



STIRLING HIGH SCHOOL

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16 August 2024 (Newsletter 04 of 2024)

Dear Parents, Staff and Pupils

Founder's Day

We celebrated our 39th Founders' Day on Friday 2nd August and enjoyed some good competition throughout the Founders' Derby. Our teams were on form for their final encounter of the season and performed very well against Ooskus Gimnasium and Merrifield.

The Founders' Assembly, the tea and the get together in the Long Room after the 1st Rugby match was very well supported. We have never experienced such a good turnout and this bodes well for next year's 40th Celebration.

Many past pupils participated in the "Past Pupils" games during the weekend and these included netball, hockey and rugby. We would like to thank all who organised the various teams, year groups and those who attended and supported the various activities of the weekend.

Our special guests at our assembly were the Head Girl of 2014 Dr Nathina Pakade and the Head Girl of 1974 Mrs Lorraine Underwood (née Pachonick)

Their messages were appreciated by all who attended the assembly and the number of past pupils who attended from the 2014, 1994 and 1974 class was very encouraging.

Sinalo Jafta, past pupil and international cricketer for the past 8 years, was awarded the Founders' Day Award. We are very proud of Sinalo's achievements, and appreciate her regular visits to our school to motivate our pupils when she is in town.

Academics

The term started with parent meetings on the first two nights (9th and 10th July), organised by our head of academics, Mrs Reed. We appreciate the good turnouts on both evenings by concerned parents and trust that the guidance given on the evenings will prove fruitful and that the results at the end of term 3 will prove the value of this intervention.

All parents were then offered an opportunity to meet with subject teachers in their classrooms on the evening of 16th July and we appreciate the interest shown by many of our parents who chose to attend.

We also enjoyed the Academic Dinner held on the 31st July where staff, parents and our top academics celebrated the achievements in the classroom. Hopefully this celebration of exceptional academic effort will lead to a number of high achievers at the end of the year.

Sport

Our winter sporting calendar and our Derby encounters came to an end on Founders' Day and we can be very proud of the manner in which our various sports teams participated during the season.

Many of our pupils participated at a high level in school and outside sports and these achievements have been celebrated on our Facebook page and during school assemblies. Once again, we have enjoyed more pupil involvement in sport than ever before and this is a realised dream, particularly for our sports department which has achieved this goal, two years in a row.

This weekend, our tennis players, who have been very successful, are competing in the Marilie Moolman Tennis tournament in Cradock and we wish them well.

Culture

The Chamber Choir once again reached the finals of the ATKV national competition, where they came 2nd in their category in Cape Town, out-singing choirs from around the country. The choir also received a Gold (90%) in the Western Cape Virtual Eisteddfod, which welcomes entries from across South Africa, as well as Namibia and Zimbabwe.

A number of individual pupils entered the Western Cape Virtual Eisteddfod with our pianists receiving 3 gold, a silver and a bronze award and our vocalists receiving 7 golds and 2 silvers, three of our pupils receiving Cum Laude of 95%.

The Big Band attended the National Youth Jazz Festival, where Daniel van Zyl-Smit was selected on bass for the National Schools Jazz Band.

Stirling's drama entry into the ELFEST Eisteddfod is the biggest in town with many results still outstanding. Our Grade 12s did exceptionally well, with no result below a Gold and a total of 10 Gold, 10 Double Gold and 4 Triple Gold awards.

Two of our pupils were selected to compete in the African Youth Chess Championship after their successes in the SA Junior Closed Tournament and we congratulate our chess team on a very successful season.

Our debaters have performed very well in the inter-school debates, regularly winning the debates and having the 'Best Speaker' chosen from Stirling. At the 2024 Provincials in Makhanda the Senior and Junior teams won through to the semi-finals and 4 students were selected for the Eastern Cape teams.

The second Dance Extravaganza, held in the school hall earlier this month, was exciting and colourful, showcasing a large number of dancers in a wide variety of dance styles. The energy and enthusiasm of the dancers was infectious and the audience was captivated.

School infrastructure projects

The school bathrooms have had a total revamp during the June holidays and are stunning. We now have the most beautiful hostel and school bathrooms in the province, perhaps even in the country.

Our three-storey development on the library site is progressing well and we are confident that we will be enjoying the new facilities in the second term of 2025. This past week, we had great excitement as the concrete pump truck pumped 155 cubic metres of concrete, creating the slab for the first floor of the new development.

In the meantime, we are working on our next development, the second astro, which is being planned for later this year and should be ready for next season if all goes well.

We have already received preliminary plans for a new building development between the existing and planned astros and the main rugby/cricket field. The plan is for a large viewing area in a centralised area of our sportsgrounds, allowing for 360° viewing of sport, whilst also offering 4 team change rooms, toilets, a tuckshop and storage for the tuckshop and sport.

We are very excited about these planned developments.

We welcomed Ms Courtney Groenewald to our staff at the beginning of the term and trust that she will enjoy her time with us in the Science Department at Stirling High. Ms Groenewald has already slotted in very well at Stirling and is a regular supporter at all of our school events.

Earlier in the term, Stirling High School was placed 2nd in the school category in the DNF & Partners Recycling Awards 2024. The award was given for our outstanding effort in diverting waste from landfill.

This weekend, our Grade 11s are enjoying the annual camp at Hogsback and it appears that the weather will be unusually warm. In the past we have always experienced cold temperatures with occasional sleet.

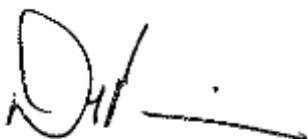
A concern we have at present, are the number of pupils who bring vapes to school. We are aware that this is a problem at most schools, and will continue to take the necessary steps to put a stop to this dangerous habit. Our disciplinary protocols around vaping will become more severe in future and we will include counselling at NICRO as a process of remediation. Please discourage your children from using vapes and particularly from taking them to school.

We encourage our Grade 12s to study hard for the exams that start on Monday (with CAT) and to ensure that they arrive well in time for their exams. These exams are very important and we ask parents to ensure that a good deal of studying is taking place at home.

The summer sport season has begun and we remind you that all pupils are expected to be involved in at least one activity per season.

Wishing our Stirling family much success for the remainder of term 3.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DP', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Doug Prior