

VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL



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Principal

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NEWSLETTER : APRIL 2014

Dear Parents

I hope that you enjoyed the short holiday with your children and that they are all motivated for the second term. This term is the start of the very busy winter sports season and also an examination term. Time management is of utmost importance!

The second term is, unfortunately, a term that is going to be disrupted by public holidays, religious holidays and school holidays. The following are dates that learners will not be at school:

- Friday 18 April to Monday 21 April – Easter weekend
- Monday 28 April to Friday 2 May – Freedom Day, Workers' Day and state-announced school days off
- Wednesday 7 May – National election voting

I would like to appeal to parents to ensure that the pupils are at school on all other days. The syllabus has not been adapted and we must complete all the work in a much shorter time.

Sports Tours

There were a number of pre-season tours that took place during the March/April school vacation.

- 1st Rugby to Cape Town : The boys had a good trip, behaved well and were outstanding ambassadors for the school. They won one, drew one and lost one game and managing to find what combinations of players worked well together.
- U/15 Soccer to Bloemfontein : This spirited group of boys played 11 matches in 3 days, winning 9 of these. They won the plate competition, received great compliments from the hostel they stayed in and showed that they are going to be a force to be reckoned with. Mr O'Brien Vd Watt can be thanked for driving the team there and for being such a positive influence.
- Tennis to East London : 13 of our tennis players attended a coaching clinic set up by the Border coach, Gary Thorne. The players learnt a lot, grew in stature and performed very well in matches against Selborne and Clarendon Girls' players. They were commended by the Border coaches who stated that they were the best behaved group they have worked with in the recent past.

- 1st Girls' Hockey to Cape Town : The girls bravely took on the might of Cape Town and impressed with their level of play and commitment. They won two, drew one and lost three games. They were named as the "team of the tournament" w.r.t. behaviour and manners. The girls put their newly gained confidence to good use on Saturday when the four VP teams remained unbeaten against Port Alfred High, scoring 10 goals and conceding none.
- U/15 Rugby to Kareedouw : The boys played three matches, winning one and losing two matches. They gelled as a team and celebrated this with a 58 – 5 win against Port Alfred this Saturday. The team was the envy of other schools in their newly-sponsored warm-up kit.
- Girls' 2nd team Hockey to George : These brave girls took part in the York tournament for first hockey teams. They really surprised all and sundry by staying competitive and will reap the benefits of this in our local league.
- U/16 Boys' Hockey to George : The boys played 5 games against top opposition from all over the country. They showed tremendous spirit despite being out of their depth.
- Athletics Inter-Provincial in Polokwane : We were proudly represented by Reece Brower (high jump) and Kayla Seddon (sprints and hurdles). They both did incredibly well getting into the finals. Reece was placed 5th in the country and Kayla ran her way to two bronze medals in the 110m hurdles and the 200m sprint. Our VP coaches were both honoured by being selected as the two EP coaches!

GENERAL

We intend having a "day without shoes" where we show empathy for those less fortunate than ourselves. This is planned for Friday 9 May and all are encouraged to bring an item of winter clothing that we can donate to a good cause.

The Grade 11 learners have been involved with training from our local Toastmasters Club in the "art" of public speaking. They will qualify as Toastmasters at their graduation dinner on 24 April.

The Equestrian team is currently top of the SANESA Schools' league in which 27 schools participate. They are also doing a lot of hard work fundraising to be able to attend competitions that take place far out of town. Good luck to our riders and their support team with all the outstanding efforts and initiative.

The VP "Festival of Arts" explodes onto the scene from Thursday 15 May to Saturday 17 May. One can select a meal from the many food stalls, browse through the craft stalls and be entertained by plays, poetry, music, bands, dance, exhibitions, theatre, games, puppets, pony rides and much more. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

M J Vermaak
Proudly Victorian
April 2014