



STIRLING HIGH SCHOOL

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23 March 2024 (Newsletter 02 of 2024)

Dear Parents, Staff and Pupils

We have enjoyed a blistering start to the year with a first term packed with activities.

We have enjoyed many successes, including cricket, tennis, athletics and squash. Our golfers are also doing exceptionally well at present. On that note, congratulations to Luke Moore, who won the East London Golf Club Championships this past weekend. Luke is also currently the West Bank Club Champion.

The winter sports season kicked off to a promising start last weekend with the Grens Festival. This past weekend, we travelled to Grahamstown (Makhanda), to compete against St Andrews and also played in the Graeme Rugby Festival. At the same time, our debaters were competing in Grahamstown and our hockey players were up against some tough competition at the Greg Beling and Tony Godding festivals in East London.

During the holiday, our 1st Team rugby players travelled to Graaff-Reinet to participate in the Union High Festival. I watched their first game yesterday, where they beat Winterberg Agricultural High 27 points to 5 in extremely hot conditions (39 degrees). Both of our 1st hockey teams will be travelling to Cape Town to participate in the Belgotex Hockey Festival, while our U/16 hockey players will be participating at the Woodridge U/16 Festival. Our juniors performed well in the Rob Taylor Hockey Festival which was hosted locally. We wish all of our coaches and players well as they enjoy the competition on offer.

The term has been packed with sporting and cultural achievements and groups like Interact, Eco Club, Chess Club, Debating and Ubuntu have been very active.

We have enjoyed two productions at the Guild this term. Our main drama production, "Hairspray" was a huge success and we congratulate Ms van den Berg on her most impressive first Guild production since joining us at Stirling High. Ms van den Berg arrived at Stirling less than a year ago and has clearly inspired our budding actors and actresses to follow their passion on stage.

The production included nearly 100 students and 25 staff in an impressive week of performance. The show incorporated drama, dance and music and was a hit with East London audiences, with the majority of the shows sold out. Well done to the cast and directors on their hard work since October last year! We also thank parents who spent weekends and evenings taxiing their children to and from practices.

Earlier this week, we enjoyed the Ubuntu evening at the Guild, where South African cultures were on display. Hundreds of children and parents from local schools attended and were clearly impressed by the talent and organisation that went into this memorable event, celebrating 30 years of democracy. We thank the organisers of the event for the preparation involved in making the evening a success.

Every Monday during society lesson the interact visited Choc, Guardians of Hope and Karel du Toit for 30 minutes and interacted with the children. Interact also held a bake sale in the tuckshop quad and sold stickers for Flip-Flop Day. This contributed to the R7253.00 that was handed over to Choc. During break times and at special events Interact collected bread tags and bottle tops which were recycled and the money earned was used to purchase wheelchairs for those in need. On the 16th of March Interact visited the Stirling Lodge Retirement Village. Learners provided the residents with gift packages, baked treats and a day of games. Next term, Interact plans to begin their annual sanitary towel drive and collect non-perishable goods which will be donated to less fortunate schools.

We would like to thank all parents who attended the SGB election on Tuesday evening, we would also like to thank all parents who were prepared to stand for election. Congratulations to the following members who were elected onto the Governing Body of Stirling High for the next 3-year cycle.

Mr Andrew Wiseman (Chairman), Mr Antonie Lombard (Vice Chairman), Mr Craig Hanafey (Finance Chairman), Mrs Maryke Reed (Secretary), Mrs Gina Baretta-Pretorius, Mr Faheem Hendricks, Mr Sheldon Loxton, Mr Doug Prior, Mrs Lynn Schenk, Mrs Kim Smallie, Mrs Calista Stanton, Mr Wicus Terblanche, Mr Leslie van Zyl-Smit and Mr Shaun Welsh plus 3 learner members of the LRC.

We thank the previous Governing Body members for their service to the school and wish the new Governing Body members well, as they assist the school with Governance issues for the next three years.

We also wish Mrs Jenny Harvey a well-deserved retirement as she takes leave of us at the end of the term after 16 years of service to Stirling High. At the same time, we welcome two new staff members to Stirling, Charleen Oosthuizen (Afrikaans) and Emma Flashman (Front Office Admin) who will both be joining us from the second term.

Please remember that all pupils are expected to be involved in at least one extra-mural activity throughout the year. If your child has not yet signed up for the winter season, please encourage him/her to do so upon returning to school. We also

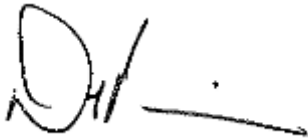
remind you to ensure that your child returns to school in Term 2 with the correct hairstyle and according to our school Code of Conduct.

Our first home Derby takes place on the very first weekend of term against Queens College and we encourage all pupils and parents to make a special effort to join us for this exciting weekend of sport.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable Easter period with friends and family and look forward to an exciting second term, full of activities and opportunities.

May God bless all of our families during this Easter holiday and bring us back safely, with renewed energy and commitment for the next term.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DP' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot.

Doug Prior