



GROOTE SCHUUR HIGH SCHOOL

76 Palmyra Road, Newlands, 7700
Tel: +27 21 674 2165 Fax: +27 21 671 9436 e-mail: sysop@gshs.co.za

www.gshs.co.za

Newsletter 01/2023
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Dear Parents and Guardians

Best wishes to you and your family for a prosperous and successful year. It is once again time for the school run, and books, lockers, uniforms, sport, and all those things that make school so exciting, yet demanding. Our wish for you is that the demands of school will be manageable and enjoyable, and that your child(ren) will flourish in their development.

We welcome all our new families to GSHS. The orientation programme for 213 Gr. 8s started today. Welcome on board! They are bound to have some interesting stories about their day. We are looking forward to have the full complement of learners back tomorrow. Welcome back!

Families who participate in the life of the school enjoy the fellowship and support of one another. We invite all new families to participate fully and experience the camaraderie that exists. Our total enrolment increased from 1003 to 1027.

Staff News

The following members joined Team GSHS:

Seated from the left: Amber Mulder (Mathematics), Iyra Maharaj (Life Sciences), Audrey Ncube (Asst. Bursar), Tyla Lawrence



(Admissions). Standing from the left: Janay Snyman (Physical Sciences), Andisiwe Somdaka (Mathematics), Chris Williamson (Afrikaans FAL, LO), Olwethu Katase (Dance), Mikhayla Dennis (Life Sciences), Carla Nassen (Afrikaans FAL, LO), Katlego Moncho (Dramatic Arts), and Jamie Lawrence (Mathematical Literacy, LO).

We welcome them to the family and wish them a fulfilling tenure.

Mandarin is once again well-staffed. Five teachers have joined/will be joining our team. Mandarin will be taught to all Gr. 8s and 9s, and it is an elective from Gr. 10 to 12. The Mandarin teachers will be introduced in the next newsletter.

Parent and Learner Meetings

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Gr. 12 – Thursday, 19 January

Gr. 9 – Tuesday, 24 January

Gr. 11 – Wednesday, 25 January

Gr. 10 – Thursday, 26 January

Meetings start at 18h30 and will go ahead even in the event of loadshedding. The programme will include the handing out of 2022 academic awards.

Gr. 8 – Wednesday, 1 February. This meeting also starts at 18h30.

Cricket at the NCG

The Newlands Cricket Ground has a busy cricket season with SA20 matches currently taking place. February sees the NCG hosting several T20 matches in the Women's Cricket World Cup. Two SA20 matches and several World Cup matches have an impact on our school programme.

The school is contracted to provide parking to the NCG precinct and the cricketing public. This renders our sports fields unavailable for collecting learners. We are working closely with stadium management and the traffic authorities to ensure everyone's safety firstly, and also the smooth flow of traffic. Please note the arrangements that will apply tomorrow:

Our vision of success:

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

Learners need to be dropped and fetched from the parking area in front of the school, therefore parents would enter at the main entrance and safely drop the learner before exiting onto Palmyra Road. The parking area is not adequate for parents to park and wait – it is a drive-through facility only to drop off or collect. Staff will be parking off-road so that learners' safety can be ensured. Parents are requested to cooperate with the school's safety staff and traffic officials.

Please note that Gr. 8 learners will dismiss at 14h30 on Wednesday and Thursday, and other grades at the usual time of 15h25.

Textbooks and Lockers

Textbooks will be issued from tomorrow. Learners need to sign individually for all textbooks, and these signed forms will provide a paper trail for quarterly school and departmental audits. This is an attempt to reduce textbook losses and premature depreciation. **Our school spent in excess of R100 000 on top-up textbooks for this year.**

Lockers will be allocated and keys issued from Thursday. Requests and payment for lockers should be finalised by Thursday.

Athletics Meeting

The Interhouse athletics competition is on Friday, 27 January. The four houses will be preparing from tomorrow and we are looking forward to their *gees-building* activities. We are looking forward to an exciting day of athletics. The programme starts at 08h30 and concludes at 12h30. Learners will only be allowed to leave at 12h30.

Learners need to wear the appropriate dress. Only GSHS sports apparel will be allowed. Learners who wear any other clothing will spend the day in class under supervision of a staff member. Parents are to ensure that learners do not bring any prohibited substances or items.

We encourage parent and alumni attendance. It is important, though, to follow the guidelines below:

- Parents and alumni park at school. No parking is allowed at Vredenhof Sports Field;
- All learners and parents enter through the Palmyra gate. Learners will be screened.
- Visitors may be screened;
- Parents may place their chairs/gazebos in areas indicated by staff. Learners sit in the pavilion; and
- The tuckshop will sell delectable refreshments, and Grades will also have stalls.

Food for thought



Stay Blessed!
Marius Ehrenreich