



## A MESSAGE FROM ACTING PRINCIPAL MRS CATHERINE TRODD

As usual, the term has flown by! Our Grade 8s have settled well and the usual full academic and co-curricular programmes are in full swing. I trust that you have been able to keep up to date with all our activities via the D6 and our Facebook notifications; it's been an exciting term.

Our theme for 2018, #ExpectTheBest, has been so well-received by the school body and it has been encouraging to see the girls embrace this positive philosophy in the various aspects of their school lives.

The annual Academic Awards Ceremony at the start of February was a happy and uplifting function. Our guests, staff and learners clearly appreciated the musical contributions of our Wind Band and choirs as well as the speech by our guest of honour, Ms Nozipho Mbanjwa, a passionate and loyal "old girl".

As part of our ongoing commitment to engage openly and meaningfully with others in our GHS family, we held a GHS Awake workshop over the first weekend of the term where a number of staff and learners were trained as facilitators of "courageous conversations" by Ms Mbanjwa and her partner. This has been followed up with additional sessions and, most recently, several Friday afternoon "conversations" with about sixty learners and staff. We are thrilled that other schools have made enquiries about this initiative with a view to implementing similar programmes; a small forum for discussion amongst some local educators has already been established.

The 2018 Community Outreach programme has been successfully launched. Each Grade has been paired with a particular charity organisation, and GHS will also be supporting other "pop up" charity drives as they arise throughout the year. We have enjoyed hosting guest speakers from the different charity organisations in our Monday assemblies as we strengthen the bonds between the school and the organisations.

Our various learner support systems are well-underway and I shall be sending through a summary next term of the many types of assistance we offer at GHS, whether to those girls who are struggling academically or to those who are using the programmes to excel. Please be reminded that all learner support programmes offered at school are completely free of charge, and managed by members of staff.

With regard to infrastructure and estate upgrades this term: the first consignment of large lockers is in use and surveillance cameras for additional security are being installed; the new entrance to the Mary-Ann Akerman Media Centre is complete and is making a huge impact with regard to relieving the congestion and noise around the original entrance; paths throughout the school are being repaired, and widened in some areas, and upgrades to the seating and technical areas at the Astro are being completed in preparation for the winter sport season and tournaments.



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I was delighted with the turnout at the information sessions for the Grade 12 and Grade 11 learners and parents, as well as for the Grade 8 parents' afternoon. Thank you for the support you have shown your daughters. We also welcomed many prospective GHS families at our three "open school" sessions which enabled members of the public with daughters in Grade 6 or 7 to visit our school. Already we have received far more applications for Grade 8 than we can accommodate in 2019.

March saw the election of our new Governing Body, a requirement every three years. After six rounds of meetings, our Governing Body is now fully constituted and ready to take on the vital task of school governance. Our thanks go to the members of the outgoing Governing Body for their commitment and wise counsel over the past three years. We welcome the new members, and are confident that they will work just as successfully and positively with the school management team.

Of course, safety and security at school is a priority and we have conducted a full evaluation of our emergency procedures (fire and attack) after holding various types of drills in both the school and the Boarding Establishment this term. Further emergency drills will be conducted throughout the year using the improved procedures which have now been established.

Co-curricular highlights this term include the Science tour to Johannesburg, the Wind Band and choir workshops, our various galas and pre-season hockey tournaments, action netball and tennis successes, medals won at the KZN canoeing sprints, performing at the Kearsney College Music Festival, the English Olympiad and the debating season. Our girls continue to make us proud with their level of involvement and achievement in so many spheres.

At the Umgungundlovu District Awards Ceremony, our school and many staff were recognised for excellent results in the 2017 NSC examinations - the fruit of many months of dedication and commitment. Staff leaving us at the end of this term are Mrs Sheik, who is relocating to Gauteng, and our two locum teachers, Mrs Goliath and Miss Wilmers. We thank them for their work at our school and wish them well. Mrs Easthorpe, Mrs Allkins and Ms Sharpe will be returning from maternity leave next term and we congratulate Mrs Coleman on the birth of her son, Kai, at the end of February. We are still awaiting the appointment of our new Principal but remain optimistic that this will be announced soon.

Once again, I urge all parents to ensure that they have downloaded the D6 Communicator as this is our school's primary means of communication with the parent body. Various resources and important notices are added on an almost daily basis.

