

VG News

8 August 2007, Volume 5 No 5

WELCOME

We wish the following student teachers a happy teaching experience with us: Mr Coetzee, Mr Ellis, Mr Le Roux, Ms Mambo, Ms Mountfort, Mr Murphy, Mr Walwyn.

Welcome back to Beatrice Chandia! We'd love to hear more about her attendance of the Eisenhower Leadership Conference in the USA.

STARS

RECOGNITION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Academic Honours awarded to **Julie Dixon, Nicola Sewry and Megan Yendall.**
- Academic Colours awarded to **Nathalia von Witt and Laura Wentworth.**



Laura, Julie, Nicola, Roxanne and Megan – our Eskom Science Expo achievers.

- Science Expo Results:
 - **Megan Riddin** - For her project titled *the Effects of a Natural Insecticide Artemisia Afra on Natural Parasites* she received a Gold Award; Best Overall Project; Best Girl's Project & the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa Inter-Schools' Trophy – no mean achievement! Megan will be going to The National Science Expo in September (Pretoria) and will receive a bursary for one year's tuition from Rhodes University and R150.00 cash prize.

➤ **Laura Wentworth** – Gold Award and R150.00 cash prize. Her project on *An Introduction to the Wave-Particle Duality* was One of the top five regional projects. She will be going to the National Science Expo in September (Pretoria).

➤ **Julie Dixon** – received a Silver Award; the Grassland Society of South Africa Award and R100.00 for *Does Food Make Babies..* Julie will also be going to The National Science Expo.

➤ **Roxanne Higgitt** – Bronze Award and R50.00 cash prize for *The Most Effective Disinfectant.*

➤ **Nicola Sewry** – Highly Commended Award for *Water Quality in Grahamstown.* Her project will be published in the Grocotts Mail.

- **Songeza Bomvana** 1st place at Rising Star Music Competition (the First Grahamstown Music Competition for the Youth). She has been invited to sing with the Rhodes Orchestra.

EXCELLENCE IN CO-CURRICULARS

- Tennis Honours awarded to **Thando Zono**
- Hockey Honours re-awarded to **Thando Zono**. Thando represented EP when they came 2nd. Thando was then elected for the U18 SA team (5 EP players in SA team) as well as an U17 team which will take part in next year's U21 inter-provincial team.
- Squash Colours awarded to **Nicola Sewry**. Half Colours awarded to **Shannon Thurston and Simoné Coetzee.**
- Cultural Colours awarded to **Songezo Bomvana and Sibongiseni Gqebe**. Half Colours awarded to **Feziwe Ndwayana, Carla Mostert, Thandokazi Kulati and Lusanda Sandile.**
- English Olympiad: Bronze awards to **Genevieve Jacot-Guillarmod and Nicola Sewry.**
- Xhosa Best Speakers Winners:-
Seniors: 1st **Bongiwe Mlatsha**, 2nd

Mandilakhe Tukulu, 3rd **Zintle Matshaya**
Highly Commended: Linda Ngwabeni, Noluntu Mamase, Noneka Dlali & Busiswa Ngqameni

Juniors: 1st **Naledi Ntondini**, 2nd **Anelisa Manona & Andiswa Shwempe**, 3rd **Jade Jasson**

- The new Netball captain: **Zipho Mgebuza**
- **Siphokazi Dude** is off to the U14 EP Netball Tournament in Johannesburg.
- Hockey Players of Matches:
Against St Michaels: **Amanda Ludidi**
Against Framesby: **Gaylin Christian**
Against Kingswood: **Thando Zono**
- **Kutala Dyibishe** won *Modscene* modelling school's Ms Senior Winter competition and **Klara Rademeyer** (Mrs Rademeyer's daughter) won Ms Petite Winter competition

2007/2008 COMMITTEES

- Chess Committee Captain: **Laura Wentworth**, Deputy: **Bongiwe Mlatsha**
Committee Member: **Tafadswa Mufuma**
- Grade 11s elected on the Banquet Committee:- **Convenor Tabazi Bengu**, **Treasurer Athandile Mvusi**, **Decorations Sesona Myosana & Megan Riddin**, **Invitations Asekho Dlepu & Luca Whitehead**
- CIA Committee: **Megan Yendall** (Chairperson), **Julie Dixon, Kelsey Smailes & Carla Mostert**
- Interact Committee:
Luca Whitehead – *Head*; **Hlumela Ngaba & Roxi Veira** – *Advertising*; **Shelley Wood & Kelsey Smailes** – *Fundraising*; **Lungile Dunywa & Mzikazi Jaza** – *Service*
- Debating Captain: **Nomhla Mzuku**
Deputy: **Nicola Sewry**

