

VG NEWS

9 December 2010, Volume 8 # 8

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

PROUDLY NEW VG BROTHER!



Mr and Mrs Czeredrecki-Schmidt, proud parents of Daniel Michael Czeredrecki-Schmidt.



VGHS SCHOLARSHIPS

We are very proud to announce the following 2011 VGHS Scholarship winners:

- Gr 8: **Chandré Chika & Simbulele Serame**
Gr 9: **Nita Harry**
Gr 10: **Danielle de Vos**
Gr 11: **Tayla Solomon**
Gr 12: **Nolene Dixon**

Recipient of the VGHS Sports Scholarship: **Cassandra Lister.**

Recipient of the VGHS Cultural Scholarship: **Zikhona Gqamana.**

Recipients of VGHS Boarding Scholarships (paid for from the fund created by the hostel staff):

Nicole Oyetunji
Ajowa Atombo
Siki Yanta
Lihle Skeyi

HEADS OF SOCIETIES

Ms McCrindle

Congratulations to the following girls who have so far been selected as Heads of Societies and Sports Captains for 2011:

Lungisa Makinana (First Aid)
Vuyokazi Gosani (Senior Choir)
Ntombesizwe Boo (Junior Choir)
Onyeka Osode (Interact)
Vuyisanani Majija (Chess)
Hannah Godlonton (Tennis)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Mr Schmidt

Congratulations to the following girls who have received Academic Awards:

Junior Academic Awards:

Grade 8: **Liza Goodes, Nita Harry, Nicole Oyetunji, Melisa Rala & Ella Wilby.**

Grade 9: **Carla Wilby, Vivienne Dames, Aimee Hewson & Blessings Chinganga.**

Colours Awards:

Nanamhla Ceza (Half Colours New Award)
Amy Jackson Moss (Half Colours New Award)
Katherine James (Half Colours New Award)
Delia Makabeni (Half Colours New Award)
Babalwa Qaba (Half Colours New Award)
Tayla Solomon (Half Colours New Award)
Marryam Tariq (Half Colours New Award)
Natasha Nel (Colours New Award)

HOUSE FUND ALLOCATIONS

We worked hard throughout the year to raise funds for charitable organizations. These are the allocations that were made most recently:

Dorset House to Rape Survivors Support Group
Thursford House - Wallaby Sanctuary and to the Donkey Association
Ruthville House to the Wildcat Fund
Graeme House to Amasango School
Grade 10 fundraising to Eluxolweni Shelter
Interact to Brookshaw Home for paint, and to Child and Family Welfare for mattresses
RCL to Hospice and to Child and Family Welfare
Marryam Tariq ribbons for Joza Women's Shelter.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Thank you to our Portfolio Heads, the Gr 10s and staff who came out in force to honour all who have died in struggles and wars for freedom (see **Luyuyo** laying the VGHS wreath on the right hand side).

COMING UP

- 6/01 Release of the matric results, until 13:00, but please watch the press!
- 17/01 8:00 Staff meeting
Office Opens
8:00-21:00 Hostel Staff (Matron and Stooges) training
15:00 Boarders with siblings at Graeme and VP may request permission to return to hostel after 15:00
- 18/01 10:00 Hostels open
11:00 Orientation meeting – Compulsory for new learners & parents
13:00 New boarders' lunch at EB
17:00 All boarders in hostels
- 19/01 7:30 School begins for learners
7:30 Assembly
13:00 Co-curricular introduction
- 20/01 14:30 CIA planning day
15:30 Skills development training
- 21/01 Compulsory stay-in weekend for Boarders
19:00 Teachers, Admin staff, Hostel Caregiving staff and SGB function at 5 Selbourne Road.
- 22/01 19:00 VG Social – Choir

THINKING OF...

- Nicole and Jennifer Upfold whose grandfather passed away.
- Siphesihle Thinta whose mother passed away
- Mr Busakwe whose cousin died in a car accident.



Thank you to Mrs Mostert and Mrs Hewson for the beautiful flowers in foyer.



2011 HOUSE EXECUTIVE

Dorset House

Captain: **Ayanda Twani**
 Vice Captain: **Sicelokazi Pango**
 Games: **Awongwa Tinta**
 Singing Organiser: **Busisiwe Sandi**
 Play Director: **Unathi Klaas**
 Gr. 11 Rep: **Siphosethu Gobodo**
 Gr. 10 Rep: **Aphelele Mitotywa**
 Gr. 9 Rep: **Chwayita Yose**

Graeme House

Captain: **Marné Mostert**
 Vice Captain: **Zikhona Gqamana**
 Games: **Mihlali Ngqunge**
 Singing Organiser: **Kholisa Sintwa**
 Play Director: **Thimna Nobebe**
 Gr. 11 Rep: **Amy Jackson-Moss**
 Gr. 10 Rep: **Zininzi Feni**
 Gr. 9 Rep: **Milisa Rala**

Ruthville House

Captain: **Liyabona Luthuli**
 Vice Captain: **Vuyisanani Majija**
 Games: **Andisiwe Eddie**
 Singing Organiser: **Iviwe Mona**
 Play Director: **Lillian Roberts**
 Gr. 11 Rep: **Anam Maleki**
 Gr. 10 Rep: **Kungela Mzuku**
 Gr. 9 Rep: **Nita Harry**

