



Graeme College's Vision Statement

"To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential."

NEWSLETTER - Friday 15 June 2018

*"My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person,
he believed in me." ~ Jim Valvano*

Seeing as it is Fathers' Day on Sunday, I thought it appropriate to share the speech of Dr. Rick Rigsby, an award-winning journalist and a college professor. In his speech, Dr Rigsby talks about the valuable advice that he and his brother gleaned from their father.

Rigsby said that the best advice he ever received was from his father, a man that had to stop going to school in third grade in order to help out on the family farm, but never allowed his lack of education to prevent him from learning. The full speech can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfR-I9-5R98>

Herewith extracts from Dr Rigsby's speech:

Mark Twain once said, *"I've never allowed my schooling to get in the way of my education,"* and Rigsby's father lived the same way. He taught himself to read and write, and he taught his children the power of combining "knowledge and wisdom to make an impact."

"We never knew what time it was in my house because the clocks were always ahead," Rigsby explained. "My mother said, for nearly 30 years, my father left the house at 3:45 in the morning. One day she asked him, 'Why Daddy?' He said, 'Maybe one of my boys will catch me in the act of excellence.'"

Rigsby and his brother learned the importance of being on time, but they also learned that "excellence is a habit, not an act," and that, while we all may be raised to be "tough," it is of equal, if not greater, importance to "always remember to be kind."

"Don't ever forget that," he declared.

"Wisdom will come to you through the unlikeliest of sources, a lot of times through failure. When you hit rock bottom, remember this: while you're struggling, rock bottom can also be a good foundation on which to build and on which to grow."

Rigsby, in his speech, shared a deeply personal story of the passing of his late wife Trina Williams which, he believes, was the darkest time of his life. He credits his faith in God and his two sons, for helping him press on, but he believes it was three simple words his father said to him, as they laid Trina to rest, that reminded him of the reason for living.

One day, Trina finds a lump in her left breast. Breast cancer. Six years after that diagnosis, me and my two boys walked up to mommy's casket. For two years, my heart didn't beat. If it wasn't for my faith in God, I wouldn't be standing here today. If it weren't for those two little boys, there would have been no reason for which to go on. I was completely lost. That was rock bottom.

You know what sustained me? The wisdom of a third grade dropout. The wisdom of a simple cook. We're at the casket. I'd never seen my dad cry... [but] my father shared three words with me that changed my life right there at the casket. It would be the last lesson he would ever teach me. He said, 'Son, just stand.' You keep standing. No matter how rough the sea, you keep standing. And I'm not talking about just water... No matter what, you don't give up.

And, as clearly as I'm talking to you today, these were some of [Trina's] last words to me. She looked me in the eye and she said, 'It doesn't matter to me any longer how long I live. What matters to me most is how I live.'

With that, Rigsby had one simple question for the audience: "How are you living?"

"Every day, ask yourself that question," he said. "If you're going to do something, you do it the right way. It's never wrong to do the right thing. How you do anything is how you do everything. In that way you will grow your influence to make an impact."

Just as Rigsby's father never let his lack of a formal education get in the way of his learning, he concluded by encouraging the graduates to never take their knowledge, or opportunity, for granted.

"Enhance your life every day by seeking wisdom," he said, "and asking yourself every night: how am I living?"

We wish all fathers, and father-figures, a Happy Father's Day for Sunday!

Kevin Watson

DRIVING LICENCES

It is becoming ever more apparent that many senior boys are driving motor vehicles without having obtained the appropriate drivers' licence. This is very concerning as it is a violation of the law of the land. Boys holding learners' licences need to be accompanied by a licenced driver. This behaviour cannot be condoned as it needlessly endangers the lives of other motorists and pedestrians. Should your son be seen driving without a licence, the school will implement measures to uphold the law of the country. **In addition, unlicensed drivers may not, under any circumstance, transport other Graemians.** Should they be involved in an accident, it becomes possible to press criminal charges. We ask for your support in ensuring the safety of your children whilst supporting the rules of the school and the laws of our country.

ACADEMIC

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE – Monday 18 June to Thursday 21 June

ALL learners are expected to attend school next week, as school continues as normal until 13h30 on Thursday 21 June. Graeme College will close for the mid-year break on Thursday 21 June. Term reports will be handed to learners at the end of the school day on Thursday 21 June.

