



Issue no. 20
13 December 2023

Newsletter



PARKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
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General News



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMISTRESS, MRS TRACEY MEGOM

As we have reached the end of what has been a very successful and enjoyable centenary year, I would like to wish our whole school community a restful and well-deserved break. For those who are celebrating Christmas, I wish you a blessed and peaceful Festive Season, and for those who are travelling, have a wonderful holiday. Above all, I wish that all our families remain safe over this holiday period.

As is customary at the end of a year, we do have to say farewell to a number of staff members, and we wish them well in this new phase of their lives:

Mrs Tracey Megom (Headmistress)

As you all know I will be leaving at the end of 2023 to take up the principal's post at Rhenish Girls' School in Stellenbosch. This has not been an easy decision for me, as Parktown has been my home for 28 years (starting as a first-year teacher in 1996) and is the place where I have grown so much as a person, a teacher (mainly in the Accounting Department) and as a leader. I owe this school, its staff, the learners and parents (past and present) a great debt of gratitude and Parktown will always carry a special place in my heart. I have been humbled by the outpouring of love and support I have received over the past few months, and I will be forever grateful to have been part of such an incredible institution. I wish each and every one of you much success and happiness, and I will be watching and celebrating the progress and success of the school with pride. This is not farewell, but rather until we meet again.

Mrs Sandra Williams (Finance)

Mrs Williams has been a trusted and essential member of our administrative staff for 22 years, starting as the bursar in 2002 and taking up the position of Finance Manager in 2008. Over this time she has 'ruled' over the school's finances with an iron fist, putting policies and procedures in place to ensure compliance and good governance over what could be a vulnerable area in the school. She understood the importance of her job and she always took pride in how well the school's finances were managed. When I took over as principal in 2017, I looked to Mrs Williams for guidance and advice; her institutional knowledge of the background administrative processes proved to be incredibly valuable, and I owe her an enormous debt of gratitude. Mrs Williams is retiring and we wish her everything of the best for this new and exciting chapter in her life.

Mr Metcalfe (English HOD)

Mr Metcalfe started at Parktown High School for Girls as an English teacher in September 2002 and became the head of this important department in the school in 2011. He has been a beacon of inspiration, guiding both learners and colleagues with his profound passion for literature and language, and has instilled a deep appreciation for the written word, promoting critical thinking and creativity, as

well as developing a nurturing and inclusive learning environment. The English department has flourished under his leadership and his calm demeanour as well as his inherent kindness will be missed. After 21 years at Parktown Girls, Mr Metcalfe is retiring and we wish him a well-deserved rest and much happiness in this new and exciting adventure.

Mr Lezar (Geography)

Mr Lezar started at Parktown Girls in 2013 as a Geography teacher. Over his 11 years at the school he has added much value in the Geography Department as a teacher, and in the extramurals, mainly as a hockey coach and manager. In his words:

“My time at Parktown has been an enriching journey of learning and growth. Working in the Geography department has not only honed my skills as a teacher but has also instilled in me a deeper appreciation for the subject itself. The opportunity to interact with learners on the sports fields, squash courts, softball, and hockey field has been an absolute privilege. These interactions have allowed me to connect with learners on a personal level, building strong relationships that extend beyond the classroom. As I embark on a new chapter in my life, I carry with me the invaluable lessons and memories gained during my 11 years at Parktown. I am confident that the foundation Parktown has provided me, will serve me and my family well in our future endeavours. I wish everyone at Parktown all the best for the future!”

We wish Mr Lezar everything of the best for this next chapter in his life.

Miss Rood (Head of Creative Arts)

Miss Rood started at Parktown High School for Girls in January 2015, and over the past 9 years she has added enormous value in a number of areas. She has been passionate about creative arts and as the head the subject has introduced many different projects and activities to keep the learners engaged and interested. Miss Rood has also been very involved in hockey at the school, both as a coach and manager of various teams, and she has also played a supportive role when necessary, assisting at the technical table for many of the tournaments hosted. Her passionate and caring nature have been evident in her running of Empower, an activity that empowers girls in many areas, as well as in her assistance with collecting matric dance dresses and helping learners who need some care and attention. In her words:

“I have been a Parktonian for the past nine years. Coming straight out of varsity, it was my first job as a teacher. Parktown has been an incredible school to work at, allowing me opportunities and giving me the necessary knowledge to grow. I am the teacher I am today because of Parktown, and for that, I'm eternally grateful. I will miss the school, the friends I've made along the way, Leia (the school cat) and my wonderful learners dearly! I wish Parktown nothing but the best and hope they continue to remain the best school in the universe.”

