

Vewsletter

PARKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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General News

NEW ACTING HEADMISTRESS

The Parktown High School for Girls' community welcomes Mrs Davidson, the new Acting Headmistress as from January 2024. Mrs Davidson has taken over from Mrs Megom, who moved to Stellenbosch at the end of last year. We wish Mrs Davidson all the best in the application process for Headmistress at Parktown, and in her current role as Acting Headmistress.



WELCOME

Message by Acting Headmistress, Mrs Gail Davidson

After what I hope has been a restful and enjoyable holiday, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you back for what I believe is going to be a fantastic and productive 2024 school year.

A special welcome to our new learners (the grade 8s and the learners in other grades) as well as new staff members:

Mr Anker (HOD of English), Miss Koba (History), Miss Fourie (Mathematics), Mrs Mey (English), Ms Nkosi (Geography),

Mrs Todd (Creative Arts), Mrs Young (Visual Arts) and



Miss Hannan (Sports co-ordinator and PE teacher). We are extremely fortunate to have sourced such a fantastic group of new staff and we hope their involvement in the school is a long and happy one.

2023 MATRIC RESULTS

100% PASS (205 girls)

334 DISTINCTIONS (more expected after re-marking process)

95.1% BACHELOR DEGREE ENTRANCE

OVERALL AVERAGES

 14.63% A average
 20.00% D average

 28.30% B average
 2.44% E average

 34.63% C average

8 DISTINCTIONS

Christina Vaudran Sienna Whines Mana Mahmoudi

7 DISTINCTIONS

Zainab Talia Aafiah Sader Yusairah Mahomed Megan Theron Ruth Foxton Zahra Khan Ammaarah Mia Shristhi Bickram **6 DISTINCTIONS**

Bianca Odion Ziya Paruk Zayaanah Sarwan Chaye Sequeira Layla Smith Anna Titterton Ashleigh van Niekerk

5 DISTINCTIONS

Faatimah Banoo Faatima Danka Sameehah Essa

Pallavi Rambaruth Unnathi Sakala

4 DISTINCTIONS

Amirah AdamChloe BelshamSarah BrownHolly GordonCatrin-lee JonesTyra GordonShaina PranjivanKate TittertonZahraa Vawda

SUBJECT DISTINCTIONS AND AVERAGES 2023 (BEFORE RE-MARKS)

	NO. OF ENTRANTS	NO. OF DISTINCTIONS	SUBJECT AVERAGE	DISTINCTIONS %
ENGLISH	205	23	70.0	11.22
AFRIKAANS	158	35	70.28	22.15
IsiZULU (FAL)	45	13	73.98	28.89
MATHEMATICS	139	28	60.53	20.14
MATHEMATICAL LITERACY	66	12	65.77	18.18
LIFE ORIENTATION	205	85	76.11	41.46
ACCOUNTING	38	15	70.5	39.47
CONSUMER STUDIES	76	9	68.2	11.84
DRAMATIC ARTS	26	5	69.81	19.23
FRENCH	22	5	67.5	22.73
GEOGRAPHY	49	15	71.84	30.61
HISTORY	102	12	65.22	11.76
LIFE SCIENCES	165	27	62.88	16.36
PHYSICAL SCIENCE	90	22	65.1	24.44
VISUAL ARTS	31	22	83.23	70.97
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	15	5	78.13	33.33
ENGINEERING AND GRAPHIC DESIGN (EGD)	2	0	63.0	0
FS MATHS	15	3	64.87	20.0
FS ENGLISH	5	1	73.6	20.0



SGB ELECTIONS

We will be holding the SGB elections on 5 March 2024. Please book this date as these elections are a very important process in the school calendar.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION AND IMPORTANT SCHOOL DOCUMENTS

Please note that all school communication will be done via the sms system, the d6 Communicator and occasionally via email. Please ensure you have access to these and are receiving the school communication. The following information for 2024 has been uploaded on the d6 Communicator (under Resources). This is important information that should be referred to throughout the year.

