grey will gain such a gem but I know that this new adventure will be very rewarding for Loren. I will miss Loren's sense of humour, her ability to find any document no matter how well hidden it is and her ability to weather the sometimes angry parents who have misunderstood a situation and believe they have been wronged. The ever patient Loren became a master negotiator at explaining the processes so that conflict could be resolved and a good working relationship between the parent and the school could be attained. Loren has contributed positively at Riebeek and we wish her the best."

In her spare time, Mrs Boscombe enjoys reading, puzzle building and spending time with her family. Without the daily trek to and from Uitenhage, we hope that Mrs Boscombe will have a little more time for these hobbies.

Erma Bombeck wrote these words which Mrs Boscombe has always valued: "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left but could say I've used everything you gave me."

Another favourite quote of Mrs Boscombe is this written by James Dean, "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." We are glad that Mrs Boscombe sailed through our lives at Riebeek and wish her a steady course and safe harbours.



### Farewell, Mrs Myburg

Mrs Myburg retired officially in February, and wanted no fuss about her official departure from Riebeek. She wanted it to be quiet and she wanted there to be no article in the school magazine. She is humble and unassuming so that seemed right to her. While we really love Mrs Myburg and want to honour her wishes, we simply could not help ourselves from wanting to wish her the happiest of retirements and wanting to acknowledge what an amazing contribution she made at Riebeek College since 2004 when she joined the staff. Fortunately, we won her over with our persistence and here is our tribute to a remarkable person!

As a mom to two Old Girls, Mrs Myburg was firmly entrenched in the school's ethos and fabric. This has not ended since her departure as her son, the former Mr PE, has assisted the school with the revamping of our netball and tennis courts (sponsored by the Lotto Fund) and with the initial deep sanitisation of our school in the early phase of the pandemic.

Mrs Myburg is a breath of fresh air, a ray of sunshine and a kind, good human being. She cared deeply about the girls and the staff of Riebeek and invested much time, energy and prayer in rooting for the best for each person. She has an amazing laugh and a great sense of

humour. Mrs Myburg is the greatest gift giver and it was thrilling as a staff member to look in your pigeon hole and discover a secret person (but we knew who) had left gifts for your children back home to spread some love.

Her contributions in the Afrikaans and Life Orientation Departments were to make the subjects fun and accessible for her girls. In the area of extra murals, she contributed hugely supporting the swimmers with loud encouragement from the side of the pool, managing the First Aid needs with a dynamic group of First Aiders (including our intern, Miss Klaas, when she was on the First Aid Committee), loving the Kruger Park tours with her group of happy travellers especially the train trip and new experiences, crying in empathy as Alpha Leo visited those in need, arranging guest speakers for the girls to encourage their career dreams. For Mrs Myburg, sport and clubs were not extra murals but chances to interact with the girls, make a difference, talk about anything and everything and develop the girls holistically.

The learners have fond memories of Mrs Myburg. They remember when her son would visit the classroom to bring flowers and presents for his mom. They remember when LO lessons would turn into life lessons as she gave words of wisdom and

tears flowed about the issues young people face. The girls remember Mrs Myburg shedding a tear during Afrikaans orals as she would be so proud of the efforts that the learners had put in. He speak fondly of Mrs Myburg sneaking food to a learner who had secretly told her about the problems being experienced at home. Assemblies for Mrs Myburg could be traumatic as a lovely, sentimental video clip could tug at her heart and bring tears. She shed tears of joy and tears of sorrow. She also loved a good joke and a hearty, deep chat. She knew the girls in her care well and knew their challenges, their potential, their dreams and the stories that made them who they are!

You cannot help but miss Mrs Myburg because she lived and loved wholeheartedly and passionately. She was the kind of teacher who gave her all and more, the kind of teacher who wore her heart on her sleeve, the kind of teacher who would go the extra mile and slay dragons if that is what was needed. Intensely loyal and enthusiastic, Mrs Myburg is that rare breed of human being - the ones who light a path for others to follow. She will be missed and we wish her happy travels, much cuddles and hugs with her children and grandchildren and much laughter and kindness.

### Farewell, Mr Maschaka



Riebeek welcomed Mr Bevin Maschaka, an honours graduate in music from the Nelson Mandela University in July 2019 and bid farewell to him a year later, shortly after we returned from lockdown. Mr Maschaka said, "My passion for the next generation has led me into the direction of teaching music. After hours, I am a professional drummer who has performed with the likes of International Bethel Music Artist Sean Feucht, South African artists Lira and Judith Sephuma as well as at the Standard Bank Joy of Jazz festival in Johannesburg." At Riebeek, Mr Maschaka was instrumental in the band reaching new heights and he will be remembered for boisterous, fun, loud, dynamic Creative Arts lessons. Mr Maschaka accepted a post at Lawson Brown High School where he can pursue more fully his passion in teaching music as a subject. We wish him well and thank him for his service to Riebeek.





## The Snyman Family Grew

Mrs Snyman gained a second son when her daughter, Tania, married Juandr  Bredenhann



## The Bowles Family were Bowled Over

It all began when Mr Bowles and Miss Hattingh were assigned to coach senior tennis together in 2018. They soon became friends and there was always and it was on 16 July 2019 that Mr Bowles proposed to Miss Hattingh on the same tennis court where it all began. Fast forward to 2020, the two lovebirds were set to wed on the 28 March.

Miss Hattingh was treated to a special bridal shower at school on 19 March which was lovingly organised by Sunette Du Preez and Caryn Jonas. Mr Bowles did not escape the spotlight as he too had to experience opening gifts in front of everyone! However, after the president announced the National Lockdown, their plans for a fairytale wedding went off the rails. Mr Bowles and Miss Hattingh swiftly decided that an elopement with a close-knit group of family and friends would be a special way to get married. Miss Hattingh did not want to wait to get married as it was so important to her that her elderly granny and grandpa be part of the special day. On 25 March, Mr and Mrs Bowles eloped on the same tennis court on which they got engaged and where their romance began. It was an intimate ceremony followed by the cutting of the cake, champagne, strawberries and cream and even a game of tennis, just like Wimbledon!

The president may have taken away their white wedding, but in return, he blessed them with an 82-day long honeymoon. Lockdown gave this married couple a chance to spend quality time together. They cooked, baked, binged watched movies and took full advantage of the exercise time in the mornings. Their highlight was the many evenings that they spent together at the braai, listening to music while sharing memories of the past and exciting plans for their future together.

Mr and Mrs Bowles became proud house owners on 27 August. However, their house was missing something... four paws and a wet nose! Soon they adopted Maggie and Milo from the local SPCA which instantly changed their house into a home.





## Staff Tributes to Loved Ones Lost and Love in spite of Loss



My beloved husband, Des Stark sadly passed away on Monday 17 February. His death has left a huge emptiness in our lives. We'll always remember him fondly and cherish all the wonderful memories.

Despite the sadness, as a family we also celebrated the engagement of my son Andrew on 18 April as well as the engagement of my daughter Catherine on 5 September.

*Mrs Michelle Stark*

Melanie Diane Gertenbach Calitz: 11 September 1964 to 22 May 2020. My late wife, best friend in life and so much more.

