



Nuusbrief / Newsletter 4/2019

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As always we have experienced a very busy year. I am proud to say that there were more highs than lows. I would like to highlight some of the highs that will not be mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

- **In remembrance**

We think of staff, members of the Governing Body and our precious learners who have lost parents, grandparents and loved ones this year. Our hearts go out to every one of them. However, we can assure you that we have an incredible support system at Paarl School and that the school offers help where we can. Mrs. Betsie Holtzhausen (former staff member at Paarl school) also passed away this year.

- **Casual Day**

It is clear that the economy is under tremendous pressure and we could see it from the sale of Casual Day stickers. Casual Day also competed with our own concert and 40th birthday celebrations in 2018. This put extra strain on our parents' budgets. Despite this, the PSDF still won two prizes; for the third most tickets sold and third place in the Top Ten Best Non Government Organizations in the Western Cape in 2018! Thank you to the PSDF and especially Mrs. Martie Wilmot and Carin Swart for this great effort. This year the learners were once again spoiled with a great fun day. Thanks to Mrs. Hannah Weber for her support and assistance.

- **Sport and culture**

We are proud of all our learners who excelled in sport and culture this year. More than 40 learners received certificates and medals at the Paarl Valley Eisteddfod for singing, poetry and visual art. The artworks of three of our learners were selected, from over 2000 entries, for the WCED's Visual Art Celebration - Every Picture Tells a Story. Their artwork was part of the WCED's provincial art exhibition at the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art in Cape Town. They were spoiled on Saturday, 5 October and treated like VIP's at the opening of the exhibition. Thank you to all the coaches, staff and dedicated parents, as well as volunteers who offered to help and support our learners.

- **Calendar**

The PSDF worked hard to produce our fourth calendar. This calendar showcases the beautiful art of our learners. Thank you to Esmé Tucker, Ronel van Dijk and Martie Wilmot for their valuable part in this project.

- **Entrepreneurs**

Twenty one Senior Phase learners exhibited their marketing and sales skills during the Mr. and Miss Paarl School Ambassador's evening. Their hard work paid off and we are grateful to everyone who supported our learners in this project!

- **The world of work**

We also try to expose our Practical Phase learners during the coffee shops that are organized every term. They proudly market the produce that they grow, as part of their Agricultural Subject, as well as the products they make themselves.

- **Outreaches and training**

Paarl School, as a resource center, once again excelled this year. Our teaching staff, therapists and inclusive education team have offered successful outreach programs. One of the highlights was a workshop presented in collaboration with SANASE, a Governing Body Organization for Special Schools in South Africa, where hostel staff received training. It was so successful that we are planning a follow-up workshop in the future.

- **Staff achievements**

Mr. Hein van der Merwe was nominated for a National Teachers Award in the category Excellence in Special Needs Teaching and awarded runner-up in the Metropole East Education District.

The book "Die Kokerboom" was adapted for special needs education and was illustrated and translated into Xhosa by Ms. Ronel van Dijk.

Ms. Punt received the Rector's Award for the best Masters Degree student in the Faculty of Education at the University of Stellenbosch.

Veel meer as net 'n skool / More than just a school

- **Values**

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) is currently rolling out a strategy at all schools and WCED institutions aimed at establishing value driven education. The strategy is known as “Transform to Perform” (T2P). More than 5 years ago, Paarl School identified and established four core values (respect, responsibility, care and courage). This, together with our Pearl Club reward system, is in line with the WCED’s T2P project.

- **Thank you**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people and departments - as I said.... “Nothing happens by itself!” (Leon du Toit, former principal of Jan Kriel School)

- Thank you to our Governing Body for the past year’s guidance and support. We couldn’t have asked for more competent people to take the lead at Paarl School!
- We are privileged to have staff who truly know and understand the heart of our learners and who celebrate all forms of progress. They experience the disappointments as well and encourage our learners every day to achieve their ideals and dreams! Paarl School thanks our grounds staff, general assistants, class assistants, hostel staff, handy men, bus drivers, transport coordinators, facilitators, administrative staff, finance ladies, emotional support team, therapists, nursing staff, social worker, learning support teachers, our inclusive education team and last but not least, our educators and the school’s management team. Each one is a link in a very specialized chain that drives all processes at the school.
- Without the intercession of parents, staff and others who care, our school will be spiritually poor. I once again drew inspiration from Proverbs 16:3 “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”

Enjoy the well-deserved rest. Looking forward to seeing you in 2020!