Wishing our Christian families a blessed Easter.





## Staff News

### A warm welcome to our new staff...

Mehnaaz Saib  
Anele Khumalo  
Annine Jooste  
Zama Mzolo  
Jessica-Lee Bentley  
Hayley Coombes  
Mariette Hedder  
Yandiswa Mazeka



### Farewell to...

Nicky Willmers  
Keryn Goliath  
Joey Sheik



## Annual District Awards

Many of our educators were recognised for outstanding teaching achievements at the annual DOE District Awards. For 100% with Quality Pass in NSC Results 2017: Accounting - Mrs Dellar, Mrs Janse van Rensburg, Mrs Maistry; Art - Miss Achary, Mrs Harris; Consumer Studies, Mrs Goddard; English Home Language -Mrs Fox, Miss Kaye, Mrs Stubbings; Geography - Mrs Launder, Mrs Thomas; History - Mrs Joubert, Ms Sinclair; isiZulu - Mrs Basi, Mr Ngcobo; Music - Mrs Stickells



Congratulations to Tarryn Coleman and family on the birth of their baby boy, Kai. Born on 26 February 2018 and weighing a healthy 4kgs.



## Classroom & Society News

### Academic Awards 2018



The Academic Awards Ceremony honoured the efforts of pupils throughout the 2017 academic year. This year the school welcomed back old girl Nozipho Mbanjwa as guest speaker for the ceremony.

Rachael Job and Lindelwa Bhengu (pictured above with Mr & Mrs Morewood) were the recipients of The Catherine Morewood Memorial Award which is given to two outstanding learners who are in the top 20 academically in their Grade 11 year, and are voted for by their peers. Two laptops are donated annually in memory of GHS old girl, Catherine Morewood.

Jocelyn Finnie received the prestigious Valerie Fowler Award for Excellence.

This is awarded to a learner who is an all-rounder who displays excellence both academically as well as on the sporting field. Jocelyn also received a laptop as her prize.

### 2018 RCL Exco Announced



The 2018 Representative Council of Learners executive committee are: (back, from left) Towela Mwanyama (PRO), Makabongwe Cele (PRO), Asanda Ntombela (Secretary) with (front, from left) D'Nel Van Den Berg (Treasurer), Zolile Basi (Chairperson) and Lindelwa Bhengu (Deputy Chairperson).

The Windband were privileged to play at the opening of the KZN Legislature in front of former President Zuma, King Goodwill Zwelithini, and other MPs.





## Classroom & Society News continued

### GHS donates over 15 tons of recycling to WILDLANDS



GHS collected 15 386kgs of recyclable materials for the WILDLANDS Recycling for Life initiative. With the certificate of achievement are (from left) Nadia Rasool (Nedbank Sales Manager), Jaél McKenzie, Rachael Job, Shanice Easthorpe and Amy Webster (Wildlands Relationship Manager).

### GHS donates 339 units of blood in 2017



At the South African National Blood Service's (SANBS) annual awards, Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School walked away with second place for their commitment to blood donation with 339 units of blood donated by its staff and learners - the second highest school unit donation in the city. Pictured (from left) Tamsin Finch (fifth unit of blood), Amanda Mogale (SANBS Donor Educator) and Muskaan Singh (GHS Blood Buddy).

### Pi Day

Ira McLuckie won the competition for knowing the most digits in the number Pi.



Mrs Imbayago joined in the fun getting a face paint Pi tattoo.



Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant  $\pi$ . Pi Day is observed on March 14 since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant digits of  $\pi$ . Various activities were enjoyed by all.



## Classroom & Society News continued



### Donating water to Cape Town

Learners rallied together this term, collecting water and funds to donate to Cape Town in the midst of the drought. The school's EnviroCare Society and the Muslim Students' Association were the driving force behind the initiative, partnering with Gift of the Givers. They received support from the learners, staff and other societies including the Hindu Students' Society. In total, R4 000 was raised and 60 bottles of water. In the picture are (from left) Jaél McKenzie, Owethu Ndlela, Layla Parak and Shanice Easthorpe.

