



BERGVLIED HIGH SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK

PAST PUPIL VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Why do we have a Development Fund Levy? As with many schools the lion's share of the income we receive is school fee income. A budget is produced and this income is allocated to a multitude of expenses. Many of these expenses deal with the day-to-day running of the school – salaries, electricity, water, paper, internet access to name but a few. Sometimes the growth and development of the school is restricted by the fact that the day-to-day running of the school absorbs so much of our income. To this end the school introduced a Development Fund levy many years ago that was jealously protected from being absorbed into the day-to-day running costs and allocated to specific development projects over the years.

Currently our Development Fund levy is R750 per annum which effectively amounted to R75 per month for 10 months per family. This Development Fund levy is voluntary (VDF). Over the years this VDF levy has financed many projects that directly benefitted the pupils of the school. Resurfacing of tennis courts, additional cricket nets, the purchase of computers for the computer room, the development of the school library and many other projects have been funded by the VDF.

Sadly though fewer parents are choosing to pay the VDF levy nowadays and this, I do realise, is a sign of the difficult times the school community finds itself in. Putting this into perspective though, we have about 850 families in the school, yet only 100 families contribute the VDF levy of R750 which brings in around R75 000 per annum.

To this end the SGB has decided that this year we will introduce different "development bundles" (a bit like data bundles) which, in addition to our parents, will be opened to our past pupils to contribute to the ongoing development of the school based on affordability. Most past pupils I chat with, would love to make a positive contribution to the school but feel that R750 is a bridge to far. We are, therefore, offering our past pupils the opportunity to contribute towards the Voluntary Development Fund from a little as R50 per annum. The bundles are R50, R100, R250, R500, R750 and R1000 per annum. This can be paid as a once-off annual amount or as smaller amounts over 4 terms. We are hoping that this will spread the burden of development to a wider community and in a way that is affordable to each specific household. Our development focus for 2019 is to improve the traffic flow at the main front gate by widening the front gate, as well as improving our access control at the gate thereby making the area, and the school safer, for the children. We are targeting around R200 000 for this project. Every little bundle taken will make this a reality.

I would like to encourage you to really make every effort to make this voluntary payment. If you didn't know about our VDF, or had forgotten about it, please consider making this donation to the school. Besides the obvious benefit to the children, the contribution is also tax deductible and the school can issue you with a Section 18A certificate on request. To those families and past pupils who already contribute to the VDF, we thank you very much for keeping the school's growth and development close to your heart.

You can EFT your contribution using the banking details below, please reference it as VDF2019Your surname e.g. VDF2019Price or, if you are local, you can come to school and pay by card in our Finance Office.

Bergvliet High School
ABSA BANK
A/c no. 407 818 3123
Branch Code 632005
Ref: VDF2019 and surname

Our first VDF collection which will be active shortly and will close on the 28th February to coincide with the end of the tax year. Please email Imarais@bhs.org.za once payment has been done if you require an 18A certificate.

Stephen Price
Principal
January 2019