



Newsletter



PARKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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General News

PLEASE **RESPECT** THE PARKING RULES AROUND THE SCHOOL

This year we are focusing on the school value of **respect** and we would like to encourage our parents/guardians/drivers to practise **respect** for the rules of the road as well as respecting the safety of all learners.



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**), or from parking in people's driveways.

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.

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.



SAVE THE DATE

SGB ELECTIONS

The SGB Elections will be taking place on **Tuesday, 5 March** with the nomination meeting at 18:30 and the election at 19:00. It is essential that ALL parents participate in this enormously important election, either by standing for election or by voting on the night. We are looking for a diverse group of parents/guardians with skills in Finance, Engineering, Legal, HR, Education, etc. to stand for the SGB to take the school forward over the next three years.

A 'GOOD' START TO THE YEAR

A group of learners under the leadership of Lara Mari and Rachelle Zwane have undertaken to be **Parktown Girls Of Openhanded Deeds (GOOD)** for 2024. They want to promote our school's values among the learners through various projects. They will also go back to basics and focus on saying "Please" and "Thank You" as it would appear that this is a value which is slowly disappearing. Please support these girls of **GOOD** in promoting their very important projects within our school.

*From left to right: Ammarah Patel, Sameehah Takolia, Kgatoentle Matsitse, Aaliyah Cassim, Lethabo Masuoane, Kgaugelo Digkale, Linda Munyai, Gabriella Rafferty, Maemo Masebe.
Seated: Lara Mari and Rachelle Zwane.*



PARKTOWN CROCHETS ITSELF ONTO THE MAP

Article by Phethego Mello (Grade 11), 67 Blankets ambassador

The Traditional Dancers and the 67 Blankets Ambassadors, Phethego Mello and Jade Freeman, really placed us on the map on Saturday, 27 January, when they attended the 67 Blankets 10th birthday celebrations. Parktown Girls was included in honour of our commendable work in including crochet in the LO curriculum.

The Traditional Dancers performed phenomenally on stage and were given a roaring ovation. Thereafter, Phethego and Jade took part in an interview that was aired on The Morning Live Show on Sunday. Phethego was also interviewed on SAfm where the producer applauded the eloquence that Parktown Girls rears.

Although this is impressive, we have plans of reaching greater heights with the amount of crocheted or knitted squares and blankets this year. We urge you to support us and get the whole family involved in this activity for 67 Blankets. Not only is this a family bonding activity but it also helps you gain house points.



Phethego Mello and Ms Mtshazo

Phethego and Jade being interviewed by Morning Live





Our Traditional Dancers on stage at the event



PARKTOWN
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



Please support the **67 blankets** initiative for **Nelson Mandela Day**. We need knitted squares and scarves!

The following are requirements for the crocheted squares and scarves:

Charity double knit wool in any colour

Squares: 20cm x 20cm

Scarves: 160cm x 20cm

Please drop off your knitted items at our guard hut, at our main gate, on Tyrone Avenue.



Dates to Diarise



05/02	Finance Meeting
08/02	Grade 8 Induction
08/02	High Schools' Exhibition @ Bryandale Primary
09/02	School photos
10/02	Public Speaking Camp
13/02	SGB Meeting
14/02	Valentine's Day
16/02	Grade 8 Games Tournament
24/02	Fun Day
28/02	Grade 11 HPM Career Choice
29/02	Grade 7 Evening (by invitation only)
01/03	U18 Social

Cultural News

DEBATING NATIONAL COMPETITION

Last year, Ammarah Patel, Keketso Smith and Laura Helling were selected to be part of the 2023 Gauteng Debating Squad. After a rigorous period of training during exams, they travelled to Kimberley to represent Gauteng at Nationals in the December holidays.

They spent an exciting week speaking against the best in the country, on topics such as cancel culture, social media, and medical research. The Gauteng delegation ultimately claimed the Senior Open, Junior Open and Best Province titles. In the junior division, Ammarah's team placed 2nd and she ranked 4th individually. In the senior division, Keketso's team placed 7th and she ranked 20th individually. Laura's team placed 2nd and she ranked 6th individually. She also won Best Reply Speaker and was awarded SA Colours.

*Laura Helling (left) and
Gauteng debating coach and Old Girl, Ammaarah Cachalia*



Ammaarah, Keketso and Laura have been chosen for the 2024 SA Squad and will be competing in various international tournaments in the next few weeks. We wish them all of the best!

