

Junior School Newsletter

14 February 2017

FROM THE HEAD

Assembly Theme: Let love guide you
Value of the Week: Showing Love

Dear Parents and girls,

The rhythm of Grahamstown is back to its usual vibrant self with the return of the Rhodes students; complimenting the excitement on our own campus. Through a wide variety of stimulating activities, the girls have approached tasks with positive attitudes and tried their best to apply newly learnt skills independently.

Last week, the Grade 6s benefitted from participating in a Study Skills workshop while the Grade 7s attended a workshop to highlight the importance and value of effective time management.

Swimming galas, a water polo festival and tennis matches against Kingswood and PJ offered more opportunities to see our talented sportswomen in action. They took to the water and courts with enthusiasm and effort; making us exceptionally proud! Congratulations to our U13 Water Polo team for being awarded the Sportsmanship accolade at a festival in Knysna as well as to Catherine Williamson for scoring the most goals and being identified as the Most Valuable Player.

Our Grade 6 cohort thoroughly enjoyed their Outdoor Ed experience at Assegai Trails. I drove out to spend a morning in their company and was impressed to notice teamwork, perseverance and problem solving skills being developed. Mr York does a sterling job in organising these trips for our girls and I thank him for his energetic and innovative approach.

The Grade 4s spent Wednesday morning perusing the streets of Grahamstown in the company of Mr Basil Mills. An extract from Donna Miranda trip report reads as follows "We walked to the National English Literacy Museum to see its rooftop garden full of indigenous plants. Inside the theatre we learnt that the walls are made of coconut shell and cork to make the room soundproof. We also learnt about Thomas Pringle, who ended slavery, and were shown a big printer called the Wharfdale Press. Inside the Cathedral we saw artwork by a man who was as poor as a church mouse and his signature was a church mouse. Thank you Mr Mills for an interesting tour."

'Let love guide you' is our theme this week and what better way for this to be illustrated than through a presentation by our very own Grade 6 teacher, Ms Clarke, of her Indian holiday. Ms Clarke adores animals and prioritises their welfare. So it came as no surprise that for the month of December she volunteered her services to Animal Aid at a centre named Handicapped Heaven in Udaipur, India. There she encountered a variety of delightful animals such as dogs, donkeys, goats, cows, water buffalo and a lonely camel - 'Humphrey'. They had all unfortunately fallen victim to awful car or train accidents. Animal Aid believe in giving handicapped animals a second chance; providing them with comfortable environments, wheelchairs, hydrotherapy sessions and plenty of love so that they may regain their strength and enjoyment of life. Further highlights were visiting the Taj Mahal, attending a traditional wedding and meeting hospitable and compassionate people. As a school, we thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and opportunity to see Ms Clarke's photographs. Above all, the key message of following your heart in the direction of what makes you content in life will remain etched in our memories for a long time.

Looking ahead, I would like to remind you that PAT chats take place on Thursday 23 February. An ideal opportunity to discuss your daughter's academic progress with her class teacher. Appointments for daygirls can be made online from Wednesday 15 February. Boarder parents are asked to contact Antoinette Pienaar in response to an email sent out earlier today.

Kind regards,
Barbara Hibbert
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD



THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY
Grade 4 Outdoor Ed (Forestway)

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY
RU Maths Experience
15:00

MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY
Kids' Lit Quiz
14:30- 17:30

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY
PAT Chats
Please note: Day parents to book online (Please see attached Parents guide for booking appointments)
Boarder parents to with email Antoinette Pienaar with preferred time slot.

PLEASE NOTE!

MUSIC CONCERT FOR 18 FEBRUARY IS CANCELLED



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FROM THE SPORTSDESK

SWIMMING

The sweltering heat of last week Tuesday left the officials in awe and envy of all the swimmers at the Kingswood Short Course Gala. As usual our girls swam like fish and impressed us with their determination.

DSG once again hosted the Albany trials gala yesterday. The team to represent Albany at the Inter Districts gala on the 13 March will be published as soon as we receive the results.

Cara Meldrum swam in the 6th and final A League gala of the season this past week-end. Cara swam some good times validating her qualifications for the upcoming level 2 gala to be held in Port Elizabeth in early March.

TENNIS

The Albany tennis team has been announced. Congratulations to the girls who so deserve their place in the team. It's remarkable to see that the U12 squad is made up entirely of DSG girls.

U10: Abigail Holderness, Mike Holder.

U12: Holly Clowes, Wendy-Mae Turner, Kuhle Potelwa, Carrey Wibiln, Jamie Laubscher and Kayleigh Clayton

U14: Lucy Pringle. (Megan Freeman and Cody Laubscher are reserves.)

The match against Midlands will take place on the 28 February in Grahamstown starting at 08:00 as per calendar. The Entry fee for the match is R135.00 and includes lunch. Please let me know if your daughter is not available so that the organisers can notify the reserves.

The U13's mixed doubles on Friday were played in good spirits with many shy flirtatious giggles resonating across the courts. If anything, these social games inspire the tennis girls to challenge up the ladder so that they get an opportunity to play tennis with the boys.