My sincere hope is that everyone I know or will ever know or teach or play music for will, in their life, be as loved by at least one person with their whole heart as much as my precious lady loved me. The pic (bottom left) is of one of our "perfect days" taken at our high tea in the Gerber family garden in 2015, the same year we finally tied the knot. It was printed onto vinyl records used as placemats at our fantastic wedding. Blessed we were. Were we. Xxx

*Mr Anton Calitz*



Teachers<sup>2</sup>

During lockdown, our teachers discovered that teaching their own child or children was not the same as teaching at Riebeek. In terms of staff development, lockdown certainly gave them much professional development. It also gave them insight into the experiences of the learners in their care and how to present the work best based on the best practices of what they were witnessing from the school or schools their child or children were attending. There were too some awkward family moments as a child at home disrupted a video being recorded or a Zoom session. Once schools opened and platooning started, the teachers found themselves rushing from work to get home to start the school day of class work and homework for the day assigned to the learners for their home days. Support systems, such as family or tutors were much appreciated!







### Birthday Milestone: Miss Johnson

Miss Johnson celebrated a milestone birthday when she reached either another 21st or a 50th (We are not saying which!). As her birthday was during lockdown, Mrs Carstens arranged a cake at school when we returned to school.

### Congratulations, Ferreira Family



Melissa received her Bachelor of Education Degree this year!

### Long Service Awards

- Miss S. Arthur – 35 years
- Mrs X. Mapoma – 25 years
- Miss K. Potgieter – 10 years
- Mrs J. Bowles – 5 years
- Mrs B. Viljoen – 10 years
- Mrs J. Mgwangqua – 25 years
- Mrs G. Ngxonono – 15 years



### Miss du Preez is Engaged!



Though Miss du Preez is more used to writing scientific essays and practical write-ups, we convinced her to tell us her love story: "Schalk and I were strangers when serious plans were underway to create a love story. My fiancé's cousin, Casey Els (Old Girl, Class of 2019), visited her family, who happened to be Schalk's family, to tell them all about her the Life Sciences teacher at Riebeek. With the green light from the family, plans were set in place for us to meet. Casey was very careful to not make it too obvious that this was a set-up so she asked me to be her cousin's date to his school's matric farewell. All staff members needed to bring a date, and I was told that Schalk's previous date had fallen through due to his date being admitted to hospital. I later learned

the matric farewell was only in October, and Casey first made contact in July with regards to me being her cousin's matric farewell date. You might be wondering what illness had befallen the original date that she would be in hospital for almost three months! I'll get to that a bit later.

Casey urged Schalk to make contact, and our first meeting was at Wimpy for Bar-One Waffles. And we have been inseparable since then. We complement each other emotionally - he is a far more logical thinker, while I am more emotional in my thinking. He is a gamer and I love reading, but we share common interests such as our love for the beach, national parks and nature. We both enjoy binge watching series, and are watching *The Walking*

*Dead* together—gruesome, yes,, but so addictive to watch!

And the other matric farewell date? You might have guessed that she never existed. Schalk never knew about it, until I mentioned it to him months later. We always have a good giggle about it when we tell people the story of how we met.

Schalk proposed in Keurbooms, our favourite holiday destination. We haven't been letting the grass grow under our feet, and our wedding date is set for 26 June 2021. Our wedding ceremony will be held in the Hunter's Chapel and our reception in the Conservatory at Hunter's Country House situated between Plettenberg Bay and Knysna in the Hakerville Forest."

### Teachers<sup>2</sup>







### The Kruger Family

The Stork Party for Mrs Kruger required some innovative thinking and Mrs Bowles and her team faced the first staff celebration to take place in a protocol friendly way. The walk by in the Marilyn Dodd Woods Administrative Wing Quad was the perfect way! Mrs Kruger writes: "In August, a little girl was born into the Kruger family, such a pink blessing. Her little brother did not understand having a little human around 24/7 at first but he quickly grew very fond of her and eagerly helps out changing diapers and giving her dummy when she cries. We enjoy having the cuteness of a new baby and the busyness of a toddler."



### The Goeiman Family

Not even safety protocols and restrictions can quarantine the enthusiasm of the Riebeek staff when it comes to celebrations so creativity was the order of the day when every nook and cranny of the school was investigated to find a suitable venue for the walk by Stork Party for Miss Goeiman. Well done, Mrs Bowles and the team!

Mrs Goeiman writes, "On Thursday morning 6 August, we welcomed our precious angel Alanah Joy Goeiman into the world. She weighed 3.3kg and is as happy and healthy as can be. We are overjoyed that God found it fit to entrust her into our care and we could not love her more. She has filled our lives with so much light and love and even though the nights are long, seeing her precious smile makes it all worth it."







### The Viljoen Family

The first Stork Party was held in the month of love, February, in the staff room, with décor and planning by Mrs Bowles and her team.

Mrs Viljoen wrote: "The Viljoen family welcomed little Klara on the 10th of March. She is just the sweetest thing. Her big brother, Christiaan, is totally besotted with her and no one can make her laugh the way that he can. We absolutely love being a family of four."







# Staff News: Lockdown and Post Lockdown



Teachers are used to multi-tasking and adapting, but nothing could have prepared them for the level of these qualities that would be required. It is fortunate then that the staff have excellent coping skills rooted in extra-mural activities of their own.

During lockdown, staff were kept busy with many

queries, with loading work and with preparing work in a whole different way to make it distance, non-contact friendly. When they were not doing that, staff needed an outlet to decompress and professional development and staff training took on a new meaning. Some staff taught themselves how to use Microsoft Teams and Zoom, while others learnt how to attach audio to powerpoints. Some staff learnt how to translate a teenage speak message into normal English.

Mr Weidemann and Mrs Stear took on a fitness and health drive. Miss Arthur, Mrs Boscombe and Mrs Barnard took on arts and crafts projects, while Mr Jonas and Miss Arthur enjoyed gardening. Mr Jonas added DIY projects to his timetable. Mrs James, Miss de Beer and Mrs Gerber reported taking on playing as

a past-time with armies, Barbie dolls and animated movies taking top positions. Mr Bowles and Mr de Beer were Braai Masters throughout lockdown and perfected the gentle arts of fire lighting and contemplative staring at the fire.

Pets featured strongly in downtime, with Mrs Peltason, Miss S du Preez, Mrs Stear and Miss Arthur taking great delight in spending time with their fur babies. Mrs Bowles and Mrs Snyman tried to prove that you can teach an old dog new tricks to prove the age-old proverb wrong.

All the activities were recorded and two historical documentaries made of the time when the world stood still. The one was a bumper edition and the other a sneak peak into the world of the staff.

On the return to school, staff were shocked into the realities of a new kind of care for their learners, a kind where absolute alertness would be needed to ensure that for every second of the school day protocols were being followed and that they had checked all the duty lists and weekly revised timetables to be in the right places at the right times all the time. It was a crazy time of teaching homeschoolers and schoolers and the pressure was immense. Yet, the staff conquered and did it with warm greetings every morning even in the darkness of winter.







"We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm,  
and adventure. There is no end to the adventures  
we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open. "

*Jawaharal Nehru*

"There's a big, wonderful world out there for you.

