

# VG NEWS

24 June 2011, Volume 9 # 4

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.

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

### TOP NOTCH AWARDS

*Top Notch Awards* are awarded to girls by the RCL for a variety of reasons. It may be a contribution that they have made to life at VG, some achievement or service they performed, or simply for doing something a bit different. The following people received *Top Notch Awards* this term:

**Zizopho Siwendu and Anelisa**

**Msomi** for helping a blind man get to *Shoprte* who had lost his way and fallen into a puddle of water.

**Kanya Lande, Nando Stuurman and Tembakazi Macingwane** for helping a homeless man who had just had an operation get to a safe place and for fetching him food from hostel.

**Tamani Chitambo** for receiving her learner's license.

**Lorentia Swartland** for helping an old lady to cross a pedestrian crossing.

**Asemahle Rala** for eventually being able to wear school shoes and coping with heels at the Matric Farewell.

**Nazi Buso** for calling the police after seeing an accident across the street.

The Grade 11s and **Mr Still** for organizing an amazing Matric Farewell.

**Amy Jackson-Moss** for reading the VGHS Code of Conduct form cover to cover.

**Thandile Jamela** for being the first person to arrive at the Matric Farewell – by some measure!

**Marryam Tariq** for helping a man in a wheelchair to cross the road.

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

*Marryam Tariq*

Amnesty International this term consisted of a series of discussions and debates related to the viability of Media Coverage and the delivery of speeches by the political leaders of different countries around the world.

One major discussion was the apparent "death" of Osama Bin Laden after

America was unable to track down the man for several years. Many interesting points were brought up as students critically thought about the scenario and how it affected different communities around the world.

## OUR STAFF

### RENFREW HOUSE

**Ms Richards** has decided to join the life of our hostels. She has recently been appointed the new Hostel Mother at Renfrew House. We hope that **Ms Richards** will be very happy in the hostel and that she will enjoy the much reduced trip from Renfrew to school, compared to her previous commute from Kwantu.

## OUR PARENTS

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

*Mrs Retief*

We are currently involved in the laborious task of sorting out our admissions for 2012. In an effort to help us, could you please inform the school in writing as soon as possible if your daughter/ward is not returning to VG in 2012. If there are learners continuing at school, but leaving hostel in 2012 the school must also be informed in writing.

### MY SCHOOL CARD

Thanks to the 48 VG supporters who remembered to use their *My School Card* last month. We continue to receive monthly amounts from Woolworths and appreciate the money we receive.

Any parents or guardians who currently do not have a *My School Card* can pick up forms from **Ms Haywood** at the VG office.

## ACADEMIC ACTION

### GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

*Mr Stoloff*

On Thursday 12 May the Grade 11

## COMING UP

18/07		Start of Term 3
	07:30	Assembly
22/07	07:15	Fin Com. Meeting
	13:00	Music Concert in hall
	14:30-16:30	JCAC Compulsory Art afternoon grade 10-12

## THINKING OF...

- Lamese Ferreira whose brother passed away..
- Elam Dyonase whose granny passed away
- Siyanda Makunga whose granny passed away.
- Sinovuyo Matiso whose father passed away.
- Micaela Goliath whose aunt passed away.
- Natalie Williams whose aunt passed away.
- Samantha Meaton whose step brother passed away.

Geography class went on a Marine and Fluvial Features Field Trip. Accompanying the girls were **Mr Stoloff** and **Miss Abel**.

We left from the Bubble after register class. We went to Lookout at Water's Meeting in Bathurst, The Marina in Port Alfred, Kelly's Beach and then finally headed to Middle Beach in Kenton. From Middle Beach, we went to Stanley's where **Mr Stoloff** bought everyone cool drinks. Thank you to everyone who made the trip possible, as the girls all learned a lot.

### POETRY COMPETITION

Well done to the girls pictured below for excelling in the VG Poetry Competition 2011.



Back Row: *Jessica Wentworth (winner Gr12), Vongai Chindeka (winner Gr9), Vivienne Dames (winner Gr10)*  
Front Row: *Chwayita Yose, Olwethu Mvelo and Luchulumanco Njokweni*

## 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.)

## NATIONAL SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

A group of Grade 12s will be attending the National Schools' Festival this June/July holiday. We hope they have a rewarding and enjoyable time.

## CULTURAL AFFAIRS

### TEN TENORS CONCERT

*Delia Makabeni*

On Thursday 26 May, the choir held a concert featuring ten of the Eastern Cape's finest tenors. The concert was an effort to raise funds for the upcoming VG Choir tour to Austria and Germany. It was a true success with the tenors mesmerizing the audience, and even the choir itself! The night also saw a special appearance by the VG Orchestra.

