

# Vg news

26 April 2007 Volume 5 No 3

**For Freedom Day, 27 April 2007:  
"Perhaps the long walk to freedom knows  
no final destination" -  
Breyten Breytenbach**

## STARS

- o Tandelwethu Zono on being selected to represent EP U18 Interprovincial tennis tournament in Bloemfontein.
- o Colours and Half Colours have been awarded to the following girls:  
Amandla Ludidi, Half Colours for Athletics, Bianca Binneman, Cultural Full Colours, Laura Wentworth Cultural Half Colours, Thandelwethu Zono, re-award Colours for Tennis.
- o Our Scifest Quiz team consisting of Nicola Sewry, Laura Wentworth & Julie Dixon came third in the finals of the Senior Scifest Quiz. They lost to Graeme (2<sup>nd</sup>) with Union winning. Beat SAC (4) and many others who took part in the Preliminary round. Very proud of you!
- o The Top 10 English students who were invited to accompany Ms McCrindle and Ms Hayes to the Shakespeare Talk. Megan Yendall, Laura Wentworth and Rosa Brandt ended up going.
- o Nandi Moyake for her singing performance during assembly
- o Mrs Mostert for the regular, beautiful flowers in the foyer.
- o Thanks to Ms Cherie for compiling the end of term 1 newsletter
- o The PTPA for allocating money for the air conditioner in the Green Computer Lab (to prevent the computers from overheating).
- o Class captains for term 2:

Gr	Captain	Vice Captain
8/D	Hannah Godlonton	Awongwa Tinta
8/G	Zikhona Ggamana	Anela Mdiza
8/R	Liyabona Luthuli	Khanyisile Mahlali
8/T	Ayabulela Gobe	Sinesipho Kwatssha
9/D	Asanda Tembeni	Simone Coetsee
9/G	Kuhle Mxakaza	Anltha Babu
9/R	Megan Mackey	Sandisiwe Baart
9/T	Khanyisa Mabindla	Tando Mdleleni
10/1	Azola Ralo	Mieke Strooberg
10/2	Lacy Isaacs	Nangamsi Sigula
10/3	Zola Nombona	Nqabakazi Matikinca
11/1	Nozuko Khuhlane	Namhla Mzuku
11/2	Vuyo Mashiya	Roxi Viera
11/3	Sesona Myosana	Noxolo Bedeza
12/1	Sinethemba Roxo	Marcia Royi
12/2	Thabisa Hempu	Angela Berriman
12/3	Belinda Xonxa	Thina Mnonopi

## ACADEMICS

Thanks to all the parents who came to the report discussion on the first day of the term – some from as far as Pretoria.

### THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT COMMITTEE

*By Mrs Retief*

The 9 members on the committee are all involved in tutoring in specific subjects this term. The following subjects are offered: English network, Chemistry, Physics, Biology (Natural Science), Accounting, Maths, Geography (Social Sciences), Xhosa, Afrikaans. Details of days, times and venues appear on the Academic notice board next to the school library.

I thank the tutors for their dedication to a VG that is academically strong (*and we thank Mrs Retief for her organization*).



*Mrs Lois Bassett, headgirl of 1945 and Akhira Harry reminiscing in the passages. Mrs Bassett is not only one of our most loyal and active Old Girls in Johannesburg, but she is also on first-name terms with the likes of Ryk Neetling and Roland Schoeman as she is one of the stalwarts of South African Swimming*

### LAST WEEK OF TERM 2, 2007

During the last week of term 2 our hostels will be closed for festival fundraising and we will be hard at work cleaning the inside of the school, for the same reason. (Please check your 2007 Important Dates document) for when what is happening – boarders may go home on 24/6). Every grade will be given assignments (see below) and the library and computer labs will be open during that time, should any learner want to do research for her assignments.

### GRADE 10 & 11 CAREER SHADOWING

Details appeared in the end of term 1 newsletter.

### GR 9 ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECT

As part of Economic and Management Science this project will be set for the last week of the term, to be handed in on the first day of term 3. More details to follow.

### GRADE 8 PROJECT WEEK

During the last week of this term the Grade 8s will be doing a series of tasks at home. The focus will be on the environment. We thought that this would be a good opportunity for parents/guardians to be involved in a small way in their daughter/ward's school work. Please help her as much as possible with the discussion tasks that involve parents/guardians. She will also ask you to fill in a simple rubric (marking grid) for one task. We hope this is a meaningful experience for you all and thank you in advance for your assistance. (The English Department will go through the instructions with the girls before they leave school).