It belongs to you."

*Nancy Reagan*

"It's a wonderful world. You can't go backwards.

You're always moving forward,  
and that is the wonderful part about life."

*Unknown*







## Junior Prefects



Front Row: Y Cuba, J Daba, K-L Erasmus, A Douw, A Tom, D Dollie, Z Louis  
Seated: C Elie (Deputy Head Girl), Mrs C Snyman (Deputy Principal), K van der Bergh (Head Girl), Mrs K Stear (Principal), S Daniels

## RCL



Back row: L Thabatha, A Miles, K Tebeka, R Akilo, T August  
Front row: B Donker, Z Gomomo, T-P Bosch, L Meke, L van Heerden, S Lupondwana, E Jantjies  
Seated: N Pepetha, Z Isaacs, Mrs X Mapoma, A Mbola

## Senior Prefects



Back row: S Dili, U Butsaka, R Minnaar, J Kayser, A du Plessis  
Front row: L Daniels, Q Davids, S Mtyingizane, G Sirkhotte, A Dennis, B Kilian, K Douse  
Seated: T Barry, A Rockman (Head Girl), C Snyman (Deputy Principal), C Labercensie (Deputy Head Girl), R Muhammad





The year didn't go as planned, but that did not mean that the Riebeek girls were going to stop reaching for their goals.

The junior school year started off with a bang as we had our annual Stay Awake. This year's theme was the Olympics and unknowingly defined our 2020 school year. It was definitely a race we can say we won. Our exciting evening was a blast as we spent it doing group activities such as dances and dressing up a Grade 7 leader as an Olympic athlete and so much more. This night sets the tone for the rest of the year! The teachers did a great job at keeping us entertained and having fun.

At the Mini Fun Gala, whether you were swimming or cheering, there was always something to do. The Grade 7 girls brought yummy treats to be sold at the tuck shop and the races were entertaining to watch. The spirit set by my fellow Grade 7s was memorable as we watched and cheered each other on during the inter-house races and the teacher race. The music, the songs we sang and the awesome dance performances by the three houses made this day a highlight of the year.

I would like to commend my fellow prefects for a job well done during these difficult times. We were a strong group and had so many ideas for this year, which did not work out as planned. The main thing is that every time we were together, we were having fun, whether it was in class, having meetings, planning or performing our daily duties. There was always something to laugh about.

I remember the Prefect Induction. It was quite frightening, but was one of



the best experiences ever. At Prefects' Camp, we were late for our activities on our first day because we didn't take into consideration the distance we needed to travel from our rooms to the Boardroom and everything we needed to do before the activities. This definitely taught us time management, planning and independence. We made it our goal to be on time. I enjoyed getting to know each person on a different level and also learning more about myself, my personality and my leadership style. The Senior Prefects were always dancing and singing and made everything more fun. The Senior Prefects have played a big role in my life and in my position as Junior Head Girl. I could not have wished for better role models.

Due to Coronavirus, schools were closed on 17 March and we went into lockdown on 26 March. Our school year turned into the unknown, but this gave learners the chance to experiment with new hobbies and work on new skills. Teachers made it possible for us to learn at home, using the internet to interact with us. PowerPoints, Zoom meetings, Whatsapp groups and videos made learning effortless. Thanks to the

teachers, our brains didn't turn into mashed potatoes and the work gave some of us an excuse not to do the dishes. All the hard work the teachers did during lockdown is greatly appreciated and did not go unseen. Thank you for your dedication, teachers. Thank you, parents, for supporting us during this transition.

In June schools were reopened, with a new school routine. Soon we got used to the new normal. It was back to hard work at school, but that wasn't all we were doing. We had picnics wearing our blue school T-shirts designed by Jessica Craill. The Grade 7s enjoyed a phone day. This day is where the teachers allowed us to listen to music through our headphones while doing school work in class. Jokes were made in class and stories were told. Jingle Bells was sung in the middle of October.

Although this year was nothing like what we thought it would be, I wouldn't change it. Eli Khamarov once said, "The best things in life are unexpected, because there were no expectations". All things happen for a reason, you just don't know it yet.

## Junior Head Girl Report





# Junior Prefect Induction







In my world, I am kind, hard working, friendly, loyal and happy.

My world is netball and arts and crafts

On top of the world : the Molly Sellick Cup, the head prefect cup and the Sheryl Moore trophy

The centre of my universe : my parents, because they always pushed me to be the best person I can be and taught me to be kind and loving. They raised me to be the person I am today and I will forever be grateful to be their daughter.

Rocking my world : market days was always one of my favourite things. It always excited me to see the booths and stuff you can buy, it also taught me money management because I never brought more than a R50 even though I knew there were so many things I'd want to get.

The world is special because it is an adventure, and there's many different things on the planet, new inventions and meeting new people, you never know what's going to happen.

Lost without Oamogetswe Jack, she is kind, smart and always ready to work hard for what she wants. We constantly debate over silly things such as the answers to question 4 and who is more smarter ( I always told her she's smarter and she always told me I'm smarter so we'd spend ten minutes going back and forth saying "no u are")

Best prefect duty was flags because I enjoyed watching the flag go up and catching the flag before it landed on the grass  
Thoughts about high-school : it's scary, but the type of scary that you want to try out. It's all going to be so new, but I'm excited for the new chapter.

Back to school memories : I was very excited to come to school, the mask was very different from what I was used to and the first day was very weird. I remember at break time me and my friends just sat there quietly and it was like we forgot we were friends, only after a week or so we started to become more friendly and weren't as distant.

Best lesson : The lesson we decided to lock Mrs Bowles out of her class room, and when she came back into the classroom everyone just started singing songs like happy birthday even though it was no one's birthday.

My future plans are to be a doctor one day, but I'm open to anything.

In my world, I am hard working, kind, loud and creative.

My World is Hockey and Swimming.

The Centre of my Universe: My mother! She always motivates me to do my best and she taught me that all hard work pays off. I experienced that this year! She is proud of me and that is amazing.

What the World Needs Now is: everyone standing together.

Rocking my World: My supportive friends and my family, Yolisa Cuba who rocks my world

Best Prefect Duty: Ice-cream Tuck-shop because all the prefects had laughs there and we worked as a team there. Even though we did not get to finish our lunch most of the time, having an ice-cream on those hot days while working was the best!

What I will miss: Being the leaders, being the seniors of the junior school, the prefects and being able to make a noise without the whole school hearing us and the Grade 7R class. I will miss being late for class with a good excuse of doing prefect duties.

Lockdown Memories: I could stay up late and I could wake up late. The passing of my grandmother was very sad. My best memory was my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday drive-by. My family organized the drive-by for me and that was where I saw my friends for the first time in months and this time it was not on a screen. Being back at school was nerve-wracking because we had to be socially distanced and had to be careful and alert all the time.

Best Lesson: The lesson where Luna played Pholisa for us and we all sang along.

Worst thing about being back: The masks and sanitizer were very different and I was not in my original class. Nothing was really the same!

Future Career: Pediatrician

Shout Out: Grade 7R was the best class I have ever been in!