Thursford House

Captain: **Siphokazi Dude**
 Vice Captain: **Amy von Witt**
 Games: **Sikelelwa Yanta**
 Singing Organiser: **Sisipho Nyamela**
 Play Director: **Nando Stuurman**
 Gr. 11 Rep: **Siphokazi Mzongwana**
 Gr. 9 Rep: **Teneal Potts**

MERIT STARS

Ms Potberg

Jessica Clarke	280 merits
Inga Macingwana	280 merits
Blessings Chinganga	280 merits
Menzi Mkiva	280 merits
Joanne Gough	300 merits
Lillian Roberts	300 merits
Asekho Tonie	300 merits
Kelly Hofmeyr	300 merits
Siphokazi Mzongwana	310 merit s
Motolani Adesina	300 merits
Vuyokazi Gosani	310 merits
Palesa Moss	340 merits
Nwabisa Ginise	300 merits
Tamani Chithambo	300 merits
Lillian Mollel	300 merits
Sibabalwe Quma	300 merits

VGHS RECEIVING IN RETURN

We are indeed a very blessed, privileged school, but it is always good to receive 'money from home'. A special thank you to **His People**, for not only being star users of our facilities over weekends, but also for donating generously to the school.

BANDANNA DAY

Zahra Daffala

Bandanna Day was supported by a number of girls and staff. By purchasing bandannas one raises awareness for leukemia in South Africa. Staff were encouraged to become bone marrow donors, given the extreme difficulty of finding suitable, matching donors.



Bandanna Day magic in style – especially Babalwa's 'kappie'!

SPCA

The Grade 8s raised funds and awareness around school for the Grahamstown SPCA. They asked girls to donate money and tins of dog and cat food which will be donated to the SPCA. *Grade 8 RCL representatives show off some of their spoils:*



Nita Harry, Yamkela Tsomo, Caramae Venter and Teneal Potts

FASHION SHOW

Siyanda Makunga

We held a fashion show to raise funds for the planned choir tour to Europe next year.

The models were beautifully dressed in clothes from *Edgars, Pearl Reef Boutique, Birch's, and In Essence*. Outfits ranged from sportswear, to office wear, to bridal gowns.

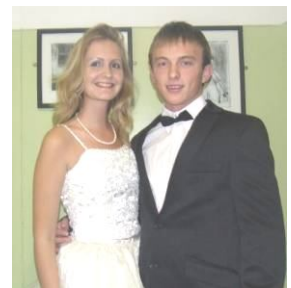
Some of the wedding dresses were those of staff members and girls in the audience were entertained by wondering which dresses belonged to which staff member.

The combination of enchanting entertainment pieces, gorgeous clothes and the cheese and wine resulted in a stylish and enjoyable evening, towards the end of with a cocktail dress from *In Essence* was auctioned to guests.

A special word of thanks to **Mrs L'Ange** and **Mrs Werth**, without whom the evening would not have been possible. They put tremendous effort into the evening, on behalf of the choir. We are also exceptionally grateful to Feedem Pitseng for their generous donations, not just at the Fashion Show.



Alex Stevens, Danielle Wiblin, Amber Higgitt and Ashley Allner, Aneza Mafanya and Nombali Siwa



Danielle Wiblin and Antoni du Preez (Graeme College grade 11) looked the part in their bridal outfits.

OUR STAFF

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF...

Successfully going through a VGHS interview is a very challenging process, especially when we receive so many excellent applications. We are pleased to announce the following appointments:

Ms Mitchell, Hostel Manager of all our hostels. She and her family will be staying at Eleanor Brown House.

Mr Mitchell: English, Life Orientation, Natural Science

Ms Todd: English, Life Orientation, Social Science, Arts & Culture

Mr Jeffries: Maths Literacy, CAT and Technology

Ms Richardson: House Mother at Renfrew House.

Ms Michaels, Matron at Beaufort House.

Mr Maguma, our new teacher intern.

Mr Smith will be teaching in Ms Cherie's place until she returns from maternity leave.

Mr Stoloff, Head of Department: Staff and Environment.

2011 Grade Heads: **Ms Farquhar**, in the absence of **Ms Czeredrecki-Schmidt, Mrs Smuts, Mr Still and Ms Richards**.

Our 2011 Student Supervisors are: **Ms Mabena, Ms Mafundikwa, Ms Togara, Ms Nogoduka, Ms Gaga, Ms Mbambo, Ms Ngwara, Ms Owolabi and Ms Mudzanapabwe**. They will be joining current stalwarts: **Ms Mayana, Ms Msindo, Ms Rambakupetwa, Ms Knock and Ms Tabe**.

...AND A SAD FAREWELL TO...

In a beautiful letter of resignation **Ms Horowitz** says, 'The extent to which I enjoy working and growing at Victoria Girls' High School is precisely the reason why I must leave. It is like I have found the life I want to ultimately have while I am still too young'. I am proud of her courage to follow her dreams.

Mrs L'Ange also decided that she is too young to spend another 22 years at VG. She has been with us since 1987 and will leave deep tracks that will be filled with great difficulty. No school recovers easily from the loss of so much institutional memory and such a dedicated Maths teacher, but she leaves us the richer as she always gave unstintingly. 'Institutional memory' sounds so much like the memory of an elephant, which in turn conjures up images of a matriarch – Mrs L'Ange has indeed been all of that to us, in the very best sense possible.

Mrs Domeris has been a part-time teacher for two years and will be retiring to Kidd's Beach with her husband. While I cannot fault anyone for wanting to retire to the Eastern Cape coast, we will miss her

inspiring Geography teaching.

