



GROOTE SCHUUR HIGH SCHOOL

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Newsletter 02/2024
12 March 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians

A short and busy first term is in its ninth week – there are a mere six days to the start of the autumn break. Although short, it was a term of several firsts: a first Gr. 8 campout; a first athletics derby against our winter sport rival, President HS; Blended learning in Gr. 8 and 10; Grade 8 & 9 Reflective Learning – English; Elevate Education workshops for Gr. 8 and 10, and online sessions open to all parents.

We are proud of our school's achievements and the high level of learner participation.

Schools Evaluation Authority (SEA)

A school evaluation was conducted by 4 evaluators from the SEA who spent two days (26 and 27 February) at school. The evaluators conducted this evaluation under section 11 D (4) of the Western Cape Provincial School Education Amendment Act of 2018.

The evaluators met with the principal, the School Management Team (SMT), subject leaders, teaching and non-teaching members of staff, parents and learners from all grades. Evaluators also met with representatives of the School Governing Body.

Evaluators visited more than 95% of all teachers and subjects, and they reviewed samples of learners' work.

Evaluators also observed learners' behaviour at social times, during formal tuition and also when learners moved around the school campus between periods.

Evaluators considered the views of the principal, SMT, SGB, Staff, parents and learners who responded to the respective online surveys. One hundred and sixty parents completed the online survey.

This was the most rigorous and thorough evaluation that the school had undergone.

The Draft School Evaluation Report gives the school an overall performance rating of **GOOD**. The school humbly receives this rating, and will

endeavour to embark on a journey from Good to Outstanding, starting now. The SMT, Staff and soon-to-be-elected SGB will work with the most insightful recommendations in the report in order to effect the necessary improvement.

The final report will be unpacked and shared over time in the appropriate forums. Parents are required to undertake this journey with staff and learners.

SGB Elections

The parent elections are scheduled for Thursday, 14 March. This is an e-election. Parents will receive an sms and/or email notification of the process. Voting starts at 7h00 and ends at 18h00.

Eight candidates have been duly nominated. You may vote for seven of the eight candidates. Please use this link to meet your candidates.

https://youtu.be/7Voq_Zlug6U

Term 1 Assessments

Formal assessments were completed today. Term reports will be emailed to parents on Friday 5 April. This will be the first report processed with the new administrative software, and we need to run a battery of checks to ensure the correctness of the reports.

Details of the parent-teacher-learner conferences (intervention meetings) will be announced at the start of the new term.

Learner Attendance

We are deeply concerned about the large number of learners who seek permission to leave early every day. Parents need to be clear on the process:

- When learners arrive sick in the morning, parents should give a note at the start of the day to request an early departure to, e.g. see a doctor
- When learners were not unwell in the morning, and they request to leave during the day, such permission will be on the grade head's assessment of the learner's condition. **No** is a perfectly legitimate answer and it will be respected.

Educators are working to the last day (period 4 on Wednesday the 20th of March) and we will finish strongly. We expect parents to support quality

Our vision of success:

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

learning, and for this to happen learners need to be present.

Focus on FAITH

The Lenten period is in its fourth week. This is a particularly significant and important period in the Christian faith when the words of the cross are revisited and commemorated. It is a period of contemplation that culminates in the celebration of Easter.

The holy month of Ramadhan commenced with the sighting of the crescent moon on Monday evening. This month is observed with strict fasting from dawn till sunset. Eid al-Fitr commemorates the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

We wish these faith communities peace, strength and spiritual renewal during these important times. May families and communities also find healing and during this time.

The traditional Easter service will be held in the Nassau Auditorium on Wednesday, 20 March from 7h30 to 8h30. Learners and parents are invited.

2024 Golf Day

The 2nd edition of the Scholarship Golf Day was a resounding success. The event, which was held at the Rondebosch Golf Course, was very well supported by corporates and the golfing community. GSHS also sported a fourball with three past pupils and a current Gr. 11 learner. Greater parent participation would be encouraged for future events. The GSHS Scholarship Fund received an important boost with this event.

We wish to acknowledge the major sponsors of this event: *Standard Bank, Varsity College, Nashua, CTC Sports, Digicape, Sea Point Hire, TopInc, Feedem, Fab-u-pet, BDV Platinum and PSG.*

Human Rights Month

Learner leaders are focusing their attentions on bringing awareness and education to the very important topics of Human Rights and Gender Based Violence. They address these in their talks at school assemblies and in homerooms. It is important, though, that families, through their discourse, also contribute to our children's understanding and appreciation of human rights, and their developing a deep respect for their and others' basic rights.

This focus will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

Early Closures

School closes at 13h00 on 20 March. This is to accommodate a very busy last day of term. School starts at 8h30 and learners will have 4 periods.

On 3 April (first day of Term 2) Gr. 8 to 11 learners will dismiss at 13h00. Staff and Gr. 12 learners will have an Indaba from 13h15 till 15h15. This Indaba aims to facilitate a realignment of focus and our objectives for the remainder of the year. The Class

of 2024 has the potential to leave a profound legacy, however much work needs to be done in order to achieve that.

Important Dates

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|-------|----|---|
| March | 14 | SGB e-elections starting at 7h00
Khanya Cultural Evening (see poster) |
| | 16 | Battle of the Bands at WBHS |
| | 20 | Easter Service at 7h30
School starts at 8h30
Blisters for Bread Gr. 8
Learners dismiss at 13h00 (P1 – P4)
Weibelfeldschule Partnership
Exchange arrives
School closes for Term 1
Gr. 12 Marine Sciences camp
Gr. 12 Economics Autumn camp |
| | 21 | <i>Human Rights Day</i> |
| April | 03 | Schools reopen
Gr. 12 learners and staff Indaba |
| | 05 | Term 1 reports emailed to parents |

Food for thought

“We should measure the prosperity of a nation not by the number of millionaires, but by the absence of poverty, the prevalence of health, the efficiency of the public schools, and the number of people who can and do read worthwhile books.”

~ W. E. B. Du Bois



Stay Blessed!
Marius Ehrenreich

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Khanya Cultural Evening '24

Zithande !!

14th March '24
School Hall
5:30pm - 21:00pm
Dress Code : School Unifrom

TICKETS
Scholars : R20
Adults :R40

Tuckshop will be available