# Junior Prefect Profiles







**Kimi-Kara Erasmus:** In my World, I am loud, fun, energetic and colourful. My World is Chess and Netball. What the World needs now is a cure or vaccine for Corona. The World of High School makes me afraid as I fear the strictness of high school. Best lockdown memories include going to Baywest Mall for the first time after lockdown. I have really missed giving out hugs and I missed the tuckshop when we returned to school after lockdown. I learnt that time is precious. I think there was too much homework this year! I want to be an accountant and then president of the country.

**Deenah Dollie:** In my World, I am playful, caring and talkative. My World is Hockey, Swimming, baking and animals. I was on top of the World when I was announced as Elton House Captain, when I achieved my purple belt in mixed Marshall Arts and when I was selected for the Junior Hockey First Team and was chosen as Vice Captain. The centre of my universe are my parents who always support me. What the world needs is presidents who people listen to and respect. Rocking my World was Yolisa and I taking down the school flag while it was storming outside and we splashed in the puddles on our way back. I would be lost without Paige Barnes because she makes me happy. The best lessons were with Mr Maschaka - he allowed us to eat in class as long as we brought something for him. My future plans are to finish school and study as I would like to be a doctor to help people.

**Jordan Daba:** In my World, I am funny, happy, carefree, focussed and friendly. My World is Netball. I have learnt to cook. My mother is my whole world as she is everything to me. The world needs peace. It rocks my world when teachers fall and the class laughs, like the time Mr Maschaka almost fell out of his desk. I am lost without Sara-Ann Barstnar as she is like a sister to me and the most supportive person I know. I will miss singing in class and the teachers and I am scared that in high school I will laugh when teachers tell me to be quiet. The best part of Lockdown was sleeping when I wanted to and the worst part was cleaning. When we came back to school, we sat far from each other and could not move our desks closer. I want to become a plastic surgeon but I will see where the World takes me.

**Ayabulela Tom:** In my world, I am an extrovert and a hard worker. My World is Netball and reading. I was on top of the World when I became a junior leader and achieved my goal of the year. The centre of my universe is my granny as she has been there for me through thick and thin. Prefects' Camp rocked my World because we learnt a lot about ourselves and discovered things we did not of ourselves and of our friends. It was a fun experience and I am very thankful for the experience and opportunity. I am lost without Sibabalwe Daniels as she lifts up my spirits whenever I feel like quitting. I will miss the inside jokes that the Grade 7s had. The worst part about Lockdown was losing family members. I want to become a Chartered Accountant.

**Yolisa Cuba:** I am funny, smart, social and loud. My world is Hockey and Swimming. I was on top of the World when I became the junior head of Eleanor. The centre of my universe is my mom because she motivates me. I loved Stay Awake. I am lost without Callan Elie because she is always there for me at my lowest times and has always motivated me to work harder. I want to be a medical doctor or pharmacist.

**Sibabalwe Daniels:** In my World, I am compassionate, sociable, trendy and mischievous. My World is the Junior Choir and Hockey. Without these extra murals, my junior school experience would not have been the same. I was on top of the world when my biggest achievement that I am most proud of happened and that was being elected as a junior school prefect. I felt equally proud when I was announced as being a player in the U/13A Hockey Team. No words can describe the joy and excitement I had in my heart. Sadly, those opportunities were taken away from me because of Covid-19 but I never lost that hope that there will be a next time. The centre of my universe is my mom and my aunt, Ambesa, for grooming me into the leader I am today. These beautiful ladies motivate me to strive for my utmost best and I love and appreciate them very much. What the World needs now is to be positive and to have faith that this pandemic will end. We also need to remember that we are stronger and can overcome any obstacle that comes our way when we all stand together. Rocking my World was my Grade 5 year as it was the funniest year with the most funny moments. I remember when a student teacher left the classroom and we made a huge noise. Unatho then rubbed her hands and face with Vaseline and singing and dancing on Miss Arthur's mat to our new song called "Visa Versa", which was a new word we had learnt. This led us into a lot of trouble, so much so that even Mrs Viljoen shouted at us. I am lost without my best friend, Ayabulela Tom, my support system. The best prefect duty is putting up the flag because you can *accidentally* put the flag up the wrong way around and then have to fix it so that you can miss out on class. Don't tell the teachers I told you that trick. The best lessons were when Mr Maschaka would tell us his childhood memories. I believe that I can achieve my goal of being a doctor if I stay focused and dedicated. I am excited about High School as I would love to present orals to Mrs Peltason and I have a great passion for public speaking.

**Zaneta Louis:** In my World, I am respectful, loving, talkative and goofy. My World is Swimming, Technology, Chess and Choir. I am lost without Callan Elie because she makes me laugh and is always there for me. The best prefect duty was tuck-shop duty because it was fun selling and counting money. Best Lockdown Memory was not having to wake up early and the worst was all the work. I want to become a lawyer.

**Ayema Douw:** In my World, I am enthusiastic, smart and considerate. I have been involved in Choir as I enjoy singing and I am proud that I have been in the school choir for 4 years. I learnt to play the violin and a recorder. My mom inspires me. My pillar of strength is OarOna Bloem. I am quite nervous and scared about high school and I fear the teachers. I will miss the Stay Awake. My best Lockdown memory was when my mom used a new recipe and my Worst Lockdown memory was when my granny passed away. The best lessons were with Mrs Haynes-Africa where we learnt while we laughed.







The Prefects' Camp added the fuel to our excitement for a great year of leadership. Held from Wednesday to Friday, on 29 to 31 January, we were ready to catch a glimpse of what this year of service will be like, while determined to learn more about ourselves and our fellow leaders in the process.

The eventful camp began with a trek up the Zuurborg Mountain. We were divided into smaller groups and instructed to come up with a song and accompanying dance moves about our experiences while on our journey to the inn. While 5km seemed like a reasonable walking distance at first, it became clear that the mountain itself was out to test just how fit we really were. Regardless of the fact that Miss Potgieter had offered to drive us to our destination (probably because we were walking too slowly), Chaneal Labercensie was adamant to make it to the lodge on her own, choosing to jog the rest of the way, even in the stifling heat. Finally, with the first bit of bonding done and most of us breaking a sweat, we were ready to begin our leadership skills development conferences.

We gained insight into aspects of leadership, such as listening skills, assertiveness and conflict resolution. Our school's consulting psychologist, Miss Nerine Looock, allowed us to look deeper into our personality traits through a self-evaluation exercise, dividing us into four groups – the Greens, Blues, Golds and Oranges based on our personality types. Within each colour group, we established our strengths and accompanying weaknesses, and how we should choose to handle certain situations of conflict. This showed us what we did not know about ourselves and was it was fun to see who fell into what category. We established ways for our differences to coincide harmoniously.

We learnt more about each other through our Johari's Window presentations, where we shared aspects regarding our known, unknown and private self, and who we hoped to become in the future. While some presentations took an emotional turn, we were grateful that everyone was so willing to open up about themselves. Hopefully, we will all use what we have gained as a way of getting closer to our fellow prefects through gaining a new understanding of one another.

