



## GROOTE SCHUUR HIGH SCHOOL

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Newsletter 19/2021  
15 December 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

We greet the last day of this school year with relief! It was an eventful and hugely challenging year where uncertainty

was the only constant. We managed to navigate the uncertainty without once having to suspend the school programme, while maintaining daily attendance for all grades.

Thank you for helping us achieve such a desirable outcome. Our prayers, as per Newsletter 1/2021 were answered!

### Staff News

Mr Norval Geldenhuys, retired (2015) Deputy Principal, passed away suddenly on 6 December. We convey our sincerest condolences to the Geldenhuys family and the generations of Groote Schuurders whom he taught Mathematics or coached in Sport during his illustrious career as educator, Deputy Principal and Acting Principal.

Mrs Robynne Bloemstein welcomed their second daughter on 8 December, the last addition to our GSHS family in an unusual baby boom year! All babies are healthy and doing well.

The following staff are leaving: Mrs Kay Adriaanse (Mathematics), Mr Graham Bright (Geography), Ms Sarah Meek (Life Sciences), Mr Thabo Malatji (Mathematics), Ms Jomé Beukes (Afrikaans), Ms Landisiwe Binza (social work), and Mrs Brenda Vogt (Monorgan

House matron). During their season with us, they contributed with selfless conviction. We appreciate their service to our school community. We wish them the very best as they start their new season.

All vacancies have been filled and we start the new year with a full staff compliment.

### Promotion Reports

Your child's report was emailed today. We are pleased with the results, although in Gr. 8 and 9 several learners were condoned in up to two subjects, and several also required a Mathematics condonation. Learners who benefited from condonations will be required to participate in a bridging programme. This programme will be compulsory until we see meaningful progress. Parents are expected to assist and support this programme by making the required travel arrangements.

All learners of Gr. 8 to 11 have successfully completed the academic year and are promoted to the next grade! Congratulations!

Top academic achievers will be announced at an Awards Assembly scheduled for Friday 21 January. Bursary recipients will also be announced.

### Plans for 2022

We will employ all our experience and expertise of managing a school during COVID-19 times. We recognise that it will remain hugely challenging, however we believe that the lessons learnt over months will stand us in good stead.

☞ We continue with daily attendance for all learners. The staggered start and end to the school day have been abandoned as it did not assist with social distancing.



Candle of Hope

*Our vision of success:*

*GSHS learners are accountable, well-balanced people striving for academic excellence, while living lives of significance and service.*

However, breaks will be staggered (GET and FET).

- ☞ School starts at 08h00 and ends at 15h25 Monday to Thursday and 12h30 on Friday.
- ☞ Grade sport resumes. Where possible, inter schools matches may be fixture.
- ☞ Performing Arts resumes and several appearances have been scheduled.
- ☞ Compulsory bridging programme starts in Week 1;
- ☞ The school timetable will be published on the school's website and in English class groups on 17 January 2022.

### Challenges in 2021

We experienced several challenges that were unusual at our school pre-COVID lockdown.

These were some of the behaviours we encountered:

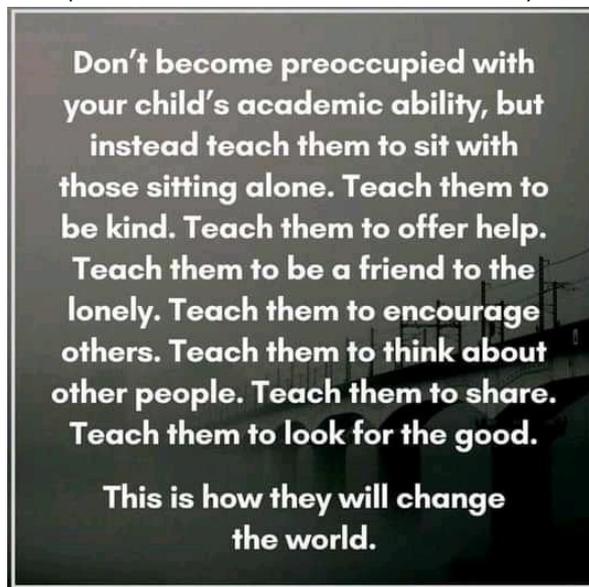
- Social media posts in violation of the POPI Act. We experienced cyber bullying, inappropriate and degrading posts – some parading in school uniform;
- Disregard for the Learner Code of Conduct;
- Learners' intolerance of each other, often leading to outbursts of anger;
- Uncourteous conduct towards staff and peers;
- Incorrect dress – hoodies, beanies, tracksuit tops, none regulation shoes, etc.
- Late submission of assignments and projects.

The Disciplinary Committee of the SGB had an unusually busy year having to attend to these challenges. They are finalizing applications for expulsion for some of the more serious violations. These challenges will miraculously disappear in 2022. We are determined, though, to return our school to the eight core values that state who we are:

**Respect    Accountability**  
**Excellence**  
**Service        Belonging**  
**Stewardship    Growth    Integrity**

We continue our practice of restorative discipline. Parents should note, though, that

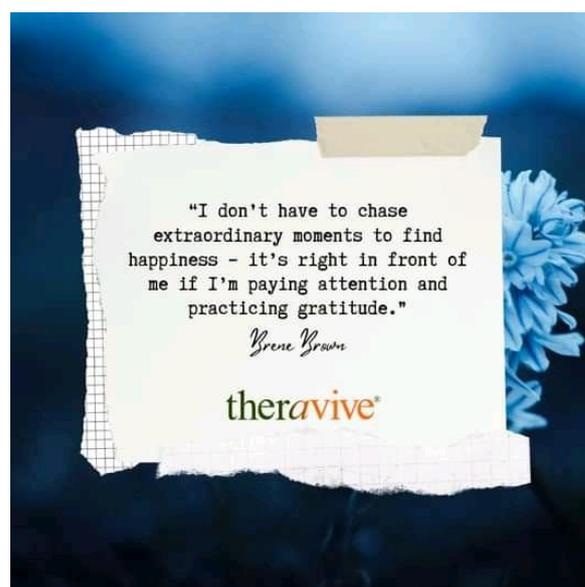
where restoration is not achieved and a learner's behavior remains undesirable, the ultimate sanction of expulsion will be instituted. We need to arrest the nonsense and spend our energy and resources on curriculum delivery in the main, and the many activities and programmes that underpin successful curriculum delivery.



We wish all Christian families a blessed Christmas.

May 2022 bring much happiness and success! Safe Holidays!

### Food for thought



Stay Blessed!  
Marius Ehrenreich