### GR 12 ASSIGNMENTS

Gr 12s will not be left out! Every subject department will set tasks for that period (but Mr Mkhize and Mrs Babu will check that they will survive a not too arduous load, depending on the Gr 12s' June exam performance...)

### AFRIKAANS TOUR TO KNYSNA

The Gr 12 Afrikaans First Language girls, with Miss Du Preez, is off to Knysna for a weekend of boating, "camping" and lots of fun while they (hopefully) learn more about one of their setwork books, *Kringe in die Bos*.

## CO-CURRICULARS

### CIA

*By Mrs Relief*

For term 2 the committee has planned some interesting sessions. We mention a few to entice girls to attend:

- Words of Wisdom – what you say is what you get
  - Scrapbooking
  - Your fragrance
- and many more ...  
see you there!

### DEBATING

*By Akhira Harry*

We have yet to take part in an inter-schools debate, but have lots planned for this term. Next week, a senior team will be debating against a Graeme College team, with the motion LEGALISE THE SALE OF HUMAN ORGANS.

At the end of last term a team, consisting of Nathalia, Namhla and Nicola, participated in a 'mini-league' held by St Andrews College. They took part in four debates, with various topics. They were placed fourth at the end of the tournament.

We are looking forward to a busy, exciting and challenging term.

### INTERACT

*By Rose Hurford*

This year started off with a huge bang, which saw VG's interact Club collaborating with four other local schools (DSG, Kingswood, Graeme & Mary Waters) in a joint raffle to raise a huge amount that would be donated towards the Settlers Hospital wing.

The VG girls reacted enthusiastically and saw nearly 700 tickets sold. VG also raised the most money (over R2000) in this joint venture. Together all five schools raised over R10 000 which was truly amazing! This collaboration gave us much exposure and a chance to meet fellow local interacters.

To end the raffle we held a talent show, wherein which at least two performers from each school took part. The prizes were also amazing. A big thank you to Mr Brown from Rotary and our main sponsor, Videotronic, for prizes such as a quad bike, sound system and a mp3 player.

This term however, our main fundraiser will be a dress up social with the 80s theme. This is a fundraiser we are doing as a school. With the money raised, we are hoping to buy sports equipment for Siyazama Play School. The social is on the 4<sup>th</sup> May and will cost R5.00. All are welcome but remember to come dressed up looking very bright and very big. Our Interact Club will also be doing several other smaller

fundraisers on the side to help out the community.

Currently we have a raffle (tickets are R5.00 which we are selling for Hospice. We also have a knithathon on the 8<sup>th</sup> May which will be held at St Andrews. Two teams of 5 girls are required. This is also a fundraiser for Hospice.

This term has started off very enthusiastically with many girls signing up. Our sessions at the hospital and at St Mary's has already begun. A new addition to our interact slot is the visiting of the Grannies at Brookshaw. Let's just say grannies rock! Enjoy the long weekend and don't forget to bring your 80s style outfit back with you, as the social is on the Friday after the long weekend.

### CHOIR

A few members of the junior choir performed at the Makana Freedom Festival on 20 April. Thanks for your voices and exemplary behaviour despite having to wait hours, thanks to Mr Mkhize and Ms Haarhoff, and thanks to Mrs Smuts for the transport.

### MODELLING

Hannah and Rachel Smith have been selected as finalists for a national modelling contest in Pretoria.

### HOCKEY REPORT

*By Mr Still*

Captain: Thandolwethu Zono  
Vice-Captain: Qawekazi Maqabuka  
Results from the opening day tournament:  
Beat Brandwag 1-0  
DF Malherbe 2-0  
St Dominics 2-0  
Drew Pearson 1-1  
Collegiate 1-1  
Lost Woodridge 0-3  
Goal scorers: T. Zono (4), C. Bowles (2), A Ludidi (1)

We would like to thank the Sewrys who supplied the team with some cool drinks after the matches and to all the other parents and staff who supported us this past weekend.

