



Newsletter

Enlightened Minds

Southdowns College High School

Date: 9 June 2017

News



Dear Parents

We began the term by welcoming Mr Kgomotso Motlogeloa, our new senior deputy principal, to our school. He hails from Jeppe High School and will be taking over the dual roles of head of discipline and head of boarding. He was a deputy headmaster and History teacher at Jeppe where he also coached the first cricket team as well as various rugby teams. Another new staff member, Ms Sibahle Zondo, joined us as the second isiZulu teacher at Southdowns - thus doubling the department size. She is currently in her first year of teaching and resides in the school hostel. Mr Fritz Mynhardt, a third new staff member, has been appointed to the Afrikaans department. He is from Grey College and was the U14A cricket coach as well as the third rugby team coach. We look forward to working with each of these new staff members and look forward to their contribution to Southdowns College.

The term started with our sports teams competing in a derby fixture against Sutherland High School, followed by a home derby against Fourways High School on a very cold Saturday. I sent out a letter explaining that we expected the pupils to attend these two events. Most, but not all, pupils complied with this request, and we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who supported our teams at these fixtures. At the start of the sporting season next year, we will announce at which of the school events we will expect compulsory attendance, so that families can plan accordingly. We will also include some of the cultural events, such as inter-house play night, in the list.

We wind down the season with some away matches before we head into exams. The month of May is always full of sport during the week and weekends. My thanks goes to all of our coaches and players for the positive manner in which they went about their business. I am generally very happy with the netball, hockey and rugby

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results. All of our players are expected to continue in their commitment to their respective sports until the end of the season.

Uniform:

It is now winter uniform time and the main misunderstanding from the pupils is whether or not to wear the blazer. The rule is that blazers must be worn each day and that they may only be removed when sitting during break or during class time. In the early mornings we have opened two classrooms where pupils, who are dropped off very early, can stay warm. The pupils were informed in assembly which two classrooms have been designated for this purpose. They are rooms 1 and 11.

Upcycled furniture:

The grade 9s spent a lot of time and effort on their Technology class project which involved the up-cycling of items that would ordinarily be considered as rubbish. Their combined effort, after a silent auction was held to sell the items, raised R10 200.00 for Dove's Nest, a facility that provides care for abandoned and unwanted babies. This has been an ongoing project for the past seven years and is one of which we are very proud.

Public speaking/ redenaars:

This past May, the public speaking and redenaars teams excelled at the annual Lyttelton Manor High School Orators' Festival at which all of the main schools within Pretoria, compete. Some of our results are as follows:

English public speaking:

Lizelle Liebenberg: A symbol for individual public speaking

Rizqah Mohamed: B symbol for individual public speaking

Best team results:

Grade 8: A++ (3rd Position)

Grade 9: A+ (7th Position)

Grade 10: A++ (Competition Winners)

Grade 11: A+ (7th Position)

Grade 12: A+ (6th Position)

Afrikaans redenaars:

Lizelle Liebenberg – A symbol for individual speaking (joint 10th position)

Best team results:

Grade 9: A++ (Winners)

Grade 10: A++ (Winners)

Grade 11: A+ (3rd Position)

Grade 12: A++ (Winners)



National Eisteddfod:

Several of our pupils were invited to perform at the NEA national rounds due to their exceptional performances in the regional rounds last year. Public speaking: Bradley Jackson, Lerato Badimo, Seyuri Rajaruthnam, Talia Singarum, Jordan Pawaar, Sibonele Yawa, Palesa Mphafudi, Dianne Brookes, Duncan Armitage, Gabbi Coetzee, Krishna Naidoo and Kaila van Zyl. Violin own choice: Hannah Donaldson. Violin quartet: Hannah Donaldson, Britney Quickfall, Luca Bester, Gabriel de Freitas. Afrikaans redenaars: Jo Busser, Jamie Candiotis, Kaila van Zyl, Gabbi Coetzee (2nd round). Dance (Tap): Electra Parpottas. Piano: Gershwin Ramsamy. Piano Impressionism: Robyn Rhodes (2nd round), Dramatic Monologue: Shanni Hasen (2nd round). The following pupils were part of the NEA poetry group and also performed at the second round of the NEA; Annele Retief, Teana Chiba, Shanni Hassen, Nfefele Tsiane and Gali Nengovhela.

