

vg news

28 November 2017, Volume 15 #5

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

D6 COMMUNICATOR

Want to know what is happening at VG? Then install the d6 Communicator onto your cellphone or your computer. Use the following address and follow the on-screen prompts to download the communicator:

<http://www.school-communicator.com/download.php>

ID CARDS/PASSPORTS/STUDY PERMITS

Please ensure your daughter/ward has the appropriate documentation by visiting your nearest Home Affairs branch. Those 16 and older should apply for an ID card. These are necessary to register to write the grade 10-12 year end exams.

MY SCHOOL CARD

Just a reminder to all parents to activate and use their My School Card as every swipe generates a small percentage of money for VG. This money goes into the VGHS Benevolent Fund which is used for a variety of different activities e.g. purchasing of toiletries for those girls in need, top up funding for sport tours or academic activities like International Science Olympiad or Expo. In Grahamstown the following places are all part of the programme:

Woolworths, Engen One Stop Shop, Foto First, Wallaces and Café Delizzia.

CHILDREN AT VGHS NOT LIVING IN HOSTEL

VGHS Staff members have recently become increasingly more aware of the pitfalls of children not living with family members or at a VG hostel. There have been several cases of disciplinary problems over the years often because girls are not properly supervised. There also have been medical interventions needed but no adult responsible for the child has been available. This is a massive concern and highlights the risks involved for children living unsupervised. Staff members have

also found that younger siblings staying with older siblings, tend to be unprepared for lessons, unable to meet deadlines and are generally not coping well at all with the demands of high school.

The Senior Management Team urges parents to avoid a situation where their daughter(s) or ward(s) are left to fend for themselves. We live in dangerous times and we are very concerned about children living without proper adult supervision and care. Children need to receive daily care and should not have to be responsible for their own safety, laundry, grocery shopping and discipline. They also need emotional support.

We feel strongly that the girls would often be much better cared for in our school hostels. If this is not possible, then please at all times ensure that the school office has a telephone number of an available, responsible adult living in Grahamstown.

GOING NOWHERE SLOWLY 6



A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, Mrs Schoeman, the VGHS headmistress, asked if any staff wished to take 'the girls' to Namaqualand to see flowers. Three weeks later, Mr Stoloff and Mr Still began a journey to the great unknown along with a handful of intrepid VG girls. Since then, Mr Stoloff and the VGHS camping club have organised four more of these trips (now known as the Going Nowhere Slowly

COMING UP...

Mon 15th Jan: 8:00 – Staff return
9:00 – SMT Meeting
10:00 – Hostels Open for grade 12
13:00 – Staff Development Meeting
Tues 16th Jan: Hostels Open for all
11:00 – New Girls Meeting
12:30 – Hostel Meeting
12:30 – DSG Groups meet for PGP 2018
Wed 17th Jan: 7:30 – Assembly in Hall
14:30 – Team Tennis
14:30 – House Exec

Trips) into the hinterland, armed with a bus, trailer, camping tents, braai grids and potjie pots, not to mention sleeping bags and other paraphernalia which can ease your camping experience. 2008 and 2013 and 2016 saw a return to different parts of the Karoo, while in 2011 we enjoyed the lofty heights of the Drakensberg and Natal.



GNS trips have no other purpose than to enjoy our incredibly beautiful country by seeing, listening, smelling, touching and tasting. There are no worksheets (in fact, any school work is banned) or hotels, and very often there is no electricity or cell phone reception. We travel and live the affordable way, which is thankfully the best way to experience the outdoors. Girls set up their own tents, and cook their own food.



The good news is that a bus and trailer have been booked for GNS 6, in the holidays of April, 2018 (29 March- 05 April). Mr Stoloff has spent some quality

time with maps, google and e-mail planning a new Itinerary of the Eastern Free State. The plan is to stay in various campsites and rustic farmhouses over 7 nights near Barkley East, Clocolan, Clarens, Bloemfontein and Steynsburg before returning to Grahamstown

Unfortunately, due to space constraints, only 9 pupils can enjoy this trip. Every attempt will be made to keep the budget below R2000.

The first 9 girls to pay an R800 deposit to Mrs Strauss (or make an EFT with a **Surname + GNS** reference) will be allowed to go. Please ask your daughter to inform me (Mr Stoloff) once the payment has been made. These payments must be done by 31 January 2018.