We wish Miss Rood everything of the best as she takes up a new challenge at a new school.

Mrs Hayter (Life Orientation)

Mrs Hayter left in October to take up a position at a school in the United Kingdom. Although this all happened very suddenly, and we were very sad to lose her, this was a move that would ultimately benefit her family. Mrs Hayter started at Parktown in October 2016, and in the 7 years she was with us she transformed the Life Orientation Department and took our Cross Country team to new heights. Her passion and enthusiasm were evident in everything she did and her hard work, compassion, and creativity will be missed. We wish her, and eventually her family, everything of the best as they embark on this new adventure in the UK.

Miss Malcolm (History)

Miss Malcolm has been a member of the History Department since September 2017 and has added enormous value as a teacher, but also as the teacher-in-charge of Waterpolo. Waterpolo has grown as sport under her guidance to become an activity in which we can actively compete in various competitions. In her words:

“Parktown Girls has been my home away from home for the past 6 years - I did my 3-month teaching practical in 2016 with Mrs Maneli, Ms Jurgens and Ms Shay, who deepened my love for History. As a newly qualified teacher the following year, I was given opportunities more experienced teachers in other schools would have dreamed of. I came into Parktown in the 4th term of 2017 as Teacher-in-Charge of Water Polo, teaching five grades of Life Orientation and marking Matric Final LO exams. Over the years, I made the transition into the much beloved History department. Mrs Maneli, through sound advice and care, allowed me to be creative, and grow in both confidence and skill. Parktown has nurtured me, I have found my best self in this school - the best school in the universe. My next journey takes me back to my alma mater - St Peter’s College, although, I feel more like a Parktown Old Girl, than an Old Petrian nowadays. I am forever grateful to the staff at Parktown Girls for trusting in my abilities and for all the love care and advice. To my learners, thank you for killing yourselves to get to class on time, for laughing at my sarcastic dad-humour jokes, and for all the lessons you have taught me, about myself, and teaching and learning in general - in the classroom, in the pool, and on the sports field. I am going to miss the friends I have made here, who have become sisters, always supporting and lifting one another up. Thank you, Parktown High School for Girls.”

Mrs Sue Williams (English)

Mrs Sue Williams joined Parktown High School for Girls in July 2019 and we have had the privilege of her experience as an excellent English teacher over the past 4.5 years. Mrs Williams is retiring and her experience and passion for English will be missed. In her words:

“I have mixed feelings about retiring as I have loved teaching the girls here over the last five years. My extracurricular involvement has mainly been in the area of teaching Further Studies English and supporting Debating. I will be retiring after a career in English teaching spanning forty-two years; I have taught in a variety of schools in that time, public and private, co-educational monastic boys’ schools – but never, until 2019, in an all-girls’ school. I had always favoured the co-educational model before this, but Parktown Girls has certainly changed my mind! It has been a delight teaching these bright, idealistic, purposeful young women; our future is in good hands. It is evident to me that Parktown Girls is exemplary in showing what can be achieved in government schooling – the girls are not wrapped in cotton wool or entitled, as so many private school learners are, yet they are provided with an excellent academic grounding, and sporting and cultural opportunities that are unsurpassed. This genuinely diverse school prepares our girls for living successfully and meaningfully in South Africa, which is quite a challenging task for schools! I have certainly been proud of my association with this school and these girls over the last five years. I look forward to taking life a little more slowly, walking my dogs and immersing myself in the passion I have for painting. I also plan to do more globetrotting as I have family and friends overseas whom I miss. I do hope to come back to do spells of relief teaching, too.

We wish Mrs Williams everything of the best in her well-deserved retirement.

