



NORTHLANDS GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parent

The SA Girls' Schools Association held its annual conference in Bloemfontein last week at Eunice High School for Girls. The weather was not as cold as anticipated and the days were gloriously sunny and cool - typical highveld winter days. Beautiful.

The conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet with Principals of girls' schools from all over the country, to hear what is happening in those schools and to put one's own school into perspective. One realises that one's problems are no different from anyone else's problems.

We enjoyed many excellent presentations on a variety of topics but I think that for me, the most relevant was the presentation by Jonathan Jansen from the University of the Free State. He spoke of the seven threats to education in SA - two of which are of particular concern to the teaching staff of many schools. These are 'the worship of mediocrity' which prevails at this moment, and 'the narrowing down of the curriculum'. Northlands Girls' High has always prided itself on the fact that the pupils here have many opportunities to be extended over and above mediocrity. All pupils are interviewed before acceptance into the school and all indicate that NGHS is attractive to them because of the opportunities offered. We offer a multitude of subjects in Grades 8 and 9, a wide variety of co-curricular activities and opportunities to explore avenues within all subject and co-curricular areas. It is therefore with concern that I notice that a high percentage of our girls is not making use of these opportunities, making excuses that they have transport problems, or there is no space for them in particular activities. The mid-year results of some of the Grade 9s in particular were shocking. I wonder why such pupils are at the school, taking up space which could be occupied by pupils who are genuinely interested in making the most of a good situation. Simply by being in a good environment does not imply that a person will emerge with all the bells and whistles. If there is inertia the bells and whistles will not ring. There has to be some form of movement for the effects of the bells and whistles to be felt. There are too many inert pupils for my liking at the moment in this school. For this reason, a letter has been sent to all parents concerning extra mural activities and it is expected that every pupil from today will be involved. Also, all parents of pupils who have failed the year so far are being interviewed. We cannot and will not tolerate a slothful attitude at this school.

Also of interest is that from next year the University of the Free State will be holding a semester long pre-admission course for all applicants, during which time the applicants will have to prepare the answers to seven questions. The quality of these answers will determine whether or not the applicant will be admitted to the university. The university is looking for students who have the ability to analyse and think critically rather than students who merely memorise facts and plagiarise the ideas of others. I wonder how long it will be before other tertiary institutions follow suit.

We began August with a new management team and I wish all the ladies and gentleman all the best in their new roles.

Please remember that Monday, 9 August is a public holiday.

There is concern that there will be a teachers' strike soon. I am led to believe that if it happens it will be for one day only and that will be next Tuesday. NGHS will not close. I will be at school and so will most of the staff. In other words, we will continue as normally as we can. Only a fraction of the staff will be off if we reach that point. Please do not keep your daughters at home. We will inform you by SMS when we receive further news on this matter.

The Grade 12 Trials exams commence on 19 August. I trust that all candidates have commenced with their study programme.

Regards

Ann Vat – Principal *Achieve your goals!*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DAY	DATE	TIME	VENUE	EVENT
MONDAY	09.08			Public Holiday
		9h30	Pick N Pay	Djembe Drums
TUESDAY	10.08			Grade 12 Drama Prac Trials
WEDNESDAY	11.08			Grade 12 Drama Prac Trials
THURSDAY	12.08	15h00	Queensburgh	Soccer - Queensburgh
FRIDAY	13.08	15h30 16h30 17h00	Rinaldo Netball	Action Netball Opens vs Crawford NC Opens vs DGC U15 vs Toti
		12h00	Hall/Assembly Tea/Tuckshop	NGHS Founders' Day and Tea
SATURDAY	14.08			
SUNDAY	15.08			
MONDAY	16.08		NGHS	Tennis – U15's vs St. Mary's 2
		15h00	NGHS	Soccer - Inanda
				Grade 12 Art Prac
TUESDAY	17.08		Hall	Sport & Cultural Photos
				Grade 12 Drama Prac Final
WEDNESDAY	18.08	See back page for details		Northwood Musical
THURSDAY	19.08	See back page for details		Northwood Musical
FRIDAY	20.08	See back page for details		Northwood Musical
		14h00 15h00 16h00	Rinaldo	Action Netball – Opens vs St Mary's U15 vs Danville U15 vs St Henry's
		15h00	Kings Park Stadium	Athletics - Sugar Relay
SATURDAY	21.08	See back page for details		Northwood Musical
SUNDAY	22.08			

PLEASE NOTE: THESE EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NOTICES

MOTHERS WHO CARE

MOTHERS WHO CARE is an international network of mothers who care about their children and the schools they attend.

