

# VG NEWS

7 August 2009, Volume 7 # 18

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

### BLOOD DONATIONS

On 22 July we had a Blood Donation Clinic in the Gym. Let's hope more parents, girls and staff join in next time so that the Blood Donation Service can reach its target.



### BEHIND THE SCENES STAR

Rebecca Manning for visiting Brookshaw Home, on many occasions, to bring comfort to a special person.

## OUR STAFF

### MS GOLIATH

At the end of this term we'll bid a sad farewell to Ms Goliath, our Social Worker, who has been with us since 2004. The welfare of the girls and staff should be my priority, but I am very worried about my early morning coffee!

### MS HAYES



Ms Hayes, our finalist at the National Innovative Teachers Award Ceremony. Very proud of the work

## OUR PARENTS

### REPORT DISCUSSION MEETING

Parents traveled from as far as Fort Beaufort, Mthatha, Port Elizabeth to join the staff at the 16:00 to 18:00 report discussion meeting. This time, as opposed to the lunch time meetings, obviously suited them to a T! Thank you for coming!

## OUR OLD GIRLS

### GRADUATES

Just two examples of the many VG Old Girls who graduated all over the world: **Roanne Shay Keeton** (1999) and **Miranda Elaine Armstrong** (1998). They received their PhD at the University of Cape Town in June this year.

### VG OLD GIRLS NEWSLETTER

Coming towards the end of August! Just watch the website!

### LOIS BASSETT AND JACQUI BAINES

Lois Bassett, school captain of 1945 and founder of the Johannesburg Old Girls Union passed away recently. We are grateful for her immense contribution to our school and to Swimming SA. (Her photograph features on a number of the Centenary collages in the upper hall foyer, as she opened the Centenary Pavillion).

Jacqui Baines (matric 1990) and teacher at Port Alfred High School, passed away in July.

## ACADEMIC ACTION

### ACADEMIC AWARDS

We are very proud of our Academic

performers:

<b>Alisa Lochner</b>	– Honours for Academic
<b>Anita Babu</b>	– Honours for Academic
<b>Danielle Wiblin</b>	– Honours for Academic
<b>Tarryn Potts</b>	– Colours for Academic
<b>Aluta Mleni</b>	– Colours for Academic
<b>Kuhle Mxakaza</b>	– Colours for Academic
<b>Kéri Werth</b>	– Colours for Academic
<b>Danica Coetzee</b>	– Colours Academic
<b>Jessica Comley</b>	– Half Colours
<b>Michaela Walters</b>	– Half Colours
<b>Tracy Probert</b>	– Half Colours
<b>Rebecca Manning</b>	– Half Colours

## COMING UP

07/08	12:00 Leave Out starts
08/08	Leave Out
09/08	Leave Out Women's Day
10/08	Leave Out Public Holiday
11/08	15:00 SGB Walkabout
	17:00 SGB
12/08	18:00 – 19:00 CIA Term Evening
13/08	17:00 – 19:00 Matric Drama Prac Rehearsals.
14/08	FEDSAS SGB Training, PE
	14:00 <i>Poësie Kompetisie Sluit</i>
	17:00 - 19:00 Ruthville House Function.
	Hiking Club Weekend Trip
15/08	Hockey VGHS vs Riebeeck away
	Hiking Club Weekend Trip
	First Aid level 1 Course
16/08	Hiking Weekend Trip
	First Aid Level 1 Course

## THINKING OF

Port Alfred High School on the deaths of a learner and of a teacher.

## ACADEMIC BADGES

Well done to our Juniors whose aggregates were high enough to qualify for Academic Badges:

**Elizabeth Lemmer, Jessica Clarke, Blessings Chinganga, Carla Wilby, Aimee Hewson, Kirsty Jonas, Tayla Solomon, Babalwa Qaba, Busi Sandi, Naycan Ferrera, Anelisiwe Ntapu, Asemahle Mdingi, Katherine James, Thando Noganta, Amy Jackson-Moss, Olwethu Mvelo, Unathi Klaas, Stephanie Whitehorn, Casandra Lister, Aphiwe Dyani.**

## RHODES INTERNSHIP ARTICLE

By *Leletu Ndabeni*

From 13 – 17 July **Leletu Ndabeni, Danielle Wiblin, Anitha Babu, Jessica Wentworth** and **Mpho Mdlongwa** worked in the Rhodes Zoology and Entomology Department as interns. They worked with different staff members.

