



What's on @ PHS

Volume 1: 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our parents and guardians at the start of the new year. A special welcome is extended to those who are joining our community for the first time. I trust that the year ahead goes well for you and for your child.

Academic News

I have reported at length about the Matric results of 2009, of which we are so proud. All that remains is for us to encourage the Matrics of 2010 to rise to the challenge that was set to them of being the first class with not only 100% pass rate but also 80% Bachelor rate.

Staff News

We welcomed a number of new teachers to our school this year, some of whom already have a long association with PHS.

Mrs Anita Collett remains on the staff but takes over Mrs Lisa-Marie Booysen's Afrikaans classes while Mrs Booysen is on maternity leave.

Mr Matthew Draper returns to the English Department of Pinelands High after a year's travel overseas. This is an additional post that has been created to make our English classes a little smaller.

Mr Craig Paxton returns after completing his Masters at Harvard University to head up the Physical Sciences Department in the place of Mr Wilson.

Mr Andrew Vergotine joins us full-time as a replacement for Mrs Yolande Reiche in the Afrikaans Department.

Ms Claire Watling returns to her alma mater after a very successful performing career to become the school's first Drama teacher.

Mr Warren van der Westhuizen (our



Amy Underwood, Counsellor and Head of Life Orientation, has just completed her Masters degree, and Ryan de Roo, head of Natural Science, has just obtained his PhD. Both teachers were formerly pupils at the school!

Media Co-ordinator) now takes on the additional responsibility of teaching as he furthers his studies on a Learnership programme.

Ms Joanna Mostert comes into our Mathematics Learnership programme.

I have been delighted with the ease with which the new members of staff have fitted in and that we have also managed to regain the services of those who were here before. I wish all new staff a long and very happy stay at Pinelands High.

Last year I warned of the fertile environment of the staffroom at Pinelands High as no fewer than five babies were born to staff members or their partners. Latest in this group is Mrs Booysen who gave birth to a young girl, Isobella, and Mrs Paxton who delivered her first child Kelly. We extend a very special welcome to these two newest members of our community.

Mrs Chandler has left us to have her second child and we wish her all the best.

Our congratulations go to two of our staff who received their newest qualifications last year in a graduation ceremony at UCT. We congratulate Ms Amy Underwood who obtained her

Masters degree and Dr Ryan de Roo who obtained his PhD. It is an honour to be able to compliment them on their achievements - both as teachers at the school and as PHS alumni.

Uniform issues

I have been generally very pleased with the response from 99% of the students to our request to come back neat, tidy and dressed appropriately. It is vital that parents and students realise the significant damage that can be done to our school as a result of one poorly dressed student in the public eye. It should be second nature to all parents to have a quick check to see that their child is properly dressed every school morning.

- These are the things to watch out for:
 - Hair - neat, clean, tied up (girls), no "mohawks", "ducktails" or patterns
 - Jerseys - NO holes or frayed edges in the sleeves
 - Blazer badges - properly sewn on
 - Pants - get your son to pull his pants up to an acceptable height (acceptable to adults and his future employers that is!)
 - Shoes - regulation shoes, laces done as an adult would and polished
 - Bags - no graffiti at all



Interclass Sports Day at PHS is a day filled with colour and a whole lot of fun!

Alumni News

Robert van der Ross (Matric 2006) was selected for the SA Universities' cricket team.

Pupil insurance

Glenrand MIB are once again offering optional insurance cover for learners. If you are interested in taking up this offer, please complete the attached documents and return with your payment to the Bursar (Fees Office) by 12 February 2010.

Parents' Prayer Group

Interested parents / grandparents, who would like to join the group, are invited to telephone Mrs Beryl Wakelin (021-531 9464). The group meets at school each Wednesday from 9:15 - 10:00.

Upcoming events

Please familiarise yourselves with the events calendar in the diary and attached to this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated by your child and the school and we encourage you to watch school events whenever possible.

I wish you all the very best for an exciting year ahead and a smooth start to the academic year for your child.

Should you wish to receive this newsletter electronically, please email Mrs Deborah Torrington on dtorrington@phs.org.za.

Regards

Tony Reeler
29 January 2010

Goals for the year

Every year I set a number of goals for the school. These are based on discussions that have been held with students and staff the previous year. This year, I have again set goals which I have highlighted below. My major goal for the year is to help the process whereby the Governing Body is able to appoint a suitable successor as Principal.

I have great faith in them and in the process and assure parents most categorically that we will ensure the best person is found for Pinelands High.

That said, these are other focal points:

- Encouraging at least three more teachers to study further for Masters or PhDs
- An effective start to the new staff professional development model
- The extended student leadership model working well
- Late-coming and absenteeism below the levels of 2009
- The appearance of our students outside school at a high level all the time
- Academic excitement - "it's cool to be an academic"
- No time off school for teachers to attend meetings if teaching time would be lost
- Academic mentorship for students who are "at risk"
- Classroom upgrades finished and one new classroom built
- Noticeboards improved and made more attractive
- Recycled water system on line and working well
- Full attendance of all students and staff at Derby days
- Remaining the top co-ed sports school and beating the single sex schools more often

I repeat my oft-mentioned belief that we should always set very high expectations of our children and ourselves as high expectations often equal high performance.

Recycling

It is now easier than ever for you to support our recycling programme. If you live in Pinelands, where Wasteplan has a pilot project in place, kindly send your bag of mixed recycled materials to the school recycling depot and it will be collected in exchange for income for the school.

If you live outside Pinelands, you can get empty collection bags from school (recycling depot or Reception), fill them with mixed recyclable waste and return them to the recycling depot. It will be even better if you can deposit paper and glass separately into the appropriate collection igloos at the depot as we obtain a higher rate of return for them. Flyers are available from Reception which will give you more detail about which clean items can be placed in the bags of mixed recycling.