The concert included performances by **Mr Sibusiso Mkhize**, **Mr Lethemba Busakwe**, **Zikhona Gqomana** and many more as well as **Ms Jillian Haarhoff** as the accompanist. Everyone who attended enjoyed themselves as the evening turned out to be a great success.

All who attended thought it was a splendid evening's entertainment. A big thank you must go to **Ms Haarhoff** for playing 25 songs for the event!



*The Ten Tenors Concert*

### ORCHESTRA

*Caylin Strauss*

On Thursday 26 May the VG Orchestra had the opportunity to entertain guests attending the Ten Tenors Concert. We

played a few of our pieces just before the concert, as well as during the interval, giving the guests an idea of all the excitement that is still to come this year.

### THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

*Sibabalwe Quma*

In the President's Award service sessions girls get the opportunity to clear any uncertainties regarding the award and their role as a participant and also get to gain service hours through various projects.

This term a group of girls was involved in an 'Adopt-a-Grandparent' Project. This group of girls visited Brookshaw Home during the hour and spent time with the senior citizens.

Others remained at school and continued with the Raphael Center 'Knit-a-Block' Project, while yet others either drew pictures to compile colouring-in books and others wrote stories for Settlers Hospital Children's Ward.

The girls also believe that charity begins at home, so they spend some hours doing service around the school. The term ended with a litter collection spree around the school.

**Inga Macingawane**, **Sanelisiwe Kanana**, **Menzi Mkiva**, **Zizipho Magula**, **Olwethu Mvelo**, **Asekho Toni** and **Sihle Jack** completed their bronze hike at Hobbiton-on-Hogsback. Congratulations to **Marryam Tariq** for obtaining her Silver Level for President's Award.

### INTERACT – GOOFY OLYMPICS

*Sibabalwe Quma*

On 15 May the Victoria Girls' High School's Interact Club hosted a Goofy Olympics. The people attending were required to dress up goofy-like and the event was well attended. It opened up with an item by 'Boys in Motion' which the audience enjoyed very much.

There were all sorts of activities such as: karaoke, a trilingual spelling bee, and goofy sporting events. As much as it was a great social event the goal was achieved which was to raise money to buy heaters for Makana's Kop Old Age Home.



*Litha Zidepa, Zimbini Mjandana, Scelo Pango, Zikhona Gqomana, Noluvo Kulati, Andisiwe Eddie*

### DEBATING

*Delia Makabeni*

**Blessings Chinganga** in Grade 10 was recently selected as part of the Eastern

Province Senior Debating Team. Blessings was selected from many contenders from the different teams that took part in the Provincial Schools' Debating Competition. The EP team will be taking part in the National Debating Competition later on this year.



*EP Senior Debating Rep – Blessing Chinganga*

## SPORT MATTERS

### NETBALL

On Wednesday 4 May our netball teams played against Nombulelo High School. The scores were as follows:

U14 drew 4-4  
U16 won 17-4  
U19 won 21-12

On Friday 6 May VG netball teams played DSG and the scores were as follows:

U14A won 4-3  
U14B won 7-6  
U14C lost 3-6  
U16A drew 6-6  
U16B lost 8-15  
U19A lost 11-21

### HOCKEY

On Saturday 7 May we tackled Alexander Road High School on a much awaited series of hockey games. Although we didn't win, the spirit, enthusiasm, tenacity and good sportsmanship shone throughout our girls' matches. We showed everyone what we are really made of.



*"Shorty!": 1st Team prepare for a short corner*

This term has been a very eventful term for our hockey girls. The 1st team played in the Union Hockey and Rugby Festival and in the Kingswood College Hockey Festival.

All four hockey teams: U16B, U16A,

2<sup>nd</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> have played a number of games this term and in all matches have shown the true VG spirit of never giving up. Our last match this term was against Union High School, the scores were as follows:

- U16B lost 0-6
- U16A lost 0-9
- 2<sup>nd</sup> lost 0-2
- 1<sup>st</sup> lost 0-3

### HOCKEY – PROVINCIAL REPS

Congratulations to **Khanyisa Gwata** who made the U14A EP team, **Nazi Buso** who made the U16C EP team, **Cleo Bennett** who made the EP U18C team, **Cassie Lister** and **Chloe Bennett** who made the U18B EP team.

