

vg news

23 April 2021, Volume 21 #1

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear VG Community

We have finally come to the end of the first term for 2021, and incredibly it feels like it has been the whole year already. VG started school on Monday, 15 February (with teachers having returned to work two weeks earlier) and continued with the streamed grade system from last year. We then saw the full time return of the Grade 12 and then Grade 11 classes during the term and look forward to welcoming our Grade 8 to 10 classes back full time from day one of Term 2.

This year we have tried to focus on inclusivity, which has opened some difficult conversations that we hope to pursue over the remainder of the year. This process will hopefully be aided by the new Grade 12 Leadership Committee focused on Diversity and Inclusivity, and bolstered by seminars and workshops for staff and learners in this field.

While we are still not sure when, or even if, we will be able to return to a full, 'normal' programme at VG, we are starting to see the gradual return of a full academic and co-curricular programme. That said, please bear in mind that our primary concern

remains the health and safety of our staff and learners (and, by extension, their families), so we will continue to do all that we can to prioritise this above all else for the foreseeable future.

A big thank you to all the staff who have been working so hard from the beginning of the year to ensure that quality teaching and learning continues and also ensuring the safety of the girls is a priority at all times. We are grateful for the role that each staff member has played and hope that everyone is able to get some rest over the course of the next week.

I hope that you have a restful and calm break – enjoying the time spent with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming the full school back with renewed strength and energy from the start of the new term.

Please remember to stay safe, social distance, wash your hands and wear your masks at all times.



Mr Schmidt

COMING UP...

- Sun 2 May: Hostels open at 15:00
- Mon 3 May: Term 2 starts (Day 1)
- Fri 7 May: Slipper Day
- Fri 14 May: Gr 12 Leadership Day
- Tue 18 May: Afrikaans Olympiad
- Fri 21 May: Portfolio Head Camp
- Fri 11 June: Leave out weekend

TERM 2 RETURN PLAN

We are welcoming all grades back full time from day one on Monday, 3 May 2021. This means the girls are no longer streamed, they come to school every day.

Girls must please continue to sanitise their hands, wear their masks and social distance. School will end at 13:45 and those that are involved with co-curriculars, they will end by 16:15 from Monday to Thursday.

Co-curriculars will start to happen in a gradual fashion, but currently purely on a voluntary basis.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ID/Study permits

South Africans of 16 years and older should apply for an ID card at their closest Home Affairs office at no cost. The parent must be present when the application is made. Learners gain entry to their NSC examination in Grade 12 with an ID card, so it is non-negotiable.

Foreign learners should have a valid Study Permit to gain entry to their NSC examination in Grade 12.

2020 MATRIC RESULTS

The VGHS class of 2020 has done themselves and the school proud with their final examination results, especially as the year was filled with grief, loss and much uncertainty.

We are the ONLY public school in the Grahamstown/Makhanda area to get a 100% pass rate. The learners achieved an 81% Bachelors pass rate and there were 72 subject A symbols.

We are incredibly proud of Eleanor Amner and Yolanda Petse who both achieved an A aggregate – that's over 80% as averages!

Special mention to the high achievers: Nicola Kroese (5 A's), Likhona Mpepo (4 A's), Siwe Mhlekwa (4 A's), Thandile Mabija (4 A's), Tammy Cannon (3 A's) and Eden Hendricks (3 A's).

We are truly happy and proud of the girls for working hard and putting in effort with regards to their academics – hard work does indeed pay off!



SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Congratulations to the members of the School Governing Body. Their term of office started on 14 April.