SCHOLARSHIPS 2018

SPORT AND CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to Yibanathi Manana on being awarded the Sport Scholarship for 2018 and to Tyreece Burger & Okuhle Ngxe who will share the Sport and Cultural Scholarship. We commend them, and all the girls who applied, on their commitment to their own development and thank them for their contribution to the school.

VGHS SCHOLARSHIPS 2018

The scholarships are awarded to a pupil who demonstrates all round excellence with a focus on achieving top academic results.

Grade 11 – E. Koch
Grade 10 – T. Burger and K. Wehr
Grade 9 – J. Keulder
Grade 8 – I. Hayat

TOP TEN TERM 4

Grade 11

1. N. Petse
2. C. Fuller
3. S. Meth
4. M. Bradley
5. Y. Manana
6. H. Nel
7. A. Qina
8. U. Hanton and A. Makeba
10. Z. Magadla

Grade 10

1. E. Koch
2. M. Gadu
3. L. Nqumani
4. Z. Lang
5. K. Jackson-Moss
6. M. Davies
7. E. Mwepu
8. M. Amos
9. K. Nonkontwana
10. B. Ntuta

Grade 9

1. K. Wehr
2. T. Burger
3. Y. Petse
4. S. Mhleka
5. E. Amner and A. Nokenke
7. E. Hendricks
8. Z. Vabaza
9. T. Cannon
10. A. Dimbaza

Grade 8

1. J. Keulder
2. K. Gama
3. Azile Nelana
4. C. Adzraku
5. A. Stamper
6. E. Bradley
7. S. Jimmy
8. J. Lobb
9. C. Kwatsha
10. Afikile Nelana

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON MUSIC EXAMS

In October the music school hosted over 30 musicians from VP and VG for the Trinity College London music exams. Zizipho Vabaza (Violin Grade 1) and Tyreece Burger (Violin Grade 4) achieved Distinctions. Tamaron Cannon (Viola Grade 4), Onke Sentile (Violin Grade 3), Michaela Henderiks (Piano Grade 3) and Catherine Frost (Recorder Grade 2) received Merit Awards. These girls worked tirelessly throughout the year and have made us very proud.

HOSTEL

BEAUFORT HOUSE

We had a short but busy term as the girls were all studying for their exams. They enjoyed watching movies and eating popcorn. The girls all relaxed by going to the pool and having fun. The girls were grateful for the exam treats that were provided. We had our annual Christmas party that was enjoyed by everyone the girls were happy with their gifts.

ELEANOR BROWN AND RENFREW HOUSE

This term was like a whirlwind and with prize giving exams and keeping the girls happy. The girls had a very quiet term as far as hostel activities go with everyone doing

project and preparing for the exams coming up. They had a movie night which is always nice for the girls. They had their blankets and pillows on the floor and enjoyed some popcorn.

A makeover presentation was done by the girls and stooges teaching each other about contouring, applying makeup for day time and night time as well how to be on 'fleek' with the latest brow shapes. A Q&A exercise on schoolwork before the exam was slotted in as an activity. Swimming was enjoyed on one of the few warm days that we had this term as it was mainly rain, rain, and more rain!

The exams had everyone in a state, and now that that is over the girls are back to normal, packing and very excited to be going on holiday.

We are now at the end of a very exhausting year and would like to wish the entire VG family a happy holiday and a blessed new year.

IN CONCLUSION

A WORD FROM OUR SCHOOL CAPTAIN

Abuyile Mkumbuzi

The most stressful term of 2017 has come to an end. I wish everyone a restful, event-filled and safe holiday. Remember to stay safe, and always wear your seatbelt in a car! I hope that everyone returns next year fresh and ready to focus on their academics. Best wishes to the class of 2016 as they wait to hear about their final results and university placements.

Have a happy holiday!

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As 2017 draws to a close I'd like to once again thank everyone for their hard work and efforts in making VG a successful school. Fond farewell to Mr Niewoudt, Mrs Moffat and Ms McQueen, we wish you all the best in your new adventures. The best of luck goes to Ms Bengis as she wraps up her wedding preparations, we hope you and Mr Wright have a truly special day surrounded by friends and family.

To all the VG family, take the time to breathe deeply, connect with your loved ones and have a restful holiday. I look forward to your return in 2018.

Regards

W. Schmitt

