

Principal's Message: Assembly: Friday 8th November 2019

The World Cup final was a thrilling and emotional affair. It was in many ways a fairy tale ending and a much-needed boost for the morale of our country with the many challenges we face. The scenes at OR Tambo airport on Tuesday were amazing as huge crowds gathered to welcome the team home. It was almost as if destiny played a part in the victory with the inspirational leadership of our first ever black Springbok captain, Siyamthanda Kolisi. (Click [HERE](#) to watch clip, [View Image](#), [View Image](#)) The meaning of Siyamthanda is “we love you” and the whole of South Africa certainly loves him.

The other person who was instrumental in winning the World Cup was coach Rassie Erasmus; these words from a post-match interview about pressure are very powerful: “Pressure in SA is not having a job; it’s having friends and family murdered. Rugby is not about pressure, it’s about hope. Hope is watching the game and feeling good after. No matter religious or political differences, for 80 minutes you agree.”

Interestingly Siya Kolisi and Rassie Erasmus were born very close to each other; one in the town of Despatch and the other in the township Zwide, not more than 15 km’s apart. It is amazing that from those origins they formed this remarkable partnership to win the World Cup, despite their widely different backgrounds.

Some other interesting anecdotes:

- South Africa have won the World Cup in all three finals they have reached; 1995, 2007 and 2019; every 12 years
- They have never conceded a try in a final
- The 2 tries they scored on Saturday were the first tries that they have scored in the final
- The tries in the final were scored by numbers 11 and 14 (Mapimpi and Kolbe); two members of the 1995 World Cup team, James Small and Chester Williams, died earlier this year; they wore jerseys 11 and 14
- My twin brother Headmaster of Grey Junior School was instrumental in securing a scholarship to get Siya to attend Grey in Grade 7 in 2004
- It was the last Test match for OD (2003) Francois Louw who has had a distinguished career having represented the Boks 76 times.