

Snippets

Pretoria High School for Girls



From the Headmistress

It is almost impossible to believe that 10 weeks of the school year have already passed. As usual this has been a busy and eventful term in terms of academics, sport and culture.

At the beginning of the year the school employed 6 new teachers as staff retired, moved to other educational institutions and decided to leave teaching. The new staff have identified with the ethos of the school from the start, becoming very involved with the extra-curricular programme. Once again there have been a few staff members who have experienced health challenges and as far as possible a replacement teacher has been in the classroom. At the end of this term we sadly say farewell to Mrs Jubber who will be moving to East London as her husband takes up a new position there. Mrs Stellaard has decided to take early retirement after 15 years at the school. She will be sorely missed in the Afrikaans Department and as the poised, elegant staff member organising the ushers for every school function. In addition, Sister Tanya Shenfield-Schwartz has decided to move back to her roots in Cape Town. A huge thank you is due after 8 years at the school for actually developing the post of school sister over the time that she was here and for supporting, assisting and caring for the staff and girls alike. We wish these three ladies and their families well in their new ventures.

Once again the grade 12s of 2014 performed exceptionally well in the National Senior Certificate Examinations with a 100% pass rate and 93,7% of the candidates obtaining access to apply for a Bachelor's degree. The 274 candidates achieved 511 distinctions, 56 for Mathematics, with Bontle Moatshe achieving 100%. Annie Oppler was named top History student in Gauteng with 99% and three girls, Holly-Anne Thompson, Camille Samson and Celia Yeung were placed in the top 10 in Gauteng for CAT. The school was placed 4th in Gauteng in the Public Schools category. The school is extremely proud of these young ladies and all involved.

In the 2014 grade 9 ANAs (Annual National Assessments) written in September; the grade 9s achieved 3rd place in the District in Mathematics and 4th in English Home Language. This is an indication of the standard of teaching and intervention in the school.

25 March 2015

Issue 1 2015

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2015 School Calendar

- **Term 2**

13 April - 26 June

- **Term 3**

20 July - 2 October

- **Term 4**

13 October - 10 December

Important Dates

22 April

Parents' Evening

29 April

Jersey Display

22 - 23 May

Eunice Derby @ PHSG

25 June

Inter-House Athletics

29 August

Spring Fair

25 September

Matric Dance

1 October

Matric Valediction

In terms of the sporting and cultural achievements, these are being placed on the Communicator regularly to keep you informed. Should you not be registered on the Communicator please do so via the PHSG website using the link at the bottom of the Home Page. Important notices regarding the cancellation of activities or arrival at destinations when the girls are on tour are also posted for your convenience.

The first term is generally committed to the aquatic sport with participation in the St Mary's Waverley Summer Splash Festival, the Aquatics Festival hosted by Durban Girls College, Pretoria A, B and C League galas and Inter-highs. The water polo girls participated in the St Mary's Waverley Reef Cup, Roedean Prestige Cup, Old Mutual Cup, Shaun Fuchs and Old Petrians Tournaments. The volleyball teams have been participating in a new Johannesburg league, performing exceptionally well. The tennis teams have also been playing league matches and went on tour to St Mary's Kloof. The aquatics girls also swam Midmar on the weekend of the Aquatics Festival. Thank you to all the staff involved with all of these activities in what has been a very busy sports season. Special mention must also be made of Cydney Liebenberg, a diver, who has performed exceptionally well.

The hockey, netball, basketball, squash and cross-country coaches and managers have been getting themselves prepared for their busy term during term 2. The equestrian girls participated in their first and second qualifiers this term. The second one this past weekend was rather wet and muddy.