Conferences aside, we were also allowed our fair share of fun and games. We had dips in the swimming pool, scouted for the feral cats, took selfies beside the greenery and avoided the monkeys patrolling the lodge grounds. Lisakhanya Daniels found herself in a state of near trauma after her encounter with one of the monkeys, resulting in her frantic yet swift movements in her efforts to hide behind me as one of our furry friends advanced on her. After realising that all the little creature wanted was the banana peel in her hand, she was quick to hand it over, while making it clear that she will never forgive me for laughing at her. I think it is safe to say that that particular instance had been my highlight of the entire camp. (Sorry, Lisa.)

The end of our second day had us realising that our camp was coming to an end. We were determined to make the most of our final evening. After being fed to burst at dinner, most of us made it to the room of Amber du Plessis and Ganeefa Sirkhotte for a bathroom photoshoot, with some Junior Prefects joining in. As the session carried on into the next morning, we were exhausted the next day.

While we were feeling a bit relieved about being able to make it home to make a dent in the workload awaiting us, a little bit of sadness hung in the air. For some, this was their second Prefects' Camp. It was clear that this camp had been the last time that our busy schedules would allow for us to go anywhere exciting as a team. We acknowledge that the experience was unforgettable. I am grateful for the kindness of Mrs Stear and Mrs Snyman, and I would like to thank them for making this camp possible and for giving us the opportunity to look deeper into ourselves and our fellow leaders. On behalf of the Junior and Senior Prefect body, I would also like to say thank you to Miss Potgieter and Miss Looock for accompanying us on this camp and for providing us with so much valuable knowledge that we will definitely make use of during our year of service and beyond.

I would like to thank my fellow Prefects for such a fond memories. This camp signified the beginning of a journey that we will be undertaking together. Although I am unsure of how this journey will end, I hope that we reach our desired destination with a smile and a heart full of memories as we look back to our camp moments. May your leading light shine on all those who need it, while lighting up the paths that we will be taking to our future.



By Azraa Rockman

# Prefects' Camp









# Prefects' Assembly

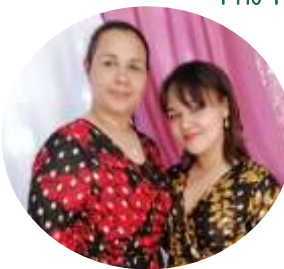






Announcement of Prefects 2020 in 2019 #flashback





From the very first moment of being united as a team and even after the dividing plunge into a global pandemic, as the Prefect Body of 2020, we have managed to uphold our undying spirit for unity in leadership. Even with the many novel challenges that we have had to face in the past year, our resilience as a team has proven to be the cornerstone in our development as leaders.

The earliest installment to our journey in leadership began in 2019, when Mrs Stear had first announced the new year's Prefect Body in assembly. Remaining as calm as possible amidst all the cheers seemed to be the most challenging task in that instance. However, it was then, while standing with shaky smiles before our cheering sisterhood, when the importance of our role for the upcoming year became real to us. Although we were but in Grade 11, we had immediately decided to take what was expected of us as our responsibility to achieve. It soon became clear that having adopted this attitude early on in our leadership journey was what had greatly helped us in our leadership strategy by the time that we were in Matric.

Decked out in our flashy court shoes and black skirts to match for the new academic year, we were ready to take on our daily duties a mandatory part of our routine. Not long had passed before our feet were leading us to our duty posts without us having to think twice. Even at the infamous tuckshop duty, we showed our steadfast determination to get the job done to the very best of our ability.

Our first official team task entailed organising the Grade 4 Welcome as a welcoming gesture to the newest fun-sized addition to the Riebeek Family. After some deep thought regarding how to impress the little ones, we decided to take an interstellar approach to this event, with its theme being "An Outer Space Adventure". Here, the Grade 4s came dressed to impress in their most creative alien costumes, wowing the whole Senior Prefect Body with their enthusiasm. It was only in working as a team that we could have managed to make such a huge success out of the afternoon.

News of our Prefects' Camp had definitely given us something to look forward to in the weeks to come. Even in the scramble to add the finishing touches to our Johari's Windows, we arrived safely at the 5m mark before reaching the Zuurburg Mountain Inn, accompanied by Mrs Stear, Mrs Snyman, Miss Potgieter, Miss Nerine Loock and our junior counterparts. Both on our walk to the Inn and throughout our whole stay while on Camp, we had learned invaluable lessons about leadership, conflict resolution, and probably most important of all, each other.

In the weeks following the Prefects' Camp, we were keen to tend to our daily duties equipped with more vigor and insight than ever before. Organising our Prefects' Assembly had come with many challenges,

but after extensive team effort, we managed to impress our peers with our musical enactment of the many rules that we were expected to follow at Riebeek. Our Prefects' Meetings on a Monday afternoon had become our time to reflect on the previous week's experiences as a leader as we shared some of our challenges, our concerns, as well as ways in which we can better ourselves as leaders. Mrs Stear and Mrs Snyman had always been willing to supply their input and shed light on pressing issues, while still assuring us that they were readily available to support us in times of doubt.

Our chances for creating further memories together was unfortunately put on pause when the country was plunged into the pool of uncertainty that came with the National Lockdown. However, we took this challenge in our stride and took the opportunity to virtually reach out to our fellow Riebeek learners in a video of comfort, reminding the girls of Lockdown essentials, such as staying hydrated and keeping healthy while working from home.





Upon our return back to school on 8 June, we were pleased to find that the matrices needed none of our ordinary policing, owing to their eagerness to abide by the social distancing policies as presented in our school rules. Alexandra Dennis, Tarryn Barry and Chaneal Labercensie had been leading figures in the planning process of our Matric Celebration, which was held on 21 September. Their eagerness to take on both the biggest and smallest tasks, including decorations, providing music and invitation designing, had been what had greatly assisted to the success of this special event for the Matrics. In this way, it had become even clearer that the 2020 Prefects had never truly lost their flair, nor their desire to remain ambassadors for our school. Even though we may feel as if we had been robbed of the experiences that the previous years' Prefects were able to enjoy, we had shown our resilience through maintaining the spirit of staying connected as a team.

We would have not been able to achieve this alone, however. I would therefore, on behalf of the Senior Prefects, love to extend a very hearty thank you to Mrs Stear and Mrs Snyman for being our constant reminders of the responsibility that goes with the badge of leadership, while still managing to have as much faith in our leadership potential as you have had from the very moment you announced our names last year. It goes without mention that our gratitude goes far beyond measure and that it had been an absolute

honour to gain your trust in our time of service. Thank you to our Grade Head, Mrs Stroebel and to our register teachers, Mr Bowles and Miss S. du Preez for your constant support throughout the year. Thank you also to all of the teachers who have had to forgive us for being late to class, because it is with your understanding that we were able to strive while tending to our responsibilities.

Chaneal Labercensie, my trusted Deputy, has been one of my main sources of comfort and support throughout this year. Not a day had passed where Chaneal did not demand to make her endearing presence known, and her charm and unmistakable grace when handling even the most demanding of tasks has motivated me to always put my best foot forward at all times. I would therefore love to thank Chaneal for remaining by my side even through the most challenging times and for being someone that I look up to as a fellow leader and a dear friend. I do hope that you continue to touch the hearts of everyone you are yet to meet as much as you have touched mine, the whole Prefect Body and our peers at Riebeek College.

