

THE GREEN MACHINE

VOLUME 4 • DECEMBER 2024



Message from the Acting Principal, Mrs Weigelt

Dear PMB Girls' High School Community

As we draw to the close of another year, I would like to reflect on some of the highlights of this final term and the achievements of our school community. The fourth term is traditionally defined by academic focus, with our Grade 12s tackling their NSC examinations and our Grades 8-11 learners diligently preparing for their year-end exams. Amidst these commitments, we have also taken time to celebrate, create, and connect, ensuring a well-rounded and memorable end to 2024.

This term saw several cherished traditions come to life. The *Matric Farewell Tea* was an occasion filled with heartfelt speeches, delicious treats, and precious moments as we bade our Grade 12s farewell. At the *Senior Speech Day*, we applauded their academic accomplishments and marked the end of their high school journey in a ceremony steeped in pride and gratitude.

The *Grade 12 Bell-Ringing Ceremony* after their final English examination was a symbolic moment, signifying the close of one chapter and the exciting start of another.

Beyond academics, the creativity and talents of our students shone brightly. The *GHS Cook-Off* was a spectacular success, showcasing the culinary flair of our girls and leaving guests and judges alike thoroughly impressed. Our *End-of-Year Music Concert* offered a showcase of musical talent that resounded with joy.

A new addition to our calendar, the *Christmas Market*, spearheaded by our dynamic parents, was a resounding success. The festive atmosphere, unique stalls, and sense of community it fostered have already made it a much-anticipated event for the future.





Adding to this term's excitement, our school's presence reached new heights with the unveiling of our beautiful billboards near Liberty Mall and Hilton Life Hospital during October. We hope you have shared in the pride of seeing our GHS brand prominently displayed in our community.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our parents, who stand by their daughters and the school in every endeavour. Your partnership remains a cornerstone of our success, and we are deeply grateful.

As we head into the holiday season, I wish each of you a blessed and joyful time with family and loved ones. May it be a time of rest and renewal.

Warm regards
Esmé Weigelt





Sport

The fourth term was short and sweet with some wonderful achievements. We participated in water polo, indoor hockey and fast-5-netball. Our swimmers started training for the 2025 season, and our squash and tennis girls kept fit for the upcoming tour in 2025 as well. This term, we were the hosts of the Spar Fast-5 Netball Challenge. It was a cheerful event with support from our parents and spectators. Our girls played exceptionally well, losing by a narrow margin of one point in the final against Edendale Technical High School. The U16 basketball team toured to St Mary's Waverley, excelling in their tournament with impressive results. We beat teams such as St Mary's Waverley, St Stithians, St Dustan's and St Anne's. Our team narrowly lost against Saheti in the final, placing them second overall. Gabriella Barnardo was selected as part of the U16 All-Stars team.

Our first team and U16 water polo teams were invited to the Top 10 tournaments hosted at Durban Girls' College and Thomas More College. Our 2024 programme was very successful, as indicated by the six players selected for the KZN squads attending IPTs in the upcoming holiday. Mr Naidoo will also be accompanying the U15 KZN Team as their manager. Our table tennis programme has been fruitful as well. We had an increase in district and national representation this year. Five of the six players chosen for the district team, were GHS girls.

This year was a busy but rewarding year. We are incredibly proud of our athletes who have achieved well throughout the year. Their dedication to the sport programme has been fruitful, with district, provincial and even national selections throughout the year.

We wish everyone a wonderful break; remember to stay active during this festive season. 2025 will be bigger and better!



GHS on Two Billboards

We were delighted to share that GHS was visible on not one, but two prominent billboards! Our community had the opportunity to spot us at:

1. Hilton N3 (near Hilton Life Hospital)
2. Armitage Road (by Liberty Mall)

These billboards serve as a fantastic way to showcase our school's presence in the community, and we are proud to represent GHS in such prominent locations. We are delighted to share that there will be many more opportunities to showcase our great school in 2025.

Information Session

This term, we hosted an engaging information session for prospective parents and learners interested in joining our school community. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for families to gain insight into our values, curriculum, and the unique experiences we offer.

