



Newsletter

Enlightened Minds

Southdowns College High School

News

Date: 25 July 2017



Dear Parents

Exams and building:

The exams have begun and while we write, the building process is in full swing. I have spoken to the builder who assures me that he will do the noisy work during the afternoon and leave the quiet work for the morning. The astro-turf process went ahead this morning, during an exam, and it seemed to be a fairly undisturbed time. We will continue to monitor the noise levels to ensure a smooth, trouble-free exam period.

The parking lot at the centre of the school has been reduced in size due to the movement corridors of the trucks. We have worked with the contractors on both sites to ensure the safest possible environment while they work. The stop sign has been erected on the main drive, as you head out and intersect with the staff parking exit. This is to prevent possible collisions as cars exit the staff parking area.

I need to reiterate that the parking/drop off zone in front of the hostel is too busy in the morning. Please note that the disabled parking space is strictly reserved for Carmen Botha and any other person with a disability who needs to use it. I have appealed to all high school pupils that they be dropped off at the entrance to the school and that they walk across the field to school to alleviate the congestion in this area. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Now that the next phase of building has been finalised and we have a good idea of what the final product will look like, I will ask our architects to draw up a colourful plan that we can laminate and display in a prominent area for your perusal.

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Instagram: @southdowns_college



Theft:

We have had two “bakkies” stolen off the property in the past two months. It seems that a very organised syndicate is at work and I would like to urge all parents who enter the property to be aware of the situation. EBS who run our security meet with our management team every week to monitor safety at our school. You will have received an email from us on the revised protocol at the gate that has been redesigned in order to facilitate a good blend of safety and free-flowing traffic.

Staffing news:

At the end of this term we will be bidding farewell to Mr Pieter van Wyk. As I said in a previous newsletter, he has been appointed as the high school principal at Curro Roodeplaat. We will have a final farewell assembly for him towards the end of the exams. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to thank him for all that he has done during his time at Southdowns College: in the classroom, on the sports field and in the management of the school as a deputy headmaster. We are currently interviewing candidates to fill his positions in the EGD department and as deputy principal.

Mr Theunis Bosch has been fortunate to land a teaching job in Morocco at an international school in the Atlas Mountains. It is a marvellous opportunity for him to teach and travel. He will be leaving at the end of the term. He is an outstanding Mathematics teacher and will be sorely missed. We have secured a highly qualified senior Mathematics teacher to finish off the year in his place.

In other staff news, Ms Sarah Engelbrecht will be getting married very soon and will be moving to the Eastern Free State with her new husband at the end of the term. She has been a central pillar in the Dance department and we thank her for the numerous long, hard and fruitful hours spent in the Dance department.

We would like to congratulate Mrs Hester Kriel, one of our senior Physical Science teachers, who has just been awarded her Masters Degree in Science Teaching. This is an amazing accomplishment and we are very proud of her achievement.

Matric dance fundraiser:

An excellent dinner and photograph auction was held recently at a local restaurant to raise funds for the matric dance. The venue was packed with enthusiastic parents and a very generous sum of money was raised towards the event. Thank you to all the parents who attended and who were so very generous.

Culture:

SCAMDALOUS, the inter-house play festival and the matric music show were held in various venues around the SAX building recently. Each year the standard rises and the quality of our young performers is something special to behold. Thank you to all the parents who attended. The inter-house play festival this year was won by Venus.

Sport:

The winter sports season has come to an end and it has been a successful one. Thank you for all the support received on the side of the field throughout some very cold winter’s mornings. We will host the winter sports awards evening early in September. The sports achievements will be rewarded according to our awards criteria at an assembly to be held soon after the third term starts. The pupils have been told where to find the sports programme that covers the period up until the August holidays. There will still be some sport taking place during the exams.



These practices have been scheduled directly after the exams have been written.

Pupil achievements:

Pretoria Eisteddfod:

Thasello Mkhabela – Top Junior Contemporary Vocalist

Khanyi Mgquba – Top Senior Contemporary Vocalist

Ntando Sishi, Keamo Mathe, Thasello Mkhabela, Khanyi Mgquba – Top Contemporary Ensemble

The Southdowns Dance Academy recently entered the internationally recognised Royal Academy of Dance Examination session in June 2017. One hundred and seventeen dance pupils were entered, ranging in age from six to eighteen years and covering levels from Pre-primary up to and including Advanced 2. It is with great pride that we can report that the academy boasts a 100% pass rate. Congratulations to the Southdowns College string ensemble made up of: Gabriel de Freitas, Luca Bester, Hannah Donaldson and Britney Quickfall, for representing the school, through performance, at the ATKV Youth Day Achievers' Celebrations. In total, 54 pupils took the class award presentation and 62 pupils completed the immensely difficult exams on differing levels. Of these, 39 received merit awards and 23 achieved distinctions. The academy is extremely proud of all the young dancers.

Hopefully the exam period will not be as stressful as you thought it would be! The reports will be handed out during the course of the first week back at school, next term. If you are travelling during the school holidays, please drive safely and enjoy a blessed and restful time with your families.

Kind regards,

M. Smith
Principal



3D image of the new high school block

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From the desk of the High School PA

We have had a busy year thus far! The Sports Braai in the 1st term is proving to be a favourite amongst the parents and will definitely become a fixture on the school calendar.

Our school hosted a number of Derby Days and the PA along with our group of fantastic volunteers served up the best Boerie rolls along with early morning egg & bacon rolls for our eager young sports men & women. The camaraderie that has developed in the group of volunteers is great to experience so please feel free to join us next time even for half an hour, every bit helps. The PA will continue to focus on improving parent involvement in all activities of the school and to create a better relationship between Parents, Students and School Staff.

The Annual Golf Day was a roaring success thanks to our enthusiastic golfers as well as all who donated or sponsored a prize.

Looking ahead to the 3rd term, please save the date 16th September. You will just need an hour or two early in the morning to join us for our House/Dog walk. We will be using the opportunity to collect dog food to donate to the local SPCA and the children will be able to earn points for their houses. All dogs welcome to walk along.

The PA are in the process of setting up a special Projects Committee which will embark on various special projects like shading for the stands in cooperation with the school and Advtech, more info to follow.

Lastly please remember to sign up for MySchool or the Makro program

To find out how you can help raise funds easily for the school please use the links below:

<https://www.myschool.co.za>

<https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply>

