

VG news

13 February 2009, Volume 7 # 3

Our Vision: At VGHS we support and respect one another in a safe and happy environment. Our broad spectrum of activities and facilities enriches all, as we strive for excellence.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mrs Moodie (one of our loyal hostel laundry workers) has had another great grandchild, the grandson of her daughter, Mrs Trollip (without whom the hostel kitchens would be the poorer).

ACADEMIC ACTION

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Mrs Retief

It's up an running!

Do you have an academic problem? Need assistance? Join a tutor group!

Details available on the notice board next to the school library. All are welcome to join the support programme.

Be proactive. Be your best.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

Well done to **Keri Werth** on passing her Gr 3 Flute examination with distinction (Royal Schools of Music). **Alisa Lochner** passed her Gr 4 Piano examination.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The group met in Mrs S's office this week and shared interesting opinions, from a United African States to whether Cope is really our hope.

Please join us next week when we focus on economics: what impact the world economic crises has, not only on South Africa, but on VGHS. You'll be welcome to ask any questions, have your say, on the VGHS budget.

GR 11 & 12 FORMAL SOCIAL

Thanks to the girls and the staff for a well-run, good evening (even with the double date problem...). Our girls looked lovely and the committees involved gave of their best. Very impressive.

VARIETY CONCERT

Ms Hayes

All girls are invited to audition for the variety concert. Auditions will be this Wednesday at 2.30 and 3.30. Please sign up on the lists in Ms Hayes's corridor and come prepared with talent and enthusiasm. Please also bring homework to keep you amused while others audition.

THE AMAZING 'OTHER' SHOW

Ms Hayes

Any senior girls wishing to attend a show at Rhodes which challenges prejudice in a controversial way may sign up on Ms Hayes' door for this show. She can only take 20 girls. The show is free but you will be asked to do 30 mins of community service in return. Drama girls are strongly encouraged to attend. Parents/guardians should be aware that this show is controversial and deals with emotive issues and at times foul language is used. They should not allow their daughters/wards to attend if they are uncomfortable with this idea.

The show will be at the Rhodes University Theatre at 7pm on Monday (16th) but we need to be seated by 18:45. Day girls must be dropped at the theatre and will have to phone to be fetched as, due to the panel discussion after the show, the closing time cannot be anticipated. Altogether the show should last about one hour with the maximum time being an hour and a half. (Girls can make prior arrangements to use Ms Hayes' phone if necessary).

SELFLESS SERVICE

PRESIDENT'S AWARD PROGRAMME

The following girls received Certificates of Recognition for serving on the 2008 Grahamstown Youth Committee: **Kelsey Smailes, Shannon Thurston, Rebecca Manning.**

BLOOD DONATION

Taryn Julie, Aluta Mleni, Zola Nomano, Sinalo Matyala, Amahle Mtshabe, Allison Wessels, Shannon Thurston, Olwethu Bunu and Lisa-Claire Solomon participated in the Peer Promotion Project of the South African Blood Donation Service. They received certificates in recognition.

SPORT MATTERS

SPORTS DAY (comprising Games Day and Athletics)

Mr Stoloff

Our new three day event went very successfully with many good performances, much spirit and many sore muscles (*and lots of hard work by the staff!*).

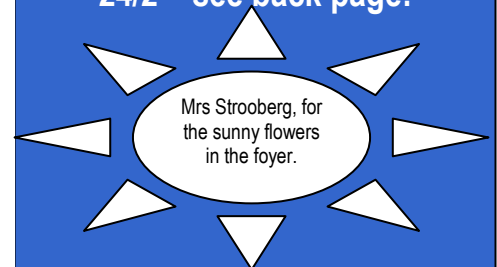
Athletics Results:

Winning House	Dorset
Open Victrix Ludorum	Danica Coetsee
U16 Victrix Ludorum	Cassie Lister
U14 Victrix Ludorum	Shanice Featherstone

COMING UP

13/2 Gr 9-11 New Girls' Stay-awake
17/2 SGB Meeting at 17:00
19/2 Start of Leave-Out weekend, after all school and hostel commitments have been met. Boarders may use this time for travelling, but will have work to catch up.
Day-girls are reminded that they must be at school on Friday if they do not return their permission slips by Thursday morning. (They will also have work to catch up!)

Do not miss the talk on teenagers and technology on 24/2 – see back page!



Games Day Results:

Winning House	Dorset
Spirit	Thursford
Open Winners	Thursford
U16 Winners	Dorset
U14 Winners	Dorset

TENNIS

Mrs Smuts

Hannah Godlonton went through to the semi finals in the Albany Junior Tennis U16 Championships. She has been selected to represent Albany later this term.

Hannah and Cassie Lister won the doubles title. We wish our tennis team playing Woodridge today all of the best (not sure what they look forward to most: missing two lessons at the end of the day / Woodridge / McDonalds?)

SWIMATHON

Wow!

But you will have to wait for the Leave-Out newsletter...

JUST GO FOR IT!

