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Newsletter 08/2023
12 July 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians

With a few days of the winter break remaining, we are preparing for the Third term. Kindly diarise the important information contained in this newsletter.

Staff News
Ms Niché Andrews is returning from maternity leave.

Academic Intervention
Parents had opportunity to study and discuss their children's mid-year reports. At intervention meetings held at the start of Term 2, parents and teachers decided on a specific course of intervention to improve learners' academic output. If the desired improvements are not yet evident, then appropriate attention, support and application need to be given. Grade Heads will schedule specific intervention meetings as required.



Grade Parent Meetings
Except for the Gr. 12 Parents meeting, all other grade meeting will be conducted on MS Teams. Links to the online meetings will be emailed on the morning of each meeting. Online meetings will be recorded. All meetings will start promptly at 18h30.
18/07 - Gr. 12 in the school hall
19/07 - Gr. 11
20/07 - Gr. 9
24/07 - Gr. 10
26/07 - Gr. 8
All meetings will proceed despite the possibility of loadshedding. We request parents to adhere to online meeting protocol – mute devices and switch off cameras. Questions/comments may be posted in the chatbox.

Textbooks
Textbook provisioning takes a considerable slice the WCED and school's annual budgets. Termly audits reveal textbook usage, and we are concerned about the lack of care that some learners display. Since you are co-responsible for your child's textbooks, we advise that you, too, do regular checks. We hope to reduce the spend on replacement books in the coming years as we transition to e-books.

Sport
Term 3 will be busy with 3 scheduled sports derbies as follows:
29/07 - JG Meiring HS away
12/08 - Zwaanswyk HS home (inaugural derby)
19/08 - President HS away.
We welcome Grade 8 families to the exciting derby *gees* – lots of hype, camaraderie, sportsmanship and brand pride. An important note for all parents: Learners must wear their winter school uniform to derbies. The Appearance Policy will be strictly applied. GSHS parents and learners will promote fair play and sportsmanship. Disagreements with match officials should be forwarded to the Sports Department and not addressed with match officials. Our children observe us and learn from us all the time.

Epicentre Research
We partnered with Epicentre Research who has been providing medical assistance during home sports matches. The relationship has grown from them first offering first-aid support at a 2022 derby. Currently, Epicentre is represented at nearly all our home matches. In addition, Epicentre also offered medical supplies valued at R6267.50 to stock first-aid kits on campus and also at Monorgan House. Epicentre Research has two decades of experience in conducting skilled health interventions to combat epidemics and has branches located in Durban, Johannesburg, and Cape Town.

Learner behaviour

Certain learner behaviours demanded considerable time from the SGB and SMT (School Management Team) during the latter weeks of Term 2. Among these were late-coming, learner appearance, assessment irregularities, graffiti on desks, and cyber bullying (among GET learners). Cape Town's peak traffic volumes are difficult to negotiate, and at times the roads grind to a halt. All of society is affected by this situation. Some families, however, are habitual late-comers. We may, in future, exclude learners from a lesson for which they arrive late, as late arrivals are disruptive to the learning process.

Many desks had to be repainted to remove graffiti that was scribbled since January. This was wasteful expenditure.

Parents are reminded that they remain legally responsible for the cellphones that their children use. It is in their best interest to ensure that cellphone usage does not infringe on others' privacy or violate any current legislation. Let us keep our children safe.

Capital Expenditure

The SGB budgeted for important and most needed capital expenditure projects. A modern intercom system is being installed. Phase 1 of the surveillance system (cameras) is in place. This installation adds significantly to our school's security. Phase 2 will add eight more outside cameras.

Loadshedding has a massive impact on our country and society, and education is not being spared. The current solar installation, installed in 2019, is grid-tied. Therefore, when the grid has loadshedding, the solar installation cannot generate energy. The SGB resolved to install an additional 50kW hybrid solar system. This installation will not only significantly reduce the overall cost of electricity – the school will remain operational during loadshedding.

School Diary

July

18 U18 rugby vs Hayleybury (UK)
21 Grade 11 Winter Ball
29 Gr. 8 High Tea

August

02 to 05 Musical production
24 to 26 Gr. 11 Fashion Show
30 Gr. 8 Art, Dance, Music
31 Gr. 9 Art, Dance, Music

September

1 Gr. 10 – 12 Art and Music

Weibelfeldschule Partnership

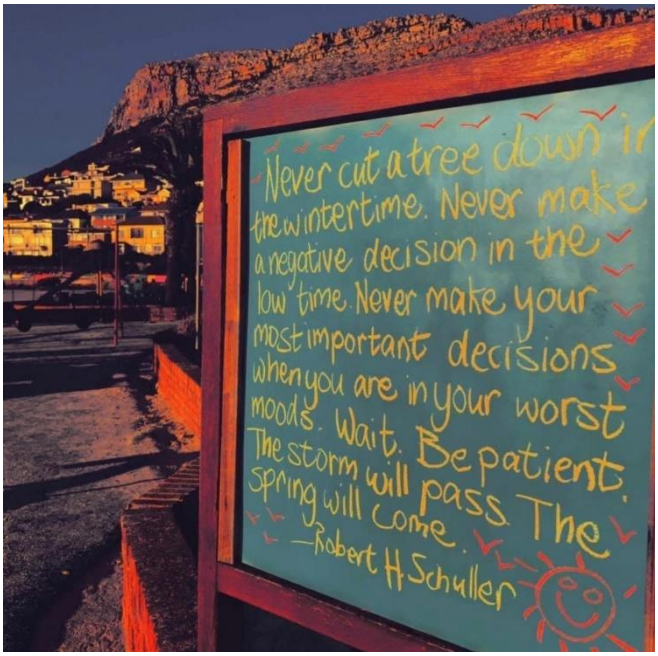
Mr Kronenberg and Ms Lawrence and 11 learners embarked on a first visit to our German partner school since 2019. The thirteen-day visit was a most successful one and the group returned last Sunday having made many friends and memories.



2024 Admissions

All 210 places for Gr. 8 in 2024 are filled.

Food for thought



Stay Blessed!
Marius Ehrenreich