

T H A N K S Y O U

Thank you to all the PHS Alumni who have responded to appeals for assistance to help families in our school community who have been adversely affected by the Corona pandemic and resultant lockdown. We so appreciate your support. Thanks to generous donations, the school was able to offer a total of over R85 000 in fee relief to a number of families. In addition, the school community, with contributions from a number of Alumni, were able to distribute food parcels, grocery vouchers and data to families who applied for Covid Relief support. We will continue to provide support to these families for as long as the need continues and for as long as donations are received.

Should any Alumni wish to make a contribution towards either fee relief or grocery and data relief, donations can be made using the PHS account: Pinelands High School, Standard Bank Pinelands (036309), Current Account # 073023671. The Reference would be: Your surname and "FeeRelief" or "PHSCares". For further information, or to request a donation receipt, please contact cfranck@phs.org.za

OUR NEW "NORMAL"



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Alumni

I have just listened to President Ramaphosa address the nation on the state of the pandemic in our country. His tone was sombre and his warning clear: the safety of our communities and of our nation is in our hands.

I believe that as a school we have done our utmost to contain the spread of the virus. We have created an environment which is as safe as it can be through our strict protocols regarding mask wearing, distancing, sanitizing, and other measures. We have followed the operating procedures as laid down by the Department of Education regarding numbers of students allowed in classes and in the school as a whole. Maintaining this environment when dealing with teenagers has been tough, but we have been resolute in our implementation and have held the line.

In this regard I would like to pay tribute to our full staff. As I said in my address to our matric prize winners and their parents last month:

We need to thank all of our staff (including our support and admin staff) who have provided a solid base for schooling to continue: from cleaning to sanitizing to screening to admin – for all of these tasks – thank you. And to our teaching staff, and in particular to Mrs Hassiem for continuing to drive our distance and blended learning programmes during the long lockdown months and since we have been back.

Our staff has been remarkable. I have been so impressed with their resilience and good humour and their spirit of innovation. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful group of people working with our students.

At the same time we are acutely aware of our privilege as a school which has a strong financial base, excellent resources, and a supportive community. So many schools in our country have struggled to manage any form of distance learning, and have been unable, through sheer numbers or lack of resources, to maintain safety protocols. We need to remind



ourselves constantly of our privileged position, and ensure that our young people appreciate what they have.

Over the past months we have been able to bring back our grades in such a way that classes are split in order to maintain social distancing, and teachers are repeating lessons and also managing the learning of those students who are at home. It has been taxing but we have managed to cover the curriculum and prepare our young people for their final assessments which commence shortly. Our Grade 12 class has commenced their National Senior Certificate examinations and we wish them good health and strength as they face this final hurdle. They have endured a difficult year and have lost much, but their spirits remain strong and we are confident that they will do as well as possible academically.

In the midst of this extraordinary year we have managed to have some fun and to maintain elements of normality. We held an outside Valedictory Ceremony to say farewell to our Matrics a few weeks ago, complete with the Principal's surprise parachuting into the event! Something for them to remember.

I wish you all a safe festive season. Rest assured that your *alma mater* is strong and resilient, and that it is as determined as ever to continue to offer a quality education to young people which is relevant and inspiring.

With warm regards
Dave Campbell, Principal

SOCIAL MEDIA





MATRICES

Whilst the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic have been felt by the whole school community, none have felt the impact quite like the Matric class of 2020. Many of the usual rites of passage and celebrations – Matric Dance and various social events – have had to be cancelled. This is obviously a great loss to them but they have shown remarkable maturity and resilience and we are very proud of them. Please continue to think of them as they write their finals this month, finishing on 15 December.

Two events which were able to be reinstated under careful protocols were the (restricted attendance) Speech Night and (outdoors) Valedictory Service. There was a lovely atmosphere and a great endorsement of our wonderful matric class at both gatherings, but the highlight had to be the principal's arrival at Valedictory. Mr Campbell stunned the Matrics and their guardians by skydiving into the event, giving us all a moment to remember and a symbol of the courage that has needed to be shown by staff and students alike during this topsy-turvy year.

WOMEN'S MONTH

Over this past year, PHS students and staff have been involved in protests against gender based violence (GBV). There has been increased engagement and education on this topic during lessons, assemblies and various other learning initiatives. Our Interact Society and student leaders continue to raise awareness, calling men to take a stand and champion the eradication of gender-based violence. The following video was produced by students. The music and lyrics are by Jaiden-Caide Cobin (Grade 10) and video editing by Nina Gleeson (Grade 12).

<https://youtu.be/gZipVinsxk0>

Fleur Du Cap Theatre Award Winner

Congratulations to Alumnus Namisa Mdlalose on winning the award for best performance by a supporting actress in a musical or music theatre show for her performance as Lauren in *Kinky Boots*. Well done Namisa!



INTERNSHIP

PHS was host to three Maths Teacher Interns during the course of 2020: Greg Muller, Ateeqoh Jawahir Johnstone and Kate Anderson-Naiker. Not only did they have to negotiate the impact of the pandemic on their PGCE studies, but they also had to demonstrate their flexibility at school, becoming a relied-upon resource when staff were stretched due to protocols and illnesses.

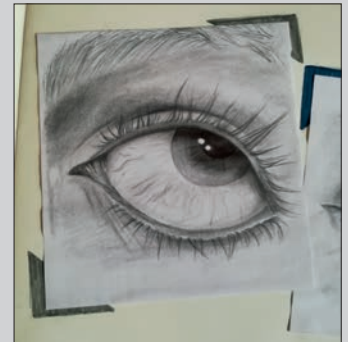
PINELANDS HIGH SCHOOL FEATURED AT WORLD EDUCATION WEEK

We are delighted to have been chosen to be part of the prestigious **Global Showcase of 100 schools that are pioneering quality education across the globe**. PHS was hand-picked from thousands of schools across six continents to share expertise and best practice in the inaugural World Education Week, held online in early October. The organisers billed the event as the **'World's Biggest Education Conference'**.

Pinelands High School hosted a 1-hour virtual event showcasing our **Rainbow Camp** programme which is run for Grade 11 students every year. The Rainbow Camp is a transformative experience which has at its heart the desire to grow and develop young people and to equip them to be leaders of change in our fractured world and, in particular, in our post-Apartheid society.

PHS ARTISTS

Many of our artists used the time and the materials available to them during lockdown to produce some beautiful work. Pencils, ball point pens, fineliners and pencil crayons were used to great effect.



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.



Pinelands High School
Excellence | Leadership | Innovation