### CROSS COUNTRY

*Busiswa Ngqameni*

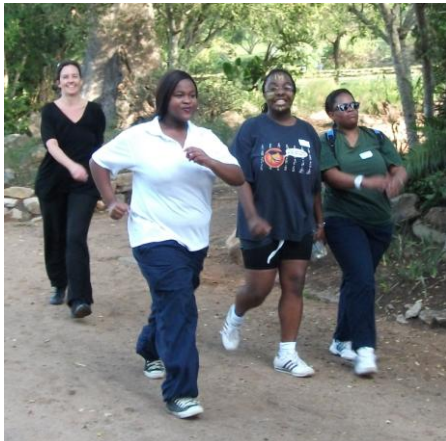
On Wednesday 11 May we held our annual cross country. The girls and keen staff members showed much enthusiasm in this event, running and jogging in true VG spirit.

Interhouse Cross-Country results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Dorset
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Graeme
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ruthville
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Thursford

In particular, well done to **Khanyisa Gwata** (U14), **Katherine James** (U16) and the **Bennet twins** (U19) for winning their age groups.

Overall, the event was a true VG success. Thanks to the school's Athletics Department – and **Mr Jeffries** in particular – and the Grahamstown traffic department.



*Ms Hayes chasing after some slower Grade 12s*

## OUR WIDER EDUCATION PROGRAMME

### YOUNG COMMUNICATOR AWARD

**Ayanda Twani**, in Grade 12, is the Eastern Cape's provincial representative for the Young Communicators Award national competition. This public speaking competition has involved writing and presenting an original speech in three different rounds - the Grahamstown district level, the Regional (Cacadu) level and at the Provincial level.



*Ayanda Twani*

**Ayanda's** speech was entitled "The Wall" and was a critical analysis of religion as a metaphorical wall. Her depth of insight and maturity of thought greatly impressed the judges at the provincial round, held in Bisho, where she beat stiff competition to be selected as the Eastern Cape representative.

She will now be preparing a new speech for the national competition which will be held in Johannesburg in August.

We wish her all the best in this prestigious competition.

### GRADE 11 FESTIVAL 2011

On 16 and 17 May a group of Grade 11s attended the annual *Eastern Cape Schools' Festival*. There was a huge variety of entertaining workshops from which the girls could choose four to attend over the festival. The workshops were greatly enjoyed as they focused on different aspects of drama, physical theatre and finding your inner creativity.

The modernised *Romeo and Juliet* performance by the *UBOM! Drama Company* was one of the highlights of the festival, along with their adaption of the play *Doors*. This festival was a great opportunity to meet people from different schools and to test your own limits.

A big thank you must go to **Ms Hastie** and **Ms Badenhorst** for giving up their time to take us to the festival, and to **Mr Goliath** for being our bus driver.



*The Grade 11s who attended the Schools' Festival*



*The Grade 11s in tracksuits*

### HAIR AND UNIFORM

*Ms Siga*

Parents/guardians and girls must please note that from the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Term bonding will not be allowed for Grade 8 and 9 learners, and will be a privilege for Grade 10, 11 & 12 learners. Any girl who allows her bonding to become unkempt will have the privilege taken away.

This decision has been made by the RCL and School Management Team in response to a proposal from the Hair and Uniform Committee and has been necessitated by the number of girls looking messy in their uniforms.

All girls are urged to wear their uniform with pride.

### Y4Y RADIO GRAHAMSTOWN

*Sibabalwe Quma*

This term the Y4Y girls went on air every Thursday from 17:00–18:00 to have their voices heard across Grahamstown. Key topics that were discussed this term included: Xenophobia; being "Proudly South African"; feelings on the local elections; and whether or not we as the youth think the government considers the needs of the youth.

### SCIFEST PHOTOS



*Some of the Grade 9s at SciFest*

## OUR HOSTELS

### ELEANOR BROWN HOUSE

*The EB Boarders*

From our enjoyable camp to our good days with **Mrs Strydom**, it is yet another term that EB hostel will never forget.

The first week started off with the much anticipated camp to *Willows* in PE. The girls went along with the stooges, **Mrs Strydom**, **Mrs Mitchell** (the Hostel Superintendent) and the gang. The trip was filled with lots of fun and entertainment.

We departed from EB Hostel on Friday 15 April. The venue was exotic and its tranquillity was exactly what we needed for us to be able to prepare mentally for the upcoming June exams.

The rest of the weekend was fun-filled as we played games and took photos at the beach. The bonfire was the highlight of the camp. That was the moment we all bonded as girls, stooges and matrons, giving us the sense of belonging that we all needed. We returned on Sunday.

We also enjoyed going to the Grahams-town Talent Show and the school concert this term, as well as watching the Grade 12 show.

After having so much fun with our Senior Matron **Mrs Strydom**, her retirement left us all heartbroken as we have to say goodbye to her. **Mrs Strydom** has always been like a mother to us. We wish **Mrs Strydom** a restful retirement and promise that she will be in our hearts forever!

