

FORGING A FUTURE

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SCHOOL'S 70th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Invited guests, Alumni and students wave for the drone



Jim Slater cutting the cake with Dave Campbell



Alumnus Carl Wastie, of KFM, was the animated guest speaker



BREAKING NEWS: ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

We are delighted to receive the news that Rachel MacIntyre has been placed in the Top 12 in The National English Olympiad. As a prize, the top 12 candidates are invited to the National Schools' Festival in Makhanda (Grahamstown) where the final placings will be announced.



To be placed in the top 12 in a National Olympiad is a remarkable achievement. We are very proud of Rachel and of our English Department. Well done!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Alumni

I bring warm greetings from your old school.

In the year that our school turns 70, there is much to be grateful for. In the midst of a difficult political, economic, health and environmental stage in the history of our country and the global community, we believe that our school stands as a beacon of hope for the present and the future.

If stability and progress are measures of success, then we are doing well in an era where these elements are lacking globally. Our recent 70th Celebration honoured the past, celebrated the present, and looked forward with hope to a continuation of what our school has always done so well: provided an excellent education to thousands of young people in a stable, progressive environment.

In my speech at the Celebration, I made these comments:

Students, staff, alumni, parents, friends of Pinelands High School, we can look back with pride at 70 years of a school rich with history: A school founded during Nationalist rule which despite the privileges of the times for some, remained a progressive institution, and which produced many enlightened young people who went on to help to change society for the better;

A school which voted in the early 1990s to open its doors to all, and which has been on a remarkable journey of transformation over the past thirty years - a journey which is never over - because transformation is a journey, not a destination;

A school which has a solid bedrock foundation of core values on which all else stands: values of respect and integrity and truth and acceptance;

A school which has always had strong, ethical leadership from its Governors through its Principals through its staff to its young people;

A school which has the stability of a large tanker, but which unlike a large tanker, has the ability to change course like a smaller ship

when needed, and which has the resilience and strength of a tugboat;

A school which at its core is happy, caring and full of hope;

A school which continues to produce confident, self-disciplined, compassionate young people;

A school which continues to strive for excellence in all that it does;

A school which stands as a beacon of educational excellence;

A school of stability in an increasingly unstable world;

In short, a school of significance.

It is a privilege to be part of this school. It is a privilege to be entrusted with the leadership of our school at this time when society is in such transition. I am conscious of the many principals and staff members and students and governors and parents who preceded us who are the present custodians of the school. There are so many remarkable people who have shaped the school that we have today. We owe them all thanks, and we honour them today, whether they are with us or not.

And so as we celebrate our school's birthday, let us join together, those from the past and those in the present, in reaffirming our faith in this beautiful school which means so much to so many.

MR JIM SLATER

It was fitting on the occasion of our 70th birthday to pay tribute to Mr Jim Slater, and to honour him for the role that he has played in the life of the school and its Alumni. He has decided to step down from his role of Alumni Co-ordinator, a position which he has held since 2001.

(See a full tribute to Jim on page 2).

With warm regards
Dave Campbell, PRINCIPAL



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SOCIAL MEDIA



A TRIBUTE TO JIM SLATER

Tribute by Dave Campbell at the 70th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

I would like to pay tribute to Mr Jim Slater, whom we are honouring this morning as he prepares to step down from his role as Alumni Coordinator. Mr Slater has a rich history of involvement in our school. He was a student here from 1957 to 1961 – in the first decade of the school’s existence. In matric he was a prefect and played hockey and cricket for the first teams.

He returned to PHS as a Physical Science teacher in 1973 and served as Head of Physical Science, Grade Head, sports coach and Senior Deputy until he left 21 years later. Following that he had 6 years as Principal of Norman Henshilwood High School and continued there as a teacher until he retired in 2012.

When we asked Mr Slater about some highlights from his time on the staff at PHS he was quick to say that the time in the early 1990s when the school community had voted to open the school to young people of all races was a highlight, as well as the time that he nearly set fire to the science lab whilst demonstrating the inflammability of phosphorous!



He began the role of Alumni Coordinator in 2001 – a role which he has fulfilled for 21 years and has been instrumental in keeping the past students’ association strong and therefore, by extension, keeping the school strong. Year after year large numbers of reunions have taken place and people have been enabled to keep in contact across the world. This is an exceptional achievement.

As a school and as a past pupils’ association we are immensely grateful for all that he has done for our school over the years, so it is fitting on this occasion that we can honour him and thank him in this way.

On behalf of all of us Jim, I say thank you – we will always be grateful for what you have meant to our school.

JODI ELS (née Wood)



Pinelands High School is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Jodi Els as Alumni Relations Officer. An alumna of Pinelands High, Ms Els (nee Wood) will be stepping into the large shoes of Mr Jim Slater, the anchor of Alumni Relations since 2001.

Jodi Els has a passion for her Alma Mater. Her work with various nonprofit organisations over several years, and her vast experience in social media campaigns and database management, make her a great fit for the position.

We look forward to welcoming her to the team at Pinelands High School.

BURSARY FUND

We are very grateful for donations over the years that have enabled us to offer bursaries to deserving students. They make a huge difference in the lives of the recipients and their families. We would love to increase the number of these bursaries. If you are interested in contributing to the PHS Bursary Fund, please contact Carol Franck: cfranck@phs.org.za

ONE-TO-ONE TECHNOLOGY

Following several years of devices being used in the classroom by teachers, as well as pilot studies using trolleys of devices in classrooms, Pinelands High will begin a progressive roll out of a one-to-one device programme from the start of 2023. This is a vital next step in our pursuit of excellence and sustainability in education.



The school has a payment plan in place to assist families with these purchases. Any alumni who may be interested in sponsoring the purchase of devices for financially challenged students are invited to contact Carol Franck cfranck@phs.org.za

RESUMPTION OF NORMAL

It has been wonderful to see school sports and extra murals return to “normal” with concerts, one act plays, matches, spectators and tournaments. The buzz and activity around the campus has been so encouraging to experience after the limitations of lockdown.

Our girls’ First Team won the Reddam House Soccer Tournament in March while 14 students were selected to various WP hockey sides this term. Individually our 17-year-old speedster, Liam Buck, sprinted into 7th place in the men’s 200 metres final at the April 2022 National

Senior Athletics Championships – a remarkable achievement at his age!



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MYSCHOOL CARD

Thank you to all Alumni who have signed up for a MySchool card and nominated Pinelands High School as beneficiary. For those who are holders of Woolworths Rewards Cards, your card can be linked to the MySchool scheme raising the same benefits for the school.

For further details and a quick sign up go to the site:

www.myschool.co.za.

Every Swipe counts.