**Hockey has not looked healthier for many years.** We have a decent 1<sup>st</sup> team and if they work hard and play well we could achieve some good results. We also have enough girls to play in a 2<sup>nd</sup> team for the first time in 2 years. These two teams will be coached by Mr Ferreira and we look forward to all the knowledge about hockey that he can impart. The U16A and U14A teams will be coached by Mr Still and they face a steep learning curve as he drills them with the basics of good hockey and teaches them some new playing systems. The really exciting news is that we have 30 girls doing hockey with Mrs Smuts. Many of these girls

are beginners and we also have a group of matrics who have come along to enjoy themselves in their final year. We look forward to a year full of fun and hopefully some victories over our rivals.

### SQUASH REPORT

*By Nicola Sewry and Mrs Alan*

Congratulations to the following girls who have qualified to play in the second round of the Eastern Province Squash trials:

U/16

Kelly Bernard, Jessica Comley, Simoné Coetzee, Carla Mostert, Megan Riddin, Melissa Sangqu, Nicola Sewry, Shannon Thurston

U/14

Marné Mostert, Natasha Nel

Term 2 promises to be a very busy squash term with league matches being played every week by the first and second teams. We are participating in the annual Grahamstown league and hope to get even better results than last year.

We also send out good wishes to those participating in the Alan Stapleton Tournament in Port Elizabeth next week.

### NETBALL

Netball results vs Hendrik Kanise 18/04/07

U14 A won 12-1

U16 A won 14-4

U19 A won 24-4

Still going strongly, despite Ms Farquhar not being around all the time!

## MARKETING

### BATHURST SHOW – A FIRST FOR VG

*By Mrs Rademeyer*

The Bathurst show took place on Friday, 30 March until Sunday, 1 April 2007 and was a great success. It was the first time that VG had a stall and many people popped in and expressed their surprise and pleasure at seeing their alma mater being represented at the show. An old girl residing in the Caribbean Isles came to the show to meet up with her two best friends and they enthusiastically shared anecdotes from their hostel days at VG!

Akhira Harry and Beth Stevens accompanied me to the show and they proved to be very loyal, dedicated, extremely positive, highly responsible and so proud of their school. At first, upon arrival at the show on Friday morning, we were intimidated by the starkness of our stall, and seeing DSG's lovely stall adjacent to ours, wondered if our stall could ever match!

We started working – fast – as judging started at 10:30 that morning, getting tables

from the show organizers, arranging table cloths and textiles of ex- and present learners, putting up photographs and displaying other memorabilia of VG. The result, with the limited means available, was great.

Our stall looked neat, interesting and colourful. We occasionally played the VG Choir CD (sometimes too loud and our nextdoor neighbours, ceramists from J'Bay, complained!). Many visitors commented on the lovely voices and we could hear people in the passage saying "That is VG's choir!" My highlight of the show was the pigs: beautiful, dirty, pink HUGE hogs – lying lazily in the sun, sleeping.... used to the attention of inquisitive people invading their space.

*A huge thank you to Mrs Rademeyer, Beth & Akhira for being the 'face' for VG.*

#### AND MORE MARKETING...

Thank you to Mrs Nolundi Mtshabe from Mthatha and Mrs Gayi from Peddie for organizing my marketing visits to their hometowns – just after Founders' Weekend. During that week I also went to Fort Beaufort and Yellowwoods.

As always, my visit to the Johannesburg Old Girls Union AGM (10 March) was a pleasure. They are a dedicated group of Old Girls with Gonnies Leurs and Lois Bassett at the helm. The cherry on the cake was seeing Karené Welman and Chanté Norton (matric 1996) at the AGM.

**VGHS application forms for girls who will do themselves, their parents and the school proud will be available from the school office and the website from 1 June 2007.**

## A CARING, DISCIPLINED ENVIRONMENT

#### PARENTS

Most people are aware of the large number of disciplinary cases we have been dealing with since THAT last weekend of term 1. Despite the many hours, the anger and the angst, I would like to thank all the parents who have already attended meetings and hearings, some travelling hundreds and thousands of kilometers to sit down with their daughters and us in concern for the well-being of their daughters. You affirmed that we do work together in the interests of everyone at VGHS.

#### GRADE 8 PARENTS, STAFF, LEARNERS, GET-TOGETHER 19/04/07

Just a relaxed get-together to talk about school and teenagers – thanks for coming!

#### ALL SCHOOLS, PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS & PARENTS

We are delighted to announce that Gavin Keller, Educational Consultant and Principal of Sun Valley School, Cape Town is coming to Grahamstown to hold a seminar.