Mrs Ngxizele is my granny of decorum and style, and she expected no less from her boarders. In the short time that she has been with us, she has established sound relationships with her boarders and their parents.

Ms Nortje, our SETA intern: all I can say is if anyone is looking for a committed, hard-working and patient Girl Friday, please speak to me.

Last, but not least, **Mrs Heathcote**, who first resigned as House Mother of Renfrew, which was bad enough, but then she resigned as our secretary/office manager/absolutely indispensable/how-will-we-cope-person. She will be leaving us at the end of January to join her husband and children (and soon, grandchild!) in Port Elizabeth. Mrs Heathcote will leave an incredible void and leaves with mega institutional memory.

THE STAFF COOKING COMPETITION

Ms Potberg

The competition was tough, to put it mildly. The rubric could only have been designed by the English department. The method: draw three ingredients and use them to create magic dishes to inspire jaded teachers and admin staff to work even harder!

And did we do just that! With smarties, phylo pastry, lentils and aubergines, the staff outdid themselves.

Congratulations to the Life Science department for winning the Staff Cooking Competition, and they did not even have to bribe someone...

OUR STUDENT SUPERVISOR, aka, STOOGE, IN THE STARS

Ms Msindo

I am currently writing a full dissertation on social policy on "Perceptions and experiences of Child Support Grant recipients in selected areas of the Eastern Cape", towards a Masters in Social Sciences.

My motivation for carrying out the study: after reading the literature I noted that often we are told of what governmental and non-governmental organisations, academics and the general community perceive of recipients. However, we never hear it from the "horses' mouth" so to speak. What do the actual recipients experience and perceive of the grants?

During the June holidays I was invited to speak about my work at the South African Sociological Conference which was held in East London. Social Scientists from all over the world attended the conference.

In addition, in August I was invited to another conference in Pretoria, attended by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe. Professors from America, India, South Korea, to mention a few, attended the conference. Both experiences were phenomenal.

STUDENT TEACHERS

Mrs McConnachie

Once again we proved to ourselves as a school of excellence. We have been chosen by Rhodes University Professor Jean Baxen to host two student teachers from America. Nikki Zeleny and Heather Baker will join us in March 2011 and will stay until mid-May. Ms Zeleny joins us from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and is studying music education while Ms. Baker will join us from Middle Tennessee State University and is studying to

teach Home Economic Sciences. They will both be staying at Beaufort House and we look forward to welcoming them into the VG family.

SYMPOSIUM ON BARRIERS TO LEARNING IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS

Ms Potberg

The *Barriers to Learning Symposium* was held in Gauteng on 16 October 2010. Interested educators and various professionals joined in on this necessary discussion to broaden knowledge and sharing on this difficult task.

Barriers to learning include disabilities, learning difficulties or behaviour disorders. It is important to realise how impossible it is in terms of finances in our country to accommodate learners with special needs at special schools. Currently we have approximately 100 special schools in South Africa which barely accommodates all learners who have learning problems.

Some learners with special needs do not attend school at all, due to this challenge. The only way in which we can reach these learners who are experiencing barriers to learning, is to commit to inclusive education, providing assistance, support and intervention, bearing in mind that it is always important for learners to return to mainstream education. When these learners are in mainstream education, the school needs to have the necessary resources available to equip teachers with the necessary skills and training to assist learners. This is also where the help of a professional psychologist or counsellor is important to assess for specific barriers. When a learner has been diagnosed with a specific barrier to learning, the school can then apply for a concession, which is a barrier specific alternative strategy to assist learners to reach their full potential.

Unfortunately schools do not always have the necessary parental support to assist children. This stems from financial constraints, denial and lack of knowledge, as well as not wanting to accept that their children need additional educational support to reach their full potential.

It is of the utmost importance for the school and parents to have a good relationship in order to face these challenges together, with the primary focus on success for all learners.

PRESTIGIOUS EVENTS

PRIZE GIVING

Publicity Committee

Top achievers at our annual prize giving included **Anita Babu** who received Grade 12 Subject prizes for Science, Accounting, Maths and Life Sciences, as well as the GBS Mutual Bank Prize for diligence. **Danielle Wiblin** received the subject prizes for Drama, Afrikaans, English and came second in Grade 12. Congratulations also to Graeme House which received the much coveted House Shield.

Mrs Sue Dixon, the chairperson of the governing body, challenged the grade 12 girls to choose a challenging occupation rather than follow the money.

School captain **Kuhle Mxakaza** spoke about the prestigious events which happened this year. She acknowledged certain individuals who were not confined by their school building and were recognised nationally. She ended off by leaving these powerful words, "always be true to yourself and be original".

Mrs Schoeman included in her speech how the relationships one makes shape who one becomes. She ended off by sharing the vision she

has of the girls: she sees them becoming women that are grounded, rooted in their families and cultures, women of Africa with a difference. She ended off by telling the girls to make their dreams real and flap their wings.

The guest speaker of the evening was **Mrs Jane Bradshaw** who is a past pupil and the founder of Amasango Career School, a school for street children. She believes every street child has potential for greatness. She encouraged the girls to continue serving because in the end it will benefit them. She also reminded them that every drop in the ocean makes a difference and the girls should be that drop in the world.



Mrs Jane Bradshaw and Anita Babu



Mrs Jane Bradshaw and Alisa Lochner

SPORT, CULTURAL AND SERVICE ASSEMBLY

At our annual Sports and Cultural Assembly over 150 learners were awarded certificates and trophies for their sport, cultural and service achievements. Sports captains and leaders of cultural activities gave speeches to report back on what has happened this year.