Being trusted with the position as Head Girl has been an experience that I will look back on in later years with the utmost pride. I know that a year as special as what this year had

been will be very difficult to come by once I have officially been let off into the world away from Riebeek College. I am thankful for the support of my teachers, for those who spared a moment to share a word of comfort when they could, and even those who were willing to simply share a smile as a reminder that there is always a reason to do so. I am eternally grateful for the support of my parents, for my loving and devoted mother, whom I have already deemed my beloved "Personal Assistant", and my father, who has been an everyday symbol of leadership in my life. My only wish is that I continue to make you proud in my efforts to express my deepest gratitude for the sacrifices that you have made to help me arrive at today's destination.

I feel honoured to have served alongside the people who I have learned to rely on, my intrepid team who still managed to stand tall, even if our daily duties seemed to have been repealed prematurely. Even in the midst of this gripping time of uncertainty, we have remained humble and hopeful that good times will follow as we go into life with the lessons we have learned from our term of leadership. Throughout our schooling career, we have proven to be forces to be reckoned with as individuals, but even more so as a team. My dearest wish is that we remember the lessons learned and take them into the world beyond the walls of leading others to become the leaders of our own lives later on.







Covid-19 led to many changes and relooking at processes, and resilience and creative solutions became our new norm. Voting took place in the quad instead of the hall, auditors had to follow our screening protocols. Instead of nominations, all Grade 11s appeared on the ballot sheet. The results could not be announced at school as the temptation to break social distancing protocols would be too great. With the production team of Mrs Gerber, Mr de Beer and Mr Jonas, a live video was released of a virtual assembly with Mrs Stear and Mrs Snyman announcing the results. News spread quickly, expect for those who were socially distancing from their phones and missed all the congratulations messages. The day after the announcement, Mrs Snyman and Mrs Stear met the girls in the morning in the quad for a photograph and well wishes.



Congratulations, 2021 Senior Prefects::



Wade-Lee Müller –  
Head Girl



Kwakho Bissett –  
Deputy Head Girl



Kiara Brink  
Neve Burness  
Jadé Damons  
Bernice Donkor  
Othandwayo Gaba  
Sara Gopal  
Elihle Jantjies  
Erinn Kettledas  
Sinobom Lupondwana  
Inganathi Mantewu  
Hasti Pansuriya  
Caitlin Peters  
Chanté Potgieter  
Buhle Tshaka



Prefect Body 2021





## Wade-Lee Müller



### What are you looking forward to most during your term as leader?

"Leadership is about inspiring people to do things they never thought they could." As Head Girl, I want to inspire others to do better, to get involved and to be different. I'm looking forward to not only inspiring others, but to being inspired by others. As a leader, I want to build others up to lead, so that a space is created where we can all learn, motivate and encourage one another to be better and to do better!

### What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Being a good team player and acquiring good people skills are strengths that have been nurtured over the years from participating in hockey, tennis and cultural and service committees. I think it is important to know how to lead people, but this is only possible if you know how to work well with others because a team leader needs a team. A leader needs to be accommodating. However, my weakness would be that I come across as too eager at times and compromise my own well-being.

### Is there anything you would like to change at your school?

Riebeek College has already improved our tennis courts and bathroom facilities and introduced a new uniform. I am extremely grateful for the new and improved tennis courts as this is where I find myself after school. While playing tennis is one of my passions, I want other learners to pursue their passions too. Therefore, I would want the school to introduce more artistic activities such as design, fashion and dance for learners who would like to explore their creative flair.

### What do you love most about your school?

The sense of unity among the learners and staff and the spirit of **'we are all in this together'**. I think this stems from the diverse cultures, sport and committees Riebeek College offers, where learners are able to grow and develop their skills in team effort and leadership.

### Matric is your final year, from an academic point of view, what are you aiming for?

As I enter my final school year, I would like to embrace my last opportunity as a Riebeek girl by continuing to follow our school motto **Ora Et Labora - pray and work**. This year will indeed require much prayer and hard work. My goal is to remain

focused and constantly strive for improvement in my academics along with balancing my sport, cultural and social activities too.

What will your message of encouragement be for your prefects/co-leaders? I truly believe we were all placed in this leadership position for a plan and purpose. I must remind you that in essence, leadership is not a position it is action. Therefore, I would like to encourage the prefects of 2021 to never doubt their position as a prefect but to remember that, with this position, we have been given the opportunity to lead by example, bring about change, and speak up for others. Let us shine our lights to build a bright and positive impact in our school!

## Cultivation

By Wade-Lee Muller

seasons: process of growth, either uprooting or letting go.

season through season

our environment remains the same - it is our experience that changes

but what if for a season our environment has to change?

instead of growing together; we are forced to grow apart

this new season blowing in much chaos and uncertainty

merely to reveal the lack of appreciation we had in previous seasons.

in past seasons we were like an overspread of flowers

but now this new season brings a new type of wind

moving us into new directions - scattering flowers apart.

solely spread out, we are left with the spaces once consumed by others - isolation

Yet, this season is perhaps not one of self-isolation but a season of self - cultivation.

A season not of loneliness but an opportunity to cultivate a harvest.

Who is your role model? The people I surround myself with have all inspired me or taught me something valuable. But, my mother deserves the top title as my role model. Her resilience has taught me to never give up, no matter the circumstance. I admire her selflessness. Her confidence and joyful spirit lights up any room. My mother continues to show my sister and I constant love and support in all we do. I am unconditionally thankful for that!

What are your plans after matric in 2022? I wish to pursue a career as an entrepreneur. I plan to study a B.Com in Business Management. I would also like to be involved in more charity work, especially for women and children.

If you could be any superhero, who do you want to be and why? I would want to be Wonder Woman, not only for her superhuman strength, but because she believes that, "Only love can truly save the world," which I agree with wholeheartedly. The fact that my name also starts with the letter 'w' is purely coincidental!

On a regular Saturday, you will find me at...with...? On a regular Saturday, you will find me outside enjoying a braai with my family or cooking up a storm in the kitchen with my mother. I try to balance work and play on weekends by spending time with family and friends and also ensuring I stay on track with my school work.

Who is your Hollywood celeb crush? Starring in The Suite Life of Zack and Cody, Riverdale and Five Feet Apart, my Hollywood crush has to be Cole Sprouse.