**Leletu** and **Jessica** worked for **Prof. Hill**. They helped the members of the department with the cleaning of the tubs with invasive alien weeds. They did some data crunching and transferred weeds to different tunnels.

**Danielle** worked for **Prof. Villet** where she learnt how to dissect cicadas and extract DNA from classification purposes. She sorted the cicadas and worked with the data regarding each species.

**Anitha** worked for **Prof. McQuaid** where she found mussel larvae and measured them using a microscope. She then separated into recruit and sample. She put those samples into different files.

**Mpho** worked for **Mr Mostert**, measuring seaweed samples and weighing them. She also identified organisms living on them with a microscope.

## MATHS OLYMPIAD

Well done to the 8 learners who wrote the second round of the Harmony South Africa

24 budding mathematicians wrote the NMMU AMESA Olympiad early this term. We are still waiting to hear who qualifies to write the next round on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

The following girls received awards at the English Olympiad;

<b>Nicole Upfold</b> -	Silver
<b>Carla Mostert</b> -	Silver
<b>Nina Solomon</b> -	Silver
<b>Amy von Witt</b> -	Bronze
<b>Ashleigh Allner</b> -	Bronze
<b>Kelsey Smailes</b> -	Bronze
<b>Aluta Mleni</b> -	Bronze
<b>Hannah Kirkaldy</b> -	Bronze
<b>Tamani Chithambo</b> -	Merit
<b>Hannah Godlonton</b> -	Merit
<b>Jessica Wentworth</b> -	Merit
<b>Nolene Dixon</b> -	Merit
<b>Kéri Werth</b> -	Merit
<b>Danielle Wiblin</b> -	Merit
<b>Rebecca Manning</b> -	Merit

### LIBRARY NEWS

#### ♥ Library news – Romance is in the air ♥

Picture the scene:

It's cold and wet outside. Time to snuggle under a duvet with some hot chocolate and a romantic novel!

Come and check out the selection of Romance, Mills and Boon style, new on the library shelves.

### DONATIONS

The library has also just received a large donation of novels from Canada, through the efforts of GADRA. A big thanks is due to GADRA and the Canadian donors. It's a lovely start to term 3 to have so many great books to add to our shelves.

Thank you to Mrs Djan who brought her daughter, Yaa, (Matric 1998) all the way from Canada. I'm sure the girls will be most interested in Charlotte Gray's *Reluctant Genius*.

### HOURS

The library will be open Mon – Thurs,  
2:30pm – 4:30pm

### CULTURAL AFFAIRS

#### PRESIDENTS' AWARD

VGHS was recently recognized by the President's Award Programme for its active participation in youth development. Thanks to Ms Zamani and her committee for spearheading the programme.

### SCIENCE EXPO NATIONALS



Well done to Nicole and Jenny Upfold, Simoné Coetzee and Vivienne Dames on going through

### DERBY DAY CHESS

The chess results for Fridays Derby Day against Port Alfred are as follows: VGHS 5, Port Alfred 2



Anitha Babu (above) and Yonela Mangisa doing some serious concentrating.



### CURRENT AFFAIRS

It's the time of the year again where we look for our 2009-2010 committee.

INTERESTED? Then just submit your brilliant application for one of the following positions:

1. Chairperson
2. Secretary
3. Gr 8, 9, 10 and 11 representative

In your applications, you have to:

1. State the position for which you are applying, and your second choice
2. State your present grade (your name may NOT be on the application form)
3. Say whether you are currently a member of Current Affairs
4. Describe what you regard as the function of the position for which you are applying
5. Describe why you are the best person for this role
6. List the magazines and newspapers you read regularly
7. Describe how this society could play a pivotal role in marketing VGHS
8. Reflect on the following by writing 200 words on it: *Current Affairs does not only refer to the latest music video but also to environmental, humanitarian, economic, etc, issues.*

Applications must be typed.