- 2024 GDE School Calendar
- Extramural Timetable Term 1
- Assessment Schedule 2024

Please understand that dates/times are subject to change and further documents and events may be added. Check our *d6 Communicator* regularly.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Important - please take note!

During the school year, photographs will be taken of the learners as they participate in various events in the school and on the sports fields. These photographs may be accessed by our staff for the Newsletter, inclusion in various media platforms, including newspapers, the school magazine and electronic media such as our website, Facebook, X (Twitter) and Instagram pages, as well as various presentations to parents/guardians and other interested parties.



The photographs may be of groups of learners or individuals and the learners' names may be used. Please note that from time to time photographs of the whole school/large groups/teams may be used; for example, sports team photographs. We cannot exclude specific learners from these group photographs. However, should this be a problem, the responsibility lies with the learner to exclude herself from any group or team photographs. Sport will be live-streamed through the SuperSport Schools' App. Certain video clips are posted on our social media platforms and, in some cases, the footage is accessible to parents/guardians to watch.

If you do not want your daughter/ward's *individual* photo to appear in any school communication, our Newsletter or on our social media pages, please email Mrs Liss: liss@parktowngirls.co.za

PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

For reasons of safety and general courtesy, all parents/guardians are asked to adhere to all road rules around the school. This includes not parking in the main entrance, on yellow lines, across the pedestrian crossings, on corners or on the side of the road opposite the school (you may only park next to the pavement which is on the same side as the school).



Please adhere to the one-way system in the mornings and the afternoons and ensure that your daughter/ward is dropped off and collected at the correct gate.

No parent will be allowed to drive onto the school property between the hours of 06h30 - 16h30. Please understand that the school is located in a residential area and we ask that you refrain from hooting in the streets around the school or from parking in people's driveways.

We understand that the traffic congestion around the school in the mornings and afternoons is challenging but we ask that all parents/guardians remain patient and act in a courteous manner to avoid any incidents that could compromise the safety of our learners or members of the public.

Learners who make use of UBER, are asked NOT to make the pick-up and drop-off point at the main gate. Pick-up and drop-off points must be further up Crieff Road, further up or down Tyrone Avenue or in Kildare Avenue.

PUNCTUALITY AND LATE ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL



We are pleading with parents to ensure the learners are on time for school. The school gates will be closed at 07:40 sharp. Please ensure that your daughter/ward arrives at school on time as she is required to be in registration by 07:45.

If a learner arrives late, she must report to Office 11 to fill in the late register. Failure to do this means she will be marked absent for the day. We regret we cannot excuse learners because of bus and taxi problems. It is a pre-condition of enrolment at the school that parents/guardians will enable and ensure their daughter/ward's punctual arrival at school. When we are aware of strikes or accidents, we do make exceptions.

Learners who are late for school and miss a part of their lessons are hindering their own and their classmates' progress. Teachers are not obliged to teach the missed work to learners who arrive late.

Please assist us in teaching the girls that being punctual is an important life-skill.

UPDATING OF INFORMATION

Please note, if you are needing to correct any information pertaining to change of address, contact number or email address, please send this information to Mrs Wood; wood@parktowngirls.co.za. The school works from one main central database. Any updates done to details linked to your d6 do not carry through to SMART. The school must be contacted directly as, in the case of an emergency, it is essential we have correct contact details on our school system.

SMS COMMUNICATION: SECOND PARENT OPTION

Due to cost, only one parent is loaded onto our SMS system. If you are not receiving our communication via sms, please email Mrs Liss at liss@parktowngirls.co.za for assistance. Should both parents wish to receive sms's, this is at a cost of R50-00 for the year. Please contact Mrs Liss to make the necessary arrangements.

LOCKERS

Lockers will be available from **Wednesday**, **24 January 2024**, from the Finance Office, for R45-00 (payable by cash, ALLXS card or debit/credit card).

Please ensure you bring your own sturdy lock and two keys. One key must be left at the Finance Office as a back-up if needed. If the lock is a combination lock, the combination must be given to Finance.



