

VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL



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Dear Parents

Welcome to the second academic term, the winter season of sport and the term for our musical, *Camelot*. This term also has public holidays and the mid-year examinations. As one can imagine, proper planning and time management is going to be essential.

The winter examinations start on 5 June and a final examination timetable will be handed out next week.

NEXT WEEK

We are writing the Paper 3 components of the mid-year examinations for English, Afrikaans and Xhosa on Tuesday and Wednesday. These creative writing papers are formal examinations and all examination regulations apply. Please remember that only a doctor's certificate will suffice in the case of absenteeism. We will have shortened academic periods and then sit for the examinations. School will come out at 14h15 on both these days. Thereafter, everyone can enjoy the long weekend.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Victoria Park was busy during the Easter vacation, with sports tours and our musical, *Camelot*.

The cast of *Camelot* spent a big chunk of their school holiday hard at work with rehearsals for this well-known musical. Special thanks go to Mrs Van der Walt, Ms Potgieter and Mr Luffin who put so much into preparing our young thespians. Separately, at this stage, Mr Louis was getting the band ready.

The 1st boys' hockey team competed in the York High Festival and did really well. They had 4 good wins against Edgemead, Port Rex, El Shaddai and Pinelands. Unfortunately York and Durbanville pipped us, but the boys got a taste of the different styles of hockey being played around the country. The boys described the tour as amazing and bonded very well. Mr Fisher, our new sports officer, had his first taste of VP touring and came back impressed.

The girls' first hockey team travelled to Cape Town for the Fairmont Easter Tournament. They showed great spirit, but unfortunately the team was negatively affected by three key players getting season ending injuries. Sport can be cruel, sometimes. Their wins against Sutherland (Pretoria) and Fairmont (Cape Town) proved that they can be competitive this year.

The U/14 and U/15 soccer boys travelled together to Bloemfontein as guests of Brebner High. They both did very well – highly competitive on the field and exemplary in their behaviour. They earned the accolade of being announced as the winners of the FAIR PLAY TROPHY – an award to the best-behaved, most well-mannered school at the tournament! When considering that there were 36 teams competing, this is something to be very

proud of. The U/14's won 4 of their five matches, only losing to a soccer academy team from KZN. They beat Brebner High, Bayern, Clapham High and Brebner Primary. The U/15's ended up 7th out of 20 teams, also only losing once. Gasquin Oosthuizen's ten goals made him the top goal scorer of the tournament. Thanks go to Mr Van der Walt for driving them safely, Mrs Jennings, Mr Louis and the coaches for adding value to our youngsters' lives.

The U/16 hockey girls were accompanied by Mrs Du Preez on their trip to George. They had a tough time on the field, but got a lot of good pre-season hockey experience! Their 2-1 win against DSG, from Grahamstown, has given them courage to face the season.

The Victoria Park 1st XV competed in the Tony Stoops Festival in Cape Town. This huge tournament brings teams from all over South Africa together in a celebration of rugby. They won all three of their games, beating Jan Van Riebeek 29-24, Emil Weide 24-6 and York High 20-10. Four of our young stars were named in a select team chosen at the end of the tournament! Congratulations to Josh Coleman, Kelvin Kanenungo, Sixolile Pini and Xabiso Menze who now have the opportunity of touring Scotland with the Tony Stoops team. The boys showed great resolve and magnificent team spirit. Mr Boshoff and Mr Ah Shene are ecstatic that all the hard work put into the pre-season training and planning has been rewarded.

It was heartening to see the hockey girls and rugby boys supporting each other at their games. Vivite Fortes!

We were notified that Jade Flamwell, a Grade 9 learner, is the winner of the Woolworths' "What would a waterless world look like?" competition! Jade beat all the Eastern Cape entrants with her superb art work. She received a R500 gift voucher from Woolworths for herself and a big water tank for the school.

STAFF NEWS

Ms Beets got married during the school break and is returning as Mrs Gouws. We wish her and her husband all of the best for a marvellous married life.

Mrs Taylor's mom passed away and we hold her in our prayers while remembering the life of a grand lady.

Mr Jansen and Mr Vermaak daughters' graduated with their degrees from NMMU. We congratulate them and wish them well with their careers.

Mrs Christa Conradie has filled the post vacated by Mr Lehman. Christa has a Masters degree in Environmental Science (with distinction) and a PGCE (Cum Laude) and we look forward to her enriching our learners with her knowledge and experience of Science, Life Science and Natural Science.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

The evergreen musical, *Camelot*, is being staged from 17 – 20 May. Tickets are available from the school for this stage production that is not to be missed.

Our first home winter sports derby takes place on Saturday 22 April. We are welcoming Port Alfred High for our hockey, rugby and netball fixtures. Our next two big home fixtures are against Westering on 6 May and Alexander Road on 20 May. Grade 8 & 9 learners are reminded that they are to attend at least two of these three fixtures to earn the privilege of learning at home on the block days of the June Examination. We really look forward to some awesome VP spirit at our much-anticipated derbies.

GOVERNING BODY

The Herald newspaper recently ran an article on how the Eastern Cape Education Department has been tardy in finalising the staffing at schools in Port Elizabeth. Their missing of deadlines, for placing teachers in excess, has had a ripple effect, resulting in many schools not having their substantive departmental posts being filled. This severely affects the budgets of schools. These schools now have to foot the bills for the teachers out of Governing Body funds. Without these teachers we would not be able to offer the quality of education, subject choice and extra-mural activities our learners enjoy. We are currently footing the salary bill for 5 teachers who the Department is supposed to be employing and paying. Please help us fight, and pray, for a speedy resolution to these challenges.

GENERAL

The CAPS requirements for Life Orientation are quite prescriptive and we need to have a number of physical activities evaluated. The programme for this term is as follows:

- Wed 3 May - Grades 8, 10 & Grade 12 V, I & C
- Wed 10 May - All classes.
- Wed 17 May - Grades 8, 9 & Grade 12 T, O & R
- Wed 24 May - Grades 9, 10 & 11
- Wed 31 May - Grades 9 & 11

Learners are to bring the appropriate Physical Education clothing, when required.

Yours sincerely

M J Vermaak

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