GR 10s: GROUNDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Mrs Retief

Gr 10s are welcome to apply for the Grounds and Buildings Committee, by 18 February 2009. This is what it's all about:

- ✓ Four focus areas: grounds and gardens, sports facilities, inside school, energy and litter.
- ✓ Organize work squads to tidy grounds
- ✓ Put benches in correct areas

- ✓ Make suggestions about tidying areas / putting in plants, etc
- ✓ Organize service to the school on Proudly VG Day (together with the Founders organizer)
- ✓ Check bathrooms regularly
- ✓ Being involved with 'makeovers' when necessary
- ✓ Create awareness of buildings in assembly, e.g. by putting up posters on the history, beauty, care of our buildings, etc
- ✓ Grow awareness of electricity and water saving and do regular checks
- ✓ Fix things or report what needs fixing.

We look forward to receiving your applications!

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The Leave-Out VG News is meant to be a reflection on the events of the full VG programme of the preceding weeks. Ditto the end of term newsletter.

All leaders of societies, clubs, sports, service groups, etc are expected to contribute. Kindly submit contributions by first break on Monday, 16/2/09. No submission, no going home until done...

VERBAL

Photojourn's Verbal has been spotted... Well done to the team.

DO NOT MISS!

TEENAGERS AND TECHNOLOGY

Are you as a teenager worried about personal information, photographs, your secrets being sent via e-mail, Mixit, the internet, cell phones? Are you in control of incriminating photographs taken as a joke?

Are you as an adult aware of what is happening? Do you understand what is happening in the technological lives of your daughter / ward / learner and their friends?

VG Learners and teachers from all schools, please join us on 24/2 at 14:30 in the MG Richardson Hall.

Parents and interested adults, please join the VG Management Team and the PTPA at 18:30 on the 24th.

(R10.00 entry fee for all adults).

Until next week, kind regards!

Madeline Schoeman

PS Gr 8s and 9s, your quiz is imminent, as in very soon! Remember to read your newsletters carefully. Big prizes...

Video games help to 'develop crucial skills' for kids, says EU

BRUSSELS – Video games can be good for children, encouraging creativity and co-operation, a European Union report concluded yesterday.

In conclusions that may either surprise or reassure parents, the study by the European Parliament's consumer protection committee found a number of benefits and no definitive link to violent behaviour.

"Video games are in most cases not dangerous and can even contribute to the development of important skills," said Dutch MEP Toine Manders, who drafted the report. "(They stimulate) learning of facts and skills such as strategic reflection, creativity, co-operation and a sense of innovation."

The report urged EU members to strengthen an existing voluntary code rating games by content.

Total revenues from the video gaming sector amounted to more than €7-billion (R87,7-billion) last year, the report said.

The EU report noted not all games are appropriate for children, acknowledging violence in some could "stimulate" violent behaviour in specific situations, but it stressed parental involvement by proposing development of a "red button" to allow content and duration control.

It further challenged received wisdom that games were chiefly for children, quoting statistics that the average age of the European gamer was 33. – Reuters

THE HERALD
12/2/09

P	A	T
I	T	L
P	E	A

with a hyphen, apostrophe or initial capital letter.

Today's Target: 15 words, good; 22 words, very good; 30 words (or more), excellent. Solution tomorrow.

THE LIGHT SIDE

A TINY heart-shaped island in the Adriatic has become a holiday hit for Valentine's Day after being discovered on Google Earth.

Even the owner didn't realise how perfectly heart-shaped the island off the Croatian coast was until he was swamped with requests from lovers to stay there. "It has been incredible. We think it is the most perfect heart-shaped island in the world," said Vlado Juresko. – Ananova.com

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? Each letter may be used once only and each word must contain the large letter. There must be at least one nine-letter word.

No plurals or words

Moment of silence for Australia in Super 14

JOHANNESBURG – A moment of silence will be observed before kick-off in all three of this weekend's round of South African Vodacom Super 14 matches as a mark of respect to the victims of the bush fires that have ravaged Australia with a horrific loss of life.

"No one can have been unmoved by the harrowing pictures and news of whole communities being obliterated in this frightening national disaster," said Oregon Hoskins, the president of the South African Rugby Union.

"Our hearts go out to those who have lost family members and to Australians generally who have had to come to terms with this nightmare. As Australia's partners in the Sanzar coalition South African rugby is particularly touched by this disaster and by observing a moment's silence we hope to show our respect and solidarity at this time."

The occasion may be particularly poignant in Pretoria on Saturday where the Blue Bulls host the Queensland Reds. Elsewhere the Cheetahs travel to the Lions tomorrow and the Stormers receive the Sharks in Cape Town on Saturday. – Sapa

UK visa requirement 'not linked to terror'

threat from the Islamic world does not come from any official source and bears no relation to the criteria applied under the visa waiver test which South Africa proved unable to satisfy," he said.

Boateng said Britain was a diverse society which welcomed all multi-faith societies.

PRETORIA – The new visa requirement for South Africans is not in response to a perceived threat from the Islamic world, British High Commissioner Paul Boateng said yesterday.

"The suggestion that the visa regime is a response to a perceived

Boateng's response comes after the United Kingdom on Monday announced that all South African visitors would require a visa, citing a need to "strengthen its borders" as the reason for the move.

This is set to affect about 420 000 travellers. – Sapa