MERIT AWARDS

- Merit badges to the following girls:-
Marné Mostert, Marrayam Tariq, Amanda Tsipa, Zahra Daffala, Faith du Plessis, Vuyokazi Gosani, Siyasanga Mtshixa, Lindokuhle Ngcingwana, Nnyeka Osode, Siyathemba Yeko, Noleen Dixon, Luvuyo Hlatsheneni, Sinesipho Kwatsha, Delia Makabeni, Naledi Boltina, Ayabulela Gobe, Kuhle Mxakaza, Beaulette Blom, Nombali Siwa, Bunny Bala, Carla Mostert, Feziwe Ndwayana, Siyasanga Hashe, Chadé Bowles, Michelle Schoeman.

TOP NOTCH AWARDS

- To **Donna Whisken** for getting her driver's licence; **Jaydene Shelton** for being a cool first aider in a crisis, **Khutala Dyibishi** for being in the top 20 of the Miss Africa Teen Competition, **Mr Mkhize** for the Messiah, **Meredith Assumption, Dannica Coetzee** and **Andisiwe Miya** for their charity work during the festival; **Aya Gobe, Siphokazi Dude** and **Luvuyo Hlatshaneni** for Albany Netball; **Zipho Mgebuza** for being the netball captain. And lastly to **Megan, Julie** and **Laura** for being off to Pretoria for the Science Expo.
- Thank you to **Mrs Mostert** for the flower arrangements in our foyer.

CLASS CAPTAINS for Term 3

Captain	Vice Captain
Grade 8 8/D Siyathemba Yeko 8/G Litaletu Magwadi 8/R Zahra Daffala 8/T Siphokazi Dude	Delia Makabeni Neliswa Mnyamana Caylin Strauss Lillian Mollel
Grade 9 9/D Beaulette Blom 9/G Lwandisiwe Mabinya 9/R Thulisile Siguca 9/T Zandile Hoyi	Siphosethu Kepe Lithemba Twalo Nwabisa Ginise Ovayo Ntlabati
Grade 10 10/1 Yonela Mangisa 10/2 Taryn Julie 10/3 Nolwazi Sidzamba	Aluta Mleni Dannica Coetzee Cachendra Vlotman
Grade 11 11/1 Anda Matebese 11/2 Zintle Phekana 11/3 Siyasanga Hashe	Rachel Smith Jessica Maritz Vuvu Boo
Grade 12 12/1 Claire Probert 12/2 Amandla Ludidi 12/3 Saxola Mkolo	Linchen Hassim Noluntu Mamase Nomkhosi Mhlahlo

SPORTS

SQUASH

Four VGHS learners were selected to play for Eastern Cape in the inter-provincial squash tournament during the July holidays. The U14B team, for which Marné Mostert played, won their tournament and were placed 7th in the U14A tournament. Simoné Coetzee and Shannon Thurston's U16B team were placed 4th while the U16A team, in which Nicola Sewry played, was placed 4th. Congratulations, we are proud of your achievements.

Both VG squash teams still have one match to play before completing their winter league commitments. This term the girls will be competing in the VGHS school championships. We can look forward to some good squash. In

the meantime they our VG First team beat SAC4: 3-2.

NETBALL

vs PJ Olivier: U14 lost 7-6, U16 won 14-6, U19 lost 18-15
 vs Kingswood College: U16 lost 6-12, U19 won 11-9
 vs Mary Waters: U14 won 10-6, U16 lost 11-18, U19 lost 15-18

HOCKEY

vs St Michaels: VG 1st won 2-0
 vs Framesby: VG 1st lost 0-2
 vs Kingswood: VG 1st lost 0-2; 2nd lost 0-4; U16A lost 1-3 and U14A lost 0-5

TRIANGULAR ATHLETICS

For a month before the triangular (which will actually be a quadrangular this year as Mary Waters will also be taking part) all Grade 8-11 girls will be doing Athletics or other fitness training. This will be between the winter and summer seasons. We hope to send you home a fitter and healthier daughter/ward for the September holidays!