REMINDER ABOUT RECEPTION AND VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Please do not leave articles for learners to collect at Reception and learners are not to leave anything to be collected by parents/guardians. Mrs Thomas, the Receptionist, cannot be expected to facilitate this as she does not have permission to call learners out of class. The school will not take responsibility for the loss of such items. Please note that, unless there is an emergency, parents/guardians are expected to make an appointment should they wish to see a member of staff.

Please note that learners are not permitted to go to the main gate or to the perimeter fencing during breaks to collect items from parents or deliveries.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

We ask all parents/guardians to kindly note the following points:

Always quote the learner's Grade, Academic Class, House and Family Number:
 e.g. Grade 8B/A1 (Grade 8B Academic class, Alseids House, Family 1);
 Grade 12G/N3 (Grade 12G Academic class, Nereids House, Family 3)



• For all **personal and general** matters please contact the **House Head**. Unless this is an emergency situation, please do this in writing or via email.

HOUSE HEADS

Ms Moreira	Alseids
Ms Gibbons	Dryads
Ms Steynberg	Hesperides
Ms Eckhardt	Nereids
Mrs van Vuuren	Oreads
Mrs Barnes	Pleiades (white)

• For **academic** matters please contact the **Academic Head**. Unless this is an emergency situation, please do this in writing or via email.

ACADEMIC HEADS

Mrs Fourie	Grade 8
Ms Brändli	Grade 9
Miss Haus	Grade 10
Mrs Bouwer	Grade 11
Miss Halley	Grade 12

- For requests to leave early on a particular day a letter must be placed in the House Head's drawer
 in the Reception Office **before 07:45**, to allow enough time for the requests to be properly
 processed. (see detailed Early Leaving Procedure on the next page)
- Absentee letters for absence due to illness or any other reason, must be addressed and handed to
 your daughter's register teacher on the day she returns to school. It is mandatory to submit an
 absentee letter to the school if your daughter/ward is absent for any length of time.
- For matters concerning absence from school in school term time for more than a week due to illness or any other circumstances, please contact the **Headmistress and House Head**, in writing or via email.
- Letters concerning withdrawing girls from the school must be addressed to the Headmistress.
- The Headmistress and Deputies will assist with urgent issues and matters of a general nature.
- Should you wish to have a meeting with any staff member (including the Headmistress and the Deputies) it is necessary to make an appointment. For teaching staff members, please email them to request a meeting.
- Please note that all the Academic Staff members are Subject Teachers with classes to teach
 during the school day and will not be able to respond immediately to emails and messages. Please
 allow at least 24 hours for a response.

A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

Any proof of payment for amounts paid into the school's bank account must please be sent to forrester@parktowngirls.co.za and no longer williams@parktowngirls.co.za

EFT made into the school account:

If no proof of payment has been sent to <u>forrester@parktowngirls.co.za</u> and a phone call must be made to find out what the payment is for, a R30-00 admin fee will be charged to your school fee account. If your beneficiary reference is not correctly referenced and we have to contact the bank to trace the payment, a R75-00 admin fee will be charged to your school fee account.

If your beneficiary reference is incorrectly referenced and the payment must be reversed (i.e. an interaccount journal) an admin fee of R50 will be charged to your school fee account.

FINANCE OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 07:30 - 15:30 Friday 07:30 - 14:30

LEARNERS may only consult with the Finance Office during the following times:

- Before School (07:30 07:40)
- 1st Break
- 2nd Break
- After School

EARLY DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

The following procedure <u>must</u> be followed for early departures from school:

- 1. A letter from the parent / guardian (which must include parent / guardian's full name, learner's full name, grade and house) must be placed by the learner in the respective House Head's drawer in the Reception Office before 07:40 on the day of departure. Emails on the day to any member of staff are not acceptable unless in emergencies.
- 2. The House Head will sign receipt and acknowledgement of the letter and its contents and will inform Mrs Thomas (Front Office) who will prepare the early departure paperwork.
- 3. The learner is then collected by the parent / guardian (who may be required to produce identification) from the Front Office at the correct time (the learner must come down to the Front Office; she will not be called). The parent / guardian will sign the early departure book and receive a blue slip from Mrs Thomas. Without the blue slip the learner will not be allowed out the gate.
- 4. Should a learner become ill during the course of the day, she, or a friend if she is too sick, must report to the House Head to fetch a pink slip. This slip must then be taken to Mrs Thomas (Front Office). She will be allowed to go to the sickroom for one lesson or, if necessary, Mrs Thomas will contact a parent / guardian to collect the learner. No learner may contact their own parent / guardian to collect them.

Please take note of the following important aspects around early departures:

- 1. If a letter is not forthcoming from the parent / guardian at the commencement of the school day, House Heads have to be called from class which is unacceptable. Parents / guardians will have to wait until break for the House Head to be called (unless in the case of an emergency).
- 2. Learners will not be called from class by Mrs Thomas because a parent / guardian arrives to collect them without the school having been forewarned as per the procedure above.
- Only legitimate reasons will be accepted for early departures from school. Appointments that
 can be made in advance are to be made for after school hours or during the school holiday
 periods. Obviously, the school adopts a considerate and fair approach during times of
 emergency.
- 4. Various 'strangers' are arriving to collect learners on behalf of the parents / guardians. Should a parent / guardian not be able to collect the learner, even though the correct procedure has been

followed, the person collecting the learner must have been given written authority from the parent / guardian. Please allow time for the school to verify the authorization. This should only happen in extreme emergencies as the law does not permit anyone other than the parent or legal guardian to take a child out of school.

5. If a learner is being collected by Uber (not recommended), the parent / guardian must email Mrs Thomas with the details (name of driver, car registration number, etc.). The driver will have to come into the school and identify him / herself before the learner will be allowed to leave.

The above procedure and the school's concerns are in the interest of the safety of your daughter(s). Parent / guardian co-operation and understanding in this matter would be highly appreciated.

Dates to Diarise



24/01	PA Meeting at 6pm in Barbet
26/01	Inter-house Swimming Gala
29/01	Matric Information Evening
31/01	Academic Awards (Juniors)
01/02	Academic Awards (Seniors)
03/02	Swimming Clinic
03/02	Debating Camp
03-04/02	IEC Voter Registration
05/02	Finance Meeting
08/02	Grade 8 Induction
09/02	School photos



SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2024

Please note the school calendar for 2024. Please do not book holidays during school terms. We write examinations/tests until the end of every term. Attendance is expected from 17 January for every school day up to and including 13 December.

Duration	No of weeks	No of days	No of Public Holidays	No of actual school days
(15) 17 Jan - 20 Mar	10	46 (48)	0	46 (48)
3 Apr - 14 Jun	11	53	1	52
9 Jul - 20 Sept	11	54	1	53
1 Oct - 11 (13) Dec	11	52 (54)	0	52 (54)
Total	43	205 (209)	2+0	203 (207)

PUBLIC AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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



EXTRAMURAL TIMETABLE 2024

The Term 1 Extramural Timetable has been uploaded on our school d6 (under Resources – Extramurals). Or click this link!

https://downloads.d6communicator.com/downloads/resources/277_resource_6572d433e84f8125578122.pdf?1705407950



A note from our Head of Culture, Ms Lambertí ...

"Creativity will be the currency of the 21st Century." – Gerald Gordon

Welcome to another exciting year filled with opportunities to develop creativity! We are fortunate to have such a diverse cultural programme at our school and I hope that learners are eager to maximise these opportunities. Whether it be making music, developing speaking and debating skills, taking photographs, or dancing and acting on-stage, there truly is something for everyone! The expert coaches and teachers are ready and waiting for new confidence and talent to emerge.

The Term 1 Extra-mural timetable is on the D6 Communicator and all cultural activities will be starting this week – learners can also check the activity noticeboards for more information.