### 2018 charity drive launched

GHS recently launched its charity drive for 2018 and have had guest speakers from various organisations address the learners. Grade 8 learners were tasked to produce toys made from recyclable materials, as part of their technology curriculum. This project was made so much more meaningful when the learners were told that the charity for Grade 8 in 2018 would be Singakwenza, a charity that deals with Early Childhood Development, and the toys would be donated to them. At the handover are (back, from left) Aaliyah Hassim, Julie Hay, Petica Brown, Isabel van Zyl, Amahle Nkwanyana with (front, from left) Crystal Kriel, Alivia Woodburn and Cara Rawlins.



### Grade 11 Sweet Extravaganza & Entrepreneurship Mini Market Day





# Sport News

Gala season

There were various galas held during the course of the first term. GHS competed in as many as possible and hosted a few as well.



Much fun was had at the annual GHS Inter-house Gala held at the Alex Open Air Pool on Friday, 23 February. Burns was the overall winner. Lindsay won the Spirit Trophy.



## GHS karate kid

Kaitlyn Chloe Joseph (14), a Grade 9 learner, has been recognized for her achievements in Kyokushin Karate and has been graded First Dan Homologated. She received a black belt specially shipped from Japan, with her name embroidered in Japanese, and has been included in the records of the World Sabaki Federation. This means that her achievements in karate will be internationally recognized.



Kiara Naidoo has been ranked second in Africa in the under 15 division in table tennis. she was selected to represent the continental team at the World Table Tennis Cadet Challenge in Fiji last October. Kiara had made her international debut at the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) African Junior and Cadet Championships in Tunisia, where she was one of 12 players representing the country.



## Sport News continued

Congratulations to all our girls who participated in the 2018 Midmar Mile.



Midmar Mile swimmers



Grade 11 learner, Damini Parshutam (16), swam her first Midmar 8 Mile recently, raising R24 000 for Pink Drive. Damini has participated in the Midmar Mile six times but wanted to challenge herself this year and signed up for the 8 Mile swim.



The A Swimming Team had fun in the newly revamped biology pond before the resident fish were put back.

### 1st Hockey Team on tour in April



All the best to the 1st Hockey Team who will be competing in JHB at St Mary's DSG during the April holidays.



### Awesome Angler

Matric learner, Hannah Anderson, has been selected to fish for the South African Deep Sea Angling Association (SADSSA) in the upcoming Senior Gamefish Nationals. She will be part of the only junior team entered in this particular competition. The event takes place at Shelly Beach from 21 to 25 May 2018.

Her dedication and tremendous effort in angling have paid off and she is absolutely delighted. Hannah will now fish for South Africa, not only for KwaZulu-Natal.



# General

## Charities for 2018

- Grade 8s will support SINGAKWENZA**  
A non-profit organisation which aims to build sustainable Early Childhood Education programmes in economically disadvantaged communities, using recycling to make resources.
- Grade 9s will support CHOC**  
A national organisation dedicated to providing assistance to children that are battling cancer or life-threatening blood disorders, and their families.
- Grade 10s will support ANIMAL WELFARE**  
This includes various charities that prevent cruelty to and promote the welfare of animals including wildlife, farm animals and animals used for entertainment and experimentation.
- Grade 11s will support DUCT**  
The Duzi-uMngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT) is a non-profit public benefit organisation championing the environmental health of the uMsunduzi and uMngeni Rivers.
- Grade 12s will support LIFELINE & RAPE CRISIS**  
A non-profit organisation that assists traumatised people by providing counselling, emotional support and immediate crisis management.

## Gone but never forgotten...



A wall of remembrance has been established in honour of beloved GHS staff and learners who have passed away while still at the school.

## What's new at the school shop!



There are new and exciting things being stocked in our school shop this term! We have thermal mugs, perfect for hot drinks during winter or even to store some soup for lunch! Our GHS Ellies are some furry friends to keep the GHS flag flying high. Our GHS aprons are being used by the Consumer Studies learners.

## How can you support GHS?



**MYSCHOOL** - Every time you swipe your card at any of their partners, MySchool will make a donation on your behalf, to GHS, at no cost to you. If you have received your MySchool card please don't forget to activate it by swiping it at any of the MySchool partners.

**MAKRO** rewards schools by giving them a percentage of the profits made on purchases from parents who have linked their Makro access card to the school on our system. All you need to do is link your Makro access card.

**BENCH DRIVE** - Starting in the new term, we are going to be collecting clean milk bottles and clean detergent bottles (or any clean bottle with a 2 in the recycling symbol). These will be recycled into benches for the school.