Please submit your application to Mrs Heathcote no later than 14:00 on Friday, 21 August 2009.

### DEBATING

By Bongoletu Mtshabe

The topic for the day was "This house would set a public holiday on Mandela's birthday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, every year starting in the year 2010." This was a topic discussed by the Nation the weekend before schools opened and a 67 minutes dedicated to Nelson Mandela. Our debators were **Bongoletu Mtshabe, Tembela Lawana and Andulela Suka**. We won the debate, VG – 68 and Port Alfred – 66. We would like to thank Ms Van der Westhuizen for preparing the venue and to all the staff involved in setting up Derby Day. We really had fun. We would also like to congratulate the audience on their behaviour!

### DERBY DAY DEBATING

By Naledi Ntondini

On 1 August 2009, an enthusiastic team, made up by **Kuhle Mxakaza, Hlubikazi Zibi and Naledi Ntondini**, participated in the PSA debating representing the Grahamstown district. We gave the debates all we had but unfortunately we didn't make it to the next round. We would like to thank Ms Van der Westerhuizen for her support and Mrs Smuts for taking us to Graeme College. Our junior debaters who were time keepers and Madam Speaker, were commended on their good behaviour.



Bongo, Andulela and Tembela outscoring the opponents at debating.

### SPORT MATTERS

#### NETBALL

Ms Farquhar



On 30 July the U14A/B netball girls played against Kingswood College. The results were as follows:

U14A drew 7 – 7  
U14B lost 9 – 7

On Friday, 31 July the netball girls played against Port Alfred at the Derby Day. The girls played extremely well the results are as follows:

U14A won 20 – 8  
U16A won 21 - 6

(The first team match rained out).

#### CACADU NETBALL

The following girls have been selected to represent the Cacadu Netball team to play in the Zimkhita Lesoro Provincial Tournament taking place at Fort Hare University from 14 – 16 August

**Hoyi, Siya Manyakanyaka, Nwabisa Namba, Andisiwe Eddie.**

**HOCKEY**

*Carla Mostert*

On a misty Friday afternoon, through the unpredictable Grahamstown weather, the teams played some bumpy hockey in the tradition of the Port Alfred Derby Day. The players enjoyed the challenge of grass, nearly as much as the tasty treats after the games!

Thank you to the supporters and their spirit.

The results were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> won 1 – 0

2<sup>nds</sup> drew 0 – 0



**SQUASH**

*Shannon Thurston*



*Melissa, Marné and Shannon*

The squash girls also took part in Fridays Derby Day against Port Alfred. The results are as follows:

**S. Thurston** lost 1 – 3

**M. Mostert** won 3 – 1

**M. Sangqu** won 3 – 0

**C. May** lost 0 – 3

On 3 August the Squash girls played against KC1. The results were as follows:

**S. Coetzee** lost 0 – 3

**S. Thurston** lost 0 – 3

**M. Mostert** won 3 – 2

**C. May** lost 0 – 3

**J. Upfold** lost 0 – 3

Total : 3 – 14 to KC1



*Nombali Siwa and Olwethu Bunu with their gold, silver and bronze medals from the Karate Championships in JHB.*

**KEEN ON A PLEASANT WEEKEND CAMP!**

Go with **Mr Stoloff's** camping club to Morgan's Bay. We will be staying for Friday and Saturday Night (14 August and 15 August, returning on Sunday, 16 August) at Yellowwoods Forest Campsite. This is a very pretty campsite, with hot water showers, a shop and even a pizza oven. Feel free to check it out at [www.yellowwoods.co.za](http://www.yellowwoods.co.za).

We will be staying in the camping club tents, but campers must have their own sleeping bags and sleeping mats, as well as a good sense of humour and adventure. You will cook your own potjiekos on Friday night and then hike to Kei Mouth on Saturday, before enjoying a mouth – watering pizza at the campsite!

Cost: R200 (you couldn't stay in Jail for less than that). Sign the list outside **Mr Stoloff's** classroom (ONLY ONCE YOU HAVE PAID **MISS STRAUSS**) nine girls have already paid, leaving space for one more, including one person who may be sponsored from the Benevolent Fund – please apply to **Mrs Schoeman** in writing should you wish to use this fund. **Ms Hastie** and **Dr Hanton** will be accompanying us. All payment/Benevolent Fund applications must be done by Wednesday, at the latest.