Some of the awards included the Phillipa Morton Cup for the Best Senior Debater, awarded to **Liyabona Luthuli**, the Mathie Cup for the Star Choir Singer, awarded to **Zikhona Gqamana**, the Kim Bradfield Trophy for the Most Outstanding Tennis Player, shared by **Hannah Godlonton** and **Cassandra Lister**, and the Reynolds Cup for the Most Promising Athlete, awarded to **Jasmin Jattiem**.

Girls were also recognised for coaching sport and other activities, as well as for tutoring learners in need of academic support.

Handing out the prizes and congratulating the girls was **Mrs Coetzee**, mother to **Simone Coetzee**. The ceremony was well received and all the prize winners felt good for being recognised for their hard work and input.



Mrs Coetzee hands Kuhle Mxakaza a well-earned certificate



Simoné Coetzee seen here with her father Buks, and mother Doreen received awards for Athletics (Open Victrix), Cross-country (Senior Champion) and Squash (Most Outstanding Player) and also received the sportsmanship prize at our prize giving.



Hannah Stevens sticks out head and shoulders above the rest at story time.

ACADEMIC ACTION

NMMU MATHS OLYMPIAD



Nolene Dixon received a platinum award for the NMMU Maths olympiad



Amy Jackson-Moss and Tayla Solomon wrote the grade 11 NMMU Maths Olympiad and received Gold Awards.

TRINITY COLLEGE MUSIC EXAMS

Mrs Baart

Well done to Jacqui L'Ange who passed Grade 5 Flute with Merit and Zikhona Gqamana who passed Grade 5 Marimba.

RHODES UNIVERSITY CREATIVE WRITING

Congratulations to Katherine Gilliam who has received a certificate for Creative Writing from Rhodes University.

ROBOTIC WORKSHOP

Three of our Gr 11s are being trained to be facilitators during 2011 Scifest. They are currently spending time with the Rhodes University Sciences Departments:

Marryam Tariq, Nolene Dixon and Jessica Wentworth.

XHOSA TOUR REPORT

Khanyisa Mabindla

The senior Xhosa department, headed by our two Xhosa teachers, Ms Ntombela and Ms Siga, had great ideas for our department this year. One of these amazing plans included a Xhosa tour that took place in September. With us on the tour was Mrs Schoeman, our teachers and a number of very enthusiastic grade 11s and 12s.

We went to various destinations including Chief Sandile's great place in Mngqesha, the Steve Biko offices and memorial sites in King Williams Town and last but not the least, to Ms Siga's house in Idutywa.

We visited our very own former president's home, Thabo Mbeki in Idutywa. Since we were on the former president's reconciliation note we were also honoured to join the festive celebration ceremonies that were taking place on Heritage day in Qunu eMvezo, the birth home of Nelson Mandela.

Our last stop was in Mthatha where we were visited the Nelson Mandela Museum for more information on the history of our country's rich heritage. The tour was a great success and we would cherish those memories for ever.

Thank you to all the staff who went on tour with us, but especially to Ms Ntombela and Ms Siga, for a very well-organised, enriching tour.



Namso leading the singing in Mrs Mbeki's home



Mrs Mbeki telling Mrs Schoeman that children MUST work very hard and listen to their teachers and parents. We agree whole-heartedly!



The group was most generously hosted by Mr and Mrs Siga, parents of our own Ms Siga.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Delia Makabeni

Congratulations to Siyanda Makunga & Tamani Chithambo who received their Bronze awards for The President's Award programme

CHOIR

Mr Mkhize

A small group of Senior Choir girls went to Port Alfred to perform at the annual Christmas carol service at Damant Lodge.

Once again our girls sung so beautifully with very good sense of rhythm, dynamics as well as intonation. At the end the audience could not stop asking for more.

We would like to say a big thank you to our accompanist, Mr Peter Cartwright from Rhodes University, as well as Mr Goliath, our bus driver.



Cassie Lister and Hannah Godlonton scooped a number of prizes at VG's Sports, Culture and Service Awards Assembly. They shared the Colleen Crockart Cup for the Senior Doubles Tennis Champions. Cassie was also the U16 Victrix Ludorum for athletics, the most outstanding hockey player; while Hannah won the Senior Singles Tennis Championship cup and the hockey award for sportsmanship and endeavour.

VALEDICTORY SERVICE

Our annual Valedictory Service is a poignant reminder of one's time coming and going. Our Gr 12s looked back on the year through a slide show and in song composed by all the Grade 12 learners. They also handed over their leadership positions to the grade 11s.

The service was topped by the school captain's mother, Ms Mxakaza, who thanked the school staff and wished the matrics well, motivating them to explode their inner dynamite (but in the right way).



Traditional Valedictory sprinkler madness hit us once again.

GRADE 12 VISIT TO VP

Mrs Geraldine Arnold and the grade 1s at VP hosted the 8 matrics (who had started school at VP 12 years ago) to a morning of story-telling and ABCs. The matric ladies were excited to go back to grade 1 though they seemed rather big for the classroom.

Mrs Barnard, the lady in charge of Damant Lodge, and also past Hostel Superintendent and wife of Mr Barnard, past principal of VG, again praised Mr Mkhize and his girls on their superb performance and manners. Due to public demand our own conductor, Mr Mkhize, had to sing two beautiful opera arias for the Damant Lodge residents.

DEBATING

Publicity committee

We hosted St Andrews College for a debating evening.

