

FORGING A FUTURE

A publication of Pinelands High School

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PROCESS TO RECRUIT A NEW PRINCIPAL FOR 2024

Some of you may be aware that Mr Campbell will be retiring at the end of 2023. We will be extremely sad to see him go and recognise that a change of leadership is a highly significant moment in the life of our school. The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that the transition to a new Principal will be as seamless as possible.

The planning phase for the process began some months ago and a sub-committee has been tasked with the initial role of information-gathering, drawing on input from staff, parents and guardians as well as students. The post will be advertised early next year, and we hope to have the new Principal announced by the third quarter, in preparation for a start in January 2024.

COUNSELLING TEAM

In order to meet the increasing need for psycho-social support among teens, as well as offering help to those with various academic challenges, we have extended our counselling team over the past few years. We now have one fulltime and one part time psycho-social counsellor as well as an academic counsellor to serve the students.



PHS CARES AND BURSARIES

We are very grateful to those who contributed to the PHS Cares Fund during the course of the pandemic, enabling us to assist numerous families with grocery parcels and vouchers monthly. We managed to sustain this support throughout 2022 but will be using other vehicles for supporting struggling families from the start of 2023. Alumni and supporters of the school who are able to contribute are invited to donate towards fee and non-fee bursaries for affected students. These bursaries make an enormous difference in the lives of the recipients and their families.

Deposits can be made into the school account:

Pinelands High School, Standard Bank, Pinelands, 036309; Current Account 07302367.

Reference for fee support: BursaryFund; reference for non-fee support: PHSCares.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Alumni of Pinelands High School

A School with EQ

As a staff we recently engaged with the work of Angela Duckworth, the author of the groundbreaking work 'Grit - The Power of Passion and Perseverance'. Her thesis is that passion and perseverance in the pursuit of long-term goals are key indicators of success, and are far more significant than talent. As teachers, one of our core functions must be to challenge our students to demonstrate perseverance, and to model qualities such as determination and resilience. We need to have a long-term goal in mind when educating the whole child, and that goal is to ensure that they are as best prepared as possible for the rigours of adult life beyond the relatively safe school environment.

Engaging in thinking such as that postulated by Angela Duckworth forms part of our ongoing drive to continue to build the ethos of our school which holds the development of good character and healthy attitudes as central to its mission. A critical part of this ethos with which I hope you are familiar from your own time here is the development of a healthy Emotional Quotient (EQ) in our young people. It is our belief that many alumni of our school benefitted from this ethos, and have gone on to be successful adults. This success is not something that can necessarily be measured in terms of societal status or financial standing; rather, it can (and should) be measured by character traits and learnings such as

resilience, perseverance and tenacity, respect and care for others and the environment, embracing of diversity, the will and ability to lead, the ability to empathise, and so much more. In short, we believe that this ethos has produced many alumni who are 'good humans' on our planet in a time of flux and uncertainty.



This edition of *ForgingAFuture* looks at some of the elements that our school offers, which help to build this emotional quotient. From Rainbow Camps to our leadership development programmes, from Cross-Curricular Week to work in the transformation and diversity space, all of these programmes and opportunities help to build young people who can become agents of change in our world through their values, character and influence.

The past six or seven 'post-Covid' months in our school have been exhilarating as our school has once again been running at full tilt, stretching our students academically, and providing many opportunities for development and growth in the extra-mural, extra-curricular and social environments. It is wonderful to be 'back'.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families and loved ones a safe and peaceful festive season.

With best wishes from all of us at PHS
Dave Campbell



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SOCIAL MEDIA





The student leadership teams for 2023: RCL (left) and Prefects (right)



Four Blood donation clinics were held at the school this year and PHS also featured in a promotion by the Western Province Blood Donation Service.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

There is a lot of debate and concern in education about the “lost” days and months of teaching during the Covid lockdown periods; and many efforts have been made to remediate these losses. The temptation is to react by making more time available for teaching and catch up and to trim some of the non-essentials from the school’s offering; but we are convinced, more than ever, that these apparently extraneous activities are even more vital for a post-pandemic generation.

Resilience, grit, courage and Ubuntu have not just been spoken about in assemblies and in the classroom, they have been cultivated in daily life



In May the Eco Club ran a very successful Thrift Fair with students bringing in old clothes and accessories and being able to use the credit to acquire new previously loved items.

The matric first team hockey player badly injured in his first game of the season, fighting his way back to fitness in order to play the final few games of his school career; the Grade 9 who finds their heart awakened with compassion during community service in Cross-Curricular week; the student leader who finds her voice and recognises her responsibility to move from spectator and commentator to change-maker; the many who respond generously to appeals for support for less advantaged groups of people or who show up for blood donation clinics. These achievements may not appear on Matriculation certificates but they will form a profound deposit, helping to shape and direct their future lives.



Some of the fruits of our grade 9’s community service labour at a nearby group home where they dug, composted, fertilised, watered and planted tomatoes in four 10 m shade tunnels in the subsistence garden.



Left: The September Rainbow Campers enjoyed some gorgeous weather. These camps continue to be a formative experience in the lives of many Pinelanders as they workshop issues such tolerance and diversity, and have subconscious prejudices challenged.



Pinelands High students and staff supported the Gift of the Givers appeal to help provide water for areas of KZN affected by the flooding.



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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.

