



VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL

VICTORIA PARK DRIVE

PORT ELIZABETH

NEWSLETTER March 2014

Dear Parents

ACADEMIC

The academic year has started very well, gaining momentum from the excellent results achieved in 2013. The top Matrics are very competitive and they have spurred each other on to strive towards excellence. The Grade 8 learners have survived their first big test series and taken a big step forward in their preparation for the challenges that lie ahead in their academic careers. I am proud of the intensity of lessons, especially when I get the opportunity to go for a walk around the school and see what is transpiring. The new classroom technology is being put to good use in many of the classes. The top academic Grade 12's, based on the March results, will have a workshop to help them with study methods and they will brainstorm best learning practises. This will hopefully also motivate them to really push themselves academically.

EVENTS

The Grade 8 "Open Evenings" were very well attended and parents and prospective Grade 8's for 2015 were liberal in their praise for the school, the presentations, the bands and the displays. I would like to extend special congratulations to all the learners who organised and manned the stalls – they did Victoria Park High proud! We have had a positive response with a good number of applications. We trust that this will translate into a high quality Grade 8 intake.

The Music Department used their initiative to organise a joint venture with local primary schools. This culminated in two evening concerts that were well attended and enjoyed by all. The PR value of this cannot be under-estimated and many smiley faces came to greet Mrs Cheetham, Mr Louis and others when they came back to VP for the open evenings.

The Grade 11 and 12 groups were fortunate to be exposed to a wide array of career opportunities at our annual Careers Day, when more than sixty professionals came to our school to speak to our learners about careers ranging from engineering to the armed forces. As well as this, they have also been part of a number of other expositions organised locally.

SPORT

The annual VP / Powerade Soccer Challenge took place over the long weekend. The soccer staff do an amazing job in organising a well-run tournament that attracts teams from as far afield as Bloemfontein and East London. Thirty four teams of passionate young sportsmen and sportswomen spend their time learning from the "university of sport". Our teams did very well overall. Our First team ended fifth, in spite of losing only one match, which was unfortunately a quarter-final. Our girls walked off with the bronze medals, while the heroes of the day were VP Under 16A, who won their division convincingly.

Our First rugby boys started the season with a trip to Kirkwood, where they went down 8 – 18 to a stronger team from Cradock. At the Despatch festival, they came back from a large deficit to draw 10 -10 with Solomon Mhlangu, a strong development side. Our First hockey boys did us proud at the Grey High School pre-season festival. They swept all before them, beating Westering 6 – 3, Alexander Road 5 – 1 and St Andrews 5 – 1. Their only loss was to Grey, where they went down 1 – 2.

GOVERNING BODY

After the recent by-election we welcomed Mrs Lee-Ann Jones and Mr Mark Bradley onto our Governing Body. We are fortunate to be able to have people of this calibre who are prepared to give of their time to improve the lives of our young Victorians.

Mrs Caro Morgan was elected as Chairperson, with Mrs Cecile Nowers as her Vice Chair. Mr Bradley now fills the position of Treasurer and Mrs Jones is our new Secretary. At the first Governing Body meeting structures were put into place for a strong sub-committee system. Most of these committees have already met and there are a number of new projects, ideas and initiatives. I would like to thank all these parents who are adding value to Victoria Park. The other exciting initiative is the parent committee looking at bringing the families of VP together. We are looking forward to seeing what events will be driven by this group of parents and alumni.

TOURS

We would like to wish all teams well for the tours that are being undertaken during the vacation. Our young sportsmen and women will be representing our school as far afield as Cape Town, George and Bloemfontein, playing Rugby, Hockey, Tennis and Soccer. I trust that they will travel safely in our new vehicles and play with the pride, passion and sportsmanship we expect from our sporting learners. I would also like to thank the teachers and coaches responsible, who are prepared to give up their holidays to provide our learners with these opportunities.

The Victoria Park High community rallied together magnificently to raise +/- R63 000 with our “trolley dash”. This money goes a long way towards subsidising the costs of sports, cultural and academic tours and is appreciated by all.

The first term has been a busy, productive and positive one for Victoria Park and its learners. I would like to thank and congratulate all pupils, parents and teachers on all that has been achieved this term. May you all enjoy a safe and relaxing holiday.

Yours sincerely



M J Vermaak

Principal