Mr Schmidt	Principal
Mr Kuhlane	Chairperson
Ms Bettridge	Deputy
Ms Edwards	Treasurer
Ms Retief	Secretary
Mr Bradley	Parent
Ms Dewar	Parent
Mr Nnadozie	Parent
Ms Sias	Parent
Ms Boqwana	Educator
Mr Magwala	Non-Edu Staff
Ms Stamper	Learner
Ms Wehr	Learner
Ms Werth	Ex-officio
Mr Ramsden	Co-opted

TEXTBOOKS

An urgent appeal to parents/guardians/care-givers to encourage learners to take good care of the textbooks that they borrow from the school. Textbooks that are lost cause an unnecessary financial burden on households. Every item lost/not returned by the end of the 2021 school year will carry a replacement cost of R220. Textbook prices have increased dramatically and in 2022 the replacement cost will be raised to R250 per item.

For 2021 our school was allocated R8001 for the purchase of textbooks by the Department of Education. In addition the school budget has had to pay R88 716.60 to buy new textbooks for 2021.

Textbooks should be covered in good plastic (which learners can get from the Book Room at school). Learners should have school bags which are appropriate for the number of books carried inside and they should support the textbooks. Learners can rent a book locker at school for R10 for the year to ensure that bags are not over filled.

Learners must not exchange textbooks with others. Names should be written into all the textbooks.

BOOK DONATIONS

As we know that there are many amazing authors amongst old girls and so we thought it would be fantastic to have a bookcase in the office area showcasing books written by them! It could be a recent or an old publication.

The idea is to give hope to present learners who are budding authors that they too could have a book published.

If you know of any old girls who are willing to donate a copy of their book to us we would be very appreciative. A signed copy, with the year they left VG, would be even better!

CO-CURRICULARS

It was wonderful that we could get back a small part of normality this term by restarting some co-curriculars that we felt could be done safely. It was even better when restrictions relaxed more so that Netball and Hockey could play internal matches and very socially-distanced choir practices could resume.

It has been good for the soul to hear singing and marimba music in the school again and see games happening outside! Next term, a few more co-curriculars will be added and the Library will be open in the afternoons.

TERM DATES FOR 2021

These are the term dates provided by the Department of Education for this year.

Term 1: Mon 15 Feb – Fri 23 April

Term 2: Mon 3 May – Fri 9 July

Term 3: Mon 26 July – Fri 1 Oct

Term 4: Mon 11 Oct – Wed 15 Dec

ESKOM SCIENCE EXPO

In 2020, ESKOM Science Expo shifted to a virtual platform to accommodate the national lockdown levels in South Africa.

Siphosethu Mtyapi (currently in Grade 10), was the only VG learner to complete her digital project in time for judging, and as there were no Regional Expos last year, she was entered into the SADAC Region's International Science Fair.

Congratulations on achieving a Bronze Award at the 2020 ISF, Siphosethu!



TOP TEN

GRADE 12

1. Jaden Keulder
2. Kristen Wehr
3. Athandile Stamper
4. Khanyisa Gama
5. Sisipho Jimmy Amyoli Simani
7. Culumanco Kwatsha
8. Cassidy Doyle Sidney-Faye Wiggett Newton
10. Christina Adzraku

GRADE 11

1. Tosca Stoloff
2. Wafa Rizvi
3. Jil Msindo Roslyn Stobbs
5. Kamvelihle Ncula
6. Phumelela George
7. Cody Bettridge
8. Sambesive Mbambo
9. Rachel Brunette
10. Iqra Hayat

GRADE 10

1. Hlumelo Gaqa
2. Courtney Jacobs
3. Ishka Fullarton
4. Siphosethu Mtyapi
5. Lathitha Gxekwa
6. Sibulele Kulati
7. Lathi-Tha Stofile
8. Jasmyn Magabie
9. Sinovuyo Mtsishe
10. Chanté Shaw

GRADE 9

1. Sikelelwe Notyesi
2. Cheree Lisher
3. Iminathi Mapuma
4. Lorena Jass
5. Khazimla Hempe
6. Mamadae Bitso
7. Lama Mbiko
8. Zisanda Kesa Sivuyisiwe Masingile Ubukho Siyokwana

