

VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL



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Principal

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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2014

Dear Parents

The third academic term has come and gone! Academically, we have had the September trial examinations for the Grade 12 class. These examinations are set by the Eastern Cape Education Department and I do hope that the standard and degree of difficulty of the question papers are in line with the nationally set papers at the end of the year. The Grade 12 reports will give an indication to our Matriculants of where they stand and what they need to do in their final examinations to allow them to follow their careers of choice.

The education department has dictated what we have to report on in Grades 8 – 11. Please take note that the marks on these reports only show what has been achieved by the learners in tests/other prescribed assessments that have been completed this term. While any academic improvement should be celebrated, one must remember that marks are often different when based on a full set of examinations.

MEDIA RELEASE

It was good to see that schools were successful in the court case against the department w.r.t. the payment of teachers. The big amount of money due to us has not been paid and our next action will be to put pressure on the department to actually pay the money due to us. This could be a long, protracted battle.

SPORT

The winter sports season was reported on in the last newsletter. The soccer boys are taking part in a national tournament, hosted by Grey College in Bloemfontein, during the September vacation. We wish them all of the best and trust their long season will end successfully.

The first cricket boys are travelling to East London for the Cambridge tournament. After a number of pre-season matches the boys should be up to the challenge.

Victoria Park hosted the Remax/Victoria Park U/15 cricket festival. The festival was a success and we are looking at doubling the number of competing schools for a similar festival next year. It was great to get e-mails from visiting schools and parents complimenting us on the organization of the festival, the quality of our pitches, the superb hosting and the spirit in which the cricket was played.

Our athletes are also hard at work preparing for an exciting, new competition. We have a large team entered for this and I look forward to some excellent performances.

FUNCTIONS

The awards ceremonies acknowledging the participation and success of our sporting learners and cultural achievers took place on Thursday 2 October. The ceremonies have taken on a new look to further showcase the many participating learners. The two ceremonies have been split, with time for a tea with parents between them. Guest speakers have also added extra value and charm to the events.

PR / MARKETING

The project to upgrade our sports facilities, which will include an astroturf and a revamped soccer field, is well underway. The committee has been working furiously behind the scenes to make our dream become a reality. The formal financial planning is being finalised with help from legal experts, financial professionals and the bank.

There has been an advertisement in the weekend newspaper and the Herald calling for a fundraiser to spearhead the project professionally. The response to the advertisement has been interesting and promising.

UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 13 October - third term starts. Learners to arrive back at school correctly dressed and groomed. It is especially important for boys to make necessary arrangements for haircuts, as school starts on a Monday. Only standard VP hairstyles are acceptable.

Tuesday 14 October – Report discussion. **BLAKE HALL** 16:30 to 18:00.

Friday 17 October – Grade 12 Valedictory and awards ceremony. Grade 8 learners may stay at home on this day, because we cannot fit all the guests and learners in the hall for these two ceremonies.

Monday 20 October - Grade 12 Examinations start.

Monday 3 November - Grade 8 – 11 go into “assessment mode”. Timetables will be available early in the last term.

GENERAL

I would like to thank my staff members for making 2014 a good year so far. Their commitment in the classroom, their care for the learners and their passion extramurally is sincerely appreciated.

Yours sincerely

M J Vermaak

Principal

October 2014