This is an appeal for mums and anyone who feels the need to pray for the girls and the school.

Please join us at 7.30am on a Thursday morning.

Contact:

Julie Pilditch (031) 564 3004



FROM THE NGHS MARKETING DESK



Back : Chanele Perumal, middle row: Sumika Singh, Suraksha Sanichar, Philicia Behari, Tiasha Keman. Front :Drishthi Ramchande and Dantia Subramoney displaying their Life Sciences projects

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FUNDRAISING FOR NGHS

VIEW THE BIG 5 AT THE BARNYARD

All pupils and their parents are invited to attend the Big Five Show, a tribute to the greatest pop icons of all time.

Making up the Big Five is music by Elton John, Tina Turner, Madonna Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson. Their number one hits will be performed by Barnyard's most accomplished artists as they bring these hits back to life for your enjoyment.

Date: Wed, 1 September 2010

Venue: Barnyard Theatre at Gateway

Time: Doors open at 18h30 and show starts at 20h00

Ticket cost: R 115 per person,

Catering: Bring your own or order from the Barnyard menu.



For bookings please contact Mia Venter: mia@jetevents.co.za or 0834455097

Tickets are selling fast, so book early to avoid disappointment!!!!

FOUNDERS' DAY

Postponed till further notice!



**NORTHLANDS GIRLS'
HIGH SCHOOL**

BIG WALK AND MARKET DAY

The school's annual Big Walk and Market Day was held on Friday, 30 July, under warm but windy conditions - perfect for walking, eating and participating in the range of activities on offer!

Girls and teachers in fancy dress completed 61 laps, celebrating the schools birthday of 61 years. They were then offered a wide variety of goods and services from each registration class in the school. New and exciting stalls included a *mechanical bull* (8SM), *decorate your own cupcake* (8ST), a *boxing ring* (12FR) and *Zorball* (10SW). 9GO ran a very well-supported *Go-Go Café*.



Tesha Hiralal, Vicki Fischer, Mrs Louw and Asteera Singh posing in their finery

As it was Mrs Howell and Mrs Ward's last day, the school created a huge circle on the field, the Djembe drummers gave a moving performance and the girls sang the school song in a final farewell.



The 'car wash' girls from 10SW

Many thanks to Mr Freitas and his team of grounds men for their assistance in setting up and dismantling.

Thank you to the Northlands DJ team for a very professional first attempt at compering the event and to Mrs van Vuuren and Mrs King for assisting in the sale of tickets. The day was a great success and Mrs du Preez and her team should be extremely proud!



FAREWELL TO MRS HOWELL AND MRS WARD

STALWART TEACHERS ALSO LEARNT AT NORTHLANDS by Michelle Dennis (Northglen News)

Northlands Girls' high School bid a sad farewell to deputy principal, Mrs Howell and head of Consumer Studies, Mrs Ward after many years of loyal service to the school and its pupils. A special valedictory luncheon was held at the school to pay homage to these two respected members of staff.

Principal, Mrs Vat, said she would miss them both as colleagues and friends.

Mrs Howell arrived at NGHS in 1983 and was a relief teacher. Due to the shortage of Afrikaans teachers, the short period she intended to stay became two years.

After her daughter was born, she returned as a full time, permanent teacher in 1989 and later became subject head of Afrikaans, Head of Department for Grade 12 and deputy principal in 1999. "The greatest lesson I have learnt in teaching is that there are so many things we learn through working with children," said Howell. I have also learnt that you have to treat each child not only with respect but also as an individual; they all come from different backgrounds, circumstances and upbringings.

"I think I will be most proud when I leave NGHS, knowing that I was part of a great school, part of the discipline and the whole system and to know that whatever I did, I did with all my heart, that I have contributed to something I believe in and to have made a difference in the lives of other people.

"What I will miss most are the people," Howell said.

Mrs Ward, who headed the Consumer Studies department (formerly Housecraft), said she first taught at NGHS in 1971 for a six year stint and returned in 1993 and has been there since. "The greatest lesson I have learnt is that teachers are mothers, counsellors and teachers, all in one," said Ward. "In my teaching career, I am most proud when I hear from past pupils who are making a success of their lives and are still using information from their Consumer Studies and when I teach a second generation pupil. "I will miss the camaraderie of my colleagues."

Howell is looking forward to spending time with her husband and would like to travel, walk, and visit their children and really just chill together. And Ward is looking forward to spending more time with her family, will enjoy catching up with friends and will travel to the United Kingdom to visit her grandchildren.

