

# Snippets

## Pretoria High School for Girls



### From the Headmistress

What a busy and exciting term this has been and it is already at an end. We started with a number of new staff joining us and all seem to be settling well, in a somewhat demanding new environment. As always these ladies have identified with the values and ethos of our school and have been thoroughly involved in the extra-curricular programme. Staff development programmes are important and as social media and the use and abuse of this was becoming a challenge for girls and staff alike, we invited Emma Sadlier to address staff, learners and parents. This proved to be a very informative and worthwhile exercise for all.

Term 1 is a time for all aquatic activities and we had scarcely arrived back at school, when we set off to East London for the Girls' Schools Aquatics Festival. While we struggle in some of the disciplines, it is important to remember that we are competing with the top girls' schools in the country and that we are one of those! In the routine league and friendly fixtures we had mixed success with some amazing swimming from talented swimmers, resulting in PHSG being 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Pretoria Inter-High. Water polo players and divers did us proud too. Courtney van Biljon, a swimmer and Cydney Liebenberg, a diver, must be individually mentioned, however, as both are so talented and continue to achieve greatly. In addition we have two staff members, Ms Dorlas and Mrs Albertyn, who have been swimming in their own right and both have done exceptionally well in the Midmar Mile swim as well as at national level. Congratulations to all and thanks to all staff who spend much time guiding and training our girls.

The opening of our long desired and very own Astro, finally happened on 28 February and while the surrounding area was not complete, the facility itself is quite superb. It is a project to be proud of and a facility that will bring pleasure to many for years to come. The enthusiasm of the hockey players to set foot on the turf is clearly evident and already there is a buzz and motivation to succeed! Thanks are due to James Tubb and Graeme Fenwick who were mainly responsible for managing the project, but also to Graeme Wilson, the Governor and Chairman of the Building and Maintenance Committee. Without these gentlemen and the committee as a whole, we could never have achieved our goal. My thanks to all concerned and to the many folk who made some contribution to this fine asset.

On Saturday, 15 March, a highly successful Mother and Daughter Tea took place. This event was organised by Mrs Tubb and Mrs Jenkins, parents of past pupils, and it was a morning of fun, friendship and entertainment, thoroughly enjoyed by all. The ladies who hosted tables, did a wonderful job with decor and fine "fare", and the variety of elegant hats was amazing. My thanks to all involved. It was a special time for mums, daughters and grannies!

**27 March 2014**

**Issue 1 2014**

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### 2014 School Calendar

- **Term 2**

7 April - 27 June

**GDE schools holidays:**

29 April, 30 April, 2 May

- **Term 3**

21 July - 3 October

- **Term 4**

13 October - 10 December

### Important Dates

16 April

Parents' Evening

24 April

Jersey Display

26 June

Inter-House Athletics

23 August

Matric Dance

6 September

Spring Fair

16 October

Matric Valediction

This week we have the Inter-House Play Festival and as always, Mrs Russell and Ms Dugmore have spent weeks training and guiding the Directors and we look forward to many nights of fun and enjoyment as we watch the talented youngsters transform from school girls in green dresses to some interesting characters. I am most grateful to all staff who in various ways have contributed to the success of the plays.

On a different note, may I again request all parents to consider the safety of their daughters and others and so ensure that they drop off and collect the girls from the allocated area accessible through gate 3, opposite Orient Street. With ongoing construction and development in the surrounding areas and related detours, the increase in traffic is great. These impact directly on the time needed to get your daughters to school as well as their safety. Please be sure to leave home early enough, taking into account inevitable delays. It is unsafe and not permissible to stop in Burnett Street in front of the school or in the bus bay to drop off your daughter. The starting time at this school is and has always been 07:20, by which time your daughter must be in her form classroom. Failure to do so results in a defaulter for lateness. Please do not call the school to explain reasons for lateness, or write a letter, as we do not adjust the record per individual. It is impossible to do so on a daily basis for any girl who may or may not be late for a legitimate reason. On days when we are fully aware of a major incident, we do adjust the system to discount lateness for all learners. Your support in this matter will be appreciated.

