

FORGING A FUTURE

A publication of Pinelands High School

Issue 17 November 2021



70th BIRTHDAY

2022 marks the 70th birthday of Pinelands High School. Celebrations are being planned for mid-March with an outdoor assembly and other events. All Alumni are warmly invited to attend. The final date will be confirmed shortly. Come and celebrate with us! (Strict Covid protocols will be observed).

POPI ACT

As part of the school's efforts to comply with the POPI Act, we wish to ensure that all Alumni who receive communication from the Alumni Office are happy to remain on the database.

The personal information on the database is limited to the Alumnus' name, year of Matric and contact details. The information is used exclusively to convey news of the school, Alumni and to facilitate reunion activities. Neither the school nor its representative(s) in the Alumni Office will pass on this information to third parties without the consent of the individual. In the case of reunion or Founder's Day events, Alumni have the right to decline to be photographed or to not join the group photo's which may be used in one of the Alumni communications.

Whilst we sincerely hope that all Alumni will wish to remain connected with the school and with other Alumni, should you wish to be removed from the database and not receive the types of communication listed above, please notify us by e-mailing the Alumni Officer, Jim Slater: jslater@phs.org.za

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Alumni

I greet you warmly on behalf of your old school. 2021, like 2020, has been a year to remember in education. For those of you who are in the tertiary study phase of your lives, it certainly has not been easy with restricted in-person contact, and online assessments. Schools such as ours which have been in the privileged position of being able to conduct mostly in-person teaching and learning this year have been very fortunate. For most of the year we have been able to run the school at 80% attendance (matrics have been in 100% of the time) and this has meant that we have been able to engage in curriculum recovery following the terrible disruptions of 2020. We are aware that many schools in our country have not had this same privilege, thus we do not take our advantage for granted.

On the extra-mural front we have had a year of stop-start sporting and cultural activities. It was only towards the latter part of the year that our sports programme was able to really take off with inter-school matches being allowed. Many young people remarked at how much they had missed the buzz of competitive sport. Likewise, we were able to host our first music concerts, and a live audience of parents and students watched the recorded inter-house play festival a few weeks ago. It was wonderful to have these events back again. Parents in particular have been very happy to be allowed back on campus to support their children and to participate in the life of the school.

HAMBA KAHLE

We sadly bade farewell to two staff stalwarts during the course of the year. **Mrs Fadia Hassiem**, who served as Deputy Principal in charge of academics, had been at the school for just over 13 years, teaching English as well as managing the broad academic portfolio. We wish her well as she charts a new course in education. **Mrs Pam Broster** has been part of the "furniture" at Pinelands High for as long as any of us can remember (34 years!), as a much loved Maths teacher and, for the past 23 years, as the school's Academic Administrator. We wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement. We will miss them both sorely.



Our aim is to approach 2022 with a view to attempting to create as normal a schooling experience as possible under the circumstances. With most staff and many students having been vaccinated, and with our strict Covid protocols in place, we believe that our school environment is a relatively safe space. Our current Grade 8 and 9 students know little of the true sense of our school's communal spirit, as they have missed out on so much. We look forward to building this spirit up in them next year, along with the deep values of our school, the intangibles which are absorbed through normal human interaction, through co-operation and competition, through role-modelling and challenge.

I wish you all of the best for a restful festive season.

With warm regards
Dave Campbell, Principal



Mr Campbell and the Matric Grade Heads arrive at the outdoor Valedictory Ceremony in style



**PINELANDS
HIGH SCHOOL**
Excellence | Leadership | Innovation

VENTURING BACK TO...

SHARED ACADEMIC SPACES

In May all science students in Grade 11 at Pinelands High School completed a Science Fair project. A small group of seven students were then selected to participate in the Western Cape Virtual Science Fair – *Eskom Expo for Young Scientists* and all 7 of our entrants won awards. Four of our students were then invited to represent the Western Cape at the International Science Fair held virtually in late September, winning two bronze and two silver medals. Congratulations to them all.



SHARED CREATIVE SPACES

During the latter part of the year we were treated to a Piano Recital Concert organised by the Music Department, an exhibition of Art by our Matric students and an Interhouse Play Competition. The latter event involved a novel approach with original productions performed and recorded on Zoom and then viewed by a select audience. It was so good to have students perform and present their talents again, and the limited number of students and parents who were invited to attend the evenings were reminded of the unifying and uplifting power of the Creative Arts.



BURSARIES

Pinelands High School is enormously grateful to the Alumni who have contributed to our Bursary Fund during the past year. Thank you. These donations have enabled us to extend support to more students during these challenging times. This is an on-going need, so should you wish to contribute towards bursaries, deposits can be made into the school account: Pinelands High School, Standard Bank, Pinelands (branch code 036309), account number 073023671, with the reference SURNAMEBursaryFund. Donation receipts are available by contacting Carol Franck with a proof of payment. cfranck@phs.org.za

NEWS JUST IN...

Liam Buck (Grade 11), who recently ran 10,46 seconds for 100 metres at a pre-season event, has been selected to represent South Africa in the Under 18 athletics team to compete at the African Union Sports Council Games taking place in Maseru, Lesotho, in early December. He will take part in the 200m and 4 x 100m relay.



...AND SHARED SPORTING SPACES

It was very disappointing to have the reintroduction of sports matches against other schools quickly closed down with the arrival of the third wave of COVID infections earlier this year. However, after most of the year spent on skills training, we have started to see a more “normal” return to competitive games towards the end of the year. We hope this will continue in 2022.



PINELANDS HIGH SCHOOL
Excellence | Leadership | Innovation

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.

