

2019 PHS Alumni Award Recipient: Austin Smith

The Pinelands High School Honour Award springs from the desire to recognise alumni from our school who have made a significant contribution to society since leaving school. At the recent Founders Day Assembly, Austin Smith was named as the fourth recipient of the Award, being recognised for his success as a national and international sportsman.

Austin matriculated at Pinelands High in 2002 and captained the national Under 18 team in that year. Soon after leaving school he made his debut for the national mens' hockey team at 18 years of age. In the 15 years that he has played for the national team he has won over 170 caps, captained the team, played in two Olympic Games, two World Cups and scored over 60 goals. He is an exceptional sportsman who continues to play for the national team at the age of 34. Recently he was the top goal scorer at the African Road to Tokyo Tournament and named player of the tournament. Austin has been an inspiration to many around him during his distinguished sporting career, displaying fine sportsmanship. His passion and energy on and off the field are infectious. In a world where many professional sports people are arrogant and self-centred, Austin represents the values of humility and good sportsmanship. We wish Austin all of the best for the Tokyo Olympics.



Austin Smith is seen here with our current SA schools' hockey representatives, Andy Pick (SA U17 A), Casey Coetzee and Yusra Azzakani (both SA U18 B).

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Alumni

In early September our school responded to the outcry which swept across our country in protest against Gender-Based Violence. Many students added their voices to the protests and we experienced an outpouring of emotion as young people expressed their outrage at the levels of violence against women. Protests were held inside and outside of the school, posters and banners were displayed, trees were wrapped in cloth, and there were intense discussions and debates in the classroom and beyond.

As a school we encouraged these actions, and many staff joined the students in their protests. There was a very powerful feeling of solidarity and a sense that our school community was making its voice heard strongly on this most critical issue in our city and country.

Part of our role as a school is to help to raise young people who have a social conscience and who are prepared to stand up for social justice. We occupy a powerful position in our community in this respect, and by encouraging students to engage in issues of social justice we not only make a strong statement as a school, but we also empower young people to take a stand on injustices that impact on society.

We aim to contribute to the sense of social justice felt by young people by ensuring that



it is woven into our conversations in class and across the school, into our role-modelling as members of staff, into our choice of texts and other educational material, into the values that we uphold, and into the priorities which we have.

Our aim is for young people to leave our school motivated and equipped to bring about societal change. Clearly this is not always possible, but it is our belief that many matriculants will approach life after school with a strong sense of what is right and wrong, determined to ensure that their voices are heard beyond the confines of the school.

Thank you for your continued interest in your Alma Mater.

With warm regards
Dave Campbell



Pinelands High students stand in silent protest along Forest Drive

Alumni Principals in Western Cape

Jenn Wallace (Matric 1990) has been appointed principal at Wynberg Girls High School to start in January 2020 and Shelley Frayne (nee Godwin) (Matric 1984 and recipient of the JP Kent Award) will start as principal at St Cyprians at the same time (she is currently head at The Diocesan School for Girls in Makhanda). Congratulations to them both. Other Alumni serving in school leadership in the Western Cape are Graham Sayer (Matric 1996 and PHS teacher from 2002 to 2004) who is the Executive Head at Somerset College, and Craig Verdal-Austin (Matric 1987) who serves as Head of Somerset College Preparatory School. What a great PHS legacy!

SOCIAL MEDIA



Rhodes Scholar, Dr Nabeela Kajee



Nabeela Kajee matriculated from PHS in 2010 and went on to study medicine at Stellenbosch University, thereafter completing her internship at Groote Schuur Hospital and her community service at Mitchell's Plain Hospital. She was one of six South Africans awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and is currently at Oxford University reading for a DPhil degree in mental health (psychiatry) with a focus on medical education.

PHS Development Director, Carol Franck, caught up with Nabeela recently and asked her a few questions.

Q: Have you always wanted to work in the field of medicine?

NK: I have always had an immense interest in the intersection of medicine and education. Education has had a special place in my heart from the start of my career as a medical doctor – imbibed from years of excellent teaching at my schools. Interestingly, the

term 'doctor' derives from the Latin 'docere', meaning 'to teach'.

Q: How have your dreams and vision for your life been nurtured?

NK: I find that reading had the greatest impact on nurturing and enriching my dreams. Books grant readers the rare opportunity to dip into the past, examine the present closely, and attentively look out at the future from a much wider lens.

Q: What were your influences (or who were your influencers)?

NK: Each step of the journey has presented various influences and directional adjustments. The twists and turns of life make for good stories, and my father has always told me that the toughest steel is forged in the hottest fire. My mother has given me the good sense to do all things with the higher purpose of service to mankind. It is through the strength and dedication of many people – family, friends, neighbours and teachers – that I have been able to follow my passion.

Q: Which of your achievements do you most treasure?

NK: I am proud to be a part of the medical profession, as well as a Pinelander, Matie, Rhodes Scholar and South African (in no particular order).

Q: What are your plans for the future?

NK: Simply to make the world a happier and healthier place through the work I do, and perhaps learn to punt as well.

We wish Nabeela all the best for her time at Oxford and her future endeavours .



A scene from the 2019 PHS production of "Grease" which played to full houses in July.



Soccer Team wins Kia Cup

Congratulations to the Pinelands Boys' 1st team for winning the 2019 Kia Cup hosted by Bergvliet HS in early September. The tournament consisted of 8 teams and Pinelands High was unbeaten throughout, scoring 14 goals in 5 matches and conceding only 4. They beat Norman Henshilwood 4-2 in the final, with Khanya Baduza bagging a brace and being named the player of the tournament.



Alumni attending the 2019 Founders Day Tea and Assembly

BURSARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Interested in making an investment in the education of a deserving student? Please consider making a monthly contribution towards student support bursaries. Even R100 a month given by 5 individual donors will help one financially challenged student with uniform, sports clothing, books, stationery and sundries for the year.

How To:

- Donations can be made either by debit order or EFT to: Pinelands High School, Current Account 073023671, Standard Bank, Pinelands, 036309, or through the Donate Now Button on the PHS website, www.phs.org.za . (R6000 will meet the non-fee needs of one student for the year).
- Reference will be: SURNAMEBursary Fund.
- Please e-mail cfranck@phs.org.za if you are making a donation so that 1) We can ensure that the deposit is correctly identified, and 2) The Finance Office can draw up a donation receipt for you at the end of the tax year.

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.

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