

VG NEWS

13 March 2009, Volume 7 # 6

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

Congratulations to the following learners for being awarded certificates for *Senior Olimpiade vir Afrikaans Eerste Addisionele Taal*:

- Anitha Babu
- Beaulette Blom
- Alisa Lochner
- Stacey Conroy
- Ashleigh Danckwerts
- Lacey Isaacs
- Taryn Julie
- Reu-Anne Mentoor
- Lisa-Claire Solomon
- Nina Solomon

OUR PARENTS

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Congratulations to **Mr Gillam** – who has been elected as a member of the Governing Body.

PTPA

Thanks to all the parents who attended Tuesday night's AGM; and who volunteered their services for a multitude of functions. We look forward to working with you all this year.

OLD GIRLS

Good luck to **Akhira Harry** (matric 2007) who has just taken up the role of convener of the Rhodes University Schools' League Debating.

ACADEMIC ACTION

LIBRARY NEWS

Dr Hanton

Please return your overdue books and pay up! Summons will be handed out shortly! Last day for issuing this term will be Monday 23rd March. Returns only after that.

New Books this week include:

A short history of nearly everything by Bill Bryson
My Own Country by Abraham Vergheses

Keeping Faith by Jodi Picoult

Saskeia's Journey by Theresa Breslin

RCL WORKSHOP

By Aluta Mleni

The RCL attended an RCL workshop hosted by Rhodes University together with the Department of Education for all the public schools in Grahamstown this past weekend.

Prof Euvrard, and Dr Mabizela from Rhodes University addressed the RCL's on how to be effective leaders, how to make the right choices and how the best person one can be is the one they envisage and not the one the world envisions. They inspired the reps to become the difference they want to see in the world, and that true leadership comes from learning how to live the dreams that are rooted within us. The RCL reps were also addressed by Mr Zatu and Ms Futshane from the Department of Education who went over the role of being in the RCL, the RCL constitution and the South African Schools Act. The workshop was very fruitful, the reps enjoyed themselves and I must say the RCL is now motivated and ready to make a difference. We are going to tackle this year with full force!

We would like to thank Rhodes and Mrs Smuts our teacher liaison organiser for affording us this opportunity.

SCIENCE EXPO CHANGES

Mrs Cherry-Schmidt

A workshop was held on Wednesday afternoon to go through some of the new formats for the 2009 Regional Expo. Additions to the posters and booklets include background reading and research of topics, errors and modifications one would make to the project and a process journal/laboratory notebook being kept to authenticate the project. Girls who would like to enter must read the information on display outside Lab 1 (Mrs Cherry-Schmidt's class).

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

COMING UP

13/03/09 First Aid L3 Course
VG visits Mthatha

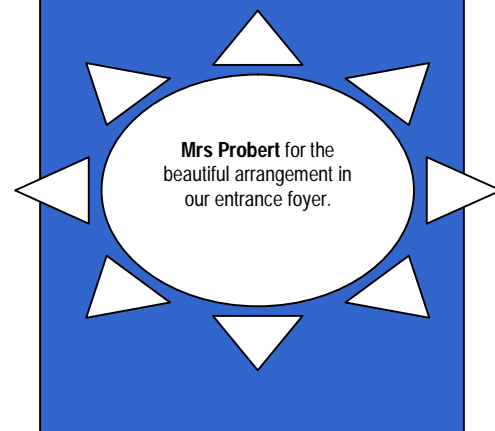
14/03/09 First Aid L3 Course

15/03/09 First Aid L3 Course

17/03/09 Finances Committee Meeting

18/03/09 Afrikaans Assembly

20/03/09 New Girls Gr 9-11 Function



DEBATING

Friday night's debate topic of "This house is against the notion that developing countries should promote the sex tourism industry" went very well, but unfortunately our girls narrowly lost to SAC.

SPORT MATTERS

RIEBEEK U/16 HOCKEY FESTIVAL

By Hannah Godlonton

On the 7th and 8th of March our U16a hockey team made its way down to Uitenhage for the Riebeeck Hockey Festival.

We drove down on Saturday full of excitement and energy despite having left Grahamstown at 5:30am. We were all changed and ready to play some serious hockey by 8:30, not put off by the fact that it was already about 30 degrees! We were bursting with team spirit and when we won our first match 5-1 against St Dominic's priory, our spirits soared and we couldn't wait for our next match. We then played Riebeeck College Invitational and even though our energy levels had dropped because of the heat, we played our best putting in as much effort as possible and managed to score at 1-0 victory. After

2007 South African Education Institution of the Year – PetroSA Proudly South African HomeGrown Awards

Circle of Excellence School – Alan Gray Orbis Foundation

lunch we had a long relaxing nap under the trees to try and boost our energy levels. Next up was Westering and we were prepared for a tough match. With our energy revived and the determination to win our last match of the day, we made a hat trick and took the game 3-0. We were very excited to be going home with three wins even if we were all exhausted.