#### For teachers: E.Q. RICH CLASSROOMS

Emotional intelligence has to do with teaching the heart. When this is applied as a whole school policy, the results are amazing! All children begin to excel. Teachers are equipped with skills to develop CARE Classrooms (Conflict and Resolution Education).

Venue: PJ Olivier School Hall

Date: 17 May 2007

Time: 14:30-16:00

Cost: No charge

#### For Parents: PARENTING THE VULNERABLE BRAIN

In this presentation that Mr Keller calls the V-Brain, we take a trip inside the brain of a child as they move from 0-5 years, 6-10 years and 11-19 years and see how nutrition, adult behaviour, schooling, TV, pornography, divorce and alcohol affect the learning potential. We believe parents will gain a great deal from this.

Venue: PJ Olivier School Hall

Date: 17 May 2007

Time: 18:00-19:00

Cost: R10 per person (payable at the door; no booking required).

Gavin Keller is a dynamic speaker and we strongly recommend attendance.

#### CODES OF CONDUCT – SCHOOL AND HOSTEL

It's review time again! Comments and proposals must be submitted by 30 May 2007.

- Learners to go through the RCL (remember, you may only bring majority proposals, signed by your class teacher, to the table)
- Boarders and hostel staff to reach consensus before submitting to me
- Staff and parents to submit to the SGB, to me or to office@vghs.ecape.school.za

All proposals will be discussed, collated before the School Governing Body will finalize the 2007 documents (which will be valid for two years).

#### WOOLWORTHS CARD

All our parents should have received a Woolworths Card by now. Please use it at

any store with a MY SCHOOL slogan as proceeds go into our Benevolent Fund. This fund is used for anyone at VGHS who finds him/herself temporarily in dire straits.

Some participating stores are:

Bargain Books, Albany Sports, Milky Lane, Supa Quick, Engen, Wimpy, Waltons, and of course, Woolworths.

## TIMETABLING

Our Gr 8s and new girls slotted in so well this year, that we forget they may not always understand our complicated timetable! So, just to help with some of those last lessons:

Day 1: Formal Assembly

Day 2: Normal lessons

Day 3: Co-curriculars or home at 13:00 for those girls who submitted all their work during the preceding cycle. For those who did not: forced work session.

Day 4: Normal lessons

Day 5: Assembly or music or meetings

Day 6: Normal lessons

Day 7: Co-curriculars or study session

Day 8: Chat groups in term 2, Wider Education programme in term 3 and study sessions in term 4.

Day 9: Normal lessons.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Last year we looked at the possibility of bringing in an SMS system to contact our parents easily. At the time this would have cost R20 per annum, per family.

Mr Schmidt is currently investigating introducing this system. I am sure the cost would be higher now, but if you are interested and prepared to pay the amount, please let us have your name and cell number and we will contact you when we have more information.

Please submit to Mrs Heathcote at the office.

## UNIFORM

#### SCHOOL UNIFORM COMPETITION

Yes, your eyes have not deceived you...

Your brief:

Design a summer uniform that will be

- Cost effective
- Distinctively VG
- Suitable to all body types
- Suitable for our hot summers

Submit an A4 sized, colour design showing a back and front view with detailed descriptions by 20 May 2007. Please hand in at the office.

## SPORTS UNIFORM

Mrs Smuts has submitted a proposal for a nylon sports skirt to be worn for all sports (over a pair of "hot pants"). She says it will be cheaper than the present skirt, will not crease, looks fairly modern, is very comfortable and neat and will be suitable for tennis and squash as well. It's a flattering six paneled skirt with elastic at the top and 2 slits in front and at the back. Please let us have your thoughts.

(Any new uniform will go through many processes and will be phased in).

## RECENT EVENTS

### MATRIC FAREWELL



*Marcia Royi in a shocking pink dress contrasted with white. The dress was designed by her sister and made by her mother. Justine wore a beautifully coloured blue-green halterneck with sequences. Bianca wore an Elizabethan inspired deep red dress with a gold embroidered corset; she designed her dress.*

Moulin Rouge in style! The Gr 11s gave the Gr 12s an evening to remember for many years to come. Thank you to the committee, Mrs Chithambo, Ms Zamani and Ms Haarhoff. Your hard work was much appreciated.



