

March 2009

Be a winner – keep paddling

I want to share with you a short story I picked up a few years ago. It seems that there is not much difference between winners and losers: losers just give up too soon, but winners just “keep paddling”. Here it is:

Let me tell you about two frogs who jumped into a bucket of cream on a dairy farm. ‘May as well give up’, croaked one after trying in vain to get out, ‘we are going to die’. ‘Keep paddling’, said the other frog, ‘we’ll get out this mess somehow!’ ‘It’s no use’, said the first frog. ‘Too thick to swim, too thin to jump and too slippery to crawl. We are bound to die sometime anyway, so it may as well be tonight’. He sank to the bottom of the bucket and died.

His friend just kept on paddling and paddling. By morning he was perched on a mass of butter which he churned out all by himself. There he was with a grin on his face, eating the flies that came swarming from every direction.

That little frog had discovered what most people ignore: if you can stick with the task long enough, you are going to be a winner!

In the February newsletter I wrote about seven outstanding winners: **Vidhya Jayawardena** from Rand Park High School, **Chrisanne Kouzas** from Hyde Park High School, **Nicholas Pardesi** from Northcliff High School, **Michael Ridgwell** from Abbots College and **Daniel Rothschild** from St John’s College, who all achieved a distinction in either maths or science or both in their November matric exams. I also wrote about **Valerie Bekker** from Hyde Park High School and **Jason Manson-Kullin** also from Hyde Park High School who achieved great improvements in their matric year.

There were, however, other winners below matric level, learners who persevered long enough to see the results of their efforts. Here are their November 2008 results:

Shastra Anandchund in Grade 7 at Greenside Primary achieved a B symbol in maths. When she started her lesson in Grade 6 at Maths Success she was getting a D symbol. Well done!

Cyan Brown in Grade 9 at St Peter’s College achieved a 87% pass in maths. Well done!

Kalinka Faul in Grade 11 at Kingsmead College achieved 90% in maths, 86% in advanced maths and 89% in science. Well done!

Marina Cavaleros in Grade 8 at Trinityhouse High School achieved 83% in maths in her November exams and 79% for the year. Well done!

Jennifer Girdwood in Grade 9 at St Mary’s School achieved 69% in maths in her November exams. She was thrilled with that result. Well done!

Rylan Goch in Grade 11 at St John's College improved from 59% to 68% in maths. Well done!

Renesha Moodley in Grade 12 at Rand Park High School improved from 53% to 78% in maths and 41% to 58% in science in her matric year. She wanted to enrol at Wits for a Quantity Surveying degree and she had to have her maths mark above 60%. She was thrilled with her results and was accepted at Wits. Well done!

Kirsty Nimmo in Grade 11 at Rand Park High School improved from 18% to 38% in maths in her November exams. This shows that no mark is too low when starting lessons. Well done!

Sibusiso Nombewu in Grade 8 at Sekolo sa Borokgo School found high school maths very hard when he started his lessons in April last year. He achieved 50% pass for maths and 51% for science in his November exams. Well done!

Kai Radel in Grade 11 at St John's College improved his maths mark from 40% in mid-year exams to 61% in the November exams. In science Kai improved from 43% to 56%. Well done!

Peter Raney in Grade 9 at St John's College achieved an 85% mark order in the last term of 2008. Well done!

Mark Snell in Grade 11 at St Stithians Boys' College improved from 50% to 65%. Well done!

Jan-Harm Swanepoel in Grade 11 at St David's Marist Inanda improved in maths from a C to a B symbol. Well done!