This however is not a sad ending as it has introduced us to our new Matron **Ms Effie January**, an angel in disguise.



*Mrs Strydom and Ajowa Atombo*

### MATHER PIKE

*Nicole Oyentunji*

After a well-deserved holiday we were back and ready for another term at school. Normally it felt like punishment having to come back and get used to the routine again, but thanks to everyone in our house who made every moment valuable, we were fine in no time.

Near the end of term exams started and the pressure was on. With the support of **Ms Marcia** and **Ms Ntombela** we managed to fit in smiles and laughter in between the hard work. Thanks to Phumza and Sibabalwe we were always entertained, primarily through their singing of the fire drill procedure or the code of conduct in operatic style.

On a chilly Sunday afternoon we got a fire going and had a lovely braai. After the long

anticipated meal was ready we all sat down to have supper. Silence is usually foreign during meal times but our last supper was filled with silence. Thoughts of having to leave each other once again ran through our heads. We would like to thank **Ms Marcia** and **Ms Ntombela** for a great term.

### RENFREW HOUSE

*Ajowa Atombo & Siphamandla Cingo*

This term at Renfrew was highly enjoyable. Even though the term was short, we all had a good time. Towards the end of the term, several changes happened: we said farewell to our House Mother, **Mrs Richardson**, and warmly welcomed **Mrs Richards** as her replacement; as well as **Aunt Ntombi** as the assistant House Mother.

We soon settled down into a happy family. The funniest highlight for the term was baking **Mrs Richards** a birthday cake, which, although it nearly got burnt, proved how well the Renfrew Girls can work as a team.

We are eagerly anticipating the third term and are looking forward to creating more happy memories.

### BEAUFORT HOUSE

*Mrs Michaels*

It's that time again and another term has come to an end. What started off as a stress-free first week on 10 April soon ended with a very stressful but wonderful bash 'The Matric Farewell' on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. What an event – a true effort from our grade 11 girls. We had a few matrics stay in and a few stayed with their families. For those who stayed myself and **Mrs Dampies** held a cocktail event upon their return and they thought it was special.

The following week we had the Matric Fashion Show and the girls looked stunning.

We broke for a holiday during Easter and came back refreshed to take on the next few weeks of hard work we were about to face. We had a lot of sports activities for the weekend of 6 May and had a lot of girls out to see the hockey, netball, and rugby at Graeme College. The Science Fest also kept us busy from 4 May as the girls from Denise Long House and their Student Supervisors stayed with us while they accommodated some guests at their house.

On 11 May our girls did a cross country and all participated, then there was a debating competition at St Andrews' College as well as the choir and marimba groups who took part in the *Grahamstown ALIVE! Variety Concert* and the *Ten Tenors* concert on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Finally there was the *Grahamstown Spunk Show* at St Andrews' College where after everything but exam prep ceased to exist.

This brought us to the end of a very long and enjoyable term, with a short, but much-needed break before the National Arts Festival starts.

## IN CONCLUSION

### A WORD FROM OUR SCHOOL CAPTAIN ...

*Luvuyo Hlatsheneni*

For many of us the exam timetable was packed with having to write almost every day in such a short period of time. So I'm sure the majority of girls are relieved to be finally getting a break and to have time to relax; cooling down from all the hard work and long hours of studying.

The **VG Choir Tour to Austria** is finally taking place this holiday (an exciting event for those of us attending), I wish all the teachers, parents and learners going on it a very joyful and adventurous trip. To the rest of the school enjoy your break!

### ...AND A WORD FROM ME...

This term started off much like any other, but seems to have taken on a life of its own in the intervening eleven weeks. We started the term with a range of events including the Matric Farewell Dance, the Fashion Show, the Silent Protest Day and a series of sporting events.

The Easter break was welcomed by everyone after only two weeks and we all returned to the remainder of the term refreshed. The downside to taking a week off school for Easter was that we really did not have much time left in the term to fit in all our Term 2 activities.

VG continued to provide a challenge to a range of other schools on the hockey field and netball court, and we had a number of girls selected for provincial sides. The less serious side to sport appeared in the form of the Star Relay (won by Graeme this year) and the Interhouse Cross Country.

Our choir, once again, were heavily involved in a number of concerts and performances, in preparation for their overseas tour. VG also saw two of our girls do fantastically well in the realm of public speaking.

A very busy term finally evolved into exams and the girls and the teachers were hard at work and very busy learning and marking.

I would like to thank the staff for their commitment and their generosity with their time over the course of this term. I hope that they will enjoy the up-coming break and take pleasure in a well-deserved rest.

I hope too that parents and girls enjoy the time off and that the girls return ready for another very full term of academics, sport, cultural events and service.

Kind regards