



What's on @ PHS

Volume 8: 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to the start of the final term of the year. When I addressed the Grade 12s and their parents at their PTL meeting the other night, it was brought home to me how quickly the year has gone by and how little time remains. I urge parents most strongly to ensure that their children are fully focussed on their final examinations.

Basic things that should be in place very soon for Grade 8 - 11 learners are study timetables and programmes of work, including work over weekends revising material from earlier in the year. Grade 12s will have done this all already - we know!

Arrangements for the rest of the year

The following information is advance notice as to what can be expected at the end of the year. The exam session will be written over a period of three weeks from halfway through November until the end of the first week in December. Exact dates will be given to you in a separate letter from Mr Gibbon.

The Grade 8s only write for 10 of the 15-day exam session so will be taught for the first five days. The Grade 9s will be writing the National Common Tasks of Assessment from 16 - 26 November.

The year will end in the week of 11 December, with the final assembly of the year on Wednesday 9 December. You are more than welcome to send your child to school on the Thursday and Friday and they will be given community service to do but there will be no formal, structured lessons as the teachers will be frantically trying to put all marks together before Thursday 10 December when we expect the WCED to validate our process. This allows us to finish reports late on Friday 11 December when school officially closes for

Pinelands High School
is proud to present

Kissed by Brei
"A theatrical cabaret"

starring Claire Watling
and Godfrey Johnson

Sat 24 October
19:30

Tickets from the
school bookshop

Claire Watling and Godfrey Johnson, both past pupils, will be presenting their award-winning show at PHS on Saturday 24 October. Tickets can be purchased from the school's bookshop. Ticket prices: R150 (including a meal), R80 (show only), R120 (with meal)/R50 (show only) for learners and pensioners. All proceeds from this event will go to the PHS Music Instrument Fund. Please support this initiative!

teachers. Parents/guardians will be able to collect their child's report between 17:00 and 18:00 on that day. This is an unusual year as, for the first time, teachers do not have two days after which school has closed to process reports.

The December holidays are also two weeks shorter than usual to accommodate the almost five week holiday in July 2010. This means we will return to school on 11 January for teachers and 13 January 2010 for all students. Please make all your holiday arrangements accordingly.

Grade 9 WCED testing

The results for the testing that was conducted by the WCED have arrived and I am pleased to report a significant increase in the PHS averages relative to the Province. In English, our students performed 13,2% above the provincial mean and

in Mathematics they performed 26,9% above the mean. This is also a relative increase compared with last year's PHS Grade 9s.

The test results from the SIAT testing have still to arrive and will do so in the next few weeks.

Learner achievements

Congratulations go to Zakir Kathrada who was selected for the WP U19 Cricket team to play in the CSA 3-day competition.

We would like to confirm that each family is still receiving sms's to at least one cell number per family. A test sms will be sent out on 16 October. Please update any changes via the forms at the Fees Office.

Teenage issues

I have become aware of an issue involving Facebook and other online applications that I feel needs to be dealt with by schools and homes. Children, when writing on Facebook, while they are aware that this is a public domain, often do not realise the implications of this. Some of the matters I have been able to see (which have not been accessed from private accounts but are fully public) have been quite horrendous with children saying things about each other and to each other.

Not only do I find this kind of behaviour cowardly in the extreme but it opens the writer up to all kinds of accusations of slander. While I realise the vastly positive impact that social connecting portals such as Facebook have, I ask parents to educate their children on what is appropriate to write about themselves, each other and the school in a public forum.

School Shop

The School Shop is in need of second-hand dresses and blazers. Please either send such items in as donations for for reselling as soon as possible.

Parents are also reminded that the book sale will be held at the end of the year where stationery and textbooks will be sold. Further details will follow soon.

Braam Malherbe

As you know, Braam Malherbe has spoken to the school on two occasions about his epic trips in China and South Africa. He really inspired those who heard him. He is running a camp at Beaverlac in the December holidays which is called "Breaking Barriers" and focuses on enabling people to reach their potential despite the negativity in the world. If parents are interested, further details are available on www.braammalherbe.com

Uniform issues

There has been much debate about the wearing of the tie since the changes to the rules at the start of the term. I have never seen the students so animated in sharing their opinion and some very healthy debate has ensued. Some are regretting that they did not make use of the opportunity

Cultural News

The Art Evening was indeed wonderful and our compliments go to the students and teachers for the enormous effort that went into the evening and the energy that was on show on the evening itself. The work on display was spectacular.

The Music Department excelled themselves at the Annual Gala Music Concert, held for the first time at the Baxter Theatre. What an evening this was with superb performances from our students and teachers!

I was a very proud man indeed that week with such an impressive showcase of the talent and hard work at the school.



Top: Jade Dowrie's "Flowers"
Bottom: Gala Music Concert,
Painting by Dillon Sinden

they had to comment earlier! As I mentioned in assembly, we will watch the uniform closely in the next weeks and monitor the neatness in public. If we feel that our image is being tarnished by the change, we will obviously have to re-look at the rule.

We have noticed, however, that many more shirts are being tucked in as people are aware that if they have a tie off they need to be as smart as they can be!

Staff News

We said farewell to Mrs Franck at the end of last term and thanked her for her work while standing in for Ms Petrie who was on maternity leave. We welcome Ms Petrie back this term and hope that she is able to adjust once more to the rigours of school life.

I had a wonderful visit from Mrs Reiche last term who remains, to me, one of the most incredible people I have met - strong, positive and determined. She is doing very well indeed, but will not be able to take up her post again next year as she still has to have a marrow transplant. We will therefore be advertising her post and will advise you of her replacement in the near future.

I am delighted to announce that we have found a Drama teacher for next year. Ms Claire Watling will be joining our staff and, with her background of extensive performance herself at the highest level, we are very excited with what the future of Drama will look like.

You can see Claire in action at the "Kissed by Brel" show on 24 October.

Alumni news

The alumni thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the school over the Founders' Day celebrations and all commented on what a special vibe there is in the school. One alumnus commented on how sad she was that she could not be back at school to experience the diversity of culture that our school currently enjoys.

Maths Literacy Olympiad

The PHS students took part in the inaugural Maths Lit Olympiad and were placed 10th in the country and first in the Western Cape! Our congratulations go to the students and their teachers for this outstanding achievement.

Cross Country

Our congratulations go to those who ran so well in the annual Cross Country race at the end of last term. We have recognised the winners at assembly but I would like to acknowledge and thank Mr Overett who organised a very good race and Sportsmans' Warehouse who sponsored prizes.

Kind regards

TONY REELER
PRINCIPAL