*Just two of the fairies responsible for a magic evening: Shelley Wood and Nicola Sewry.*

## MATRIC FASHION SHOW

Again a well supported event as our Gr 12s showed off their vibrantly coloured farewell outfits. Noticeable were the many dresses designed by the girls themselves and the number of outfits made by family members. It must have been so special to have granny helping with the outfit, as in Jessica's case. The Gr 12s, under the guidance of Miss Dups, pulled off the evening with flair!

## FINANCES

### MID TERM ACCOUNTS & BURSAR'S OFFICE

To be handed to day-girls and posted to boarders' parents, mid May, as Leave-Out is just too soon! For this reason the Bursar's office will not be open in the afternoon of 1 May.

### COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

Our classes are being linked to the network, we are updating staff and publicity computer facilities AND getting a laptop for the school! But we always need more...

So, if you have a state of the art computer that you are using as a desk decoration, or even a laptop that is a mere post container, or any computer equipment that you do not have any need for, please let Mrs Heathcote know the specifications and we will gladly take it off your hands!

## TERTIARY EDUCATION

### GR 12 TERTIARY EDUCATION ENTRIES

University and other application forms will soon start pouring in. Unfortunately I cannot process them immediately, but undertake to fill them in on **Wednesdays** provided that:

- You submit them no later than teachers' time on the Wednesday
- Attach all relevant documents
- You and your parents have filled in every section, in pen. Incomplete entries will not be processed.

### REPLACEMENT REPORTS OR STATEMENTS OF SYMBOLS

The secretaries will only type a statement of symbols when you hand in a VGHS receipt for R10 to cover costs. Once again, this must be done before the application can be processed (Please allow two days for processing).

## ENTRY INTO TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

I understand that teenagers are tired of hearing that success depends on hard work, but the reality is that you are jeopardizing your future if you do not give of your best at all times. **Everything depends on your end of Gr 11 marks, and increased effort in matric...**

An example: Two weeks into the Stellenbosch University first term, an ex-SAC student lost his place in the residence because his final matric marks did not measure up to his final Gr 11 marks, despite a re-mark.

Another reality is that applicants coming from VGHS and other top schools are expected to obtain higher symbols than learners from previously disadvantaged schools – this is what Penelope Vellem and her parents were faced with earlier this year at the University of KZN.

### USEFUL RESOURCES

[www.uyf.org.za](http://www.uyf.org.za) (Umsobomvu Youth Fund – for many youth related services, including bursaries)

[info@pacecareers.com](mailto:info@pacecareers.com)

[ogilvy@mweb.co.za](mailto:ogilvy@mweb.co.za) (Careers Unlimited for Matriculants and Schol Leavers and Graduates)

[www.nyc.gov.za](http://www.nyc.gov.za) (National Youth Commission)

[www.hesa.org.za](http://www.hesa.org.za) (info on South African universities)

Much more info available from Mrs Fourie, the library, the noticeboards (especially the copy of the Guide to Opportunities for Further Study).

## COMING UP

### GAP EVENING TALK

Have you given your name to Mrs Fourie? If not, do so immediately to attend the talk with her on 10 May 2007, 18:00 – 19:30 in the Barratt Lecture Theatre 2).

### RIVER KIDZ AND MUSIC TEAM FETE 26 May 2007

The River Kidz and River of Life music team are holding a fete to raise funds for their ministries. The fete will be held on Saturday 26 May from 10:00-14:00. They are in the process of applying to have it at Church Square. At the fete they will have various cakes, boerewors, pancakes and the like on sale, a few fun games including a jumping-castle and face-painting to provide great entertainment for kids, and live music for all to enjoy.

**HOSPICE**  
*"Sunflowers –*

*the symbol of caring and comfort"*

Hospice Palliative Care Association

National Hospice Week 6-13 May

The theme this year is "Across the Ages" from children to the elderly, highlighting that people of all ages need access to Hospice and Palliative Care, either as patients or as loved ones or carers of people facing terminal illness.

We are appealing to you with this notice to support the Hospice GO YELLOW campaign on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Participants are requested to pay R5.00 (or a donation) to wear yellow in aid of Grahamstown Hospice. Anything yellow with your uniform, girls!

**FLOWER SHOW**

Theme: **I AM**

Wesley Methodist Church Cnr York & Market Streets Donations in aid of Barratt Ward.