Mrs Texeira (Mathematics)

Mrs Texeira joined the Parktown family in 2021, as a member of the Mathematics Department, and has subsequently expanded her own family following the birth of her daughter. Mrs Texeira is an excellent Maths teacher, and she will be missed, but we do understand that it would benefit her, at this stage of her life, to work closer to home. We wish her everything of the best at her new school.

You will  be missed.

Update on Lalapanzi

After some time, we are very pleased to announced that we have finally broken ground at our new Lalapanzi accommodation that is being renovated and upgraded for our maintenance team. We have been collecting money for this important project for almost two years, and although we have not yet met our target, we have decided to make a start with the addition of five new rooms and two bathrooms. As money becomes available, we will start with the refurbishment of the existing building. The approximate completion date for the project will be early 2024.



Dates to Diarise



13/12	Reports issued for Grade 8 - 11
13/12	Term 4 Ends
17/01	Term 1 Starts
19/01	Grade 8 Gala
19/01	Matric Results released
19-20/01	Water polo Camp
24/01	PA Meeting
26/01	Inter-house swimming gala
26-27/01	Summer Splash
29/01	Matric Information Evening
01/02	Academic Awards Evening (Gr 10 – 12)
03/02	Swimming Clinic
03/02	Debating Camp
03-04/02	IEC Voter Registration
05/02	Finance Meeting
08/02	Grade 8 Induction
08/02	Bryandale High Schools' Exhibition
09/02	School Photos
10/02	Public Speaking Camp
13/02	SGB Meeting
16/02	Grade 8 Stay Awake
24/02	Fun Day



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 11 December.

<i>Duration</i>	<i>No of weeks</i>	<i>No of days</i>	<i>No of Public Holidays</i>	<i>No of actual school days</i>
(15) 17 Jan - 20 Mar	10	46 (48)	0	46 (48)
3 Apr - 14 Jun	11	53	1+0	52
9 Jul - 20 Sept	11	54	1+0	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		



MATRIC RESULTS 2023

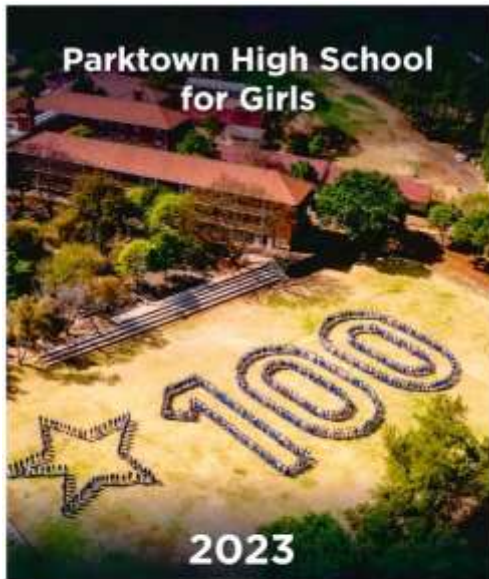
Please note that we have had confirmation that the Matric Results will be released on Friday, 19 January 2024. Further details with regards to this will be communicated closer to the time. All current grade 12s should keep an eye on the school's social media for updates.

Reminder: All learners are to clear out their lockers and collect their spare locker keys from Ms. Thomas in the Finance Office.



ANNUAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Metcalfe and all contributors on a professional 2023 centenary edition.



Celebrating 100 Years
of Excellence



The magazine is such a good representation of everything the school, the girls and the staff have accomplished over the course of the year and is a memento we should all be very proud of. Enjoy the read.

*School magazine covers
through the years*



MATRICES DONATE THEIR SHOES

On Wednesday, 29 November, our Matric Class of 2023 wrote their final English examination paper. And as is Parktown tradition, and has been for many years, the Matrics left behind their school shoes as they exited the hall for the last time.

The shoes have been donated to the "Footloose" Shoe Collection run by the St Vincent de Paul Society. This is a non-profit social service organisation dedicated to serving people in need. These donations are distributed to children in need, many of whom often do not go to school because they do not have shoes to wear.

Thank you,
Class of 2023!



