



Friday, 15 March 2019

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Next week we will be celebrating Human Rights Day in South Africa. We will be holding our Annual Big Walk on Wednesday the 20th of March. Learners should come to school in casual uniform but may wear house colours for the event. A donation of R10 is requested for each child to help the schools fundraising efforts. There will be food on sale after the event for the learners. School will finish at 1.00pm on Wednesday for the start of the long weekend.

The Bill of Rights found in, Chapter 2 of the Constitution embeds the rights of all people in our country in an enduring affirmation of the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. The Bill of Rights also comprehensively addresses South Africa's history of oppression, colonialism, slavery, racism and sexism and other forms of human violations. It is closely linked to the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the basis of humanity, freedom, justice, and peace.

While we are all aware of our rights we often forget that with these rights come responsibilities as laid out in the Bill of Responsibilities introduced by the government in 2011.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to equality

Treat every person equally and fairly, and not discriminate unfairly against anyone on the basis of race, gender, religion, national, ethnic or social origin, disability, culture, language, status or appearance.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to human dignity

Treat people with reverence, respect and dignity, be kind, compassionate and sensitive to every human being, including greeting them warmly and speaking to them courteously.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to life

Not endanger the lives of others by carrying dangerous weapons or by acting recklessly or disobeying our rules and laws. Live a healthy life, by exercising, eating correctly by not smoking, abusing alcohol, or taking drugs, or indulging in irresponsible behaviour.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to family or parental care

Honour and respect my parents, and to help them, be kind and loyal to my family, to my brothers and sisters, my grandparents and all my relatives.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to education

Attend school regularly, to learn, and to work hard, cooperate respectfully with teachers and fellow learners and adhere to the rules and the Code of Conduct of the school and concurrently places on my parents and caregivers the responsibility to: ensure that I attend school and receive their support and places on my teachers the responsibility to: promote and reflect the culture of learning and teaching in giving effect to this right.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to work

This right carries with it the responsibility for all learners, parents, caregivers and teachers to:

Work hard and do our best in everything we do. Recognise that living a good and successful life involves hard work, and that anything worthwhile only comes with effort.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to freedom and security of the person

Not hurting, bullying, or intimidating others, or allowing others to do so, and

Solving any conflict in a peaceful manner.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to own property

Respect the property of others, take pride in and protect both private and public property, and not to take what belongs to others. Be honest and fair, and for those who have, to give generously to charity and good causes.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to freedom of religion, belief and opinion

Respect the beliefs and opinions of others, and their right to express these, even when we may strongly disagree with these beliefs and opinions. That is what it means to be a free democracy.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to live in a safe environment

Protect animal and plant-life, as well as the responsibility to prevent pollution, to not litter, and to ensure that our homes, schools, streets and other public places are kept neat and tidy.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to citizenship

Obeying the laws of our country, ensuring that others do so as well, and contributing in every possible way to making South Africa a great country.

My responsibility in ensuring the right to freedom of expression

The right to free expression is not unlimited, and does not allow us to: express views which advocate hatred, or are based on prejudices with regard to race, ethnicity, gender or religion.

I hope that we can all remember that if we want to change the world we have to start with ourselves. South Africa needs good people to stand up and lead by example. I'm sure that as the St Nicholas community we can all start acting on our responsibilities.

Yours sincerely



Leon Grove