The debaters and Model UN debaters have started warming up for their league as have the public speakers. The orchestra had a most successful Valentine's concert with St Albans College in February. The senior choir under the baton of Stephan Gericke is hard at work on their repertoire for the ATKV competition. The Inter-House Play Festival was once again a thoroughly enjoyable and successful event. Many thanks are due to Mrs Russell and Ms Dugmore who started training the directors last year already. Special mention needs to be made of Mrs Russell, as unfortunately due to ill health, Ms Dugmore was not available for the last two weeks. This festival has gone from strength to strength over the years and the plays, written by the girls themselves, are topical, amusing and clever. Thank you to all staff involved from ticket sales, to make-up, backstage and ushering. All this is ably co-ordinated by Mrs B du Toit.

Regarding academic matters, please remember that formal and informal assessments are an ongoing process throughout each term. Please remember to remain informed about your daughter's test timetable, which is on the Communicator, and request the record of assessment sheet for each subject from her. Her marks are recorded on this sheet, which should be in your daughter's possession. This enables you to have ongoing feedback regarding her results during the term until the term end report is issued. The formal assessment results on this record of assessment sheet must be signed by parents. It is essential that the writing of tests and the completion of portfolio items takes place on the prescribed days.

The Minister of Education published a policy on learner attendance in 2010, which came into effect on 1 January 2011. Please refer to "Important Procedures" (Page 5) and take note of the contents in this newsletter.

At the start of term 2 there are a number of public holidays and between these there are three days, 28, 29 and 30 April. Please take note that the school will be **open and functional, with normal lessons** continuing on these days. The school may not grant permission for a learner to be absent on any given day.

Reports for term 1 results will be handed out on Friday 17 April and Parents' Afternoon and Evening will be held on Wednesday 22 April; 16:00 - 20:00 for Maths and Science and 16:30 - 19:00 for other subjects. There will also be a grade 10 Information Evening at 19:00 on that evening. 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 your daughter's responsibility to get the time slots correct and suitable for you, the parent.

Many thanks to all who have supported the school in a variety of ways. In particular to the Governors and Parent Committees. A very special thank you is due to the outgoing Governors:

Adv John Mullins (Chairperson), Mr Xavier Botha (Treasurer), Ms Felicia Ntisa (Marketing), Mr Mark Moyes (Hostel Finances), Mrs Nikki Wagner (Marketing), Mr Dumisani Ramasetlha (Non-Educator Representative), Mr Robin Jelley (Educator Representative), Mrs Priscella Skhosana (Educator Representative), Mrs Loren Anthony (co-opted PA Chairperson), Mrs Wilma Cloete (co-opted Old Girls' Association) and to those Governors who have been re-elected to stand for another term of office on the SGB. Thank you for the very many hours of dedication and commitment; guidance and support. The school cannot function without your expertise.

The first meeting of the SGB election was poorly attended and as a result a quorum was not reached. The second meeting held on 23 March did not require a quorum. Our congratulations go to the following governors who were re-elected and newly elected. Their portfolios have not yet been determined:

Dr Sello Galane, Mrs Anne Gioia, Mrs Ansuya Govender, Mr David Manley, Mr Cornel Swart, Mr Bongani Twala, Mr André van Tonder, Mr Graeme Wilson, Mr Timothy Waterson, Mrs Elzahn Bloem (Educator Representative), Mrs Birgit du Toit (Educator Representative), Mrs Doret Schoombie (Educator Representative) and Mr Pierre de Villiers (Non-Educator Representative).

Please be advised that once the bridge over the railway line is re-opened traffic rules need to be adhered to as before. This is essential as the safety of your daughter is a priority for us.

The term ahead is an important one as examinations start on Friday 29 May. The exam timetable will be issued early next term. Please take careful note of this and in particular the actual dates on which your daughter writes her exams.

Term 2 is a busy term regarding the sporting and cultural activities. We look forward to seeing you at the school and other venues supporting your daughter after the two week break of transporting her to and from school. Should you be on the roads during this time, travel safely.