CULTURAL

INTERACT COLLECTION

The Interact Club is partnering with IGOG to collect unused or extra educational materials (pens, pencils, crayons, colouring books, puzzles, key cards, etc.). We would greatly appreciate any donations, which could be handed to Miss Dodge or Miss Whitehorn.

SPORT

HOCKEY

Results: vs St Andrew's Prep

GC1 U13A vs SAP U13C lost 0 – 2

Results: vs Queen's College – Friday 8 June

GC1 XI vs DC lost 0 – 2 GC 2nd XI vs QC lost 1 – 5 GC U15 vs QC U14A lost 1 – 2

SENIOR RUGBY

Results: vs Queen's College – Saturday 9 June

GC U14A vs QC U14A	won	56 – 12	GC U14B vs QC U14B	lost	19 – 30
GC U15A vs QC U15A	lost	17 – 31	GC U15B vs QC U15B	lost	10 – 62
GC U16A vs QC U16A	won	17 – 10	GC U16B vs QC U16B	drew	10 – 10
GC 3 rd XV vs QC 3 rd XV	lost	7 – 41	GC 4 th XV vs QC 4 th XV	lost	12 – 36
GC 1 st XV vs QC 1 st XV	won	26 – 22	GC 2 nd XV vs QC 2 nd XV	lost	0 – 29

Fixtures: Saturday 16 June vs Union High School

<i>Time</i>	<i>Somerset</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Marais A</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Marais B</i>
09h00	GC U14A vs UHS U14A				
10h00	GC U15A vs UHS U15A			10h30	GC 3 rd XV vs UHS 3 rd XV
11h00	GC U16A vs UHS 16A	11h45	GC U16B vs UHS U16C	11h45	GC U15B vs UHS U15B
12h15	GC 2 nd XV vs UHS 2 nd XV				
13h30	GC 1 st XV vs UHS 1 st XV				

JUNIOR RUGBY

Results: vs Westering Primary – Saturday 2 June

GC U9A vs WP	won	47 – 10	GC U11C vs WP	won	17 – 12
GC U11A vs WP	lost	0 – 15	GC U11B vs WP	won	28 – 21
GC U13C vs WP	won	53 – 0			
GC U13A vs WP	won	21 – 24	GC U13B vs WP U13B	won	12 – 5

Fixtures: Saturday 16 June vs Union Primary & St Mary's Primary

<i>Time</i>	<i>Marais A</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Marais B</i>
09h00	GC U11A vs UP U11A	09h00	GC U9A vs UP U9A
09h45	GC U13B vs St Mary's	09h45	GC U11B vs UP U11B
10h30	GC U13A vs UP U13A		

Practices: Monday 18 & Wednesday 20 June

All junior rugby teams (U9 to U13) will have practices from 14h30 to 15h30 at their normal venues on Monday 18 June. There will be **NO** rugby practices on Wednesday 20 June.

JUNIOR TENNIS

Fixture: Thursday 21 June

The U11A and U13A teams will be playing a match from 14h00. More details to follow.

Practices: Tuesday 19 June

Tuesday 19 June will be the last practice of term for all teams.

SQUASH

Squash Results: Winter League

GCJ1 vs SAC4 lost 10 – 7

EVENTS

STEAK AND BURGER EVENING – Friday 15 June

Graeme College invites members of the Grahamstown Community to a Steak and Burger Evening from 17h30 to 23h00 at the Graemian Centre tonight. Steak, chips and salad are R80 and burgers are R50. Bring the family along for an enjoyable evening! For your convenience, take-away orders can also be placed with Minnette Gleaves (083-633 0840).

GENERAL

SUPPORTER JACKETS

Parents are reminded that they may still place orders, and pay for GC Supporters jackets, at the Reception Office. The cost of these jackets is R420 each. Please note that Graeme can only place a minimum order of ten jackets. At the moment, seven have been ordered.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING SHOP

The Second-hand Clothing Shop is open on the following days and times (except Public and School Holidays):

Monday: 13h00 – 14h00

Wednesday: 13h00 – 14h00

All enquiries with regards to the Shop will be dealt with by Mrs Siebritz (046-622 7227).

Yours sincerely

**K M WATSON
HEADMASTER**