GRADE 8

1. Rutendo Chakona
2. Qayiya Poto
3. Siphesihle Khumalo
4. Azosule Kanana
5. Danika Lensley
6. Catherine Robert Leandri Smit
8. Uyathandwa Mqokeli
9. Kendra May
10. Sydney Edwards

Congratulations!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the following girls who have been awarded scholarships for 2021:

Grade 9: Sikelelwe Notyesi

Grade 10: Hlumelo Gaqa and Courtney Jacobs

Grade 11: Tosca Stoloff

Grade 12: Jaden Keulder

Sport: Cody-Ann Bettridge

Cultural: Onke Sentile

2020 VP Head Girl: Tara Bettridge

2019 VP Head Girl and Dux Scholar: Kaede Bridger



HOSTEL NEWS

ELEANOR BROWN & RENFREW

On our first weekend back, we had a meet and greet with some cake and coffee. This was lovely as the old girls met the new girls in hostel. On Saturday the 27th of February we held a Games Night. Girls were spoilt with snacks, popcorn, and sweet treats. With COVID restrictions in mind, the girls were divided into 3 separate groups to limit the numbers then rotated between 3 stations with a variety of games.

On the 6th of March, the girls had a movie night. This is always a winner as the girls always enjoy it! The following weekend, the girls played indigenous games on the field on Saturday afternoon from 16:00 to 17:45. They really enjoyed it. It was very noisy, but it was good. What a joy! After supper, the girls ate ice cream cones in the quad. Considering all their fun on the field and the hostel so hot, they could just enjoy that moment.

On the 20th of March, still on our quest of developing the girls socially through interaction, we had an arts and crafts day to work on paintings and DIY. We also made stress balls. It was messy but the girls enjoyed socialising and had fun! Just before the leave out weekend, we had an Easter Egg Hunt for the girls. Much fun, laughter and excitement came from that. As a positive gesture some girls shared their treasures with others that did not get a lot.

In our continued effort to encourage girls to interact and develop socially on Saturday the 10th of April we held a V-Show. The girls took part in the modelling contest and displayed their talents through singing and dancing. It was a very joyful evening which we most certainly enjoyed and benefited from.



DENISE LONG HOUSE

We had the pleasure of welcoming two new boarders to our family bringing the total number of girls in the hostel to 4. We continue to create an intimate and safe space which is conducive for academic excellence, growth and truckloads of fun.

COVID-19 has made it difficult for us to plan anything as the term timetable is fluid and there's only so much we can do with the regulations in place. However, our wonderful house mother, Lois Marechal, led us in a mini pad drive we had. It would bring us so much delight to actually plan more community engagement events and other fun interactive events not only with the Grahamstown community but with other boarders as well. We are looking forward to what the rest of the year is going to bring us.

Message of encouragement: as we end of the term, remember to always be grateful and show gratitude for what you have and be content with where you are. Some people have not been so fortunate to see the light of day. Stay blessed.

BARNARD HOUSE

We had movie nights at the hostel this term where the whole hostel watched movies, enjoyed muffins, hot chocolate and popcorn.

The girls also had an Easter Egg Hunt a week before the girls left for the leave out weekend. The girls also went swimming on hot summer days, which they really enjoyed and felt refreshed.

On behalf of myself and the hostel staff, we would like to wish the girls a wonderful holiday. Enjoy the time with your family. See you back soon!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

MY SCHOOL CARD

A reminder to all parents to activate and use their My School Card as every swipe generates a small percentage of money for VG. You can add up to three beneficiaries to your MySchool Card. This money goes into the VGHS Benevolent Fund which is used for a variety of different activities e.g. purchasing of toiletries for girls in need. In Grahamstown/Makhanda the following places are all part of the programme:
Woolworths, Engen One Stop Shop, Foto First and Wallace's Pharmacy.

VG'S FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES

Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages for all the latest news.