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

By Ms McCrindle

Thank you to all the girls that have coached sport or run clubs/ societies this year. You have done a good job and we are sure you have learnt something in the process as well as having helped others. Application forms are now available for those wanting to be a coach from Term 4.

GRADE 11 CAMP

Please make sure that your daughter/ward has everything that she needs for the camp. (The list was given to her to take home before the June holidays). We hope by now all indemnity forms have been handed in...

SOCIETY REPORTS

INTERACT REPORT

By Rose and Chadé

Last term interact held their own fundraiser. It was an 80s themed social where over R1300 was raised. This amount will go towards the buying of sports equipment for Siya Zama. We would also like to thank all those who continue to support us in our cause. Sessions have already started this term with the girls visiting St Mary's, the grannies at Brookshaw and children at the Hospital. The girls are also

involved in Litter Collecting and the making of Colouring-in Books.

CHRISTIANS IN ACTION

By Mrs Retief

The CIA committee has planned for an interesting term. So far we have had two sessions. We watched a DVD on how God loves us and provides. The CIA members responded by writing letters reflecting on the message. We also went to the Botanical Gardens to find how nature reflects God's character. We are planning to have six more CIA sessions this term.

I wish to thank Beth Stevens and Claire Probert for their dedicated, sincere service to the CIA since their Grade 10 year. It has been a great pleasure to work with them. May God bless them continually.

GIDEON SOCIETY

By Mrs Retief

On 1 August Mr Ball and Prof Kerr visited our school. They are members of the Gideon Society.

The Gideon Society is operational in 183 countries. The object of this society is to spread the Word of God by giving out Bibles. They spread it in schools amongst Gr 8s. Bibles are also placed in hospitals, hotels, prisons, guest houses, doctor's rooms etc.

The Bibles are never sold. Funds are provided lby Gideon members. In the front of the Bible there is a summary of scripture readings on various topics. The Bibles are pocket size so that they can be taken everywhere. In the back of the Bible it gives scriptures on God's love for mankind.

Mr Ball testified how the Bible has enlightened his life and has given him guidance.

Of our Gr 8s, 42 requested to receive Bibles. We thank the Gideon Society and our guests for their generosity and service to God.

DEBATING REPORT

By Akhira Harry

Debating started off excitingly this term. We had a backwards debate with Graeme College, with the motion to re-instate the death penalty. VG were government, and Graeme College opposition. In a backwards debate there isn't a winner, however, judging by the speeches VG would have taken the debate. The backward debate was a fun experience, but now we have a few proper debates coming up, against GC, SAC and DSG.

We also have our Interhouse Debating coming up soon, and I'm sure all houses are keen to see the outcome of that.

We are hoping to practise and prep enough, to send a strong, powerful team to regionals in the September holidays.

...AND MORE NEWS...

RISING STARS MUSIC COMPETITION

By Mrs McConnachie

On Friday the 27th July, the Rising Stars Competition was held drawing high school entries from all over Grahamstown. We entered five of our very talented music students: Songezo Bomvana (voice), Feziwe Ndwanya (voice), Laura Wentworth (flute), Kuhle Mxakaza (voice), Namso Nyamela (voice). They all had to perform a ten minute programme with contrasting pieces to display their skills. Six performers made it through to the final round, including Songezo, Feziwe and Laura. They then played their programme to a thrilled audience on Sunday 29th. VGHS girls triumphed and made us very proud with professional performances and graceful attitudes. Congratulations to Songezo who won the overall prize and will sing with the Rhodes orchestra in September. Watch the press for details and be sure to attend as the winners of the juniors and university competition will be performing too.

Apart from Songezo's achievements, our girls received the following rewards:

- Certificates of Achievement for Playing in the Final Round: Laura Wentworth (flute) and Feziwe Ndwanya (voice)
- Certificates of Participation: Kuhle Mxakaza (voice) and Namso Nyamela (voice).

XHOSA BEST SPEAKERS

By Anela Maya & Aphumle Ngcoza

If you see a change in our head girl, (a sudden glow) it's because she has found herself a "friend" "Indzalo nje Petso" (Ndzindzi is the lucky someone).

