



Hoërskool

LADYSMITH

High School

Posbus 33 / P O Box 33
LADYSMITH
3370
KwaZulu-Natal

Telefoon : (036) 637-7091/2
Telephone : (036) 637-2221/2

Faks/Fax : (036) 637-2531
E-mail : info@lhs.co.za
Website : lhs.co.za

2 August 2018

Dear Parents, staff and learners

Extracts from the speech made by Mr Pieterse to the school at his final assembly on 1st August 2018.

This year was without doubt one of the most bittersweet years of my career. At the end of 2017 I expressed my intention to retire at the end of July 2018 to the School Governing Body. Today I am officially not in the employ of the Department. This decision was not taken lightly and I can assure you that with my departure, the school will be in good hands. At a School Governing Body meeting that was held on Wednesday, 25 July 2018, attended by officials of the Department of Education, it was formally agreed that Mr H Clark, Deputy Principal, will be the Acting Principal until the post of Principal is advertised and filled. I wish Mr Clark and his team everything of the best for the future. Congratulations to Mr Clark on his appointment and I am sure you will all give him your support.

It goes without saying that I would not be where I am today without the help and support of everyone associated with LHS over the past 21 years and especially since my appointment as Principal of Ladysmith High School in 2013. The lyrics of the 1973 hit song by Terry Jacks – **Seasons in the Sun** – is what I've really experienced in my 38 year school career. "We had joy, we had fun, we had seasons in the sun".

I can look back now and smile because it has been a journey filled with triumphs and humbling moments which led to my first lesson which is to always be grateful. The gift of life, for me is the most important and then to be grateful for the luxuries that many others don't have.

I have been blessed to be part of such a loving and supportive staff who believed in me. You gave me the confidence to better myself and to believe in my ability to help make the school a better place. I have had the privilege of working with many great teachers and that includes the deputy principals, school management team, departmental heads, grade heads, subject heads, educators and laboratory assistants. Your passion and dedication made it a pleasure to come to this school. You inspired me every day. I never felt like not coming to school because of difficult situations that I might experience or have to face every day. I salute you.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank every member of the staff associated with the administration of the school especially the secretaries and here I want to mention my the principal's secretary who will also retire soon after serving the school for 32 years; the support staff associated with either the school or hostel; the groundsmen; the chairpersons of the Governing Body (past and present); every member of the School Governing Body (past and present); every parent; members of the Department of Education and especially the SEM of our circuit and District Director.

The Head Prefects, RCL members, Executive Council members and learners of LHS, thank you for your loyal support. LHS is in the first instance an academic institution. We strive for academic excellence. Your contribution to make the school a school of excellence did not go unnoticed. LHS is a place of opportunities. The manner in which you supported and actively helped the weakest and the less secure among us is a true reflection that LHS is a top school.

The school hall will always connect the past, present and future for me and that is where I could share my time at LHS with you. We worship here, we write exams here, we rehearse and perform our plays here; we welcome the new Grade 8's here; we celebrate birthdays here; we dance here; we give recognition to achievers here; we announce the first teams here; our choir performs here; we bid our matrices farewell here; we have our Prize Giving functions here and so I can go on and on and it is all because of children, the learners of LHS. I'll be connected to this hall's memory like a FACEBOOK history.

LHS is a place of opportunity where people matter and I urge you to seek inspiration from each other. I want to leave you with this quote from Jim Wittaker, the first American to reach the summit of Mount Everest. He noted "You never conquer a mountain. Mountains can't be conquered. You conquer yourself, your hopes, your fears".

I thank you and God bless you all.

JC PIETERSE
RETIRED PRINCIPAL