

## Report on first Nyatsela camp-out

The first Nyatsela camp-out, in preparation for the 21-day walk in July, was a great success last weekend. The Form 3s gathered at 16h30 on Friday and were assigned to their groups, which was a milestone event. Some were delighted to be with some old friends, while others looked around at the new friends in their group, hoping that they would get to know each other better and work well together. They watched how to put up their tents and set them up in their groups before going to supper.



(Unfortunately we could not cook our own meal, as intended, since plans had gone awry. However, the ice cream for pudding made up for this disappointment somewhat!) After supper each group did a skit of a scenario that could happen on Nyatsela (someone kills a chameleon in fright; someone imagines a ghost in the middle of the night; someone develops blisters; someone delays the group by waking up late; someone reports that the girls were spying on the boys while they bathed). We decided to think about: (i) how we could prevent unwanted things from happening, and (ii) how we would approach these or similar incidents if they did develop. The groups acted the scenes out creatively and applied the methodology of formulating key questions. They were reassured to realise that various options lay within their grasp, and that the adults will be trained in how to help the group arrive at a constructive solution.

Most people slept very well in their tents and after an early breakfast we set off to join the Mbabane Park Run. We helped them to set a record of 183 people! The Form 3s acquitted themselves very well, managing the 5km course in just over an hour even though they were carrying their backpacks! Considering that we will be walking 15km on the longest days in Nyatsela, the Form 3s have made a good start ... Keep it up, Form 3s – keep walking every week with your packs and Nyatsela shoes!



The highlight of the camp-out was the launching of the Nyatsela raft. Each group donned their life-jackets and had a turn dexterously rowing the raft around our school dam!



One other session is of interest: Babe Reggie Mapanga assessed the Form 3s' swimming capabilities so that the school knows who is confident in the water and who is to be encouraged to take lessons with Babe Mapanga, a Swazi Olympic swimmer who will be available every weekend at the school pool. All WK students should ensure that they take the opportunity to learn this essential life skill if they have not acquired it already.

All in all, many useful skills were learned, and (apart from some tardiness) the Form 3s were delightful in their behaviour, their participation and their engagement. Thank you!