WATER POLO

The Oakhill Chukka Festival in Knysna was a resounding success with DSG winning 4 of their 9 fixtures. Our victory over Reddam and Clarendon certainly put DSG on the map. We beat St Georges and Llundudno Primary and lost against Stirling by one goal. In total we scored 41 goals and conceded 38. Catherine Williamson, the top goal scorer, was awarded the DSG player of the tournament and the highlight for the team was being awarded the "Sportsmanship" award. DSG girls were congratulated on their outstanding manners throughout the weekend. The Oakhill Sports Director, Mr Garth Turvey, when announcing the award said, "I have never been thanked so many times in one festival ..." A special thanks must go to Jayson Flanagan for preparing our girls for this tournament as well as Cathy Munro who stood in as their coach at the last minute.

U13A water polo - Oakhill team:

Derrin Bush, Bianca Coventry, Ruby Graven-Dugmore, Cody Laubscher, Jamie Laubscher, Erin Powers, Lucy Pringle, Megan Searle, Cate Stretton, Wendy-Mae Turner, Catherine Williamson (c) and Arabella Winshaw

MAKANA BRICK NITE RACE

DSG always send a large contingency to this "8 Kay Nite Race" as the proceeds go to an excellent cause, namely, the Grahamstown Hospice. We hope to see many of the parents join their daughters this year. Prize money is offered to the first four male and female finishers and the first 600 finishers will receive a medal. Please ask your daughters to sign up on the sports notice board so that I can do a bulk entry. Entrance fee for scholars is R10.00 and R20.00 for adults.

Patti Tooley
Sports Director



Derryn in action

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY

14:00 Tennis vs PJ @ DSG

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

13:45 Tennis vs Port Alfred @ DSG

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

08:00 B Group gala @ Newton Park PE

MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY

13:45 Interhouse swimming IM events @ DSG

TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

13:45 Interhouse swimming Relays @ DSG

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

13:45 Interhouse swimming Individual events @ DSG

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Half Term begins

TTA Tennis Tournament U10 & U12



Girls at the Kingswood Shortcourse Gala



Moments captured at The Oakhill Chukka Festival



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GRADE 6 OUTDOOR ED

Last Wednesday, the Grade 6s set off for Assegaai Trails. After the song-filled bus trip there, we quickly settled into our rooms and then got ready for some team-building activities. One group of girls set off on a hike for 'Rock Bottom' camp where adventures were awaiting them, while the other group stayed at our place of residence to partake in many fun activities. These two groups rotated on the second day, so that all the girls experienced everything.

On both days, we were truly blessed with beautifully cool weather for hiking, and the scenery down to 'Rock Bottom' was stunning! The girls were even lucky enough to witness zebra, impala, blesbuck and giraffe on the hike – definitely not something many have had the opportunity to experience! A night hike was also on the cards, where the girls learnt about their night vision, and used their sense of hearing to navigate their surroundings.

The planned activities ranged from orienteering, tightrope walking across a river, sandcastle building, and even some quiet reflection time. Other activities on offer during their free time included swimming, volleyball, foosball and fingerboard. The theme of our Outdoor Ed this year was friendship and teamwork, and this certainly came to the fore during supper preparation, where the girls took their food making and serving duties very seriously.

Many thanks to Mr Clinton York, who arranged the accommodation, activities and food, as well as with leading many of the planned activities. A big thank you also goes to Mr Graham Carlson, who guided us expertly through our hikes and rope adventures. Our girls had an awesome time, and learnt many new skills.

Ms Clarke and Ms Theron

THE GRANGE DUTIES 046 - 603 4337

MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY

Ms Cathy Munro 076 424 5016

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY:

Mrs Alet Pretorius 084 602 1346

WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY:

Ms Danica Kukard 082 304 7181

THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY:

Ms Danica Kukard 082 304 7181

FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY:

Ms Zanele Mavuso 074 335 0978

WEEKEND:

Ms Renè Barnardt 079 854 8799



Junior School Newsletter

WE ARE ON INSTAGRAM

Follow us @thediocesanschoolforgirls



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Emily Hoard 14 February
Holi Dixon-Warren 15 February
Siyamthanda Booii 18 February



GRADE 4 CITY TOUR



GRADE 7 TIME MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Grade 7s attended an Elevate workshop on time management where the girls came away with a number of important pointers to assist them with their busy daily routine.

The girls were shown how to create a weekly study time table by first filling in their time used for non-negotiable activities before setting aside time for actual studying. The presenter encouraged the girls to focus on how much work they actually get done as opposed to how many hours they sit at their desk for.

They were given handy hints on why they need to revise work daily, what needed to be covered and the appropriate length of time required to make it effective.

They came to realise that formal assessments and assignments should not be viewed as a "massive mountain to climb" but rather to break it down into a number of smaller sections with an appropriate period of time allocated to each section. By doing this, the girls would know how long in advance they had to start working in order to avoid unnecessary stress being placed upon them.

Hopefully our girls will be able to apply these skills learnt to make their Grade 7 year a productive and successful one.

Ms Ferreira and Ms Timm



GRADE 7 VALENTINE SOCIAL WITH PREP



GOODLUCK TO THE FOLLOWING GIRLS WHO WILL BE TAKING PART IN THE RU MATHS EXPERIENCE:

Amy Thompson
Ruby Graven-Dugmore
Zanel Lombard
Derrin Bush
Erin Powers
Catherine Williamson