Regards

Stoffel Kruger

PRACTICAL PHASE END OF YEAR FUNCTION

The Practical Phase had their annual end of year function on 29 October 2019. Everyone enjoyed the nativity play presented by the Juniors. The school leavers were singled out and honoured with a very special ceremony during which Mr. Kruger handed them their certificates. The Practical Phase also used the opportunity to thank the staff involved with the learners for everything they do on a daily basis. After the formalities it was time for party food to be eaten and lots of dancing to lively music. What an enjoyable and festive morning!



MR. & MISS PAARL SCHOOL AMBASSADOR

On 18 September 2019 Paarl School presented the third Mr. & Miss Paarl School Ambassador Gala Evening. The musical: The Greatest Showman, was the theme and inspiration for dramatic costumes, a big circus tent on stage and music that took the audience to an imaginary world. The learners looked like the very characters from the film. Thank you to Esmé Tucker for her time and passion with which she planned, designed and made the costumes and décor. The show started with one of the songs from the movie, A million dreams, with lyrics that follow: "I think of what the world could be. A vision of the one I see. A million dreams is all it's gonna take. A million dreams for the world we're going to make." On stage, each finalist's life story contributed to the symbolic illustration that every learner in Paarl School is unique and that nothing should stand in your way to reach your dreams! The finalists also worked on community projects in pairs, which they exhibited in the small hall. These exhibitions, together with recordings of the learners' barriers they faced at Paarl School, aroused deep emotions and once again made everyone realize that we must live life to the full, be generous and pursue our dreams. The big moment of the evening was the crowning. Kayleigh & Zaylin were crowned 2nd Princess & Prince, Lavica & Skye as 1st Princess & Prince and 2016 winners Elnaza Jordaan and Matthew Brooks had to hand over their titles to the winners of this breathtaking event, Mr. & Miss Paarl School Ambassador 2019: Shaneeze November & Xandré van den Berg. Paarl School congratulates the two Ambassador winners. You do us proud! We would also like to thank every talented and involved educator for their contribution to the success of this event. A special word of thanks to Hein van der Merwe who coordinated and managed the Mr. and Miss Paarl School Ambassador 2019 project with excellence. Paarl School strives to encourage our learners to dream, believe and make the most of every opportunity.



GRATITUDE TEA

The Emotional Support Committee hosted the annual gratitude tea on 22 October where approximately 70 guests were thanked for their generous contributions of sandwiches, food parcels and birthday cakes for our underprivileged learners and their families. They were entertained by our talented learners and treated to delicious eats. We are grateful for these pillars of strength in our community.



40 DAYS

On 9 October the school leavers in the Practical Phase celebrated their "40 days". They had to dress according to a country and a parade was held to choose the best dressed learner. There was lots of fun planned for the day, from a MasterChef cake decorating contest to a class party and karaoke session. The learners and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



CHOIR

The choir had two successful events this term. They participated in a Broadway Spectacular on 24 October with Ronel van Dijk, Niel Roux, Adri Louw, John Oosthuizen and Anthea Norman. The audience thoroughly enjoyed listening to the familiar songs from well-known musicals performed by our choir and these talented artists!



The choir had the opportunity to perform with Emo Adams at Brackenfell Primary School. Our choir was a huge hit with their lively songs and personalities.

TOP 10 ATHLETICS @ NAPIER

Paarl School entered one team of 10 athletes and ended 6th out of 18 teams with 11 gold, 14 silver and 8 bronze medals. Joshua Meyer U/14 and Xandr  van den Berg U/15 won best athlete of the day in their age groups. It is Xandr 's 3rd year in a row that he won this prestigious award. Thank you to: Ronel van Dijk, Lehandri de Necker, Anke Ingram, Tiaan Koch, Hein van der Merwe and Arno Bruytenbach who accompanied our athletes and were officials on the day. We had some fun in Struisbaai and were treated to breakfast on Sunday at Bredasdorp Country Manor. We are super proud of our athletes!