During the session, attendees explored our state-of-the-art facilities and heard from dedicated faculty members who passionately shared their commitment to nurturing each student's potential. Current students also participated, offering firsthand accounts of their experiences and the vibrant, supportive environment that defines our school.

Parents had the chance to ask questions, discuss their aspirations for their children, and learn about the various extracurricular activities available. They were impressed with the well-rounded educational offerings of the school. The warm atmosphere fostered connections among families, making it clear that our school is not just an institution, but a thriving community.

We are excited to welcome new faces into our school and look forward to the possibility of sharing our rich traditions and values with future generations of learners.



Matric Tea

Recently, we gathered over tea and warm conversation to bid adieu to our esteemed Grade 12 students, honouring their remarkable journey and the exceptional individuals they have become.

With hearts full of pride and gratitude, we acknowledged their growth into compassionate leaders poised to make a lasting impact on the world around them. Each student shared their unique experiences, reflecting on cherished memories and lessons learned during their time at our school.

As we celebrated their achievements, we also reminisced about the friendships forged and the challenges overcome. It was a heartfelt reminder of the close-knit community our school offers to learners throughout their high school career.

We hope their paths will be illuminated by wisdom, courage, and the timeless spirit of Cheerfulness with Industry.





Senior Speech Day Celebration

The Senior Speech Day celebration was a deeply poignant occasion, marking the final chapter for our 2024 Grade 12 class as they prepared to embark on their journey into adulthood. Emotions were palpable, and a sense of pride and accomplishment filled the air.

As we gathered to honour our graduating class, we reflected on the exceptional individuals they had become. The ceremony recognised numerous outstanding achievements, including:

- Academic Colours and Honours
- Merit Awards
- Special prizes in various categories
- Tokens of appreciation for the exceptional leadership of our Top Nine learner leaders

We extend our warmest congratulations to our top academic achievers:

- Nasiha Osman (3rd in Grade 12)
- Reva Harichand (2nd in Grade 12)
- Neha Sirkar (1st in Grade 12)

Inspiring words from our esteemed guest speaker, Mr Lwazi Mbuko, reminded us of the transformative power of words.

To the Green Machine Class of 2024, we could not be prouder. Your tears, laughter, and memories will stay with us forever, and we eagerly anticipate the incredible impact you will make in the world.





GHS Annual Cook Off

This term, we also hosted an exciting cook-off, where different grades in our consumer studies classes battled against each other in a spirited culinary competition. The event brought together budding chefs, showcasing their creativity and skills in the kitchen.

Students worked diligently to prepare a variety of dishes, each group presenting their unique culinary creations. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and the delicious aroma of freshly cooked meals.

We were thrilled to have special judges on hand, including local chefs and culinary experts, who evaluated each dish based on taste, presentation, and originality. Their feedback provided valuable insights for our aspiring cooks.

Parents rallied to support the initiative, cheering on their children and enjoying the opportunity to sample the delightful offerings. The cook-off not only highlighted our students' talents but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration among families and faculty.

Overall, the event was a resounding success, celebrating the joy of cooking and learning together. We look forward to more such initiatives that engage our students and strengthen our school community!





GHS Christmas Market

On 16 November, our school community came together for a Christmas market that proved to be a resounding success. Organised by the dedicated parents of our school, the event not only brought festive cheer but also served a vital purpose: raising funds to support our students' participation in the prestigious All Girls Festival in Wynberg, Cape Town.

The All Girls Festival is a remarkable event that gathers top government schools from across South Africa to compete in various sports and cultural activities. It provides an invaluable opportunity for our students to showcase their talents while fostering camaraderie and teamwork among peers.

We are particularly excited to announce that our Sports and Master Chef students will be representing our school at this incredible festival. Their hard work and dedication have earned them this opportunity, and the support from our school community plays a crucial role in making it possible.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the parents who initiated and organised the Christmas market. Their commitment to raising funds for our students demonstrates the strong community spirit that defines our school. We look forward to seeing our girls thrive at the festival, and we appreciate everyone's efforts in making this endeavour a reality.



