

VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL



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Principal

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NEWSLETTER : SEPTEMBER 2014

Dear Parents

We have come to the end of our winter sports season, after a competitive, exciting derby against Alexander Road. It was great to see the intense rivalry between the schools and despite that, the lovely interaction between staff and learners.

ACADEMIC

At the end of this term the Grade 8 – 11 learners will receive reports showing the accumulative mark they have built up over the first three terms. This year mark will be combined with their November examination marks to determine prize winners and whether each learner qualifies to be promoted or retained. Please study the report so that you have a clear idea of what is left to do in the academic year for your son/daughter to achieve his/her goals.

The Grade 12's commenced their September trial examinations on Thursday 28 August. We wish them well and look forward to some excellent results.

The Grade 8/9 Mathematics project is going well, with teachers being available for extra lessons in the afternoons and learners attending an hour long class on Friday afternoons. This is certainly paying dividends and I have had the pleasant duty of going to congratulate classes for vastly improved test results.

Individual Grade 9 learners, guilty of disrupting classes, have been identified and steps have been taken to remedy the situation. If their lack of control in class continues, we will be discussing their academic futures with their parents.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Daniella Patsalos has been named as one of the finalists of the Matric of the Year competition. She thoroughly deserves this recognition and I am quietly confident that she is one of the favourites to walk away with the big prize.

Our Quiz team made history when they became the first school to win the Eastern Cape Quiz for the third year running. They beat off strong, determined opposition from Theodor Herzl, Riebeek, Grey, Priory, Pearson and many other top schools in the finals, in which 35 different teams took part. Our second team did us proud by winning a sudden death play-off to secure first and second place for Victoria Park High.

The Junior City Council (JCC) had their year-end function. Daniella was announced as the Councillor of the Year and she also received the trophy for the best orator. To be singled out among all the top learners from the metropole is indeed a great honour. The announcement was met by thunderous applause from the other Councillors, proving just what a special person she is.

SPORT

The first team sports dinner highlighted the special year that the first teams have had. Boys' hockey, equestrian and soccer were the stand-out teams with very good results. The equestrians won the Eastern Cape and Border league, edging out 36 other schools on their way to the title. The soccer boys stayed unbeaten in our zonal league and excelled at the Kloof tournament. They won 6 games and drew one. Their opposition came from all over South Africa and Zimbabwe. Three of the boys were named in the elite squad chosen from 32 teams. They played a match against the Sharks soccer academy. The hockey boys were absolutely superb, playing hockey at a very high level. They finished the season with a record that was blemished by only one local loss (Grey), after they led by two goals to one half-way through the second half. Seven of

our boys represented our province at the inter-provincial tournaments.

At the dinner the rugby boys and the hockey girls shared the spirit trophy, while the tennis boys and athletes were the recipients of the most improved team award. The rugby team proved their mettle by coming back from a big loss and winning their next four games. The athletes had a record number of competitors making it to the zonal, provincial and national meetings. Two athletes were ranked in the top six nationally, with Cayla Seddon on the podium for two bronze medals. The tennis team celebrated their promotion to the top leagues by being crowned champions of their new league.

The Alexander Road derby was a huge success, despite the dreadful weather. Our three junior rugby sides (U/14, U/15 and U/16) showed fighting spirit to win their matches and we ended up winning three of the four first team fixtures – soccer, boys' hockey and girls' hockey. The soccer teams had a clean sweep and unfortunately the netball could not be played because of the wet courts.

DEVELOPMENT

The extra music room is now fully functional and it is good to see that it is being put to good use.

The western side of the school has had “damp-proofing” done and is looking good after it has been re-painted. The plans for the new walkway into the front entrance of the school are ready and we look forward to our smart new entrance.

The extra break-time seating is nearing completion and already this is being used and appreciated by the pupils.

WARNING

After a discussion with other local principals, I feel the need to make parents aware of how all teenagers are being tempted. Peer pressure is strong and the most unexpected youngsters are sometimes being led into temptation.

Please keep an eye on your sons/daughters; ensure that you know where they are over weekends; check absenteeism; look for signs of de-motivation, change in personality, etc. By all of us being proactive, we can play a role in ensuring success for our loved ones.

Marijuana usage is high in Port Elizabeth. It is especially dangerous when youngsters have addictive personalities or are easily influenced by friends. It is important to stress that, irrespective of what they read up on Google, dagga is illegal and is considered an example of “Serious Misconduct” at schools. It would be sad if anyone had to lose the chance of a good schooling by being expelled.

Anyone in possession of any illegal substances at school will be handed over to the police. Please help us in ensuring that VP remains a safe environment for our learners.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grade 8/9 Mathematics & English ANA (Annual National Assessment) : 16 – 19 September

Grade 9 Subject Choice Evening – Tuesday 16 September

School Photographs – 30 September & 1 October

Sports and Cultural Awards – Thursday 2 October

Junior Spring Ball – 2 October

End term 3 – Friday 3 October

Start term 4 – Monday 13 October

Valedictory & Gr 12 Academic Awards – 17 October

Yours sincerely

M J Vermaak
Principal
September 2014