Sports News

CONGRATULATIONS

Hannah Allen has been selected for the U17A North Western Gauteng Action Netball Team. She will participate in the Inter-Provincial Tournament in March. Well Done, Hannah - this is fantastic and you have our full support. Good Luck!

Hannah Allen



CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country has started off with a bang with the morning and afternoon training sessions well underway. Well done to all who have shown up, especially after a long holiday. We had our first Time Trial using the new route, which now takes place mostly inside the school property. It may not be as scenic but it is much safer and does not need many marshals.

For all those who are new to running and want to try it out, the Friday morning session is the social running group which has a mixture of fast and slower runners. It is a fantastic place to start your running journey.

If you would like to join the Cross Country WhatsApp group, please scan the barcode on the notice board.

WATER POLO CAMP

Report by Alayna Badat (Water Polo Captain)

Water Polo camp was a weekend filled with a range of exciting activities, and deep, meaningful memories that were made!



Jessica Knox and Alexis Tokarsky-Jennings

The camp started with an interactive team discussion followed by tactics training in the pool. An enthusiastic and exciting atmosphere was seen when the captain's team - bonding activities began, where the girls were put into teams and competed against each other to get to know our newcomers, specifically our newest froggies - our grade 8s.

The early evening saw our wonderful polo parents joining us for a braai under the stars. This was followed by our traditional game of 'Stalk the Chukka' and then we ended the night by 'camping out' in the gym. The following day began with an early workout session which was followed by action-packed friendly matches

against other schools, that saw our girls making Parktown proud, once again. Camp came to an end with a stellar synchronized swimming competition from our juniors.

Katie Townley



A huge thank you to our coaches and TICs for all your effort and support as well as a huge thanks to our girls for showing up and being a part of the polo family! The weekend was a success and a great start to the season ahead!



Jessica Taggart, Isla Mooney, Jenna Morris, Colbie Zylstra, Mbalentle Mbekisa, Riley Botha

Bontle Semela and Ashleigh Annandale



WATER POLO MATCHES

On Wednesday, 24 January, we hosted Kingsmead for our first league match. Unfortunately, Kingsmead did not have a junior team for us to play on the day, so only the 1st Team took part while the juniors supported them. They had a frustrating match, and unfortunately lost overall. However they have discussion points and know exactly what needs to be worked on for the next match as we know they are capable of playing a skilful, strong game. Sport is all about learning from mistakes and building stronger for the next opportunity. Thank you to the Water Polo parents who are always cheering from the side of the pool.

SUMMER SPLASH

On 26 and 27 January, St Mary's hosted their annual Summer Splash competition which includes all 3 aquatics sports: Swimming, Water Polo and Diving. It is a wonderful event to kick-start the competitive season. The competition is fierce as the top girls' aquatics schools in Johannesburg are invited, but our teams did well and we are proud of them.

The Water Polo section took place over Friday and Saturday. Our players did extremely well winning their pool matches against St Mary's 8 – 5, St Dominic's 8 – 6, but losing to St Stithian's 4 – 11. This took us through to the semi-final against Roedean School which we narrowly lost 10 – 12 after a fantastic game. Overall, we placed tie 3rd after the final placing matches were called off due to lightning and a decision was made to share 3rd place with opposition Beaulieu. Well done ladies!

The Squad Divers competed on Saturday afternoon against very tough competition. All our divers displayed beautifully and can be proud of their performance. Jocelyn Knox and Sarah James placed 7th and 9th respectively in the U15 section. Nakita Hacker and Erika van Staden placed 13th and 15th respectively in the U16 section. Namusi Mamanyuha and Akira Bhika placed 10th and 17th respectively in the U18 section. Overall Parktown placed 8th for the Diving section.

The Parktown Diving Squad at Summer Splash



Akira Bhika and Namusi Mamanyuha with their results

Sarah James doing a graceful back dive



The Swimming team paired up with Auckland Park Preparatory School to compete in the gala. It was great fun to get to know the other girls and inspiring to watch the little ones make their way across the huge 50m pool with such determination. Overall with a combined effort, we placed 8th. Well done to all the aquatics girls that took part and thank you to all the teachers who accompanied them.



The Parktown Swimming A Team that took part in the Summer Splash Gala, with Miss Hannan and Mrs McCreesh

Parktown and APPS swimmers showing team spirit as they sing a war cry to end off the gala



SWIMMING

The swimmers have been working very hard at training, in the mornings and afternoons. We have competed in 2 league galas so far.

The first one took place at Kingsmead College where we placed 4th overall, and the second was hosted at Parktown High School for Girls, where our A Team placed 3rd and our B Team placed 7th overall. The A team also competed in the Summer Splash competition as mentioned above.

