

Principal's Assembly Message: 15th June 2018

Staff matters:

Congratulations to Mr Willem Steyn who completed his maiden Comrades Marathon in a time of 11 hours and 24 minutes.

We wish Father Bob all the best, he leaves for Barcelona on Sunday to represent South Africa in a Grand Masters hockey tournament.

Mr Michael Withers and James Swift are on long leave next term, we wish them a relaxing and rejuvenating time.

This week I want to focus on two special days; on Saturday we celebrate **Youth Day**. The origins of Youth Day go back to the 16th June 1976 when more than 20 000 pupils from Soweto marched in protest against the legislation that Afrikaans would be enforced on the same basis as English as the official language of instruction. This was however symptomatic of the broader problem of the unjust Bantu Education system at the time. Unfortunately, 25 years into the new democratic South Africa nothing has really changed in terms of delivery of quality education for the majority of young South Africans. In addition to this, South Africa's youth make up half its population, with up to 42% of young people under the age of 30 being unemployed. The fact that we are failing dismally in our efforts to provide a quality education for all means that we are falling far short of reaching the dream of a "rainbow nation" which was the promise of post-Apartheid South Africa.

For us at Bishops, Youth Day should be a sobering time as we reflect on our own privilege and the importance of being informed and aware of the reality for the majority of young people in this country.

The second much happier day that we celebrate is **Father's Day** on Sunday. We know how important Dads are in the lives of their sons and I trust that this will be a day of appreciation for all of you. I particularly like this piece which I think sums up the different stages of a boy's perception of his father very well:

4 years old: My Daddy can do anything!

5 years old: My Daddy knows a whole lot and is bigger and stronger than yours!

6 years old: My Daddy is smarter than your Dad!

8 years old: My Dad doesn't know exactly everything!

10 years old: In the olden days when my Dad grew up, things sure were different.

12 years old: Oh well naturally, Father doesn't know anything about that. He is too old to remember his childhood.

14 years old: Don't pay any attention to my Father. He is old fashioned.

18 years old: Him? No ways man, he is hopelessly out of date, he is not even on Facebook!

25 years old: Dad knows a little bit about it, but then he should because he has been around a long time.

30 years old: Perhaps we should ask Dad what he thinks. After all, he has had a lot of experience.

35 years old: I am not doing a single thing until I talk to Dad.

50 years old: I'd give anything if Dad were here now, so I could talk this over with him. I miss him and wish I appreciated how smart he was, I could have learnt a lot from him.

So, remember to show appreciation to your Dad on Sunday.