Academic News

GEOGRAPHY JUNIOR OLYMPIAD

Parktown participated in the South African National Junior Geography Olympiad. This Olympiad took place in September this year and we are very pleased to announce the excellent achievements of our junior Geographers.

We are exceptionally proud of Darshana Mahalingam (Grade 8) who earning herself a Platinum Certificate. She placed 19th in the competition.

Charlotte Humby (8), Ammarah Patel (9) and Husna Gouse (9) achieved Silver Certificates (top 10% of entrants). Cara Moore (9) achieved a Bronze Certificate which means that she placed in the top 15% of candidates.

We are very proud of all the girls who entered and participated with enthusiasm. These girls had to apply knowledge that they had learnt as part of the school curriculum, together with knowledge of current affairs, global issues and communities, and famous geographic landmarks, to answer these Olympiad questions.

We would love to encourage more girls to participate in this Olympiad in the future as it offers a great opportunity for academic growth and to apply your knowledge outside of the classroom.

Darshana Mahalingam

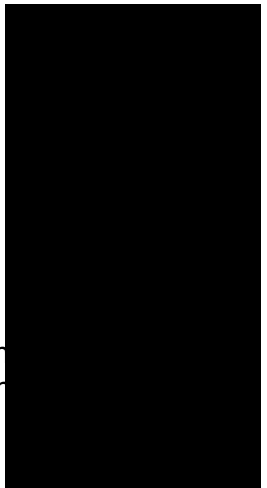


Learners completing the Junior Geography Olympiad in the computer room

Cultural News

BALLET

On 3 December, the Kim Taylor Dance School hosted the American Academy of Ballet Performance Awards. Mamogolo Nhlapo and Mabore Rakgole both participated and Mamogolo achieved a Silver Award and Mabore a Gold Award. Based on her outstanding ability, Mabore was also awarded the Mignon Furman Award which is a partial scholarship to attend the American Academy of Ballet Summer School in New York in 2024. Congratulations.



DEBATING

Gauteng Debating

The following Parktown debaters have been selected for the Gauteng debating teams; Mishka Cashdan, Laura Helling, Ammarah Patel and Keketso Smith. They have been training through the term and will be participating in the national tournament in December, in Kimberly. We wish them all the best.

From left: Keketso Smith, Laura Helling, Ammaarah Patel and Mishka Cashdan



South African Debating Squad

We are very proud to announce that Laura Helling in Grade 10 and Ammarah Patel in Grade 9 have been selected for the South African Senior and Junior debating squads, respectively. We wish them all the best in the year ahead representing the country!

Sport News

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Entle Nyathi, Yamani Daku and Mushishikwe Mamphiswana on their selection for the Western Gauteng Action **Netball** Team. It is incredible how much Netball these girls are playing. Keep up the hard work ladies, it is most certainly paying off.



From left: Entle Nyathi, Yamani Daku and Mushishikwe Mamphiswana

Congratulations to Ashleigh Annandale and Roxanne De Moura have been selected for the Eastern Gauteng U16 A **Water Polo** Team. We wish them luck for the Inter-provincial Tournament. Parktown is behind you.



Roxanne de Moura (left) and Ashleigh Annandale

Congratulations to Klara Venter and Dariana Naidoo who have been through various trials under the Rand Central Local **Football** Club and were selected to represent the Johannesburg Four Cluster. They were also both selected for the Johannesburg Regional SAFA Team and the U15 Soncini team and may travel to Soncini in Italy to play in 2024. This took them through to the Provincial SAFA trials at the end of October. Their team also placed 3rd in the OR Tambo Games held at the University of Johannesburg. So well done to both of you, Parktown is super proud and wishing you all the best for the further team selections later this year.

Klara Venter(left) and Dariana Naidoo



Congratulations to Farrah Brett who was awarded three awards at the Central Gauteng **Gymnastics** Awards: International Selection, Junior Olympic Section Winner, Best Junior Olympic in Central Gauteng. She also left for Czechoslovakia on 22 November to compete in the Olympic Hopes Games. Well Done Farrah on such a phenomenal achievement; Parktown is supporting you every step of the way.



