



What's on @ PHS

Volume 7: 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians

With the onset of some warmer and dryer days these past few weeks it seems as if spring is slowly heading our way. Our fields have taken strain with the amount of rain that has fallen and we hope that they drain quickly enough for the start of the summer sports season.

I would like to thank all staff who were involved in the winter sports programme for their efforts in promoting sport at the school. We remain convinced that a good sport programme is vital for a good education and will continue to improve where we can. My thanks also go to the many parents and family members who loyally supported the teams during the season. Your support did not go unnoticed and was greatly appreciated by your child and the school.

Academic Issues

The Grade 12 exam session has gone well and we wish our Matrics all the best as they focus on preparing for their final set of school exams in October.

The classroom upgrade project has been going for two months now and we have managed to complete nine classrooms. These classrooms have been fitted with whiteboards, a digital projector, ceiling fans and have been painted. We intend to continue this project over the next two years so that by the end of 2011 we have completely upgraded all classrooms and labs.

Swine Flu

My thanks go to all parents for their sensible reaction to the swine flu crisis. While we are all extremely wary of diseases, particularly when they have been reported on so widely in the media, it is important to retain perspective and I am grateful to the parents who did not overreact to the situation. Attendance over the week prior to Cross Curricular Week was just over 70% and it has gone back to normal winter levels of 94%.

Cross-Curricular Week



This week remains a highlight in the PHS calendar, and I would like to thank all the teachers for their organisation. The activities do not just happen on their own and require a great deal of planning. I must compliment the students for their positive input and the spirit in which they approached the week.

I remind all Grade 9 parents of my request for guidance regarding the planning of the Grade 10 camp during Cross-Curricular week in 2010. As the week falls during the month of Ramadaan, we need to plan accordingly, and I would appreciate any advice as to how best to do this.

Bursary opportunities

The school has three bursaries which we award to deserving candidates and we are calling for applications for these bursaries.

The Slater Bursary is a general bursary open to all students who have shown good academic potential and is awarded based on financial need. The value of the bursary is R4 000 per annum.

The Founders' Scholarship is awarded to a senior learner who best epitomises the values of the school and who has demonstrated a high level of all-round involvement in school activities. This scholarship is open to all students who have passed Grade 10 and is not subject to a financial needs test. The value of the scholarship is R2 000 per annum.

The Rosemary Bursary is only for female students and is for extra-mural equipment. All girls who play an active part in the school's extra-mural programme and who are in financial need can apply for this bursary, which will cover the cost of extra-mural equipment to the tune of R2 000 per year.

I encourage students to apply for these bursaries. All applications must be handed in to Mrs Theron by 6 October. Applications should be in sealed envelopes and clearly marked with the student's name and the bursary for which they are applying.

Pinelands High School
presents

Gala Music Concert

Friday 18 Sept 2009

20:00

Baxter Concert Hall



Tickets for the Gala Music Concert are now available from the school bookshop!

General matters

I am concerned by the number of learners who are at school extremely early each morning (well before 06:45). While I do understand that transport issues often dictate unsatisfactory arrangements like this, please bear in mind that there is no supervision at this time. Some learners are being dropped off at this time and are then heading off to a friend's house in Pinelands - either with or without your consent.

The traffic police are going to be far stricter on parents who park illegally outside the school, thus placing other people's safety at risk because their children are too lazy to walk. I am horrified each day to see the selfish attitude of some parents who park directly outside the school gates, often under the No Stopping sign, pretending to be completely oblivious to the chaos they are causing. I ask parents and those who fetch students from our school please to be far more considerate of others.

School magazine

We are starting to put together this year's school magazine. If you would like to advertise in the magazine, or sponsor a page, please fill in the enclosed form and return it to Deborah Torrington at the school.

Achievement of learners



Sean Choi was placed in the top 100 in South Africa in the National Mathematics Olympiad. He will go on to write the third round, and we wish him well for the final paper.

The Debating team took part in the Provincial Trials and did very well indeed, narrowly missing Provincial selection.

The Senior Wind Band won their section in the Facets competition held recently at Sans Souci. This adds to their success in the Eisteddfod where they won their category as well.

Change to the Code of Conduct

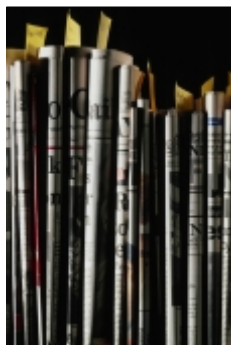
We have gone through an extensive process of consultation with regard to the Code and have now officially ratified those changes at the Governing Body. The changes will be given to you in writing for insertion into the school diary and will come into effect from the start of the fourth term. In summary, the changes are:

- The standard Winter Uniform may be worn with or without a tie, except during formal functions, when a tie must also be worn.
- The summer uniform for boys may be worn without a tie, except during formal functions.
- A learner may be found guilty by association if they are in the company of another learner committing an offence.
- The Principal has the right to clarify and interpret items in the Code and make *ad hoc* additions to the Code under certain circumstances.
- Underwear may not be visible when wearing school uniform.
- Possession of the school tracksuit and wearing it at appropriate occasions is compulsory (this will be phased in over two years).
- All learners will wear the same uniform to public events (summer or winter). This will be specified for each occasion.
- The jersey may be worn with summer uniform with or without a blazer.
- A sub-committee has been established to investigate the material and style of the girls' summer dress and the boys' summer shorts.

I would like to wish all our Muslim families well over the fast of Ramadaan, which started two weeks ago.

Regards

Tony Reeler



Highly effective learners ...

read a lot



Should you wish to receive this newsletter electronically, please email us at dtorrington@phs.org.za