Societies' News

Interact Society

The girls have ended the year with cheerful service. The Interact Society visited Marian Villa home for the aged and spent a lovely afternoon sharing Christmas cheer. The girls and teachers made Christmas crackers and it was awesome to experience the delight of the grannies and grandpas when they opened them to discover the little surprises within. The girls took the residents down memory lane when they played "guess the name of the 1960s and 70s song". This created lots of laughter and joy. The girls also played some well-known, favourite pieces on their string instruments. The visit concluded with pretty cupcakes supplied by the girls.

After the completion of the end-of-year examinations, the girls collected and handed over to over to Siphakeme (an early childhood education teacher training centre) used and unwanted stationery and children's books.

The new committee for the 2025 Interact society has been elected, and we look forward to a successful, hands-on programme in the new year.



Marketing Society

The Marketing Society had a busy and productive term, actively engaging in several key events. They captured the excitement of the Spar Fast-5 Netball Tournament at GHS through photography and video, highlighting the energy of the competition.

Additionally, the society contributed to the Matric Tea by assisting with setup, including flower arrangements and overall decor, creating a celebratory atmosphere for the students. They also documented the Senior Speech Day with photos and reels, preserving the memorable speeches and celebrations.

At the end-of-year Christmas concert, the Society showcased their photography skills, capturing both performances and audience reactions. Furthermore, they played a significant role in the setup for the GHS Cook-Off, enhancing the event's festive decor.

Overall, the Marketing Society has contributed to profiling the cheerful engagement at these events, while showcasing their creativity and commitment to enhancing the school community.



Robotics and Coding

With only three weeks in the fourth term, the society decided to spend some time reflecting on the past year and planning for the upcoming year.

String Ensemble

In the third term, the highlight was a collaborative concert with The Wykeham Collegiate String Ensemble and Choir. The concert was called Sing and Strings and was an enjoyable experience, demonstrating the joy of making music together. We wrapped up our busy third term with a beautiful performance at the GHS Sports and Cultural Awards Ceremony.

The fourth term was a short but busy one, starting with a delightful performance at the Senior Speech Day Ceremony. Later that same day, the band, string ensemble, choir, and gospel choir each performed in the end-of-year Christmas Concert. This provided a fantastic opportunity for each group to shine in front of a supportive audience, creating a rich and varied musical experience. To end off a great year, the string ensemble provided a musical backdrop for the GHS cook-off, organised by the consumer studies department.

Wind Band

Near the end of the third term, the wind band, along with the string ensemble, traveled to Laddsworth to perform for their entire school. This was not only a mini concert, but also an instrument demonstration, where all the instruments were explained to the primary school learners. They were then given an opportunity to examine the instruments up close and personal. It was a wonderfully interactive morning for the young learners.

The fourth term included performances at the 2025 Grade 8 Orientation day, the Senior Speech Day, and the end-of-year Christmas Concert, the latter two taking place on the same day, Friday 11 October. They also performed at the Information Session for prospective GHS learners. The wind band worked hard, beautifully demonstrating all the hard work gained throughout the year.

Rehearsals continued throughout the exam period, in preparation for a collaborative concert with a band visiting from Germany in the first few weeks of the first term next year.

Gospel Choir

The final term this year started with many rehearsals for upcoming performances. The gospel choir performed at the Senior Speech Day and the end-of-year Christmas Concert, which both took place on Friday 11 October. The girls worked particularly hard on that day, having to remain after Speech Day to rehearse for the evening performance.

Staff News

Retirement



Mrs Rona Stubbings
Educator
English



Mrs Lynette Janse van Rensburg
Educator
Accounting
EMS

Farewell



Miss Tiffany Jones
Educator
Physical Education
Sports Coordinator



Mrs Samantha Engelbrecht
Educator
Mathematics
Maths Literacy



Mr Kyle Ameer
Educator
Business Studies
EMS



Mrs Nontokoza Duma
Receptionist