



# What's on @ PHS

Volume 3: 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians

The first term has ended and I trust it has been a good one for your child. Next term promises to be a very interesting one with only eight school weeks before our country experiences an event the likes of which we have never seen before. Here's hoping all goes well with our World Cup organisation and that as South Africans we can all show the world what an amazing country we have.

## Building developments

I am delighted to let you know of two very exciting developments that will take place at PHS in the next four months. Last year we sent funding proposals to many organisations with a hope that we might be able to start funding one of our identified projects. Our first priority was to fund the alterations of our Library to turn it into a world-class, modern Information Resource Centre.

Earlier this year we met with representatives from the Nussbaum Foundation who were very excited about the project. I was over the moon when I received a call from one of the trustees a few weeks later to tell me that they had agreed to fund the entire project to the tune of R700 000! This is indeed a wonderful opportunity for our school and we are very grateful indeed to the Nussbaum Foundation for their generous assistance. Work will begin on the project in June and it should be completed by the end of August this year.

The excitement had barely worn off when I received a letter from the National Lottery Distribution Fund to say that they would like to fund our Multipurpose Mini-Astroturf sports surface to the tune of R520 000! We had long planned to turn three of our tennis courts into one multipurpose facility to practise hockey, netball and

tennis; but kept coming up against the harsh reality of affordability. That is no more an issue thanks to the National Lottery.

Work on this project has already begun and we are hoping to have the surface ready by the end of May this year.

These are indeed exciting times for the school and I hope our students are able to appreciate and benefit from these two projects.

My thanks go to the many people who put so many hours of effort into sourcing this funding and for their passion and commitment to the school that was so obvious during the various presentations.

## Principal's replacement process

The process is almost completed and we now await the final approval from the WCED for our choice of candidate to lead our school from 1 July this year. We are extremely confident that our choice of candidate will be appointed as the process has been both meticulous and fair.

My thanks go, on behalf of the school, to the Governing Body who spent many, many hours setting criteria, consulting, drawing up questions, short-listing and interviewing candidates. The WCED official who observed the entire process was extremely complimentary on the way that it unfolded. This was all done under the Chairmanship of the Governor in charge of staffing, Mr Fareed Abrahams and our thanks go to him for a superb job.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Johnathan and Matt

Johnathan Fitzgerald and Matt Pike both took part in the recent SA National Swimming Championship. Johnathan obtained a silver medal for the 200m freestyle and two bronze medals - one for the 100m freestyle and one for the 200m freestyle relay. Matt obtained bronze in the 200m individual medley and also won bronze in the 200m freestyle relay event.

Andrew Holdsworth has qualified to compete in the Level 1 Age Groups Swimming Championship which will be held in Oudtshoorn at the end of March.

Lauren Sobotker won the Coronation Cup for best nett in the U18 division of the Pam Golding WP Womens' Amateur Golf Championship.

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# Cabaret 2010 Mixing it up!

## Cabaret 2010

Our compliments go, once again, to a very talented group of students who performed in this year's Cabaret. There was some quite special talent on display and this event gives recognition to so many of our students who excel in the field of dance and music. Our thanks go to Mr Garth Kayster for the massive job of co-ordinating the show, Mr Warren van der Westhuizen who ran the technical side of things and to the many students who took part or who helped in whatever way. Well done.

### Staffing news

We bid farewell to Mr Dave Schenck at the end of this term. Mr Schenck leaves us after a short stint of 2½ years to take up a position as Deputy Principal at Kingswood College in Grahamstown. Mr Schenck fitted in very well indeed to Pinelands High and his friendly face, ready laugh and firm yet caring approach with the students will be sorely missed. We wish him, his wife Lynn and their four boys a safe and happy move.

### Derby Days

You may have heard from your child about the wonderful assembly we had the other day where the prefects led the school in the first of a set of war cries. It was wonderful to see such school spirit and unity.

We are planning to take that school spirit and put it into action at the two winter Derby days against Westerford on 1 May and Bergvliet on 22 May. Attendance at these two events will be compulsory for all PHS students who will be required to be at school from 10:00 - 13:00 dressed either in winter school uniform or school tracksuit.

To prepare properly for this, the first time the entire school will be on show

in public at a sports event, all students will need to be at school at 08:00 on Wednesday 28 April to practise.

The Prefects and sports teams have put a great deal of effort into preparing for these events and they deserve our support. Let us unite in a massive public display of pride in our school.

### Security issues

We have now instituted full security guarding at school after hours including over weekends. This is to make sure that our students and visitors to our campus are as safe as possible.

I must remind parents and students that to have iPods, MP3 players and cell phones in plain sight while walking to and from school is simply asking for trouble.

I also remind parents of our cell phone policy which is very clearly published in the school diary.

### PR Evening and Open Day

Every year we hold these two events to showcase the school and provide information to prospective parents and students of our school. This year, the PR evening was full to capacity, with more than 500 people coming to hear about the school - the most ever.

The Open Day was equally successful with hundreds of people coming through the school and interacting with our current students. I find this day wonderful, as it not only shows off our school, but also gives our students a chance to say why they think PHS is special when they host groups. To stand quietly to one side while a PHS student speaks with such obvious pride about their school to strangers makes one feel very proud oneself!

I would like to wish our touring groups well when they go away these holidays - there are at least four hockey teams travelling away, with the first boys and girls going to York for the annual Easter festival in George.

To our Christian families - may I wish you a Blessed Easter at this, the most holy time of the Christian calendar.

To all our families - may you have a restful break from work if you are lucky enough to be able to do so. If you are travelling, drive safely!

Regards

Tony Reeler  
23 March 2010