On Sunday we were up again at 5:15 am and on the road to Uitenhage with aching bodies and less energy than the day before but just as much team spirit and determination to do our very best. We arrived in Uitenhage at 7:20 am quickly changed and warmed up ready for our first match at 8:00 am. We managed to score 2-1 victory over York High School a team unbeaten up till that point in the tournament. After a short rest we ran onto the field ready to take on the hosts of the tournament, Riebeek College. We played our hardest, ran our fastest, and gave it all we had. In the end we drew 0-0, but felt proud that we had competed as a great team in which every member had played a very important role. This has been the start of a great season for U16 hockey at VGHS we have already felt the fun of playing a very exciting team sport and with these results feel inspired to get fitter and improve further.

The team wishes to thank our coach Mr Still and our referees Dean Ferreira and Mr Ferreira of Graeme College for all their support and effort in making it possible for us to attend the hockey festival. It is experiences like this that enrich our school lives, build team spirit amongst us and keep us motivated to keep playing the game we love hockey.

A message from Mr Still : I would like to add that I was very impressed with Riebeek College's organisation, helpfulness and friendliness. I would also like to thank the team for playing so well and never giving anything less than their best. Special compliments must go to Hannah Godlonton who was a mature and capable captain. She was also one of the best players at the festival. Thank you to Cassie Lister who did an outstanding job as vice-captain and to Marné Mostert who kept everyone psyched.

FOUNDERS WEEKEND

by Ms Hayes

Founders' Weekend with all its hysteria has come and gone, and was once again highly successful thanks to the efforts of staff parents and learners. In particular we are extremely grateful for the efforts of **Mrs Coetzee**, **Dr Hodge** and **Mrs Solomon** for their beautifully cooked meal; and for the hours of preparation, presentation and cleaning put in by the functions committee. Other committees which contributed greatly to the success of the weekend were the notice boards and displays committee, the publicity committee and the old girls liaison committee; but a weekend like this relies on the work of hundreds of people all doing their "bit" so a huge thank you and congratulations to all.

Events which stood out for many girls were the star relay, and the interhouse singing competition, and the variety concert. Excerpts from Michaela's report on the interhouse singing:

"Dorset was the first on stage and impressed the judges (Sebastian Jameson and Elijah Madiba) with their range, and talented soloists. Thursford blew the crowd away with originality as their English song was written and arranged by their conductor, Namso Nyamla. Ruthville was the penultimate house to perform and the judges were extremely impressed with the quality of their diction. Graeme house was praised for their harmony which was described as being 'a cut above the rest'

After an extremely long five minute wait, the results were: Ruthville in 4th place, Dorset in third, Graeme in second place and Thursford, deservingly, in first."

After praising individual performers, Shannon Thurston concluded her Variety concert report by saying "Lastly DOD were definitely the Definition of Dance, stealing the spotlight with their latest mixes, and muscle-twisting stunts.

Once again VG shows us what it is made of, an institute bursting with talent waiting to be unleashed, waiting to conquer."

Vitima Jere felt that at the star relay Graeme house was "no doubt spurred on by Mrs Fourie's appearance". Aluta Mleni said that "the race around the human star was very intense," but that Graeme house girls feel that the trophy belongs to them. As she acknowledged, "Undoubtedly for this year it does!"

The Friday night sundowners and dinner was a delightful evening. Thank you to all the parents who came to support their daughters/wards (it would have been fabulous to have even more parents at this function) P.S. watch out for some of our upcoming talent – that amazing operatic voice did really belong to a grade 9 learner! – Well done Sisipho Nyamela.

At the formal assembly, Candice Spengler (nee Reed), who was head girl 10 years ago, spoke to the current pupils on the importance of being themselves in a challenging world. She used, as the basis for her speech, an ee cummings quote "to be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best day and night to make you everybody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting." She also used characters from "Mona Lisa Smile" to suggest the archetypal stages in this fight, highlighting, in particular, the Dominating Woman, the Desolate Woman, and the Alluring Woman. Using anecdotes from her own life she encouraged the girls to move through dominating and desolate and discover their inner allure.

The memorial service was a particularly moving one this year as we paid tribute to Anelisa Manona who is dearly missed by her friends.

The Grahamstown Old Girls' Union hosted a tea to which matriculants, staff and old girls were invited. This delightful occasion was made all the more

special by the new look quad complete with flowering Iceberg roses and the new doors leading to the English classrooms.

Both 10 and 30 year reunions were timed to coincide with the Founders' Weekend, and old girls from around the country gathered to catch up more personally than on Facebook. The oldest old girl (and former staff member) Was **Muriel Wood** who matriculated in 1945!

The hockey match against the Old Girls proved conclusively that skill outweighs youth with the final tally being 4-1 in favour of the old girls. According to Mieke Strooberg "The present VG girls (who have not yet touched a hockey stick this year) were horrified when they discovered that a few of the "Not-so-old girls" arrived to play against them. One of whom is a springbok hockey player, **Thando Zono**." But she is confident that Mr Schmidt's fitness "is definitely paying off" (Imagine what the score might have been otherwise!)

The weekend was rounded off with a steak braai complete with jumping castle for toddlers (Although to be honest, the only people I saw jumping were Mrs Spengler and Ms Farquhar!)

Thank you to all the staff for the hours of work that went into making this weekend a success.

JUST GO FOR IT!

From the Spirit Committee

Be delighted at the prospect of a new day. A fresh try, one more start with perhaps a bit of magic waiting somewhere behind the morning.
JB Priestly

