



What's on @ PHS

Volume 2: 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians

The term is well under way and your child should have settled in nicely by now. Their work routines should have been established at home and there should be a quiet place where they can work undisturbed.

I would like to appeal to parents and guardians to help their child remember to hand assignments and assessments in. Time and time again we find that students fall short simply because they are disorganised. The test and project programme has been out for a while now and should be displayed prominently in your home.

Staff News

We congratulate Mrs Deirdre Chandler and her husband Paul on the birth of their son Caden Tom Chandler on 6 February.

We also congratulate Ms Claire Watling on her nomination for the prestigious Fleur du Cap Theatre Awards. Ms Watling has been nominated in the best supporting actress category and we wish her luck for the awards ceremony.

Principal's replacement process

I have been delighted with the efforts of the School Governing Body and the school community in this process. There has already been wide consultation on criteria with the staff, the students and parents and a comprehensive profile of the new Principal has been drawn up. The SGB will, over the next two weeks, finalise questions and scoring charts for use during the interview process which will take place over the weekend of 20-21 March.

I do not know of another school that has consulted this widely and made all its stakeholders feel part of the process. I remain convinced that we will attract excellent applicants and will be able to appoint the candidate of our choice.

Corporate Fundraiser

We bade farewell to Mr Rowan Haarhoff at the end of last year after a brief stint as our Fundraiser. Mr Haarhoff did a sterling job and significant groundwork has been done for future funding efforts at the school.

We are looking to fill this position as soon as possible and ask if there are any parents/guardians/alumni who may be interested. The successful candidate must be able to build long-term relationships with corporate funders that result in sustainable additional funding for capital development projects at the school. Interested candidates should email Mrs Theron (ctheron@phs.org.za) who will pass the details on to the SGB.

Rainbow Camps

The first of the annual Rainbow Camps takes place very shortly. This life-changing experience is unique to our school and has made a significant impact on the lives of so many people.

In 2001, a Danish television journalist made a documentary film about the Rainbow Camp which was screened several times on Danish television, provoking a great deal of interest and debate.

It was decided to film a reunion of this group and twelve of the original campers met at Muizenberg last weekend for a day and a half of dialogue and debate. It was unanimously agreed by these young people that the camp had made a significant impact on the manner in which they approached issues of integration and tolerance. All agreed that their personal life-philosophy had been positively shaped by experiences on the camp.

It was extremely gratifying to listen to these accounts and to know that the school had played a small part in this significant personal development

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Nabeela Kajee won a competition to name a newly discovered asteroid. Her name of "Ubuntu" was chosen from many other suggestions and was voted for in a month-long competition. Nabeela won not only the naming rights but a very smart telescope for herself as well.

She was not satisfied with just naming asteroids as she also came in the top 20 in a national short story writing competition held recently by the SA Writers College. This competition was open to all ages so for a 17-year-old to come in the top 20 is a special achievement indeed.

Iman Jonas has been selected to represent WP in the National Lifesaving competition.

Tim Boone has been selected to represent PHS at the People-to-People student conference in Los Angeles.

Bernhard Greybe has been selected for the SA U17 hockey squad and is now one of the top goalkeepers in the country.

Uniform and discipline

My thanks go to the parents who have supported our efforts to smarten up our students. The image portrayed in and out of school is much better. There are still a few who need reminding that blazers need to be worn with winter uniform, but these are few and far between.

It does concern me that some parents are ignoring the rule that states that parents may not drive vehicles onto the school campus directly before and directly after school. Our students are at risk of being run over by these vehicles and we will not permit this to happen.

Of even greater concern is the attitude of some parents when confronted by a teacher or a prefect and asked to move their cars. I will be asking members of the SGB to deal with these cases as it is simply unacceptable to ignore a reasonable request from the school for the safety of the students, and to be rude in the process.

I also appeal to parents who fetch their children outside the main gate to move well away from the "no stopping" area. There is nothing wrong with your child having to walk a short distance to your car when it is parked in the correct place.

Valentine's Ball

My thanks go to the Matric Portfolio and the students for a very successful Valentine's Ball. Everyone I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

HIV testing

This is the third year that we have run this week and it is fast becoming the norm at the school - to know your status. I am delighted that PHS could be at the forefront of HIV/Aids education and hear with great interest of other local schools that are following our example.

Recycling

A reminder that each time you or your child drop off a bag of mixed recycling an empty bag can be collected from Reception.

Regards

Tony Reeler
26 February 2010



Cabaret 2010
Mixing it up!
Thurs 18 - Tues 23 March at 19:00
Pinelands High School

Tickets	○○○○	R50 pp	Tickets available
Gala Concert		R150 pp	from Music Department
Student Night		R40 pp	Tel: (021) 531-7410

Upcoming events

Please remember to check the school calendar for events that could use your support. The next big event in the school is the annual Cabaret run which takes place from 18 - 23 March.
You are urged to get your tickets very early as these sell out extremely quickly.

Academic Issues and Staff Development

The classroom upgrade project is still going well and many innovative methods of teaching are being investigated and tested. By the end of this year, each teaching venue should have at least a data projector, white boards and be freshly painted. Many venues will have additional ICT including interactive smartboards (two at the moment), tablet PCs (five at the moment) and other mobile technology - all in an attempt to improve the educational experience for the student.

We are also investigating Virtual Learning Environments whereby students can log in from home to review a lesson, catch up on work, post assignments and interact electronically with their classmates and teachers.

The annual Science Fair has just taken place, with all Grade 9 and 11 students presenting a research project. My thanks go to those students who tried so hard to produce a truly special piece of research and to Ms Masureik and her team of teachers who keep this very important academic activity going.

The Wednesday staff development sessions are going very well and teachers are reporting that this time is extremely valuable for their personal growth and development as a teacher. Topics that are included in these sessions are: school management and leadership, online student assessment, computer skills upgrading, classroom management and discipline, co-operative learning and gender-based teaching.

SMS Web

If you are not receiving regular sms communication with the school, please contact Mrs de Villiers in the Fees Office, or email changes to pdevilliers@phs.org.za.
You may add a second number to the system at a cost of R35.