The grade twelve public speaking team members were awarded medals for being category winners and Neo Rapetsoa was awarded a medal for being an item winner for the grade ten monologue at the National Eisteddfod. Gershwin Ramsamy and the grade twelve public speaking team made it through to the quarter finals of the competition. Tamsyn Dexter made it to the national final and we are awaiting final results.

Sport:

The month of May has been extremely busy in terms of league matches for hockey and netball. Many of the fixtures have been extremely competitive, and a number of our teams have had very successful seasons. At the end of the winter season we will celebrate the results of the teams at the winter sports award ceremony. Christin Mundell has been selected to represent South Africa at the upcoming Junior World Swimming Championships to be held in the USA in August.

Tsebang Sipambo recently toured Croatia as part of a South African dance company which competed against fifty five other countries. She returned having achieved first places for most of her events.

Provincial Representation:

Soccer: Keenan Clark – U/13C and Suvir Singh – U/13D.

Tennis: William Scully, Emma Geysler and Ken Vilborn

Indoor Cricket: Euan Bridger

Cricket: Bokang Moche

Hockey:

U/13 C: Tamryn Cambier, Jaime Jafta, Junior Mosia U/14A: Rorisang Segale

U/16B: Lavanya Aramugam U/16B: Byanda Maseko

Netball: U/13 Gauteng team - Jaime Jaftha and Esli Steyn

Rugby: Sihle Sobekwa and Rebone Qacha – Academy side

Pretoria Private Schools' Team: Rocco Engelbrecht, Philip Wessels, Kwezi Xuba and Chanu Janse van Rensburg

General:

Hopefully you have all received the email from ADvTECH pertaining to the bi-annual survey. If you have not, please contact Mrs Smith at reception and she will send you the link. Thank you for taking the time out to complete the survey. In due course, I will report back to you with regard to the results. The pupils completed their surveys on Friday.

Unfortunately, the commencement date of the astro-turf development has been delayed due to the discovery that an additional layer of sand would be needed and that the underlying dolomite poses further challenges. I have, however, been told that the start is imminent.

We have received several emails during the week referring to the cell tower that was erected next to the school grounds on the ARC property. There was no consultation with us prior to the erection of the structure and we have referred the matter to the ADvTECH property division.



We have recently had a spate of serious theft in the general area of the school. I will be having a meeting with the owner of EBS – our security company - this coming week to ensure that pupils, parents and property are being guarded in an acceptable manner. The guards will be stopping all cars leaving the property to ensure that there are keys in the ignition. Please be patient with the process at the gate as it benefits us all.

We have had a battle with our telephone service provider over the past months to ascertain where the break in the line was that prevented incoming calls to the school. They have managed to locate it and we are now in full communication again with the outside via a land line. We apologise for any frustration caused in the interim.

On the 23 June we will have a **digi-day** for our pupils. All pupils (apart from the grade 10s) will stay at home on this day and will complete their work online. The grade 10s will be busy with Life Orientation job shadowing and will be excluded from digi-day. All pupils need to have access to a computer and the internet in order to complete the on-line activities which have been set for them. These activities will be available on Moodle at: <http://southdowns.my-auto.co.za/hs/login/>. According to our planning, 23 June is a Day 5 and pupils will therefore follow their respective Day 5 timetables from home.

We will close school on the 22 June for the half-term and the Friday 23 June will be the compulsory “work at home” digi-day. Precise details of the day will be communicated to pupils and parents in due course.

We will be writing exams until the last day of term (4 August). The reports will be handed out at the beginning of the third term on a date that we will communicate to you.

It is that time of the year when a number of our families celebrate Ramadan and I would like to wish them well over this period.

Building progress:

The plans for further expansion of the buildings and facilities have been approved.

The following will be happening: the empty ground in the parking lot that is adjacent to the end of our buildings will have a building constructed on it that mirrors what is currently being completed at the prep school. We will use the first and second floors as classrooms while the ground floor will be devoted to an administration area, including a staff room. The work on this block will start as soon as the prep building has been completed. The boarding facility will then be split into boys’ and girls’ residences. The current boarding house will remain as the girls’ residence and the block which presently houses the administration block will become the boys’ boarding facility.

Kind regards,

Mark Smith
Principal

