

vg news

2 JULY 2021, VOLUME 21 #2

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.

TERM PLANS

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS 27 JUNE 2021

In his address on 27 June, President Ramaphosa announced that "schools will start closing from Wednesday, 30 June 2021; and schools will be expected to be closed by the end of the week [Friday, 02 July 2021]". The Minister for Basic Education, The Honourable Angie Motshekga, clarified on the morning of 28 June that the last school day for all learners will be on Wednesday (30 June 2021). Term 3 is expected to start on 19 July 2021 – a full week earlier than the revised annual calendar.

This means that the last two days of exams have had to be shifted to the Tuesday (20 July) and Wednesday (21 July) of the first week of Term 3. Monday, 19 July will be a normal teaching day for all learners (Day 1).

OPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR TERM 3

While the minister has indicated that school resumes on 19 July, we need to be aware that this could change, so please will all learners ensure that they have cleared their lockers and taken their textbooks home so that remote learning can occur should the return to school be delayed by more than one week. Matric learners should have received work packs

over the last few days to work on should this occur.

REPORT COLLECTION

Please note that reports for Term 2 will only be generated once all assessment is completed in Term 3. We will inform learners and parents of the process to collect reports closer to the time.

CO-CURRICULARS

Because of staff being involved in marks discussion meetings there will be no co-curriculars in the first week of Term 3.

FOUNDERS WEEKEND

Please note that we have taken the decision not to have Founders Weekend in August due to the rapid rise in Covid cases country-wide. We will celebrate the reunion years for 2021 and 2022 at Founders next year.



Image: Emma Gush

COMING UP...

- 18 July: Hostels open
- 19 July: School opens at 7:20
DAY 1 (normal teaching day)
- 20 July: Assessments from 1 July as per timetable.
- 21 July: Assessments from 2 July as per timetable.
- 22 July: DAY 4 (normal teaching day)
- 23 July: DAY 5 (normal teaching day)

NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEES

DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY Kristen Wehr



Image: Erin Bradley

As the Diversity and Inclusivity Committee we are devoted to promoting the idea of inclusivity within VG, as well as bringing to light the diverse backgrounds and identities of all our students.

We started the year by creating posters about black consciousness and towards the end of the first term we put up posters to wish our Islamic community well for Ramadan.

To recognise Pride Month we thought it would be a great opportunity to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ communities. The matric class got involved with creating various posters which have been put up around the school.

CO-CURRICULAR & SPIRIT

Culu Kwatsha

This term the co-curricular and spirit committee took the responsibility of restoring the school's spirit after months of having very few of our usual activities. Outdoor sport sessions and spirit sessions with each grade and the committee members were held during break times and WEP, with great emphasis placed on ensuring that the new learners felt comfortable and were able to sing along with the rest of the learners. We can now proudly say that on the grand stands VG spirit truly rules over us.

Because we no longer see anyone's smiles because of having to wear masks, we held a "Smile Day" on 10 June on which we handed out smile stickers to everyone to cheer them up!



PUBLICITY

Christina Adzraku

This term the publicity committee had the privilege of capturing all the spectacular moments at VG. The beauty behind a perfectly-timed picture can help highlight the positives amongst all the pandemic blues. All of these photos can be viewed on the Victoria Girls' High School Facebook page (here: www.facebook.com/victoriagirls) and are definitely worth a look.

Special mention must be made of capturing of the festivities held by the matric class celebrating Pride Month with all their different painted hands as organized by the Diversity and Inclusivity Committee.

The Publicity committee members have also been putting up beautiful images around the school promoting some of our core VG values. The posters definitely make the talks amongst the learners and offer encouragement in tiny, but impactful, ways.

A special thank you to Ms Hartley and Mrs Retief for all their help this term. The committee cannot wait to capture more **#proudlyVG** moments.



DISCIPLINE

Athi Stamper

The Discipline committee is a long running VG committee that is dedicated to making the school run as smoothly as possible.

In times such as a pandemic, chaos is all we seem to know so it isn't necessarily easy to bring order. The discipline committee members, however, have been determined to help the girls abide by the VG code of conduct, from as simple as walking down the corridors on the left-hand side, to ensuring that VG learners know and practice the life skill of punctuality. The discipline committee aims to instil a sense of orderly pride around the school. Behind all that the committee is designed for, is the goal to equip our students with imperative life skills starting with the tiniest things!

