



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 5 June 2020

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

Quote:

“Optimism is the belief that things will get better. Hope is faith that, together, we can make things better. Optimism is a passive virtue; hope is an active one. It takes no courage to be an optimist, but it takes a great deal of courage to have hope” - Jonathan Sacks

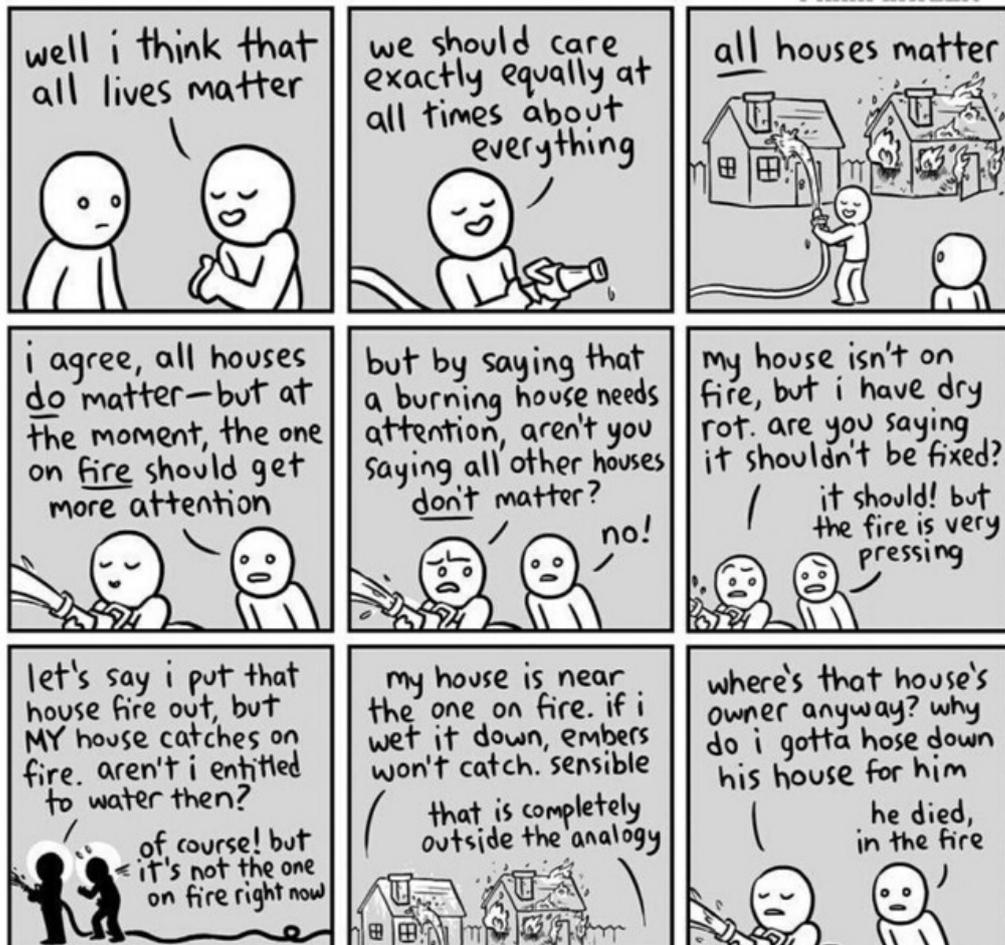
With the ongoing social awareness around the world, it would be remiss of us not to touch on the distressing racial and social issues flaring up across the world. Interestingly, a number of years ago, Graeme College was adamant to address certain issues and developed a more assertive approach going forwards. Two of those key imperatives included making sure that we are always a school where our learners feel heard, and also making sure all our learners always felt that they ‘belonged’ at Graeme College. That is such a loaded statement and is one that drives so many of our decisions and protocols. Especially in a country which has the past that we had; it is crucial to make sure we are always working on our own social development. So many organizations have posted quotes about the past and the future, and at Graeme we are always focussed on the present, aiming for the future, but never forgetting the past. Hopefully that is the recipe for becoming an even better school each day.

The sad and tragic death of George Floyd has highlighted so many ongoing issues, and in many cases reminded us of what still needs to be done in society. Even more urgent are the countless South African examples, that we need to focus on even more. I am going to follow the positive trend and focus on 'Unity is Strength'. Sadly, in times of awareness or

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protest, we can very easily and ironically move away from unity, and I found this cartoon shared on my social media, which explains 'unity is strength' quite nicely within this context:



The message is very powerful indeed. All lives and all houses matter, equally. But sometimes, we just need to focus on the one house that is 'burning' and which needs attention and care at any one point in time. And we hope our own community understands, appreciates and embraces this concept. And right now, our focus at Graeme needs to stay the course of making sure all our learners feel that they 'belong'. It is a lesson and a learning which is then developed into an analogy for South Africa. By starting that feeling in our own microcosm, we hope to develop and educate the future of South Africa to be even more tolerant and accepting of our incredibly stunning diversity. And right now, Graeme College is compassionately aware of social and racial anxieties across the world. And we in our own way, within our own community, will support this cause, and make sure our learners are educated appropriately. These learnings have never been more important than in society today. We do care for all houses equally at Graeme College, but right now our thoughts are obviously compassionate and caring for the movement following the death of Collins Khosa or maybe even more importantly, that of Uyinene Mrwetyana. It is not about a single person, but rather about our unity and the education, compassion and respect that needs to be developed every day within our community.

