

What's on @ PHS

Volume 5: 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians

I trust that the recent examination session has gone well for your child and that they have managed to obtain the results they deserve. From the school's point of view, we have been happy with the exam session and are busy going through the process of capturing marks and writing comments.

Our thanks go to the group of parents who helped out with invigilation during the exams. This input meant that our teachers had more time to mark and they were most grateful for this support.

Staff news

Last newsletter I wished Ms Masureik and Ms Petrie well for the upcoming births of their children. We are delighted to welcome Ms Wendy Moulton back to the school to look after Ms Masureik's classes. Mrs Jill Hutchison will be teaching those classes for a few weeks when Ms Moulton is overseas. We also welcome Mrs Carol Franck who will be taking Ms Petrie's classes.

Mrs Reiche is out of hospital at the moment but is still very ill indeed. When I last spoke to her she was extremely positive about the future and completely blown away by the support she has been given by the school community. She has been inundated with cards and messages and the school has been providing meals for her family. She asked me to pass on her sincere thanks to "the wonderful people at Pinelands High" for everything that had been done for her and her family.

The breakfast that was held to raise

Some time ago I warned of the fertile environment of Pinelands High, considering the number of children that either have been or will be born to PHS staff. (5 so far this year!). I am delighted to add to that number with Mrs Lisa-Marie Booysen having announced her pregnancy. She is due in January 2010 and we wish her all the best for this exciting time.

Some parents may have read the news in the Tatler that Mr Gibbon will be going to the International Confederation of Principals Conference in Singapore in July. Mr Gibbon will be presenting a paper at this highly prestigious event and we are honoured to have one of the presenters on our staff at the school.

Our compliments also go to Mr Roy Prevost who initiated a Geography Olympiad for Grade 9 learners at all schools. We hosted the event at PHS and compliment Mr Prevost on his efforts to enhance the learning experience of our children, particularly in the field of Geography.

Yolandi Reiche

funds for the Sunflower Fund managed to raise over R7500.00 and will be used to sponsor 25 new Pinelands Trust bone marrow donors. Our thanks go to the Interact team and all others who made this possible.

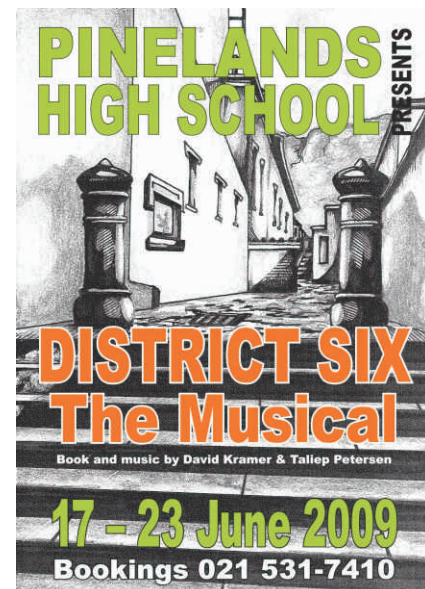
If you wish to become a donor then please visit:

www.sunflowerfund.org.za

or call

0800 121082

to register. You need to be between the ages of 18 and 50 years old, and weigh more than 50 kg.



District Six

The school play, District Six, begins its run on 17 June. The run will consist of seven shows and we wish Mr Harris (Producer and Director), Mr Meredith (Musical Director) and the staff and cast all the very best for what we know will be another PHS smash hit. Tickets can be purchased from the School Shop at a cost of R45 each.



The Sunflower Fund
share a little save a life

School Governing Body

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all those who have served on the SGB for the past three-year term. In my interactions with numerous schools, I have yet to come across a Governing Body that is as insightful and supportive of the school as ours has been. Their deep consideration of all issues that they deal with and the time they spend in service to the school is highly appreciated by the staff in particular.

At the time of writing this newsletter the election for parent representatives has not been held, but I would like to thank Mrs Shirley Leibbrandt who has indicated that she will not be available for re-election due to her son finishing school at the end of this year. Mrs Leibbrandt has given enormously to the school, particularly in the appointment of teachers and the pastoral care of the staff and we wish her well in her "retirement" from PHS!

School events

A successful Music concert was held in partnership with Bergvliet High and also went very well indeed.

The Jazz Band took part in the annual Schools' Jazz Band Festival at the Baxter Theatre and performed very well indeed. Our compliments go to Mr Derek Bunch and his musicians for their wonderful entertainment.

Recycling

As many parents will have received their new telephone directories we ask that you send your old ones to school for recycling. They can be placed in the foyer of the Thomson Hall.

I hope the ideas from "On a personal note" give you some food for thought and discussion at home; and I wish you well for the remainder of the term.

Regards

Tony Reeler
Principal
2 June 2009

**Please email us at
dtorrington@phs.org.za should you
wish to receive this newsletter
electronically**

Achievements of learners



**SA hockey captain and PHS
Alumnus Austin Smith with
our WP representatives
(absent: Mia Nesar)**

I am delighted to announce that no fewer than ten PHS learners have made various WP Hockey teams. They are:

Mia Nesar and Tracey-Lee Petersen
(Girls' U18A)
Robyn-Lee Steyn (Girls' U18 regional)
Lloyd de Kock and Matthew Parks
(Boys' U18A)
Jody Erasmus and Robin Timm
(Boys' U18B)
Bernard Greybe (Boys' U16A)
Tohir Abrahams (Boys' U16B)
Michael Erickson (Boys' U16 Regional)

In addition, Mr Jade Hearne will be the Boys' U18A coach, Mr Jason Mulder the Disas U18 Coach, Mr Lance de Kock the Boys' U16 Disas coach and Ms Caryn Maart the Boys' U16 A Manager. All four are current coaches at the school and are all alumni!

One of our Grade 8 learners, Zuko Sifumba, will be representing our school and our country at an international symposium on global warming in Denmark later this year. Zuko was selected from a group of learners who were asked to research and debate issues around global warming and climate changes and his efforts have afforded him this wonderful opportunity.

On a personal note...

The Deputies and I attended the regional conference of the South African Principals' Association recently. While much of the conference was more applicable to primary schools, we did get to hear an international expert on brain research, Dr Jesús Amaya, who hails from Mexico. Some of the points that Dr Amaya made that stuck in my head was his comparison of our (the adults') childhoods with that of the current children. He said that before, relatively little pressure existed but much was demanded from children. Today, he said, little is demanded from children but they are under enormous pressure. He also quoted a study by Dr Robert McClure in which his response to the question "Why children's IQ levels have risen yet their academic achievement scores dropped (in the USA)" was "Students have weakened their motivation for learning and have a lower capacity for self control and discipline".

He went on to give advice as to how we can best help our children rediscover their self-discipline and focus more as a generation - much of which is common sense and has been written about before (including in this newsletter). They are:

- ✗ Avoid second chances and don't make excuses for children
- ✗ Supervise the rating of the shows children watch and the games they play
- ✗ Establish a curfew and stick to it
- ✗ Let children earn privileges rather than expect them
- ✗ Help them realise that life is hard and don't make it easy for them
- ✗ Recognise only significant goals
- ✗ Teach them to contribute
- ✗ Demand that they finish what they start
- ✗ Give them structure and schedule
- ✗ Avoid "name" brands for "name" brands' sake
- ✗ Demand "please" and "thank you"
- ✗ Respect hierarchy - at home and in school
- ✗ Create family rituals
- ✗ Eat lunch or dinner together as a family at least five times per week (not in front of the TV)
- ✗ Avoid giving in excess
- ✗ Develop a sense of the true meaning in life.