PRESTIGE EVENING

The 2019 Prestige Evening was once again a highlight of the year where we celebrated the academic, sport and cultural achievements of our hard working learners. Guests were received in style by the Mr. and Miss Paarl School Ambassadors, welcomed with a scripture reading and prayer by our Head Prefects and entertained by learners who achieved at the Eisteddfod. Mr. Yzelle (chairman of the Governing Body) and Mr. Kruger reflected on the 2019 school year before the learners took to the stage to receive their individual awards.



HOSTEL CHRISTMAS PARTY



There was great excitement in the hostel on the eve of our annual Christmas party. Everyone wanted to make sure that they were on Santa's gift list, while being tempted with the most delicious smells coming from the kitchen. It was a very special evening for very special children. It remains a privilege to see our children's eyes sparkle.



WE BID FAREWELL...



Janine van der Berg

Janine worked in the Preschool Phase for 12 years as a class assistant. Thank you for your dedication and good cooperation over the years. We will miss your contagious laughter and love for our children. We wish you all the best for the future.



Sinead Comminos

We greet Sinead, our intern psychologist of the past year. Her sincere care for our learners, parents and educators deserves special mention. It was truly a privilege to work with her. We wish her all the best for the future.

Henda van Schalkwyk

Competent and beloved educator at Paarl School for the past 25 years. Henda was involved in the hostel for 11 years and was the superintendent of the hostel from 2005 - 2013. She will particularly be remembered for her love of books and reading, but also for her knowledge of History and Geography - her two passions. For several years she was the phase head of the Senior Phase and our Library Manager - a phenomenal monument that she is leaving behind. Henda, we wish you a fantastic retirement, but know that your hands will immediately find something else to keep you occupied.



Sandra Hollander

Sandra Hollander has been Head of Department at Learning Support for the past 23 years. She has done tremendous work at our school in her capacity as a remedial specialist, expert in the field of the child-in-need and head of department with the enormous task of managing the alternative assessment of our learners and organizing readers and scribes. Sandra, thank you very much for what you have accomplished, your expertise and the excellent patience you have shown. Our learners will miss their "Aunty/Miss Sandra" very much. Enjoy your retirement with your spouse Fredrich.



HEAD PREFECTS



Cara-Li Groenewald and Shaneeze November were appointed head prefects for the year at our annual Prestige evening. Congratulations to both learners on this exceptional achievement.

MEET THE WARRIORS
TIAAN LOUW
11 YEARS OLD



Living and loving life. differently-abled



Congratulations to Tiaan Louw who was chosen to represent Warriors on Wheels and Paarl School in Durban on Sunday 20 October 2019. He completed the 65km Warrior on Wheels race. His buggy rider was Marc Schreuder. Well done Tiaan!

STAFF MATTERS

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Congratulations to Ms. Punt, one of our psychologists, who received the Rector's Award for the best Masters Degree student in the Faculty of Education at the University of Stellenbosch. Paarl School is proud of you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Mrs. Marietha Ras (previously Robbertse) who married Mr. Nico Ras on 2 November. May God bless your marriage.
- Mrs. Elsa Fourie who became a grandmother to a beautiful granddaughter, Elmi Fourie, on 1 November.
- Mrs. Hannelie Crous who was blessed with the birth of a grandson on 29 September.

RELIEF STAFF

Thank you to:

- Mrs. Rina Smit who stood in for Mrs. Elana Carstens (Gr.3), while she was on sick leave.

MATRICULANTS

We continue to keep our staff members and their children who are in matric in our thoughts and prayers, until the results are released.

- Mr. and Mrs. Stoffel and Elsabé Kruger and their son, Armand
- Ms. Reinet Barnard and her daughter, Madelein
- Ms. Karen Visser and her son, Sidny
- Ms. Elize Frans and her daughter, Elizna
- Ms. Jacky Williams and her daughter, Chanelle

ILLNESS

We are thinking of:

- Ms. Janet Goliath who is recovering from a knee operation.

LOSS

- Our sincere condolences to Ms. Denise Meyer who lost her mother-in-law this term.

WE BID FAREWELL TO:

- Ms. Petro Ackerman (assistant in die Senior Phase) who finished her duties at Paarl School this term.
- Ms. Rudelene Meyer (cleaner) who will leave us at the end of November.

We wish you all the best for your future.



*Whatever is beautiful.
Whatever is meaningful.
Whatever brings you
happiness. May it be yours
this holiday season and
throughout the coming year.*