

VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL



M J VERMAAK B Comm (Ed)
Principal

VICTORIA PARK DRIVE
PORT ELIZABETH

Telephone: 041 508-6400
Fax No: 041 581-2982
P.O. Box 5868, Walmer, 6065
E-Mail: info@vphs.ecape.school.za

NEWSLETTER : 2020 TERM 1

The first term has come to an abrupt end with the President announcing the early closure of schools to check the spread of the dreaded COVID 19 (Coronavirus). While the world is in crisis trying to deal with the pandemic, schools are trying to educate children about the reality of the situation while still attempting to remain rational and calm.

All efforts are being made to limit the effect of the pandemic on academic matters. There will be adjustments made to the June and September vacations so that the demands of different syllabi are met.

The first term reports have been administered in rapid time, trying to get them out three days earlier than planned. My thanks go out to all Victoria Park High staff who have put in a superb effort to ensure that this happens.

These reports communicate the results attained by learners in the standardised tests, projects and assignments completed so far this year. The test marks are based on small sections of work and can often be misleading. Misunderstanding small sections of work may have a big influence on the marks. The results, however, give all of us an opportunity to take remedial action for the future.

ASTROTURF

We proudly took ownership of our very own hockey astroturf. After years of wishing and some brilliant work done by the Governing Body, Victoria Park has, at last, a home for our hockey.

We are very grateful to the SGB for their vision, hard work and drive that culminated in this massive project being a success.

We are now looking forward to Derby Days where all our sports are being played at one venue.

EVENTS

- Our inter-house athletics day was a big success with scores of learners participating and supporting. The spirit on the day was infectious.
- The two open evenings, where we market VP High to prospective Grade 8 learners, were extremely well- attended and there was plenty of positive feedback from our future Victorians and their parents. There have been about 1000 applicants for next year.
- The music department, choir and bands hosted the annual “Music Experience” where primary school musicians are invited to Victoria Park for an afternoon of training and rehearsing. The fruits of their labour are then showcased in a concert that evening. The superb concert was a just reward for excellent coaching and proved to be a wonderful PR exercise for the school. It is astounding what our music department can achieve in a day.
- The Grade 10 – 12 learners were fortunate to have a choice of about 65 presenters at the school’s annual Careers Day. Each learner could attend four half-hour sessions and get a first-hand insight into the working world or information about tertiary education. While this was taking place, the Grade 9’s had the opportunity of having their aptitude assessed and the Grade 8’s completed L.R.S.E (Learning Receptiveness Skills) tests. The school was abuzz with the visitors and excited learners being enriched.
- The Academic Dinner was a smart affair where our top twenty academics per grade enjoyed a good meal, wonderful camaraderie and the presence of their parents. Ex-scholar, Micaela Pauls, now a qualified dentist, shared a motivational talk with the audience.
- The Grade 8 Parents’ Steak Evening was a lovely, relaxed social occasion. There were calls from parents to have another evening later in the year and include all interested parents.
- The annual trolley dash fundraiser has been set in motion. Learners are urged to go ahead with the selling of tickets. The date of the draw has been postponed because of the

changes made to the school terms. The date will be communicated once there is clarity around the Coronavirus pandemic.

SPORT

- Cricket, swimming, tennis, waterpolo and athletics all had a lot of fun competing in their favourite sports.
- Some really good results were achieved, rewarding the hard work of our coaches and players.
- All our sporting tours, festivals and tournaments scheduled for the vacation have been postponed or cancelled according to the Government directive.

STAFF

- We are sadly saying farewell to Mr Bernard Roos, who has served the school magnificently for the last 32 years. This talented all-rounder will be sorely missed by our school community and we wish him well for a wonderful retirement. Mr Roos will be relocating to Durban to be close to his family.
- We would like to thank Mrs Linda Castelyn sincerely for the good job she has done, filling our vacant Afrikaans post. Linda fitted in very well and made an immediate impression. We wish her well for her continued retirement years.

SECOND TERM RE-OPENING

TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2020. DAY 9

Yours sincerely

M J Vermaak

17 March 2020