



BELLAVISTA

# NEWSLETTER

A S A F E H A R B O U R S C H O O L

24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Through the revolving door

A gentleman drops an email. He is in Johannesburg from out of town, having spent thirty years in the Western Cape. His interest in Bellavista? He is a founding pupil from 1967 and just wants to reconnect with the school he felt so fondly about.

A landscaper clearing a plot adjacent to the school reflects fondly on her full circle. Her great grandparents, Mr and Mrs Yorke, founded the school in pursuit of securing the best possible environment for their son. Some months later, at age 99 years, Mrs Yorke passed away. Among her treasures is found a newspaper clipping of the school's opening. She held her family's legacy achievement close by.

A strapping young man arrives at the school office, tearing up. He jests that we may not recognise him, but one glance at his eyes eliminates the 6'3" distractor. He is instantly welcomed and surrounded with interest from his teachers and quickly there are memories exchanged. He is a welder, running his own business and in high demand.

It is an International Conference on Mathematics, hosted at Investec and presented by Bellavista S.H.A.R.E. Across the high tech interior of the conference venue, the lion emblem is proudly displayed. More than 200 delegates are assembled to further their skills and deepen their knowledge. These are not remedial school teachers, but high performing educators from leading mainstream environments, and also policy makers. At the wrap, the owner of the multimedia service provider makes an approach, his emotion is tangible. He was a pupil in 1987 and now runs an enterprise operating in four major cities. He employs 240 people to deliver high tech, professional media support to large corporates. He specifically recalls the harsh parting comments of his last mainstream teacher and his parents bold decision to facilitate his vocational training after his success at Bellavista School. He has long left many of his peers in the dust.

A call comes through the school switchboard. It's a past parent whose son was at Bellavista more than fifteen years ago. In the early days of his son's schooling, he had been offered little hope that his boy would manage in the mainstream. He 'cracked it' in his high school years at a demanding boys school and has never looked back. The father drives past the property from time to time and feels quite emotional. On this day, he was determined to call and express appreciation.

A past parent addresses an audience of educators and delivers a poignant account of his journey with his son in meeting his educational needs. He chose Bellavista. His son is successfully completing high school, again in a high-performance environment. The lad also has the most resilience and grit in the family. He is realising his potential, and his bar is high.

The journey of a parent who has a child experiencing barriers to learning can be likened to a revolving door. It can feel as if there is a new hurdle to face all along the educational pathway; problems to solve and opportunities to explore. Just as one aspect settles, another challenge presents. The system is just not cut out to deal with diverse learning styles. Revolving doors seldom, if ever, accommodate two people in each 'wedge'. The rhythm and steps required to passage through it as it rotates are too unique and different. However, once taking a step inside the lobby, the softness of the carpet, the smile of the concierge, the feeling of lightness is tangible. So too with placement at Bellavista School. There is a holding space, a refuge, a place of safety to experience. There are teachers and health professionals, administrators and support staff to welcome, guide and share their expertise with you. On the incoming side of the revolving door waits a community. One day, it will be time to traverse back through these doors, to enter the next phase of schooling. Somehow the experience through the doors is different. Yes, there are hurdles, challenges and problems, but deep inside is a knowing, and a connection with possibility and optimism. There is courage to turn a face to the sun and deal with what waits. After time, be it fifty years or just a few months, a visit back to the 'lobby' is a happy and nostalgic one. As one past pupil shared in January, after achieving excellent matric results, his high school was like being included in 'the fold', but belonging at Bellavista was like being in a family.

Step in and through the door. The work has just begun.



**'When people say to me it cannot be done, that it is impossible, that is when I start to work. I fight to show that it can be done, and I find ways to do it!' Reuven Feuerstein**

### **The Bellavista Bash – Sunday 11 September, 11h00 – 16h00**

We're almost at 200 tickets sold for our annual family Bash, and the excitement is growing! Here's the link to get yours; remember you can forward it to family and friends too:

<https://qkt.io/AU8Qz9>

If you or your company are interested in **sponsoring our 2023 Bash**, please contact Kerry Harrison at [Kerry\\_Harrison@outlook.com](mailto:Kerry_Harrison@outlook.com) or on 083 253 5469 for more information. By

participating as a Bash sponsor, you and/or your company will receive prominent advertising throughout the event, reaching not only our school community but also other attendees from the local area. This sponsorship also offers you the unique chance to showcase your products or services during the event, providing a direct connection to potential customers and clients.

As a token of our appreciation for your support, all our sponsors will receive **VIP (Very Important Partner) status**, which includes privileges such as premium parking and early access to the event on the day! This is a wonderful opportunity to gain exposure for your brand while at the same time investing in our school.

We can't wait to welcome you all aboard at the Bash!

### **Nuts and Bolts:**

Parent interviews continue over this week and into next week.

The Robotics interhouse competition for Grades 4 and 5 takes place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August; and for Grades 6 and 7, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. This is an in-house event and within the school day with nothing to prepare.

The Foundation Phase will enjoy a cardboard box-building day. Again, nothing to prepare. The teachers will liaise if there is any involvement required from home.

The last day for the co-curricular programme is Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

School closes at 10am Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August for the school holidays.

Kind regards  
Alison M Scott (Mrs)  
Executive Principal