**OUR WIDER EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

**SMARTIES**

The name *Smarties* has proven to be most apt considering the wotalotigot-edness of the choices on offer to the girls. Thanks to Ms Hayes, the staff, student teachers and girls for making it possible.

The choices:

*What does it mean to be Xhosa? In depth discussions on culture*

*Decoupage*

*Tai Chi*

*Public Speaking*

*Electro acoustic music*  
*Poker*

*Healthy Living Workshops*  
*Movie Maker*  
*How to maintain cars*

*Web design*

*Museum visits*

*Being a woman in the world*

*Scrabble*

*Bible Study*

*Beginners guitar*

*Practical sewing techniques*

*Pamper Sessions: Mini Manicure, Pedicure, Skin Health, Relaxation exercises*

*Grade 10 and 11 only*

*Origami*

*Beaded Earrings*

*Beaded cards and things*

*Baking: a personalized gift*

*Making didgeridoos*

*Multi craft (tie dye, gift boxes, beaded earrings*

*Soccer*

*Cricket*

**CLASS CAPTAINS AND VICE**

GRADE	CAPTAIN	VICE-CAPTAIN
8/D	Sihle Jacobs	Kelly Ocks
8/G	Zikhona Makeba	Yolanda Sankobe
8/R	Kirby Daniels	Megan Jonkers
8/T	Sibablawe Mzokwana	Aimee Hewson
9/D	Soyamam Mati	Unathi Klaas
9/G	Nkosinathi Xipula	Thelela Nzanzeka
9/R	Aseko Toni	Katherine James
9/T	Nando Stuurman	Siphesihle Makinana
10/1	Lindokuhle Ngcingwana	Noluvo Kulati
10/2	Hope Quntu	Meredith Assumption
10/3	Luvuyo Hlatshaneni	Onyeka Osode
11/1	Zandile Hoyi	Christine Cloete
11/2	Buhle Nondwayi	Khanyisa Mabindla
11/3	Yamkela Mgxangxeni	Nombali Siwa
12/1	Ntombovuo Manze	Bongo Mtshabe
12/2	Shannon Thurston	Z. Matiikinca
12/3	Nomajama Cagwe	Nomfundo Mpahla

**GIRL CHILD PARLIAMENT, RHODES WOMEN'S WEEK, 4 AUGUST 2009**

*Danielle Wiblin*

On 31 July some of our girls attended a preparatory afternoon, which gave them more knowledge of the events happening the following Tuesday.

With about 70 girls from public schools around Grahamstown 11 VG girls attended the first ever Girl Child Parliament. The girls were split into 5 groups, each with a different topic i.e. Governance, Education and Poverty, Traditional affairs, Entrepreneurship and Gender.

The girls had to discuss issues within their group then had a chance to report back to the entire forum and honorary guest, Frene Ginwala, the First Female Speaker in the South African Parliament. Many new friends were made and a lot of knowledge gained. Thank you to Ms Ntombela for accompanying us.

**NIGHT OF TRICKS**

On 27 August the Matric Arts students will be hosting a music, drama and arts evening.

Tickets: Scholars R5 & Adults R10

Venue: MG Richardson Hall

Time: 18:00 for 18:30

Please come and support all is welcome



A handful of photography Eisteddfod certificates for Alisa Lochner.

### MATRIC BANQUET COMMITTEE

Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected to the Banquet Committee for 2009.

- Convenor - Danielle Wiblin
- Secretary - Kuhle Nxakaza
- Treasurer - Anitha Babu
- Decs - Qawekazi Hermans & Unathi Chinyanvanhu
- Food - Jade Jasson & Amber Higgitt
- Photo's - Kéri Werth
- Music - Lithemba Twalo

### SOCIAL

On 25 July we held a Michael Jackson social. Even though it was a cold night the enthusiastic people made it a "hot night". Thank you to the organizers for a really fun "welcome back" social. Clearly, we can balance the academic and fun sides of school life!



