

FORGING A FUTURE

A publication of Pinelands High School

Issue 20: June 2023

SCIENCE SUCCESS



Joseph Gibbon and Matthew Redfern (Grade 12) made Pinelands High School and their country proud by winning gold medals at the International Festival of Engineering Science and Technology (I-FEST) held in Tunisia during March. Their research project titled "Comparing and Evaluating different types of Bioplastic Polymers" was also placed in the top ten research projects at I-FEST.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear PHS Alumni

I greet you warmly from a very cold school in the midst of a very wet June. You may recall writing exams in draughty halls and classrooms? Not much has changed! To make matters worse, we have maintained some of our COVID protocols of keeping all venues well ventilated, particularly in these 'flu months'.

However, I am happy to say that the heart of your old school remains warm! The heart of the school is its people, who, together with their affection for their school and their values, ensure that this is a place where belonging is important and where warmth and kindness are valued.

But let us not forget you, the alumni, who occupy such an important place in the lifeblood of our school. Your support and your affection for your old school contributes to this warmth. Our PHS Celebration Day in March illustrated this so beautifully, as alumni from the 1950s mingled with Millennials and Gen Zs who matriculated in the last 15 years, and shared their stories. I was privileged enough to attend two reunions: The 40th (1981+2) and the 20th (2003). The excitement amongst these two groups was palpable as they reunited with old friends and shared their life stories. Their warmth and affection for their school was

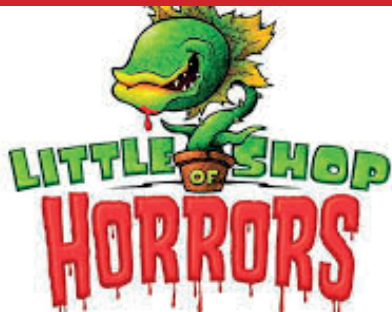
overwhelming and, as Principal, I felt moved and buoyed up by this.

In closing, I would like to say this: never underestimate the power that you as individuals have to contribute to our school's continued growth and development. The affirmation that you give to PHS through a passing comment to an acquaintance in the workplace, or the recommendation to a prospective parent, or your presence at future Celebration Days or at your year's reunion: all of these and more are simple yet profound ways of encouraging and nurturing your old school.

I have said it before: Pinelands High School is a treasure. It is a treasure to be nurtured for future generations so that it can continue to offer an outstanding educational opportunity to so many, and so that it can continue to produce young people who will make a significant difference to our city, our country and the world.

With warm regards

Dave Campbell
PRINCIPAL



Pinelands High School will be staging the musical, Little Shop of Horrors, from 3–5 August 2023. Tickets will be available from Quicket and the school shop. All shows start at 19h00, with a matinee performance included on the Saturday. The musical will be directed by Ms Tara Notcutt, with Mr Garth Kayster as the Musical Director.



ONE-TO-ONE iPad PROJECT

Our Grade 8 class commenced this year using iPads in the classroom. This exciting venture has started very well and there is no doubt that teaching and learning have been enhanced. By 2027 all our grades will be using iPads for lessons; however, the teacher will always remain the primary resource.

BURSARY FUND – THANK YOU!

We are truly thankful for the various individuals who have contributed to the Bursary Fund over the years, enabling us to assist a large number of students with school fee, as well as non-fee, expenses. We continue to extend the invitation to contribute to this fund, as the need for bursaries continues to increase. For further information, you can contact our Development Director, Carol Franck cfranck@phs.org.za, or donations can be made to: Pinelands High School, Current Account 073023671, Standard Bank, Pinelands, 036309; with the reference SURNAME +BursaryFund. In order to receive a donation receipt to submit with your tax return, please send a Proof of Payment to the above address.



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

SOCIAL MEDIA



SPORTS ROUNDUP



We sent teams to compete in the Oakhill Waterpolo Festival which took place in the Knysna harbour in February

2023 has felt like a full return to “normal” levels of sporting activity. Many of our teams have been able to take part in tours, tournaments and sporting festivals. This has made a huge difference to the morale of teams and we are seeing signs of recovery in our results. Among other encouraging results, the boys’ first waterpolo team triumphed in a fiercely contested final to win the B league, and our boys’ first hockey team is currently unbeaten in their league this season, scoring 20 goals and conceding only 1.

Pinelands High students have been selected for regional and provincial teams in a range of sporting disciplines: Hockey, Indoor Hockey, Netball, Soccer, Squash, Swimming; as well as non-school disciplines such as Baseball, Climbing and Karate.

Save the Date: Various Alumni Sports games will be played against the school on Wednesday 27 September. Further details will follow in the next Alumni communication.

AFRICAN AUTHORS AWARD NOMINATION

Zarah Antulay (Grade 12) has been nominated for a global AfriCAN Authors award. This follows the publication of her book, **Monologues with Myself**, which includes 50 poems and three short stories. One of her poems was also published in the latest edition of English Alive, an anthology of writing by students from high schools and colleges in southern Africa.



SONGBIRD RETURNS FROM THE UK

Congratulations to Anais Chandler (Grade 10) who travelled to the UK with the Tygerberg Children’s Choir to participate in the International Choir Competition in Hull during April. The choir placed first in the Children’s Choir section and achieved second place in the “Sacred” section, which was open to all choirs. The choir is now ranked first in Interkultur’s World Rankings.



GIVING BACK



A combined initiative by Interact and the MSA collected approximately 100 blankets during term two (including one made up of squares crocheted by staff members), which will be distributed to various charities. There was also a four year record in terms of blood donations this term, with 53 litres donated by staff and students. This translates into a possible 159 lives saved.

ROBOTICS

Jesse Cloete (Grade 11) recently returned from Houston, Texas, where his Pinelands-based Texpan Team represented South Africa in the first World Robotics Championship, competing against 191 other teams. They scooped up the prestigious **THINK** Award at the championship – awarded to the team judged to be best at removing engineering obstacles using creative and scientific thinking through progressive design iterations.

GIVING BACK IS EASY – IT WON’T COST YOU A CENT!

A very simple way to help Pinelands High is to sign up for a MySchool card (or you can also do it through your WRewards card) and select Pinelands High School as the beneficiary. A percentage of what you spend at the various partner stores (Woolworths, Engen, LooT.co.za, Worksheet Cloud, Netstar, Power24.co.za) will be donated to Pinelands High. This year, the MySchool income will be used to purchase a replacement industrial mower for the grounds as well as a UV filtration system for the pool. We are hoping to increase our income from this source, so **please sign up**. Every swipe counts!



Sign up:

Online at <https://www.myschool.co.za/portal/register>

In-store at any Woolworths

SMS ‘JOIN’ to 31231

By downloading the MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet App

By scanning this QR code