HAIR AND UNIFORM

Catherine Frost

This term the hair and uniform committee showed immense dedication toward ensuring that neatness is kept by all learners at all times. Frequent checks took place with the guidance of the VG code of conduct. As the term went

by there was a definite improvement in the learners as a collective.

The hair and uniform committee helps us all to be the face of VG and true to our core values, so that we can embody pride and integrity right down to our white ankle socks!

Thank you to Ms Cherry for all your guidance and support this term.

PORTFOLIO HEAD CAMP

By Christina Adzraku

In May, the 2021 Portfolio Heads along with Ms Retief and Ms Boqwana travelled down to Assegai Trails for the portfolio head camp. The weekend was a wonderful learning experience filled with activities centred around introspection and growth. To our amazement we got the opportunity to meet the school's most famous icon, the giraffe standing high and tall.

Some of the most fun parts about the weekend include teaching Ms Retief how to make a tiktok, having our school deputy head girl (Athi Stamper) get kicked out of her room by a spider and finding out that our school captain (Kristen Wehr) unfortunately cannot blow bubbles! All in all, it was great spending time with each other and planning ways we can better lead our school. We hope to carry out our new-found knowledge and perspective in practical ways moving forward.

Thank you to the school for affording us this opportunity and to Ms Retief and Ms Boqwana for accompanying us and for all that they taught us.



REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF LEARNERS (RCL)

Congratulations to the following learners who have been elected onto the RCL:

Surname	Name	Class
Wehr	Kristen	Captain
Stamper	Athandile	Deputy
Kalipa	Aza	12D
Rakoma	Eleanor	12G
Simani	Amyoli	12R
Ndabula	Linathi	12T
Mbatyoti	Sigcobise	11D
Nduna	Imie	11G
Mbandazayo	Lisakanya	11R
Ngwekazi	Sinokholo	11T
Ntombela	Masi(mthanda)	10D
Musekiwa	Mandi(panyasha)	10G
Nnadozie	Maria	10R
Gaqa	Hlumelo	10T
Hempe	Khazimla	9D
Notyesi	Sikelelwe	9G
Mafani	Sange	9R
Qomiyana	Lakheni	9T
Khumalo	Siphesihle	8D
Kanana	Azosule	8G
Du Plessis	Tazné	8R
Chakona	Rutendo	8T

GRADE 12 LEADERSHIP DAY COURSE

On 14 May the Grade 12 class had the opportunity to spend time with their grade at school. A wide variety of topics were touched on, including amongst others stress relief, skills needed in the workplace, and personal strengths.

The over-arching message of the course was that every Grade 12 has the capacity to make a success of their year and their future, and carries the responsibility to reach out to others. Everyone can and should make a contribution.

Thank you to the school for the opportunity and the lunch provided and to Ms McCrindle and Ms Retief who planned and presented.



STAFF NEWS

MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF CONCERT

Khanyisa Gama (Grade 12)

On Friday the 4th of June, the VG music teachers put together a music concert showcasing their amazing musical talents. The concert also served as a final farewell to the gifted Ms Campbell, who filled in for Ms Hartley for the first four months of the year. Her passionate contribution to the school's Music Department has left a lasting impact on the music students.

In total six musical pieces were performed. Mr Mkhize performed three songs. His first piece was Lunge Dalei, an aria by Verdi. Mr Mkhize gave an astounding performance filled with passion. His second song Because by D'Haardelot was delivered flawlessly. Mr Mkhize's final performance was Be My Love, a love song. In his performance of the Academy Award nominated song, Mr Mkhize was able to convey the intense feelings associated with love. In all three of his performances, he was accompanied by the fantastic Ms Frazer on the piano.

Mr Walwyn put together an amazing rendition of Fanfare of the Common Man by Aaron Copland. He made use of pre-recorded tracks using software to add new layers to the piece as he performed live with his trumpet. His interpretation of the piece was unique and he added elements such as a strong bass and harmonies that made the piece more appealing to the mostly 2000s-born audience.



Ms Campbell (wowing all in her burgundy dress) performed two

pieces. She started with a magical performance of Partita for Solo Violin No. 3 by Bach, an enchanting piece that gave images of fairies and stardust. She was not done yet. She closed off the concert with an eleven minute spectacular: Introduction; Rondo Capriccioso by Camille Saint-Saens. It was a goosebump-raising performance with meandering melodies laced with dark and mysterious undertones and it was delivered with an obvious passion for the craft. She was accompanied by Ms Frazer on the piano, providing an added mystery and intrigue to the piece.