At the 2023 Southern Gauteng Schools' Hockey Association AGM in November, Mrs McCreesh was elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Southern Gauteng Girls' **Hockey** Association for 2024. Congratulations Mrs McCreesh!

Director of Sport, Mrs McCreesh

WELCOME TO PARKTOWN SPORT PROGRAMME

We have had the chance to meet some of our new Grade 8s for 2024 through the 'Welcome to Parktown Sport Programme' which has run for 4 weeks over November and December. We do hope that our new Parktonians have had the chance to make a friend or two before next year and have gotten to know the school grounds a bit.

THE MOUNTAIN CLUB

Parktown High School for Girls has been approached by the Mountain Club to partner is offering some hiking activities to our learners over a 6-month period in 2024. We look forward to partnering with them and giving our learners the opportunity to learn some new skills and explore parts of our beautiful country. Further information will be shared in Term 1 of 2024.

In preparation for this we would like to ask for any donations of the following equipment for learners that may not be able to source their own. Takkies, Hiking Boots, a sling bag or backpack and water bottles.

A message from our Director of Sport, Mrs McCreeh...

The extra-mural timetable for Term 1 2024 has been uploaded onto the D6 Communicator and the confirmed sporting fixtures have been uploaded onto the calendar. Please note that the extra-mural timetable is subject to change as many of our external coaches are university students who will only receive their timetables at the beginning of February. Any changes will be uploaded onto the D6 Communicator as soon as possible.

We are proud of how Sport at Parktown High School for Girls has performed this year. Not only have we had some fantastic results but it has been evident that many learners have not just grown in their physical fitness and skill level, but have made special friendships and developed in their social and emotional skills. We look forward to a new year with new opportunities. We are thrilled to be welcoming a third person in to our Sports Department which will allow us to continue to develop and progress our sport.

Service News

WITKOPPEN CLINIC

Thank you to Valentina Molettieri-Snyman and Ms Govender, who attended the Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Christmas Party recently, where the Santa's Shoeboxes were handed out to the children.



NPC Reg. No. 1996/00066/08 | NPC Reg. No. 028-244
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7 December 2023

Dear Narisha and Parktown Girls High School

THANK YOU FOR BRIGHTENING OUR WORLD AT WITKOPPEN!

On behalf of Witkoppen Clinic and our beneficiaries, I would like to thank you for the kind donation of 150 Santa shoeboxes received towards Witkoppens Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Christmas Party as part of our OVC programme.

Our OVC programme provides economic and psychosocial support, poverty alleviations measures, and strengthen the capacity of parents and caregivers to protect children against negative outcomes such as loss of education, morbidity, and malnutrition. Our Christmas Party marks the end of the year and allows for children to have fun and receive a gift as part of the festive season celebrations.

It is commonly said that people will forget what you said, they will forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel. Your donation speaks truth to these words.

As a non-profit organisation, we rely on donations and partnerships to remain sustainable. Your involvement ensures we are able to achieve our vision of being the best primary healthcare and social services provider to the communities we serve. Through your continued partnership with Witkoppen Clinic, we can ensure that we make a difference in countless lives. Together we can **SEE THE NEED** and **BE THE HOPE**.

Yours sincerely,

Witkoppen Business Development Team

+27 11 705 2438



Parents' Association News



THANK
you

2023 has been an amazing year. A year of building new relations, meeting new parents and achieving our goal of raising over R500 000. Thank you to all our proud and passionate parents who enthusiastically supported the PA this year and worked tirelessly with a smile and lots of passion, which truly embodies the spirit of Parktown High School for Girls.

The amount raised this year will contribute towards the building of a new and bigger uniform and stationery shop.

Sadly, we say goodbye to a few parents this year. A very heartfelt thank you and farewell to Yasmeen, Nadine, Esther, Cheryl, Didi, Jana, Ridwan and Roslin for walking the PA road with us for the last 5 years and helping grow the PA to the magnificent fund-raising body that it is today. We will miss you.

Once again, we are extremely grateful for the immense time, effort and enthusiasm Kumarie Lachman has put into fundraising at Parktown this year; she has again taken the PA to new heights.