The event was organised by Ms Abel of the junior debating society and two teams from both schools participated. The motion was: *This house believes that advertising is harmful*. Each school had the opportunity to both oppose and propose the motion as there were two debates. Some thought-provoking points came through and everyone was put in a position where they had to evaluate the current status quo with advertising and its effect, both positive and negative. The final result was a draw with each school winning one debate.



The best speakers of the evening, Yonela Mankuntsu, James Holmes and Blessings Chinganga. Yonela and Blessings are off to participate in the National Debating competitions in KZN, as members of the EP Debating team! Well done to our bright stars.



The debaters from the winning teams from left, Yonela Mankuntsu, Nicholas Wilkinson, Sive Sotashe, Fin Warrall, Blessings Chinganga and James Holmes

ISIXHOSA BEST SPEAKERS

Delia Makabeni

Towards the end of September the Rhodes African Languages Department hosted the Steve Biko Commemorative IsiXhosa Speech Competition.

The main aim of this competition was to ensure that the Xhosa language is kept alive, especially because of all the Eurocentric influences that exist in today's world. The topic for discussion was the importance of education and learning and their role in general on the African continent.

Our girls did well in this competition with **Liyabona Luthuli** coming second and **Ayanda Twani** third.



Liyabona Luthuli and Ayanda Twanda are all smiles having come 2nd and 3rd in the competition.

LEKKER LIEDJIE LOLLERY KOMPETISIE

Publicity committee

Classic and contemporary Afrikaans tunes filled the hall on October the 13th, sung by students (and a couple of eager teachers) for the *Lekker Liedjie Lollery*, an Afrikaans song evening headed up by our Afrikaans teachers.

The EB hostel group who sang "Dit Borrel in My", won first prize. Among other songs that roused the audience with their cheerfulness and creativity were "Ek soek na my Dina", "Kaptein", "Vat Jou goed", "Loslappie" and a special performance by the marimba band.

ORCHESTRA END OF YEAR PARTY

Mrs McConnachie

The Orchestra decided to celebrate the end of their musical year by joining me at my house on Glenthorpe farm. After an hour and half walk we awarded prizes to every member and chuckled about the different personalities in the orchestra but also marveled at how much music we had made together. With the formalities over, we tucked into pizzas while watching a video and decided that this had to become an annual event.



SPORT MATTERS

TENNIS

In October we held our annual Inter-house Tennis Championship. The girls played with much enthusiasm and the competition was stiff. Graeme house was victorious. Ruthville came second, Dorset third and Thursford last.



The winning Graeme house team: Sarah Long, Amber Higgitt, Cassie Lister, Mbali Hlangani, Nkosinathi Xipula

October also saw us playing a tennis match against KC. The match took some time to finish as it was a very tough one. We played our best as always but there had to be one winner and the match was not for us!

This was followed by us teaming up with Graeme College and playing tennis against St Andrews College and DSG. The scores were as follows:

Wade and Hannah (VG) v Rhain and Megan (DSG) 6-5

Wade and Hannah (VG) v Fletcher and Savannah (DSG) 9-2

Brad and Cassie (VG) v Fletcher and Savannah (DSG) 7-4

Brad and Cassie (VG) v Megan and Rhain (DSG) 1-10

Tyrone and Nolene (VG) v Rhichard and Sarah (DSG) 8-4

Tyrone and Nolene (VG) v Charles and Jadie (DSG) 2-9

Jarred and Awongwa (VG) v Richard and Sarah (DSG) 6-5

Jarred and Awongwa (VG) v Charlers and Jadie (DSG) 0-11

Brendon and Meredith (VG) v Luke and Kendall (DSG) 2-9

Brendon and Meredith (VG) v Pual and Mandy (DSG) 2-9

Gordon and Aimee (VG) v Laurence and Melissa (DSG) 2-9

PROFESSIONAL TENNIS COACHING 2011

"Warren van Rooyen, a professional tennis coach, will be offering his services to pupils and parents of GC, VP, VGHS, OATLANDS and PJO from the first term next year.

He is a fully qualified and highly experienced tennis pro who has been coaching in SA, EUROPE, AUSTRALIA and CHINA for the past 18yrs. He'll be moving to Grahamstown from Plettenberg Bay, where he currently runs Plett Tennis Academy and is Resident Pro at the 5-star Kurland Hotel.

Warren will be coaching school teams, as well as offering private/group lessons and introducing the "starTennis" program to Grahamstown (a specifically designed coaching system to introduce and develop tennis skills through fun activities and innovative games/exercises, for Grade R-Grade 3).

Should anyone be interested, or require further info, pls contact Warren on: 0722711522,

e-mail: warrenstartennis@gmail.com"

HIKING

A few girls went on a hike with **Dr Hanton, Mr Stoloff** and **Ms Hastie**, and led by **Mr Smith**. As always girls were very enthusiastic and ready to go.

Thank you to **Mr Smith** for leading the hike, **Mr Stoloff** for driving the bus and **Dr Hanton** for the organization.



Sisipho Nyamela above, and below Sisipho Nyamela, Unathi Klaas & Sinoyolo Ndandani



OUR WIDER EDUCATION PROGRAMME

THE COVENANT PLAYERS

The Covenant players returned to us this year to present educational theatre pieces to the Gr 8s and 9s.

This year's cast included **Wendy Cyr, Hess Bellingan** and **Ella Solomon**. They dealt with issues such as friendship, ethical decisions that impact on our lives, and self identity. The plays were thoroughly enjoyed by the girls and participation in the group discussions and debates that followed the plays, were lively.



