



# NEWSLETTER



## PARKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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### GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

#### FAREWELL

Dr Cereseto retires after nineteen and a half years at Parktown.

"I thank the entire Parktown High School for Girls' Community of Parents, Learners, Old Girls and Staff for a wonderful nineteen and a half years as Headmistress of this very special school. I have always felt extremely privileged to be able to lead a school where professionalism is the norm and for the most part all the learners want to work diligently, co-operatively and happily focussed on achieving their goals. I am extremely proud of the Old Girls who have become successful in their professional and business careers as well as their personal lives. The commitment and passion of the members of our Community are evident to outsiders. As one of the few truly diverse schools in the country we have embraced the richness that diversity provides and our learners and staff are far more able to function well in our diverse South African public life than most of their peers from other schools. There is still so much more to be done to make the most of our diversity but the long journey towards togetherness is well on its way.

I retire with happy memories of a thoroughly fulfilling career. I went to work each day at all the schools I taught at with enthusiasm and belief in the value of my work. I appeal to our Parktown Community to appreciate committed, qualified teachers who are a scarce resource. Teachers make a difference in the lives of children. They are national treasures.

I extend my congratulations to Mrs Megom on her appointment as the ninth Headmistress of the school. I am supremely confident in her ability to take this school to greater heights. There are already exciting projects in the design and planning stages: an AstroTurf for hockey and soccer, a new field for touch rugby and a waiting area. A new 23-seater bus will arrive this week so we will be able to transport larger groups of learners. I wish Mrs Megom the very best as she seeks to achieve her vision for the school.



As I retire to a quieter life during which I look forward to watching the birds in my garden, amongst other perhaps more demanding things, I express my gratitude to everyone in the school Community who supported me during my years as Headmistress of Parktown. I wish the teachers strength for the challenges of education in the future. Best wishes also to the Administrative and Facilities staff in keeping the school running in the best way possible. To the learners and their parents, I wish you success and joy. Thank you and farewell."

We say farewell to the following staff:

- Mrs von Ludwig retires after being at Parktown for sixteen years. We will miss her expertise and the compassion and kindness she showed to all learners she interacted with. We wish her a restful and enjoyable retirement.
- Mr Cereseto retires as the Facilities Manager of Parktown after fourteen and a half years. His vast experience and expertise in the engineering field will be missed. He has taught the Maintenance staff a great deal. We wish him many happy hours enjoying the next chapter of his life.
- Mrs Adinolfi, Mrs T Botha and Ms Wilford will be taking up positions at other schools. We wish all of them much success in their new endeavours.



We thank Mrs Rens, Ms Constance and Ms Beukes for substituting for our teachers who were on maternity leave. We thank them for their contribution and hard work.

We are fully staffed by well-qualified new staff for 2017.



### CONGRATULATIONS

- Mrs van Lelyveld on the birth of her daughter, Morgan Cynthia, born on 24 October.
- Mrs van den Berg on the birth of her son, Owen, born on 26 September.
- Mrs Rahim on the birth of her son, Rayyan, born 22 November.
- Ms Promise Masango on the birth of her daughter, Ayabonga. Ayabonga is still in hospital and we pray for her speedy recovery.



### DISCIPLINARY HEARING

At two recently held Governing Body disciplinary hearings, a learner was found guilty of theft for stealing cell phones. This is a schedule 2 offence in terms of the South African Schools' Act and is taken very seriously by the school. After all the evidence and testimony were heard, the school recommended expulsion and this sanction was upheld by the Governing Body Panel. The Governing Body considered the rights of the learner as well as the rights of the school and they decided that a clear message needed to be sent to anyone who infringes on the rights of the school community.

The Education Department has upheld the expulsion and they are making final arrangements to place the learner in another school.

Thank you to the parents on the Governing Body Disciplinary Committee for doing what was necessary to send this strong message to the school, as well as to the other learners who were brave enough to come forward with the information needed to prosecute this case.

We encourage any girls who have information about other similar crimes that have taken place in the school to come forward so that we can attempt to rid our school of this unwanted element.



## AWARDS ASSEMBLY

At the Awards' Assembly held on 30 November the following learners received awards:

### SPORTS HONOURS

Alexandra McTaggart (Full Colours - Water Polo 2014 - 2015 – 2016)

#### FULL COLOURS

Skyla Bennie	Academic Enrichment	Amy Tod	Dance
Renate J.v. Rensburg	Academic Enrichment	Neha Prag	Debating
Francesca Gandini	Choir	Natasha Gertzen	Equestrian
Nicole Dixon	Dance	Kgotsofatso Tau	Traditional Choir
Kgantsho Moloto	Dance	Alexandra McTaggart	Water Polo
Devenney Smith	Dance		

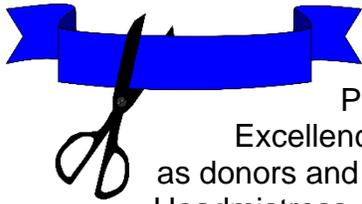
#### HALF COLOURS

Tayla Badenhorst	Academic Enrichment	Francesca Gandini	Dramatic Arts
Tanweer Madhi	Academic Enrichment	Narnia van Heerden	Dramatic Arts
Alexis Rich	Canoeing	Razeenah Docrat	Marimbas
Krystin Hill	Choir	Priyanka Padayachee	Photography
Princess Mhlanga	Choir	Jenna van der Merwe	Touch Rugby
Pamela Motsi	Choir	Mankgabe Padi	Traditional Choir
Nokulunga Ntuli	Choir	Karabo Moloji	Traditional Dance
Sharon Osei-Sekyere	Choir	Molebogeng Moroke	Traditional Dance
Lilly Shezi	Choir	Anoint Sibanda	Traditional Dance
Tarryn Lockwood	Dance	Erica Kuhl	Water Polo
Hannah Fleisch	Debating	Zoe Kuhl	Water Polo

#### ANNUAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Metcalfe and all contributors on a professional edition. Mrs Sasha Hoffmann's beautiful photograph of our school buildings was placed on the front page and Mrs Tweedy took the back page photograph. This amazing view of the Jacaranda trees was taken from the driveway.





## OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EXCELLENCE

Parktown High School for Girls held its official opening of the Centre for Science Excellence on 10 November. Even the pouring rain could not dampen the feeling of pride as donors and other guests toured the four exquisitely decked out Science laboratories.

Headmistress, Dr Anthea Cereseto, addressed the guests, which was then followed by a truly inspirational message from Old Girl, Ms Prianka Padayachee, currently working in the coal mining industry for one of the three major donors – Anglo American. Ms Padayachee is an incredibly positive and passionate Old Girl who is definitely making a name for herself.

The rain miraculously ceased for an hour to allow Dr Cereseto to unveil the plaque for our Centre for Science Excellence to mark the official opening.

Special mention goes to the three major donors: Anglo American Chairman's Fund, Oppenheimer Memorial Trust and the Edgar Droste Trust. Thank you to all of our parents/guardians and donors for helping to make this long-time dream a Parktown Girls' reality.



Left to right:

Ms Sinethemba Buthelezi (Architect - MMA Design Studio), Mr Godfrey Bench (SGB Finance Chairperson), Mr Sidney de Jong (Electrical Engineer), Dr Anthea Cereseto (Headmistress), Ms Deepa Patel (Client Relationship Manager for Anglo American Chairman's Fund), Mr Mphethi Morojele (Architect - MMA Design Studio), Mr Shorai Kaseke (Architect - MMA Design Studio), Mr Tony Gebhardt (Quantity Surveyor)

## FOOTLOOSE SHOE COLLECTION

At the end of their last examination, the Grade 12s of Parktown High School for Girls followed a school tradition of leaving their school shoes behind.

The girls left their shoes neatly aligned on the floor next to their school desks upon exiting from their exam venue

A total of 175 pairs of shoes has been collected and will be donated to St Vincent de Paul Society for their "Footloose Shoe Collection".



## FIRST AID COURSE – LEVEL 1 AND 2

A level 2 course in First Aid will take place for learners in the first week of January next year. The venue will be Room 12 at the school and will take four full days from and including 3 - 6 January. The course costs R800, which learners must pay in cash on arrival. Any learner who is interested must see Mrs Seery to book a place on the course. Two teachers will also be taking the course, so the learners will have staff present.

**Important Notice**

## SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2017

Please note the school calendar for 2017. Please do not book holidays during school terms. We write examinations/tests until the end of terms. Attendance is expected on 30 June and 6 December.

Duration	No of weeks	No of days	No of Public Holidays	No of actual school days
(9) 11 Jan - 31 Mar	12	(60) 56	1 + 1	(58) 56
18 Apr - 30 Jun	11	54	3 + 1	50
24 Jul - 29 Sept	10	50	2	48
9 Oct - (8) 6 Dec	9	(45) 43	0	(45) 43
	<b>42</b>	<b>(209) 205</b>	<b>4 + 2</b>	<b>(201) 197</b>

## PUBLIC AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

1 January	New Year's Day	16 June	Youth Day
20 March	School Holiday	9 August	Women's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day	24 September	Heritage Day
14 April	Good Friday	25 September	Heritage Day observed
17 April	Family Day	16 December	Day of Reconciliation
27 April	Freedom Day	25 December	Christmas Day
28 April	School Holiday	26 December	Day of Goodwill
1 May	Workers Day		

# SPORTS NEWS

## SWIMMING

Swimming training will begin in the first week of 2017 with a very different swimming programme. Please read the extra-mural timetable carefully for the new swimming times. We have been promoted to the Premier League Inter-high Gala for next year, which is a wonderful achievement. To remain in the Premier League, we will need to work very hard and get our team ready as soon as possible. The swimmers have been given a programme for the holidays. The swimming gala dates as well as swimming camp dates have been loaded onto the D6 Communicator calendar under Swimming.

We will have a meeting with all swimmers as well as parents/guardians within the first two weeks of Term 1 to discuss the year of swimming ahead and explain any changes as well as how the breakfast system works. A letter will be sent out in the first week confirming the details.

## TENNIS

There will be a fun tennis clinic run over the December holidays from Monday 12 to Friday 16. If you are interested please contact Ann Chapman via [annchapman1956@gmail.com](mailto:annchapman1956@gmail.com)

## WATER POLO

When the 2017 year begins we will start immediately with water polo training as our first fixture game is in the second week of term.

The water polo match dates have been loaded onto the D6 Communicator calendar. Please note that these dates may change due to opposition schools' confirmation. The league structure has changed slightly. More triangular matches will be played which means the season in the first term may be shorter. This is a trial and will be changed if found to be ineffective. The water polo girls have been given a programme to keep up fitness during the holiday period. Please make sure to do as much as possible.

Good wishes to our girls who will be representing Gauteng at the Inter-provincial Tournament over December. We know you will do Parktown and Gauteng proud.