A huge thank you to the phenomenal music staff of VG for sharing their passion and talent with the music students and the VG staff who attended the concert. Thank you to Ms Hartley for being the MC for the afternoon.

We wish Ms Campbell happiness in her future endeavors and we thank her for her contributions to the music department.



FAREWELL

At the end of July, we will bid farewell to Mr Walwyn. Mr Walwyn joined the VG staff in January 2020 and has made a great impact on the music department since then.

We wish him and his family well for the future and thank him for his contributions to our school.



CONGRATULATIONS

POETRY COMPETITION

Congratulations to all those who entered the competition this year. The subject matter of much of the poetry submitted shows how much the world situation is affecting everyone.

There were many thought-provoking and heart-wrenching entries. Sadly, no Grade 8s entered this year. We hope that they will do so when they are in Grade 9!

Results:

Grade 9:

1st: Natalie Nyamukamba

Grade 10:

1st: Athule Matya

Grade 11:

1st: Iqra Hayat

2nd: Sonwabise Adam

Grade 12:

1st: Jaden Keulder

2nd: Qaqamba Mdingi

3rd: Zaza Germond

TRILINGUAL COMPETITION

This is a competition open to all grades and it is to test the spoken ability in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa.

This year we tried a new format for the competition which involved entrants being interviewed individually by two staff members. (The interviewers both speak English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa.) They asked the entrants questions in all three languages, and whichever language the question was asked in was the language that the interviewee had to respond in. Well done to those who entered – we were very impressed by the level of their fluency in three languages!

Results:

First: Hlumelo Gaqa

Second: Lorena Jass

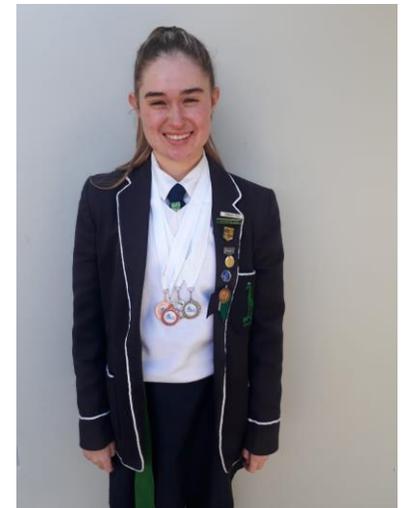
Third: Kamvelihle Ncula



DANCE COMPETITION

Grade 12 learner, Catherine Frost, participated in the Friendly City Dance Festival competition over the weekend of 11th and 12th June. Catherine received a silver for her character dance, a silver for her contemporary solos, a bronze for her duet and a bronze for her group dance.

We wish to congratulate Catherine on her achievements! Well done!



VG GIRDLE

The VG Girdle is voted for by the staff and is an award presented to acknowledge that the VG values; passion, integrity and excellence; are evident in this learner's behaviour, dress and interactions. She has embraced servant leadership, shows academic rigour and upholds the Code of Conduct.

We are proud to award a girl to:

Taylon Cannon
Catherine Frost
Jamie McQuinto
Mawande Mvulana
Onke Sentile
Athandile Stamper
Kristen Wehr

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Congratulations to Sethu Mtyapi (Grade 10) who has been awarded her silver badge for The President's Award. This is an excellent achievement! Well done, Sethu!



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOOD4FUTURES

The President's Award participants ran a food collection drive in June. This initiative was widely-supported by the VG learners. Well done to the following classes for donating the most items:

1st place: 8R - 31 items
2nd place: 8G - 17 items
3rd place - 11G - 14 items

Total items collected: 143



INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM'S DAY COMPETITION

Congratulations to Kristen Wehr on winning the Sarah Baartman District section of the International Museum's Day essay competition!

She wrote an essay on "The Year of Charlotte Maxeke during the Centenary of the Bulhoek massacre". She has since represented the Sarah Baartman District at the provincial competition in Komani/Queenstown. For this she won a desktop computer for the school, a laptop for herself and a trip to Robben Island. She will also be attending Summer School in Cape Town!



OUTREACH INITIATIVES

VG-VP-CSD READING INITIATIVE

As part of a reading initiative in collaboration with the Centre for Social Development, Ms Vlandir's Grade 8 English class visited the Grade 1s at VP to help them with their reading. It was a very successful interaction and so the plan is for there to be more visits next term.