BREAST CANCER TALK

Yondela Mankuntsu

Ms Paige, currently studying at Rhodes University, came to talk to the Grade 8s & 9s about her experience with breast cancer. She was diagnosed at the age of 18.

She informed the girls that they should do regular checks for lumps as she discovered her lump when she had a funny feeling when she did a yoga stretch.

Her talk was very inspiring and it made every one aware of the fact that we can get cancer at any age, even if we are leading a healthy lifestyle.

PJ FUN RUN

Our Grade 11 leadership team took the PJ fun run by force (in numbers and spirit at least if not in speed) dressed in PJs and pig tails.



Can you bear it? Hope Quntu, Andisiwe Miya, Asisipho Moyake and Mhlahli Nqunge get ready for bed and a run!

JUST GO FOR IT!

CAMPS & TOURS 2011

The 2011 programme is chock-a-block with tours, camps, Olympiads, concerts, and many more. Start planning!

- ✓ All grade-related camps are included in the school fees
- ✓ The hostels will all go camping (kindly see Fee Structure document)
- ✓ Netball, *sommer* more than one!
- ✓ Hockey, ditto!
- ✓ And THAT choir tour...
- ✓ Plus..... see the back page!

PARENTS' VISITS

Kindly have a look at the term calendar and Important Dates of the Year to see when VG will be in your area. We'd love to meet with you and

discuss your daughter's progress.

MY SCHOOL CARDS

We appeal to as many people (grannies, aunts, mothers, fathers, brothers-and-others) to use the Woolworths My School Cards, with VGHS as beneficiary. The money we raise this way goes to the VGHS Benevolent Fund, a fund that is used for many deserving learners.

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY BY-ELECTION

Notice is hereby given of the School Governing Body By-election to be held:

24 February 2011

Nominations close at 12:00 (forms available from the office)

13:00-14:00 Election in the school library.

CHOIR CONCERT

Friday, 25 February in Mthatha! Do not miss out...

PTPA AUCTION

Some members of our PTPA are already hard at work organizing an auction to raise R200 000.00 to paint and polish the MG Richardson Hall. This is a huge project, and we need lots and lots of hands. If you have any suggestions, donations, spare hands, kindly write to the office, or phone, or e-mail at office@vghs.escape.school.za. We'll make sure the information reaches the right hands and ears!

Date: 27 May 2011 – do not miss out on much fun!

OUR HOSTELS

BEAUFORT HOUSE

Mrs Dampies

The Beaufort House girls had a busy year and a very busy term with braais at the swimming pool, movies at Roxbury and at the hostel, supper and breakfast at Spur and Wimpy with a delightful picnic on the school lawn. This year's girls in BH who are leaving will be sorely missed by all the staff and the current Grade 11s.

We wish the Matrics all the best for their future careers. May the rest of you all have a good holiday and return refreshed and ready for a new year!

RENFREW HOUSE

Sihle Jacobs

Our year started with great excitement as we were all looking forward to a prosperous year. In the first term we accommodated Dennis Long House girls who sadly left us during the 2nd term.

Our hostel mother, **Mrs Heathcote**, often warmed our hearts with her delicious baking.

We were kept busy with a lot of exciting activities such as talents shows, Karaoke evenings, movies and town walks.

We also served our community by visiting Brookshaw home where we would serve tea and muffins to the aged. Finally our year ended with a successful banquet where we all dressed up, received presents and made many speeches. We would like to thank **Mrs Schoeman** for sharing her very inspiring story with us.

We would like to thank the staff of Renfrew, **Mrs Heathcote**, **Ms Rambakupetwa** and **Ms Mayana** for all their love and support. We enjoyed the warm accommodation at Renfrew House.

We wish every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

MATHER PIKE HOUSE

Ms Chandia

Mather Pike has had a rather busy term.

We took a day trip to Jeffreys Bay where we enjoyed some fun in the sun and strolls on the beach. We also engaged in various house activities such as *The Amazing Race: MP Edition*, of which the hot combo, **Unathi** and **Sinalo** aka the Opposites, emerged victorious. The Room1 Divas, **Sinalo**, **Unathi**, **Olwethu**, **Emihle** and **Yolanda** were amazing on the catwalk during a spontaneous fashion show on a rainy Wednesday afternoon. We ended off the term with the Christmas banquet, which was a night filled with glitz and glamour.

We would like to give special thanks to **Ms Ntosh**, **Ms Marsh** and the 8 stunning young ladies of Mather Pike for a fun filled fourth term. As well as **Ms Chadia**, of course.

ELEANOR BROWN ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Mrs Ngxizele

2010 was a remarkable year with the Grade 10s showing sound assertiveness over the juniors. The junior grade finally caught up with the new dormitory management styles and applied for Hostel Committees with enthusiasm and in large numbers.

Every boarder felt and showed a deep sense of belonging and oneness to the hostel family. Yes, we have travelled a long way to reach this positive family togetherness. There were hitches here and there that have been solved amicably. The boarders know that the Hostel Code of Conduct is the way forward to a happy, healthy future in all hostels.

Our excursion earlier this year to the Willows Bungalows in Port Elizabeth, away from our book-worm studies, renewed and recharged us to want to pass our grades better than before.

The Entertainment Committee did make us laugh and be happy. The Discipline Committee, however, really forced us to stick to the Hostel Code of Conduct, but they were also not exempt from punishment.