Netball, rugby, cricket or hockey? Hockey

Cappuccino, hot chocolate, or tea? Cappuccino

Braai with friends or takeaways? Braai with friends

Binge watching series or a live musical festival? Live musical festival

Android or IOS? IOS

## Interview with our Head Girl 2021





**Wade-Lee Muller:** The World is a better place because I am compassionate, loyal and reliable. My World is the SCA Committee, Dance Committee, Quiz Committee, Tennis (1<sup>st</sup> team), 2019 Captain of the U/16A Hockey squad, a 2018 RCL and the Senior School Head Girl 2021. I felt on top of the World when I received my tennis badge last year. What the World needs right now is to reflect and appreciate what we all have in this moment because if there is one thing that COVID-19 has taught me it is that a moment, even if it is part of our daily routine, can easily become only a memory. When the prefects were announced, I was in my room preparing for my History test of the next day. I quickly checked my messages before switching my phone off, and saw a message from my History teacher, Mrs Gerber (quite coincidental, if you ask me) congratulating me but she did not state what I had achieved. I was confused and thought perhaps I had scored well on a test, so I queried it with her. Mrs Gerber phoned to tell me the news. My mother heard my excitement and came to my room instantly. She immediately hugged me and there were joyful tears. As a leader, I want to shine my light so that others feel inspired to shine their light too. The World is full of darkness, but I would like the Riebeek Girls to know that we all are made to shine. It is the act of spreading our light that will cause a ripple effect in helping others shine their light too. It takes one candle to light a thousand other candles. My favourite quote is, "Don't shine so that others can see you - shine so that through you others can see Jesus." The staff have been beams of light, shining amidst the uncertainty of 2020. Their dedication and endless effort in helping us receive and achieve our academic goals do not go unnoticed. I am truly grateful! Class of 2021, we rose with resilience this year and I am certain that next year we can only exceed any expectations by striving for progress not perfection. Spreading love and light is part of our nature; and we'll carry on spreading that as we thrive together!

**Kwakho Bissett:** The World is a better place because I am witty, charismatic, and funny. My World is the Dance Committee, U/16A Hockey (2019), 2017 RCL and Senior Deputy Head Girl 2021. My plan to change the World is to clean up the earth in many aspects and spread positivity and selflessness. Covid-19 taught me the importance of family, hygiene and relieving annoyance of my sibling. When I found out I was a prefect, I was at a doctor's appointment and hadn't been using my phone. When I came out of the appointment and

went online, I saw messages of congratulations and messages from my friend asking me where I had been. She then called me and told me the good news. As a leader, I want to lead without letting my fears control me and to be able to establish healthy relationships with others. Teachers, I would like to say thank you for always doing your best to keep us going. I want to commend you on the strength shown and would appreciate the tips of maintaining your sanity, for future use. My favorite quote is, "Take other people's misunderstanding of you as an indication of how well you understand yourself." Being a girl in this world is hard enough, and I would like the Riebeek Girls to remember that carrying around hate and negative intentions makes it harder for others to see their light. The Class of 2021 will achieve good things - memories and laughter is to be expected.

**Kiara Brink:** In my World, I am dedicated and creative. My World is the Interact Committee, Cultural Board, Dance Committee, Quiz Committee and Media Committee Head. My mom is my World because she is my biggest supporter. She leads by action and her achievements inspire me to do more than what I think I'm capable of. Covid-19 taught me that spending time with family is important and that humans are resilient and can adapt to change. When the prefects were announced, I was at home watching Netflix when my mom phoned me to tell me the good news. As a leader, I hope to inspire my peers. I would like to thank each and every teacher for the support and effort they have put into making our academic year a success. My favourite quote is, "Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." - Mother Teresa. Riebeek Girls, enjoy every second of school because the years go by so quickly. I see the Class of 2021 reaching new heights of success and continuing to work together as a team.

**Neve Burness:** The World is a better place because I am passionate, loyal, insightful, unbiased and resourceful. My World is Alpha Leo Club, Dance Committee and Quiz Committee. A lesson that I have learnt is not to judge anyone too quickly. Consider the other perspective. What the World needs now is awareness that there is no "earth plan B". We need to preserve our earth and her people. My plan to change the World is to enact the fundamentals of being a good individual. We seem to have lost the common decency and good character of the past and it is time for us to give merit to these qualities again. Covid-19 taught me to be flexible and adaptable. I was at home studying for a test when a Riebeek

girl congratulated me on being elected as a prefect. Many messages followed after that. I immediately told my mother the news and she became emotional. As a leader, it is one's duty to inspire and motivate those around one. Teachers, it has been a tough year and we needed you to in order for us to be successful. Thank you. A quote I live by is, "To thine own self be true." I would like Riebeek Girls to know that conforming is not the default. Each person should be themselves, unapologetically. What you can expect from the Class of 2021 is a determined and goal-driven bunch.

**Jadé Damons:** The World is a better place because I am vibrant, strong and optimistic. My World is the Swimming Team, Quiz Committee, Dance Committee, SCA Committee and SPCA Committee. I have competed in many competitions for swimming and rowing and have achieved medals in both sports. My top achievement was receiving gold, silver and bronze at the S.A School's Rowing Championships. My mom is the center of my World because she has a heart like no other. She is selfless and the strongest person. I am inspired by the incredible woman she is. I've always dreamt of traveling to the most beautiful places around the world, getting to experience different cultures and be adventurous. I think the World needs a lot of love and compassion. COVID-19 has taught me that each day is a blessing, to appreciate the little things in life, to cherish those that are important to you and that self-discipline is key! When the prefects were announced: I was at home and when I eventually went on my phone, I saw tons of messages congratulating me and I was so confused. I saw the social media post and I screamed out of excitement, I ran out of my room and my parents knew, based on my screaming. They hugged me and were so happy, just like I was. Tears started rolling. Not long after, my friends and I were on a video call in disbelief and embraced how proud we were of each other. What I want to achieve as a leader is to learn more from other leaders as they pass on their knowledge, I also would like to improve my confidence in public speaking. I'd like to say thank you to the teachers for all of the hard work and dedication - for going the extra mile to help us. Your effort does not go unnoticed. My favourite Bible verse is, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11. I would like all Riebeek Girls to know that you are all worthy, loved and beautiful. Your life has a purpose and you are capable of anything and





everything you put your mind to. Be 100% yourself while being surrounded with people who bring out only the best in you and stand firm in what you believe. Class of 2021, I hope we achieve a great pass rate while having funny and special moments together.

**Bernice Donker:** My World is Choir Committee, U/16A Hockey squad and RCL. I have learnt that hard work, dedication and self-discipline are prime contributions used to cultivate and build a strong person. Covid-19 has taught me to cherish smiles, hugs and holding hands. When I found out that I was a prefect, I was eating and debating how I would spend my birthday week when I received a message from Otha, "You're a Prefect!" As a leader, I would love to have healthy relationships with my peers. My favourite quote is, "Push yourself because no one else is going to." I want Riebeek Girls to know that nothing is ever easy. Remember that you have to start from somewhere to get somewhere but don't rush it...trust the process and have faith in God and yourself. The class of 2021 will reach new limits, exceeding expectations.

**Othandowayo Gaba:** My World is Dance Committee, SCA Committee, Quiz Committee, Band Head, Cultural Board and Going Green (2019 Deputy). With everything that happened this year - from people losing their jobs to people losing their family members - I realised that I had so many things to be grateful for. As a leader, I would like to inspire people to be the best version of themselves. Teachers, I would like to say thank you! Thank you for going the extra mile and making sure we had a good academic year during these tough times. My favorite quote is by Robert H Schuller: "Tough times never last, but tough people do". Riebeek Girls, even though we do not know what the future holds, this year has proved that if we stand together we will be able to overcome anything. The Class of 2021 will achieve many amazing things. Expect a lot of growth and prosperity.