Date: 3-5 May 2007

Time: 11am-8pm

**Welcome to Sophia Lehr, our youngest Old Girl, born 24 April, and first granddaughter of Mrs Fourie!**



*Some of the staff members who showed the girls how to "aerobics" 'till you drop at the Aerobics Marathon.*

**The Hospice Annual Knit-In Tuesday, 8/5**

Morning session:

Time: 9am-11:30am

Venue: The Hospice, 15 Milner Street

Evening session:

Time: 6:30-9:00pm

Venue: The Highlander, St Andrew's College

Contact Angela at 046-6229661 for sponsorship forms and to register your team.



*Practising for The Messiah*

**THE MESSIAH**

*By Mrs McConnachie*

Mr Mkhize has been working hard with both Senior & Junior choir to prepare for the exciting production of excerpts from Handel's Messiah that VGHS is putting on with the Rhodes orchestra on the 31 May at the monument.

This term the African Ensemble and the Marimba bands join forces to begin their preparation for the same event. Traditionalists may balk but two of the Messiah choruses will be performed with our own African VG flavour. Not only will the audience be wowed by the impressive depth of percussive talent at our school but now 95% of all music students will be taking part in the event. Plans are afoot to involve the final 5% (negotiations are taking place to have learners involved in the sound technology and recording side).

**A 100% Music Department participation + at least 100 choir members mean that you will be a mother/father guardian/friend/acquaintance of at least one music student.**

**So I guess we will see you all at the performance then?**

This is a once in a life-time experience for these performers. Having an orchestral accompaniment is very exciting and will make our learners perform brilliantly in the way that we have become proud.

See you at 7:30p.m. on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Tickets available at the school office, Bargain books, King Pie & Grocotts.

Adults R50.00 Concessions R30.00.

## Thinking of...

- Ms Mullins, one of our stooges, whose father is in a critical condition after an accident and viral infection.
- Mrs Czeredrecki-Schmidt who has mumps
- Naledi Ntondini whose grandmother passed away
- Cynthia Gqabothi's whose aunt passed away
- Mrs Swartland and Miss Farquhar who are both recovering from an operation
- **The continued struggle world wide for freedom for all, fairness and equal opportunities. Please think of the one billion people on earth that currently live in the utmost poverty in squatter camps without water, electricity and sanitation.**

Some of our recent Colours & Half Colours Awards: Laura Wentworth, Bianca Binneman, Amandla Ludidi, Simthandile Mnyikizo, Nicola Sewry, Megan Yendall and Thando Zono



**AND FINALLY, FROM THE BOSSES...**

### SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S REPORT

*By Akhira Harry*

Time is going by so fast already in the second term, and things are so soon becoming so busy. Last term ended off very well with a most successful Founders Weekend. All the old girls, present girls and the staff, saw exactly why we are all so Proudly VG, and why we have so much to be proud of, and to celebrate! This term is

going to be a busy term with the exams coming up, but I urge you all not to give up, and to stay enthusiastic, positive and motivated throughout the year. As Roosevelt said "if you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." So I hope everyone has a fantastic term, and we all keep the VG flag flying high. I hope everyone has a relaxing long weekend and comes back full of energy.

### MY FINAL WORD(S)

I returned to school on 16 April with a sense of dread – insufficient holiday rest (Yes, that is possible despite the many "teachers' holidays"! ) and unease at the prospect of the many "unnecessary" meetings lying ahead. Add to this the increasing bureaucracy of education and its impossible deadlines and you had a very uninspiring "headmistress".

Not even the compliments VGHS received from Rhodes staff members at the graduation luncheon could lift me!

By the end of the week, I was ready to move mountains. Why? Because of

- The smiles of our girls
- The grounds and admin staff who worked so hard during the holidays
- Mrs Heathcote who also took in Renfrew guests to earn income for the hostels
- Staff who took on extra work to help me cope with too few hours in the day (and Mrs Retief who always brings home-baked goodies)
- Beaming parents and concerned parents at the report discussion
- The parents who have been coming to school to raise their concerns, give praise where praise is due, and generally make it clear that we all stand together for the education of our girls, and the continued improvement of public education in our country.
- Our well-behaved girls during Day 1 assembly

Okay, let me stop, because this list is getting very long! (As is always the case when one starts listing the positives)

**The bottomline: VGHS is a nurturing home. It is a place of CARE, ENERGY AND DISCIPLINE through PASSION, INTEGRITY AND EXCELLENCE.**

I am very privileged to be here, at this time.

Have an inspiring weekend,

*Madeline Schoeman*