We are also soon to change the access times and rules for entry via Gate 1. Please understand that this has become necessary due to change in traffic flow around the school as well as development on our property and unfortunately also due to lack of consideration and respect by parents for the security guards and our girls who move around the school property. Full details will be provided shortly. Girls should not be staying at school in the afternoons unless they have extra-curricular activities to attend. They should go home directly but should they need to wait a limited time for parents to collect them, they should be sitting quietly in the designated areas or classroom completing homework. They may not leave the school property to go and shop or loiter in the nearby shopping centres and return just in time to be collected. This unfortunately leads to dishonesty and misbehaviour.

Application for admission to PHSG in 2015, opens on 7 April and closes on 27 May. Please note that forms may not, however, be returned to the school before 15 April. These schedules are as given by the GDE and are applicable to both day girl and boarder applications. Separate applications are required when applying for both boarding and daygirl options.

Reports for Term 1 results will be handed out on Friday 11 April and Parent's afternoon will be held on Wednesday 16 April. Please read your daughter's report carefully and ensure that she makes the necessary appointments for you, should you be requested to do so or wish to see a particular teacher. It is the responsibility of your daughter to get the time slots correct and suitable to you, the parent.

The term ahead is a short important one for the girls, albeit with very inconsistent dates. After a short week of holiday, we have some shortened weeks and then almost 10 days off. Please do not be tempted to extend this already lengthy time away from school as your daughters will miss valuable teaching and assessment time, just prior to the mid-year exams. No opportunity for missed assessments is permitted unless for reasons of illness and on presentation of a doctor's certificate. You recently received the June Exam timetable and accompanying letter. Please take careful note of the contents and in particular the dates on which your daughter writes her exams. No exception is made when a girl misses an exam as she "thought it was another /next day"! Communicate with your daughter and please support her in a positive way.

My thanks to all who in any way have supported the goals and ideals that make this school special, but in particular, the Governors and various Parent Committees who work tirelessly to ensure that this remains a top school in the country. Enjoy the short break and travel safely should you be on the roads in the coming week.

*PA McNair*

*Headmistress*

## Astro Opening!

The much awaited and long anticipated Astro was officially opened on Friday 28 February! This has aptly been named the McNair field, honouring the Headmistress's fervent wish to have this marvellous facility completed prior to her retirement.

Two Old Girls, the revered Mrs Pauline Sprüyt Myers, who played hockey for South Africa in the 1950's and Mrs Margie (Smuts) Descroizilles, opened the match. Thereafter the school song was sung and the inaugural match got underway.

Despite this challenging match against the guest team from Eunice High School, Bloemfontein, nothing could dampen the spirits of the 1st hockey team and all the enthusiastic supporters. The girls feel incredibly privileged to be able to play on their very own state-of-the-art Astro and are eagerly looking forward to the forthcoming hockey season.

The school would once again like to thank all who contributed towards this project. Without the tremendous support this would not have been possible.

*Joan Manders  
Marketer*



## Traffic and School Rules

Parents are reminded that entry to the school via Gate 1 is only permissible after 16:00. Parents may not enter at Gate 1 and drive down past Tall Trees to collect their daughter's from Gate 3. Please note that this is a *private road* and specifically for staff use only.

Girls are also reminded that they may not walk to Hatfield during the afternoon and then return to school to be collected by their parents. It is against school rules to eat whilst walking in public in school uniform. Behaviour outside the school should be as exemplary as it is within the school grounds during the school day. Girls may also not wait on pavements or next to the Hatfield Court outside the school.

Please assist the school by informing your daughters of these concerns.



**ATTENTION**

## Staff position

An Administrative position will become available at PHSG from 1 August 2014.

Main responsibilities: Catering for various school activities; assisting in the school Shoppe and Matric Dance liaison.

For further information please contact Ms Zulu at [tzulu@phsg.org.za](mailto:tzulu@phsg.org.za)

## Mother and Daughter Tea



## Some highlights from Term 1



### Makro/MySchool

Whether you're "cocooning" for the term break or dashing off somewhere wonderful, keep your ravenous children happy with delicious specials from Woolworths or Makro stores. Remember to swipe your MySchool and Makro cards at the tills and bring much-needed funds back to Girls' High. Add PHSG as a beneficiary by visiting [www.myschool.co.za](http://www.myschool.co.za) or [www.makro.co.za](http://www.makro.co.za) or completing an Application form at the school Reception.

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