Unathi Klaas, Namamhla Ceza & Siyavuya Antoni

### EXCHANGE STUDENTS

We welcomed Alison Belde from the USA and will soon welcome Annica Auel from Germany. She'll spend 3 months with us. A previous Rotary exchange student had this to say: *'WELCOME ALISON! Let me tell you, you have landed in not only an incredible, life changing country, but you've landed in the most beautiful city, at the most generous and amazing Rotary Club, which is comprised of the most giving, warm and welcoming, FUN, Rotarians on the planet! Now if that doesn't get you ridiculously excited for your year, I don't know what will! Trust me, years after your exchange, the Victoria Girls house rules, (uniforms and no make up), will be the last thing you remember and reminisce about when looking back on your year in South Africa, "I promise you"! I have to admit, I'm surprised VGHS welcomed another Canadian/American into their school after me. Haha, let's just say I wasn't the most exceptional academic student, but rather focused on my exchange student endeavors. That's besides the point, you are at an amazing school with incredible staff and students who will make for some new best friends and sometimes challenge you but just remember that you are there to not*

## OUR HOSTELS

### THE BOARDERS' DANCE

The girls looked striking! in their bubble dresses, trench coats and high heels. The Grade 8s were extremely excited about this dance as it was their first dance in high school. The music was great and the girls were shaking it off on the dance floor. A night to remember, mainly because of staff like Mrs Djan and Mrs Dampies.

### ONE OF EB'S GOLDEN MOMENTS

An overnight excursion to Willows, 5km from Port Elizabeth. We departed on Saturday afternoon and our first stop was at Greenacres. The girls were fairly prepared and they shopped 'till they dropped, mainly in preparation for the Boarders' Dance.

Time flies when you are having fun and when we reached our final destination we were welcomed by the salty smell of the sea and the waves violently hitting the rocks. We stayed in beautiful bungalows. The next morning we spent a lot of time at the sea, taking pictures and trying to be Naomi...

Unfortunately we had to head back home. A lot of planning was made to make this trip successful, and therefore a special thank you to Mrs Djan, Mrs Strydom and not forgetting our drivers Mr Goliath and Mr Boma for being patient with us.

## ADMINISTRATION

### SCHOOL MAGAZINE

The magazine committee is hard at work preparing the 2009 edition of the school magazine but they need your help. The committee's aim is to make this year's magazine bigger and better and to do that we need interesting photographs and articles. Please submit your contributions to Mrs Richards.

We would also like to appeal to any families who would like to sponsor a page of the magazine to contact Mrs Richards or the office.

### WARNING...

Next weekend is tri-varsity: parents, please check where your daughters are. Boarders: stay at hostel, unless you are with your parents or guardians.

### THE FINAL WORD(S)

#### A WORD FROM OUR SCHOOL CAPTAIN

Aluta Mleni

I hope that you have all had a wonderful break and are ready for another terms work. It is especially going to be a term of hard work for the matrics as they prepare to write their preliminary exams. "The hard work and sweat will pay off in the end; never lose heart."

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

At the end of last term I used properly inflated tyres as essential to safe travelling, but also as an analogy for how we go through life. We need to look after our 'essentials'.

At this stage 'essentials' for Gr 12s would mean eating nourishing food and taking vitamin supplements, as they are in their final

and non-negotiables: diet, exercise, focus. As a school, we thank them for their tremendous contribution as leadership team and while not yet replaced, we wish them time and space to focus on these crucial exams lying ahead. So, darlings, put on your safety belts, keep the car on the road (some of you will have to start the engine first...)!

To the rest of the girls: your turn will come to be matrics and then you will know how all important peace, quiet, structure are to academic excellence. Give our matrics the space so that they can make themselves, their families and us proud.

To everyone: keep checking your tyres, and fasten your seatbelts. We're on an exciting rollercoaster towards the end of this year.

Regards

*Madeline Schoeman*



Happy faces from Noluvuyo and Andiswa. What more can we want?

The strength of a woman  
can carry the weight of the  
world

~ Sarah Pezdek-Smith



Honour and celebrate the  
women in your lives, and the  
women who made it possible  
for us to be where we are  
today.  
And honour the men...