**Sara Gopal:** The World is a better place because I am proactive and reliable. My World is Media Committee. I would like to develop my leadership skills and steer students toward the achievement of the school's goals, inspire them, drive change, and deliver results. Teachers, you have remained pillars of strength for us and have been resourceful and supportive. Thank you! My favourite quote is, "A winner is a dreamer who never gives up." - Nelson Mandela. What you can expect from us is a reawakening of the school's spirit and unity to the Riebeek family.

**Elihle Jantjies:** The World is a better place because I am amiable, generous, sympathetic, exuberant and talkative. My World is being RCL chair, Library monitor, SCA Committee, Dance Committee and SPCA Committee. My plan to change the World is to inject everyone with love. Peace begins with loving the person next to you. Covid-19 taught me the value of time because who would have thought time could come to a pause? Going forward, health is wealth and basic hygiene is not so basic as we thought. As a leader, I want to contribute in achieving an environment where each Riebeek girl feels safe, happy and eager to be at school all the time. Teachers, I would like to thank you for all the personal time and sacrifices made in order for us to progress. Your high spirits and help was greatly appreciated. My favourite quote is, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference." - Reinhold Niebuhr. Dear Riebeek Girls, do not forget that you too are a star that shines brightly among the other stars in the sky.

**Erinn Kettledas:** The World is a better place because I am energetic and funny. My World is Cultural Board, Dance Committee, Quiz Committee and U/16A Hockey Vice-Captain. The center of my World is my mother. She has instilled so many strong values within me and has taught me the importance of self-worth and having compassion for others. Covid-19 has taught me how unpredictable life is and how no amount of planning can ever truly prepare you. When I found out I was a prefect, I was in my room when my mother's friend messaged her to congratulate me on my achievement. She was confused because she didn't recall me telling her anything. My mother then called me to ask me if I had received an award recently. I told her no and we just forgot about it. During this time my phone had been off because I was charging it so later when I powered it on my phone blew up with messages all congratulating me on being a prefect. I started screaming and ran to my mother to tell her. More screaming then ensued. As a leader I would like to achieve and maintain a basis of trust and respect between myself and my peers. I would like to thank the teachers for going the extra mile and for availing themselves to assist with any questions we had. Riebeek Girls, you can achieve anything you put your mind to. Do not limit yourself out of fear, but know that fear is necessary as it tells you that your dreams are big enough, important enough and worth going after. The Class of 2021 will enter with a bang and leave with an even greater bang.

**Sinobom Lupondwana:** The World is a better place because I am passionate. My World is RCL. The centers of my World are my parents as they encourage me. When I was announced as a prefect, I discovered it via a message from Mhlali Rasimeni. I thought she was joking so I went to school's facebook page. I was in disbelief (still am)! Teachers, I would like to thank you for always pushing us and ensuring that no-one is left behind. I would like Riebeek Girls to know that being kind is cool.

**Inganathi Mantewu:** My World is Dance Committee and Debating Club. My plan to change the World is to play a part in the fight against GBV and dismantling patriarchy. Covid-19 taught me that we are living on borrowed time and we should cherish every moment we have with people that we love doing the things we love. I was at home when I found out that I was a prefect. My phone was flooding with messages congratulating me and I was confused as to what for. I went onto facebook and that's where I saw my name in the 2021 prefect list, I excitedly ran to my mom to tell her the news. As a leader I want to be place of comfort for my peers while enforcing rules and traditions. To the teachers, thank you for doing all you could to ensure we know our work and that we were ready for exams during this difficult time. My favourite quote is, "Hope is the only thing stronger than fear." I want the Riebeek Girls to know that their dreams are valid and with hard work they can achieve them. The Class of 2021 will achieve quality results and set an example to the school by showing kindness and spreading laughter.

**Hasti Pansuriya:** My World is Dance Committee, Media Committee, Interact Board Secretary, Tennis (1st team) and First Aid. I found out I was a prefect via the d6 notification. From seeing it to actually opening the notification was nerve-wrecking! As a leader, I want to see every situation with a silver lining and try to take a lesson and better myself at every hurdle. Just like the sky at night is incomplete with the stars, the teachers took the role of stars during this time of darkness. From going all out to make sure we complete the syllabus before exams to standing side by side every day, guiding us. We cannot thank them enough. Even that is an understatement. My favourite quote is: "Don't waste your time on jealousy. Sometimes you're ahead. Sometimes you're behind. Life is long. And in the end. It's only with yourself." - Baz Luhrmann. What I would like Riebeek Girls to know is that our school is like a family where each member's strength is the family and the family's strength is every





individual. Together, we are so much stronger than we are sub-divided. With the unity and resilience that we portray and hopefully will continue to show, we are bound to achieve great things. The Class of 2021 is a group of dynamic, friendly and energetic young ladies. With all that we are willing to offer, the coming year is surely going to be a roller coaster ride with good times and the not-so-good but it will still be a privilege to go through it with this grade.

Caitlin Peters: My World is Cultural Board, SPCA, Dance Committee and Quiz Committee. The centers of my Universe are my parents, as they encourage me to do my best. When the prefects were announced, I was watching a show with my parents. I found out when my sister burst into the room and yelled, "Caitlin! You're a prefect!" My favourite quote is, "What is done in love is done well." — Vincent van Gogh. I would like Riebeek Girls to know that they are capable of achieving so much more than they realise. I believe the Class of 2021 will achieve great things, and you can expect us to exhibit exemplary behaviour to set a standard for the school.

Chante' Potgieter: The World is a better place because I am joyful. I have taken part in various competitions and was cast as ensemble for the 2019 production of "The Sound Of Music." I completed my London Trinity Musical Theatre exam for grade 5 with 90%. Jesus has always made a way for me and has guided me and helped me grow into the woman I am today which is why He is my rock and inspiration. Teachers, I have so much respect for you and all the effort and time you have put in to ensure your learners still get a proper education. I was going through my WhatsApp statuses when I saw my name on the list of prefects. When I told my mom that I couldn't believe it, she said, "They needed a black sheep in the prefect body" which she, of course, meant as a joke. My favourite quote from John 13:7 is when Jesus replied, "You don't know now what I am doing but someday you will." Riebeek Girls, you are never truly alone. If you feel that life is getting too much to handle, please talk to someone. The Class of 2021 wants to make 2021 a year with no bad vibes. The prefects will be a caring, fair and compassionate group who aim to do what is right.

Buhle Tshaka: I am kind and believe in helping others realise their potential. I am consistent and determined to have a positive impact. Maybe I am an over achiever, but such words don't exist in my vocabulary. We all need to do the best we can and max out our potential. Perspectives matter. To understand another person fully you need to be able to understand where they're coming from and how they perceive things. I feel good when I can accurately understand another's position in a situation. My World is Dance committee, Quiz (2019 Head), Cultural Board and 2018 RCL. The center of my World is my mom and my best friend, Onesimo Ntsoeu. They push me and help me realise what it is that I'm capable of even when I have forgotten. Everyone should be able to be whoever it is they aspire to be, provided that it doesn't infringe on anyone else's right to do so as well. What the world needs is now is love and unity. My plan to change the World is to do it one smile at a time.