Every event in our hostel this year was a step forward to cope with our future lives. We have indeed grown physically through the week-end activities, grown morally through moral lessons from our matrons and kitchen staff, grown mentally and wise.

Our parents will be really proud of us. We shall amaze you next year, VGHS!

DENISE LONG HOUSE

Menzi Mkiva

This year has been a pleasant year, beginning with the excitement of moving into a new Hostel which was followed by a successful opening. A lot has happened in the 6 months we have spent in this hostel as we have had both sad and merry moments.

We spent time in East London on our Hostel outing where we enjoyed the sounds and fresh smell of the ocean and spent most of our time shopping in the new Hemmingways Mall.

On weekends we did outdoor activities, town walks as well of movie watching. We spent our Mandela 67 minutes serving soup to street kids, which was made by our cook, **Ms Mdungelo**, with the assistance of the girls. We had a lovely Christmas banquet and got a visit from "Mother Christmas", **Mrs Schoeman**.

This year was topped off with a farewell braai on the last weekend of the term.

Mrs Denise Long has to be thanked for the letters and the cake she has been sending us

and **Ms Siga** for making this year a memorable one. To the girls, nothing would have been possible without you.

HOSTEL COMMITTEES 2011

We are proud to announce the Boarder Leadership team, 2011:

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

Grade 12 Beaufort House

Daffala Zahra, Eddie Andisiwe, Kwatsha Sinesipho, Madubedube Nomathukela, Mollel Lillian, Ngcingwane Lindokuhle, Tsipa Amanda & Yanta Sikelelwa.

Grade 11 Beaufort House

Ceza Nanamhla, Mati Soyama & Skeyi Lihle

Grade 10 Eleanor Brown

Namba Sisipho, Bodlani Lelethu, Dlepu Emihle, Dlwati Hlomela, Feni Zininzi, Hala Sinovuyo, Jacobs Sihle, Macingwana Sanelisiwe, Mangcu Thina, Mkiva Menzi, Mzokwana Sibabalwe, Mzuku Kungela, Ngcaba Sinalo, Thomas Aviwe & Tom Olwethu.

Grade 9 Renfrew House

Booi Ntombesizwe, Buso Nazi, Yose Chwayita, Matyala Siyanda, Tsomo Yamkela & Mgangxela Zizo.

Grade 9 Mather Pike House

Nogumla Owethu, Soldaat Siyamthanda, Latsha Liyabona, Ncetani Zenande, Kelemi Anelisa, Sinama Minentle & Stofile Rosa

Grade 9 Denise Long House

Hoho Noluthando & Mapara Nyasha

DEPARTMENT & WELLNESS

(in various hostels)

Finnis Tameron-Dee, Fana Enkosi, Makinana Siphesihle, Mzongwana Siphokazi, Hlatshaneni Luvuyo, Makabeni Delia, Clarke Jessica & Nyasha Mapara.

ENTERTAINMENT

Grade 11 & 12 Beaufort House

Lande Khanya, Makinana Lungisa, Mbulawa Chumani, Mona Iviwe, Nkinti Zizipho, Nyamela Sisipho, Qaba Babalwa, Siganga Sinovuyo, Stuurman Nando, Toni Asekho, Williams Sphumelele, Boltina Naledi, Majjja Vuyisanani & Mtshemla Thami

Grade 10 Eleanor Brown

Ndungane Silubonile, Qupe Viwe & Sankobe Yolanda

Grade 9 Renfrew House

Cingo Siphamandla, Magadla Sandisiwe, Nonkula Zizipho, Goliath Michaela, Peyi Nelisiwe, Ncoyo Khanyisa, Njwambe Sihle, Olwethu Nogumla, Zizipho Ludidi, Yolanda Sankobe & Thembakazi Sokutu.

Grade 9 Mather Pike

Nogumla Elethu, Nicole Oyetunji & Mpofu Sibabalwe,

Grade 9 Denise Long House

Speelman Kuhle, Pepe Lutho & Simanye Roboji

GROUND & GARDENS

(in various hostels)

Macingwane Tembakazi & Solomon Tayla

HOUSE PROUD

(in various hostels)

Calana Phumza, Hoho Noluthando, Ngcwangu Anezwa, Gosani Vuyokazi, Yeko Siyathemba, Yaso Anita & Sinoyolo Ndandani.

ADMINISTRATION

Kindly find the following documents in your envelope:

- 2011 Fees Structure
- Stationery lists applicable to grade
- Sponsorship letters, and letters to Portfolio Heads, if applicable
- Reports
- Accounts
- Merit report
- Reading Excellence Report (Gr 8 & 9)
- My School Card, if applicable
- 2011 Important Dates
- Birch's flyer
- Debit link forms
- Welcome cards for new girls, if applicable
- Learner release forms, if your daughter owes anything to the school.
- Newsletter
- Transfer forms, if applicable
- Accounts
- New boarder laundry numbers, if applicable
- Tour letters, if applicable
- All boarders to get Medical and Visitors' forms

THE SEMI-FINAL

A WORD FROM OUR SCHOOL CAPTAIN

Luvuyo Hlatshaneni

As unbelievable as it may sound to many of us the exam rush is over, pens are permanently down for the next month. Holiday time has arrived and the time for the well deserved rest we've all been waiting for is finally here. Well done, ladies and staff, for making it through the many events of 2010 and for enduring till the end. To our big sisters, the Matrics, we wish you well as you step into the big wide world. May you shine wherever you go, reaching for your dreams and grabbing all the opportunities that come your way and prosper in your respective occupations.