KA du Toit
Headmistress

The 2015 Inter-House Play Festival

Once again the decision to produce an Inter-House Play Festival “By the children, for the children” has proven to be the correct one. The broad spectrum of activities reiterated that Girls High’s team work was at its best. 10 casts of over 100 actresses, make-up teams, backstage teams, sound and lighting girls, ushers, and RCL girls all pulled together to create what was undoubtedly one of the funniest play festivals in a long time. None of this would be possible without the involvement of countless staff members who supervised, assisted, cajoled, encouraged and mothered our participants. You are an invaluable team, led by Mrs Russell and Ms Dugmore.

Our most esteemed adjudicator Mr Matthew Ribnick gave valuable advice to all the Houses after they had performed. The final adjudication will be delivered on the last day of term.

Mrs B du Toit

Cookery Competitions

Grade 12 Cookery Competition

All Grade 12s are welcome to enter this competition which is being run by the International Hotel School. Please see Mrs van Heerden in Room 116 for more details or visit the website www.schoolcookoff.co.za



FreshLiving

Grade 11 Cookery Competition

Pick 'n Pay are organising this competition. All the information is available in their magazine 'Fresh Living'.

The theme: A Special Celebration High Tea for Three

Closing date: 5 June 2015

Final Cook Off: 3 and 4 September at the Prue Leith Chefs Academy in Centurion.

Groups of two need to enter, please see Mrs van Heerden in Room 116 at the beginning of Term 2, as recipes need to be selected.

Mrs L van Heerden

Important Procedures

Parents are requested to please take note of the following:

Procedure for leaving school before the end of the day

A letter, written by the parent, requesting early departure from school, must be taken to the Headmistress or the Deputies 24 hours before the requested departure. This letter must clearly indicate the following:

Name, grade and house of learner

Reason for leaving early

Time to be collected

Person collecting learner

The letter needs to be signed by the parent and a contact number must be included.

Once the letter has been signed by an executive member, the girl must show it to her class teacher at the time of departure and meet the person who is collecting her in the receptionist's office. The letter is handed to the receptionist and the person collecting the girl will sign her out.

This letter can also be emailed to info@phsg.org.za

Permission to arrive late

The same procedure as above must be followed with regard to having the letter signed, and then the girl will hand her pre-authorised letter to the receptionist when she arrives at school.

Sick learners

If a girl feels ill during the school morning, the school Nursing Sister may give permission for the girl to phone her parents to be taken home. No girl may phone or SMS her parents to fetch her, without going through the correct channels.

Learner Attendance

The Minister of Education has published a new policy on learner attendance, which came into effect on 1 January 2011. It is known as The Policy on Learner Attendance as published by the Department of Education in the Government Gazette vol. 539 of 4 May 2010, the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996, as amended and the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996.

Many aspects of this policy are in place at PHSG.

The most important aspects are as follows:

1. Any learner that is away for a number of consecutive days without a valid reason can be deregistered from the school. Going on holiday is not considered as a valid reason. If a learner is deregistered and would like to continue at the school, a new application has to be made.
2. No learner may henceforth take study leave before or during the examination period. All learners have to be at the school for the full school day, every day, irrespective of whether they are writing an examination or not. The only exception is for matrics, *at the end of the year only*. They may take 5 days study leave to prepare for the NSC and need not attend school on days when they do not write examinations.



Traffic and School Rules

Parents are reminded that entry to the school for matches during term 2 will be via Gate 3. Entry via Gate 1 will be for buses only.



SICC Show

The popular SICC Show will be held on Friday 24 April from 19:00 - 21:00.

Tickets will be sold prior to the show.

Please note that there will be no ticket sales at the door on that evening.

Term 1 Highlights



House Plays



Makro/MySchool

With the holidays upon us, why not stock up on snacks for famished teens or do some much-needed DIY? You'll find all you need at MySchool Supporter stores and Makro Silver Lakes, Wonderboom or Centurion. Still not signed up? Visit www.myschool.co.za or www.makro.co.za and help get our girls on tour.

MySchool