Well done to all the swimmers for their continued hard work and perseverance.



HOCKEY AND NETBALL

On Monday, 29 January, Hockey and Netball officially started the pre-season for all age groups. There has been a fantastic turnout and we are thrilled that so many players want to get involved. Please note that due to match days clashing, unfortunately no players can play both Hockey and Netball.

If a learner would like to join the other (when it does not clash with their chosen committed sport), they are welcome to attend in a social capacity for fun but must understand that they cannot play matches for the sport they are doing in a social capacity.

Grade 8s are encouraged to try both sports for the first 2 weeks until they have made a decision on which they would prefer. A reminder that all in-season sports (Aquatics, Touch Rugby, Tennis, Squash, and Canoeing) must take priority over pre-season sports. The team manager must be made aware of this so that it is noted in the attendance register.

The 1st Team Squads for both Hockey and Netball have been training since the first week of school and preparing for the National All Girls Festival which will take place in May.

Trials for the age group teams commence over the next week or two and information regarding this will be posted on the relevant notice boards. Please make sure to check.



A little fun with colourful socks at Netball

1st Team Hockey Squad cooling off after a tough training session



INTER-HOUSE GALA

On Friday, 26 January, we hosted our annual Inter-House Gala which proved to be great fun. All ages were included and encouraged to take part. There was great spirit throughout the morning from all houses and it was all captured by SuperSport Schools for parents and guardians to watch via the live stream.

Well done to all the swimmers, as well as the learners who cheered them on all the way. The gala was followed by a beautiful display from the divers and then a fun Water Polo match between the matrics and staff. The matrics ended off the gala with their fun pyjama swim. Thank you to the teachers who made the gala possible and run so smoothly.

Well Done to Alseids who won the Spirit Cup. A comment from Leah Cornell, the Alseids House Captain, *"I am so incredibly proud of our house!! They put every ounce of spirit into each minute of the gala and are successfully continuing Alseids' legacy ♥️"*.

Inter-house Gala placings:

1 st	Oreads	(127 points)
2 nd	Alseids	(112 points)
3 rd	Nereids	(110 points)
4 th	Dryads	(105 points)
5 th	Pleiades	(95 points)
6 th	Hesperides	(92 points)



PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Unfortunately, over the past 2 weeks there have been a few incidents of theft taking place in the bathrooms near the pool area when learners leave their belongings in their togbags. The lockers in the bathrooms by the pool have now been reserved for the Aquatics girls, so that they can access their bags easily for morning and afternoon training sessions.

Please make use of this option, and book a locker with Miss Thomas in the finance office. Make sure to tell her that you are in the Aquatics squad. The locker cost is R45 for the year.

Please do not leave any valuables in bags that are left in the bathrooms. Learners must be vigilant and careful with their possessions. Cell-phones can be handed to the teacher for safe-keeping and bags must not be left in the bathrooms unattended.

Parents' Association News



PLEASE SAVE THE DATES:
Fun Day - Saturday, 24 February
U18 Social - Friday, 1 March



OUTSIDE ADS

THE SCHOOL ACCEPTS OUTSIDE ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NATURE AND QUALITY OF THE SERVICES OFFERED



Visit Our Website On -www.TheSportsshack.co.za
Whatsapp: 0766868865
Address-59 4th Avenue Linden JHB

Cricket-Hockey-Rugby-Swimming-Netball-Tennis-Padel

The advertisement features a collection of sports equipment including swimming goggles, a Gilbert GTR 5000 volleyball, white athletic shorts, a pair of skis, a Grays badminton racket, cricket bats, cricket gloves, a cricket helmet, and a white athletic shoe. A grid of brand logos is displayed, including Versus, DSC Fearless, Opro Mouthguards, Arena, SS, Grays, Gray Nicolls, Gilbert, MRF, Aqualine, Head, and Osakai. The Sportsshack logo is also present in the top right corner.

Looking to organise or participate in a **LIFT CLUB** for taking turns driving our kids to school (or similar arrangement) from **Bramley-Kew or adjacent areas** (Lombardy, Alexandra, Southern Sandton...). Please contact me by email (jerome.lange@wits.ac.za), call/SMS (0780373549) or WhatsApp (+33668927092).



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Elevate Education's Term 1

Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

How to Get (And Keep) Your Child Motivated

31st January 6:00pm

How You Can Help Your Child Manage Their Time

14th February 6:00pm

How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking

28th February 6:00pm

How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory

13th March 6:00pm

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/zaschoolwebinar>