Lastly, as we all head to our different holiday destinations may we keep safe and have a joyous festive season with our loved ones' till next year, enjoy!

OUR SCHOOL CAPTAIN & DEPUTY – some insider info:

Both **Luvuyo Hlatshaneni** and **Nolene Dixon** came to us from VP and have won the faith and confidence of staff and learners alike through their amiable natures and full involvement in the life of the school. **Luvuyo** hails from Umthata while the Dixons are a well known local farming family.

Luvuyo is described by the junior girls as "easy to talk to but also responsible." She is a true VG all-rounder, playing second team netball and being a member of both the choir and the marimba band. She was the singing director for her house at the inter-house singing competition and has coached netball for the last 2 years.

Nolene is admired for her academic achievement (particularly in the Maths and Science fields in which she has excelled at a number of Olympiads) and her willingness to share her knowledge with others through the academic support programme. She plays tennis, hockey, netball and squash, and coaches social hockey and tennis. She

is also known for her strong faith and years of service on the Christians in Action team. The junior girls describe her as "soft-hearted, always happy and positive".

... and FINALLY!

This time of the year is exciting, but also hard for many reasons (the hardest part is realising how old I must be getting as lack of time seems to be directly proportional to aging!).

The end of a year is a time for taking stock, so it is always good to hear that our school is highly rated in the wide world. In the past two weeks we received the following:

From a past parent -

'On a brighter note, you may be interested to know that a past pupil (my daughter Lindsay Jackson) is shortly to hand in her MSc thesis at Rhodes. It will be a while before she has the result, but I doubt that there will be major problems. One thing, though, that I'm constantly aware of, is what an outstanding education - in every way - she had at your school' ... 'The effect of a VG education is something I see all the time among my students in Classics at Rhodes. The great thing about VG alumnae is that they've learnt how to use their time and to be self-sufficient, long before coming to varsity'.

From a current parent, about the VG staff -

'from the first day I entered your school, I left my daughter with no fear because I was leaving her with mothers like you and your staff. When I came to your school with tears, I left with a smiling face'... 'I run out of words that will describe the caring and goodness of your hearts'.

And a quote from Khanyisa Mabindla and Buhle Nondwayi, who wrote Gr 12 this year -

'The task of an excellent teacher is to stimulate "apparently ordinary" people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners, it is in making winners out of ordinary people' - KP Cross.

And this, above all, is what VGHS is about. **The staff take immense joy in creating opportunities.** As a staff we do our best to nurture what is precious to every family, but if it were not for the joy of seeing a child using an opportunity, and developing through it, reflecting on it, growing because of it and giving back to the school and wider community, all would be to little avail. For the VG staff it is not about recognition for their roles (although they really deserve it), it is about unleashing potential.

Our staff are exceptionally creative (regarded internationally as the top characteristic of a leader) and they never cease to amaze me with what they come up. They set the tone for your daughters to have the awareness, mindset and work ethic to make a meaningful contribution in society. (Note: not to make money and buy luxuries, but to make a difference).

Every staff member, from the Mr Mahabenis on the grounds, to the Ms Magwalas in the hostel kitchen, to the Ms Strausses in the finances office, to the Hayess and Schmidts and Retiefs of our school: you are truly exceptional people who, with our parents, set our girls free. You deserve the most extra-ordinary of breaks!

'Mooi loop!'

Madeline Schoeman

Going Nowhere Slowly, Again.

Mr Stoloff



In September 2006 and 2008, Mr Stoloff and the VGHS Hiking and Camping Club embarked on trips to be remembered – meanders in the VGHS mini-bus to some of the prettiest, quietest and remotest parts of the country. Camping every night, sometimes lighting the 'donkey' to prepare hot water showers and taking part in everyday camp life, the girls (and teachers) benefited enormously on this journey away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

In April 2011, it is time to go nowhere, slowly, again! Mr Stoloff (and family) and Ms Abel are off into even more interesting territory.

The itinerary is as follows:

- 01 April- Grahamstown to Zastron (Die Dampondok)
- 02 April- Golden Gate National park
- 03 April- Mahai Campsite (in Royal Natal National Park, Northern Drakensberg)
- 04 April- Mahai Campsite (in Royal Natal National Park, Northern Drakensberg)
- 05 April- Cathedral Peak Campsite (Central Drakensberg)
- 06 April- Port St Johns
- 07 April- **HOME!**

Once again, we will be roughing it- staying in tents and cooking on fires. There will be hot water ablutions at all the venues. No academic work is to be brought, and none will be given - the emphasis is on appreciation of our environment by doing nothing more than living in it. By having this trip in the April Holidays instead of September, the hope is that Grade 12 Girls will also have the opportunity to tour.



COST and PAYMENT: The cost of the whole trip, (all camping fees, conservation fees for nature reserves and food/equipment, etc) is **R1 100.**

Places will be reserved for the first seven people to pay the school finances office (Ms Strauss).

The **Benevolent Fund** will pay for one additional person that wishes to go but that honestly cannot afford to. Please apply, in writing, to Mrs Schoeman on the first day of school (Wednesday, 19 January 2011).

Pocket money is not necessary but is allowed (although it is unlikely that we will stumble upon many places to spend it). Pupils will be allowed to use their cell phones between 20:00 and 20:30 in the evenings in the unlikely event that there is a signal.

Let's do it! Join the VGHS Hiking and camping club on what promises to be an awesome time!