If you thought money could buy love, then you are wrong. You should have heard Naledi Ntondini's speech about love that landed her in first position in the junior section.

Natalia von Witt, Akhira Harry, Chadé Bowles and Jade Jasson, who are non-Xhosa speakers, spoke isiXhosa with confidence and Jade, who spoke about drugs, even came third in the Junior Section.

Mandilakhe Tukululu gave a mind blowing, thought provoking speech on how we Africans are not proud of being Africans, how we throw aside our cultures, and traditions, forget our history and are so obsessed with modern cultures that we have forgotten our roots. Bongwiwe Mlatsha then put the cherry on the top and spoke about traditions – their importance and the fact that in order to know where you are going you need to know where you've been. This landed her first place and Mandilakhe came second.

Speaking about love, Noluntutu Mamase shared her life story with us and spoke about how her mother's love supported and moulded her into being a beautiful, mature young woman.

Anelisa Manona's speech on AIDS landed her in second place in the Junior section, together with Andiswa Shwempe, who spoke about children. Zintle Matshaya closed the evening with her tear-provoking heart-felt speech on the hardships of life. She shared her problems and tears with us and this landed her in third position in the senior section.

We would like to thank Ms Zamani and Ms Siga for organising and judging the event. A big thank you must go to all the ladies who participated, well done!

PHOTO DAY

Photo day has been scheduled for Monday, 13 August 2007, immediately after leave out. We have arranged group photos and portrait photos for the day. The portrait package which includes a 20x30cm enlargement, a 13 x 18cm enlargement and two 9x15cm (Jumbo) prints will cost R60. Payment must be made in cash before the photos are taken. Group photos can be ordered and paid for at a later date.

All girls are reminded to be neatly dressed in their formal winter school uniforms for the day – blazers, skirts and **long socks**. Sports teams are to wear sports uniform as determined by the teacher in charge and the coach. Boarders, please remember to bring all sports uniforms, school, provincial or national for photo day.

KIRKWOOD WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

By Mrs Rademeyer

VGHS attended the recent Kirkwood Wildlife Festival which took place from Friday, 29 June until Sunday, 1 July 2007. Mrs Rademeyer, Akhira Harry and Thando Zono left on Thursday afternoon, 28 June 2007, to set up the stall. The stall looked very professional with grey show panels displaying photographs of school activities and top achievers, certificates of merit and other interesting facts about VG. Ms Hayes saw to the photographs and Mrs Schoeman prepared a colourful informative power point presentation about VG, its staff, buildings, learners, curriculum, and hostels. There were thousands of visitors to the four day Festival which only became busy on the Saturday.

We were not visited by hordes of people, and Thando did not get an opportunity to compete in the *Koedroelspoeg-kompetiese*, but we gained valuable experience in camping in the rain and being the face of VGHS! It was very cold and rained on two of the days as we

camped near the stall and opposite very busy ablation facilities.

We would like to thank Mr Nieuwoudt and Mr Goliath for respectively driving and fetching the girls and returning them safely.

And I would like to thank Mrs Rademeyer and her family for doing so much for VGHS.

The eagerly-awaited **Messiah DVD** is now available! Just send R50 with your daughter to secure your order.

We all need to re-live that magical experience.

ARTS CONCERTS

Thank you to the Music Department staff and to Ms Hastie and Ms Hayes of the Drama Department for giving our girls an opportunity to get used to performing on stage. It was great to see so many conquering their nerves!

COMING UP

23 August:	Interhouse Plays
29 August:	Gr 11 Camp
6 September:	Carinus Art Exhibition
15 September:	Gr 10 Formal Social
20 September:	Gr 9 Subject Option Meeting – compulsory for Gr 9s and their parents.
20 September:	Gr 12 Banquet

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Grade 11s are in the process of applying for leadership committees. They will shortly take over from the Grade 12s. We wish them all of the best and hope they will have a successful term of office.

Thank you to the large majority of Grade 12s for all the effort they have put into the past year.

Teaching is about unlocking potential, and so many of you have made us proud in the way in which you took up the challenges and opportunities.

VGHS expects much of our learners, as is clear from our leadership system. We know everyone has the potential to play