If learners have any questions they are welcome to come speak to me in Room 19 or in my office in the Library. Here's to a fabulous year of bravery, personal growth and success in Culture!

MARIMBAS

Marimba auditions will take place this week. Based on your experience, you will then be placed in one of our three bands.

Beginner band: 23 January (2:30 to 4:30 pm) Intermediate band: 24 January (2:30 to 4:30 pm) Advanced band: 25 January (2:30 to 4:30 pm)

This is a cultural activity that will help you make new friends, discover new talents, and take you on many adventures!



POETRY

Please see below the Poetry report for 2023 by the then Captain, Sikelela Yanga Mahlati (Grade 12)

Poetry Club Magazine Report 2023

This year in Poetry Club, we embarked on a new journey together. We started working on a new project that was loaded with gripping authenticity. For this project, our poets were led through a self-discovery journey by encompassing the growth that they have undergone throughout the years. We did this by allowing each individual to analyse and compare the oldest and the most recent poems that they had each written. At the end of this analysis, the young poets created their very own, original slam poetry and spoken word, which we wish to showcase to the school soon.

Poetry Club has taken a delightful turn this year, filled with many life lessons. We've competed in numerous competitions throughout the years and gathered quite a few awards too. Poetry Club is more than just a club. It's a safe space to recreate yourself, find yourself and form genuine connections that are deeply rooted in a common denominator. Poetry is



more to us than words on a page: poetry is a life form, art and a way to breathe our truths into the universe while



simultaneously finding our voices. We can't wait to continue to grow our club. Everyone has a voice and I hope that you find yours.

Sports News

A note from our Dírector of Sport, Mrs McCreesh ...

We are very excited to start the new year with an additional person in our Sports Department and we welcome Miss Hannan who will be teaching Physical Education and assisting with the school sports programme. Her main focus will be Netball as she will be taking over as the Teacher-in-Charge. We are thrilled to have you as part of our team and hope that Parktown High School for Girls feels like home soon.

The aquatic sports are already well into their training as they started on 8 January 2024. Well done to the learners who made the effort to attend. It is important to get into it slowly to avoid injuries after a

long holiday. We will be starting with the first league gala, in a very relaxed format as all schools are still finding their feet, on Thursday, 18 January, at Kingsmead College.

The extra-mural timetable is available on the D6 Communicator. Please make sure to check the relevant notice boards in the vestibule for starting dates. Learners are welcome to pop into the Sports Office to ask any questions if needed. We are looking forward to a year of good sport and lots of spirit.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jenna Kinloch has been selected for the North-Western Gauteng Action Netball U16 A Team that will compete in the Inter-Provincial Tournament at the end of March this year. Congratulations Jenna! Parktown is supporting you every step of the way.



Jenna Kinloch

GRADE 8 GALA

On Friday, 19 January, we had the new Grade 8s in the pool for some fun. The war cries were sung

1st Place	Nereids
2 nd Place	Hesperides
3 rd Place	Dryads and Pleiades
4 th Place	Alseids
5 th Place	Oreads

with such spirit and could be heard all the way from the top of the school! Well done to all the learners that signed up and swam for their house - they did very well! To those who did not swim, well done for cheering on your peers with such enthusiasm.