A message from Ms Birt from Food4Futures:

Please convey our grateful thanks to all the President's Award girls who supported Food4Futures with foodstuffs for people from our community who are unable to adequately feed themselves and their families.

Their donations will be a welcome addition to the parcels to our next distribution.

If anyone wishes to become more involved these are other areas of help we could use:

1. Packing – On Monday and Tuesday (every second week) we pack. The next packing dates are 19/20 July, 2/3 Aug.
2. Collection of second-hand school shoes in reasonable condition, and other clothes.

INTERESTING STORIES

WORK EXPERIENCE AT BUFFALO BILLSON SAFARIS

Michaela Kretzmann (Grade 8)

On Tuesday 15 June, I was privileged to take part in darting and measuring of Buffalo and Sable at Buffalo Billson Safaris near Makhanda/Grahamstown. It was such an amazing experience for me, as I would like to become a wildlife vet one day. I got to sit next to and work with buffalo which is a once in a lifetime opportunity since these animals are very dangerous. The reason for the darting and measuring was to check if they were healthy, and to check the size of their horns so they could get put on auction. The vet that was part of the process took me under his wing and explained why we do certain things, he showed me how to inject the buffalo to wake them up and allowed me to wake up two of the buffalo. While this was all very exciting, I must admit on a few occasions my hands were trembling and my heart started racing at the thought of one of them deciding to wake up and trample me. This day so far is no.1 on my list of top ten.



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.

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.



PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION (POPI) ACT:

Please note that in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI), parents/ guardians and learners are reminded to update all information with the school should this change at any time.

In addition, all parents/guardians should please note that should they prefer that their daughter/ward **not** appear in school photos or publications (including the newsletter and social media), they should write a brief email stating as much to principal@vghs.co.za.

Finally, parents/guardians must please be aware that as a feeder school to the Johan Carinus Art Centre (a fabulous asset available to VG learners) VG has to share learner information with them. This applies to all learners who take an art subject taught by JCAC staff.

TIDY AND WELL-KEPT UNIFORM

Please ensure that the holiday is used to wash blazers, VG jackets, rain wear (anoraks) and tracksuits, along with the uniform. Please check that all uniform items are neat and still fit well. A reminder that rain wear (anoraks) may not be worn in the building. You may wear a VG jacket, in the place of a blazer.



Image: Emma Gush

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_2021



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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAIN

KRISTEN WEHR

Dear VG Community

I think as a school we've discovered what our own 'new normal' is, chaos. Each term it seems as though something tries to set back our efforts to a smooth-running school but fortunately for us we have a VG spirit that pushes back even harder.

To the school, Term 2 has been a busy one across the board but in the end, we made it out still standing, and sometimes that is a positive thing in and of itself. It is important to celebrate the tiny wins just as you would the big ones. More often than not, the road to success is more about how we recover and come back from our failures and setbacks than anything else. It is important that as we approach the second semester, we try to remind ourselves of the enthusiasm and energy we had when we were at the beginning.

To my fellow Matrics, to wallow in discouragement can do you no good. By making it this far, you have already achieved a success that many others worldwide do not achieve. It is therefore essential that we mission on and come out victorious!

To the VG community, let us take this break as a chance to recuperate our minds, refuel our bodies and restructure our goals. Let us prepare ourselves for what this year still has in store for us!

I wish you all nothing but the best for the new term, see you then! Mag die pad wat voor lê baie sukses voort bring! Camagu, makube chosi kube hele.

With love

Kristen

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear VG Community

Thanks to the measures enacted by the Department of Basic Education due to the rise in Covid19 cases nationwide, Term 2 of 2021 has come to a rather abrupt end. Thankfully, we have had time to put into place plans to mitigate against any disruption (see my letter to the VG Community, dated 28 June 2021), but this will mean learners and teachers returning in Term 3 to conclude our exams. We will distribute reports only by the second week of the new term.

I would like to sincerely thank our teachers and support staff for all their efforts over the course of another challenging term. Thanks also to all the learners who have endeavoured to get back into the rhythm of in-person learning this year, all the while trying to maintain the mask-wearing, sanitizing and social distancing necessary to provide a safe teaching and learning environment during a pandemic.

Please remember that these behaviours need to continue over the holiday in order to stay safe and Covid-free. That said, I hope that everyone gets some rest over the next two weeks and that you are all able to return to school feeling recharged.

Keep well

Mr Schmidt