@vghs_2020



victoriagirls

COMMUNICATION

We welcome and appreciate communication and feedback from parents and guardians. Please contact your daughter/ward's teacher or Grade Head directly by using their personalised VGHS email address. The office@vghs.co.za email address is also operational at this time.



D6+ CONNECT

Please note we are no longer using the D6 app for communication.

FUN SCHOOL EVENTS

CHRISTINA ADZRAKU

Grade 8 and 12 Speed Dating

Earlier on in the term, the streamed Grade 8 and 12 learners took part in a "Speed Dating" session with each other as a substitute for the traditional Grade 8 Fun Afternoon, held by the Grade 12's.

The Grade 12's gave advice and encouragement to the Grade 8 learners for the year ahead, leaving them feeling more relaxed about meeting the Grade 12's and feeling more comfortable about their new educational space. We wish them well for their high school journey at VGHS!

Grade 12 Fun Day

On the 15th of April, the Portfolio Heads organised an interactive WEP session for themselves and their fellow Matrics. The session was to create a sense of unity amongst the girls by making them participate in a "get-to-know-me" competition in groups of peers they would not usually interact with on a daily basis.

This evoked a level of competitiveness in each learner and allowed them to learn a few new things about each other. The session left the learners feeling excited for the flex session and determined to be victorious. It was a successful afternoon and ended the term on a positive note.



POETRY CORNER

A poem written by a Grade 11 learner:

Time

For the longest while,
time was my enemy.
Her power was so great,
in every battle she conquered me.

I was convinced she hated my
smile, because, when I was sad
she'd stay for a while.
Yet when I was happy,
She'd leave me every time.
I was confused by her vibe,
So I decided to ask her why she'd
do this.

She said, "you know what your
problem is?"
it's that you think I'm against you,
when I'm actually rooting for you.
You think I'm trying to break you
down, when I've been building you
up.
You think I'm trying to hurt you,
when all I've been doing is healing
you.

You never see what I do,
I love the smile on your face,
but you must learn to keep it.
I hate the bad days,
but you must learn to embrace
them.

You never learn from our journey,
Because you just want to see the
destination.
I love your smile, it's my biggest
adoration.
And I'm your friend,
I was never your competition.

-Anon



SLIPPER DAY

Please support the Grade 10
Fundraiser on Friday 7th May 2021.

The proceeds will go to Reach for
a Dream Foundation.

Please pay R20 at the office or via
the app and get your sticker from
Ms Starbuck. You can come to
school in civvies and slippers for the
day. You can also claim a free
Wimpy Coffee after school.



CONGRATULATIONS

Ms Hartley welcomed her beautiful
baby girl, Amelia, on the 5th of
February this year. We enjoyed her
visit during the term. We are
looking forward to welcoming her
into VGHS in 2035!



MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAIN

KRISTEN WEHR

Greetings school

We've finally come to a point
where Term1 2021 is another
finished chapter in our journey, and
what an adventure this term has
been! For some, such as the Grade
12's and 11's have returned to a
slight normalcy with our classes no
longer being streamed. It's very
comforting to have all our
classmates back and we hope the
rest of the school can follow suit
soon, though it has also meant a
lot more hard work.

This term has been a gritting one
and in some ways tested our
endurance and stamina. It
wouldn't be a proper term without
any challenges but as expected,
we overcame them, individually or
as a unit and as a fellow VG
learner I feel proud and ready to
face the year ahead with the
determination of my peers. I hope
every single person in the VG
community, staff and learners
enjoy this well-deserved break to
their fullest extent so that we can
all come back fresh and ready to
tackle the next term that awaits,
no matter how hard!

Ramadan Mubarak to all our
Islamic VG family, and here's to a
prosperous start to your month of
Ramadan! We wish you a
reflective and blessed time with
family and loved ones.
Geniet die vakansie, rus lekker en
gee jou brein 'n goeie blaaskans.
Amade ngawe tyala. Makube
chos' kube hele.