Uniform Shop

ITEM	PRICE	
GENERAL		
BADGE (FOR BLAZER)	R	80.00
BLAZER (WITH BADGE)	R	580,00
COSTUME - BLACK	R	260.00
HAT - BUCKET	R	95.00
HAT - NAVY (STAR)	R	70,00
HOUSE TSHIRT	R	75.00
JERSEY - NAVY	R	190,00
JERSEY - WHITE (MATRIC)	R	225.00
PANTS	R	275,00
PULLOVER - NAVY	R	170.00
PULLOVER - WHITE (MATRIC)	R	225.00
SCARF - NAVY (WINTER)	R	90.00
SCARF - WHITE (MATRIC) (WINTER)	R	100,00
SHORTS (STAR)	R	205,00
STAR TOP	R	230.00
STOCKINGS (WINTER)	R	60.00
SWIMMING CAP	R	75.00
TIE - MATRIC (WINTER)	R	50.00
TIE - NAVY (WINTER)	R	50.00
TOGBAG	R	210.00
TRACKSUIT (SET)	R	460.00
TUNIC	R	280,00
TEAM KIT	1110000	
COSTUME (TEAM)	R	395.00
HOCKEY SOCKS	R	70,00
SOCCER SOCKS	R	90.00
SOFTBALL PANTS	R	320.00
SPORT SHORTS (TEAM)	R	195.00
SPORT SKORT (TEAM)	R	240.00
SPORT TOP (TEAM)	R	260.00
SUN VISOR	R	70.00
OTHER	.07	
APRON (SENIORS)	R	130.00
DRAMATIC ARTS TSHIRT (SENIOR)	R	85.00
HOODIE	R	500.00
STAFF TOP	R	205.00
STAFF TRACKSUIT	R	470.00
SUPPORTER TOP (PARENTS)	R	230.00
TRACKSUIT PANTS (LONGS)	R	165.00
TRADITIONAL CHOIR TOP	R	75.00

₩	PARKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
	UNIFORM SHOP HOURS 2023 -2024
MON	DAYS: 1st break (10:40 - 11:05)
	LEARNERS ONLY
TUES	DAYS: 1st beak (10:45 – 11:10)
	LEARNERS ONLY
WED	NESDAYS: 14:30 - 15:00
	LEARNERS AND PARENTS
THUE	RSDAYS: 1st break (10:40 - 11:05)
	LEARNERS ONLY

Please note that we accept debit cards, credit cards and cash; however, we are encouraging learners to use their ALLSX cards in lieu of cash.

Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

OVERSEAS TOUR 2024

Please note that we still have some space open for the overseas tour in June/July. Please email Ms Haus at Haus@parktowngirls.co.za and she will send you all of the relevant information. Learners from all grades are welcome.



Alex Nava (Travel & Sport) alex@travelandsport.com

Haus@parktowngirls.co.za or

Parents' Association News



PLEASE SAVE THE DATES:

1st PA Meeting of 2024 - Wednesday, 24 January Fun Day - Saturday, 24 February U18 Social - Friday, 1 March

A special thank you to our Passionate and Proud parents who enthusiastically welcomed our new grade 8s and their parents. We hope to see many new faces at our various fund-raising events and at PA Meetings – the first and most important one being on *Wednesday, 24 January* – come along and meet the other parents!







It's Good for the Girls

You are your girls' most important role model. Showing them, you value their education will teach them to value it.



It's Good for

Whether you want to organize an event or simply help out on the day. You will meet like-minded people and make new friends. It's not all hard work; there is a social side too!

Everyone has different talents and skills that they can bring to the school.

You can utilize your existing skills & hobbies, and most likely acquire some new ones' too!



Schools are becoming more and more dependent on the PA for Fundraising revenue to supplement the school budget. You will play an important role in helping the school to fund projects



We Make a Difference

We help fund various school projects on an annual basis. E.g., School Hall repairs, school bus, renovations of School Library, upgrade of Wi-Fi, upgrade of grandstands, building of waiting area

We Have Fun

Volunteer work is not always easy, but we always try to make the best of it and have fun doing it.





We are Welcoming

We are team of parents who work towards common goals. We are happy to answer any questions you have or welcome you to one of our committees. Join us at the PA meeting where you can have your say and suggest fresh ideas.

We Promise to Honor your Time

All we ask of you is an hour or two of your time – the commitment is not too much... The occasional planning meeting and the odd school fundraiser.







Please join our WhatsApp





We share information about upcoming events and how you can assist. It is controlled by Admin only, so no spam! PA - 076 553 9885 Pa@parktowngirls.co.za

We will be hosting our only meeting of the year on

Wednesday 24 January in Barbet @ 6pm