The goal, obviously, is to avoid having a community that is divided. In the world right now, we seem more divided than ever. I think Graeme College needs to make sure we take a lead with our learners and make sure we are always driving towards a feeling of 'Unity is Strength'. Always be driven with compassion and understanding, and always look to do good and not to create hurt and or harm. Let us stay positive, and let us keep improving our own community. But most of all, let us stay unified. Unity is strength.

Gregg van Molendorff
Deputy Headmaster

Update: Return to school- 8 June

Re: Reopening of Graeme College postponed to 8 June

Although Graeme College has more than met all the requirements and regulations to open, as was confirmed by the Health Department inspection and the Education Department's inspection, we agreed to wait for Monday 8 June as requested by the Department of Education.

It is important that we thank our incredible staff for all the hard work in the last few weeks in making sure that all relevant health and safety requirements were met.

To eliminate the anxiety of coming back to a school where the environment is somewhat different, we thought it would be a good idea to have an Orientation Day on Friday 5 June for both grade 7 and 12 learners. The Orientation Day will assist staff to guide and monitor the boys in this new learning environment.

We look forward to welcoming our young men back and we are convinced that the orientation day will put us in the perfect position to hit the ground running on Monday 8 June.

Please note that in the interim period, all online support will continue as per usual for all other grades. Work schedules will be emailed out, and notes will be made available as per the schedules printed in the newsletters. In the meantime our dedicated staff will use the remainder of the week to continue preparing for the arrival of learners. We will continue to communicate with regards to the start date of other grades.

Below are some photos of our Orientation Day held today, which was most successful.



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Academic

Update on Academic Work and Lockdown:

As indicated in communication with the Headmaster in letters to each grade, the high school staff continue to try and disseminate information to boys. WhatsApp groups have been formed for most classes in the high school and work is being updated on these groups. In order for this method of communication to be fully utilised, it does require your son's cell phone numbers being added to our database of numbers so that these can be accessed by staff in order that they might be added to the different WhatsApp groups. If anyone would still like their son to be added to the database, please can you send a message to Miss Kenyon (0732561483) with your son's name and surname, his grade and his cellphone number. This will then be communicated with staff.

Website update & academic progress

We are attaching a breakdown from teachers in specific areas to this newsletter email. Kindly refer to that document re: academic work that needs to be covered.

As mentioned last week, we have launched our new website and are currently getting it up to date.

The school has applied for our website to be zero rated allowing our boys to access information.

Follow the link below for e-learning and online resources:

<https://www.graemecollege.co.za/online-resources/>

Mr Wille has also created a Youtube channel solely devoted to Graeme College training Videos. This will allow him and others to upload videos for our students. This is not a channel to put links on to other Video channels but is designated for Graeme College created videos only.

Return of staff

Teachers have been practicing correct social distancing procedures in their planning meetings in their preparation for the return of students to school.



Mr Watson follows protocol too..



Finance

FEES AND OTHER CHARGES FOR 2020:

Full settlement of annual school fees on or before the first day of the school year, or entrance into school.

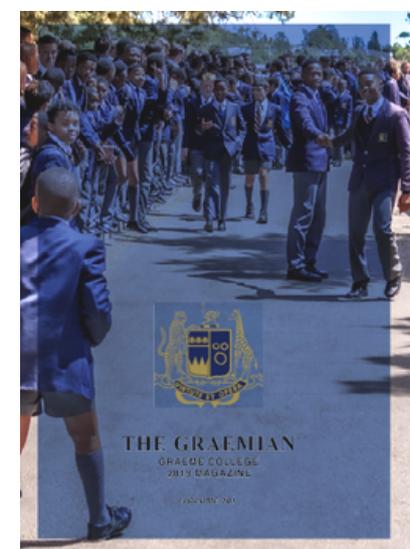
- Monthly payments per written request in January (of each year) to the School Bursar [R2 000 on first day of first term and balance in 10 [ten] equal monthly instalments at the start of each month [01 February – 01 November].
- Defaulters: Both biological parents / legal guardians are responsible for fees, irrespective of marital status. Non-payment of accounts will be dealt with as per School policy.

BANK DEPOSITS:

Please use your sons name and surname as the reference. Unfortunately, we are unable to credit your account if there is no reference to your son. We receive far too many references as “Graeme College, GJG, School Fees, etc”.

Kindly remember, there are 650 learners in the school and without the correct reference, it's impossible to allocate the fees to the correct account.

A big thank you to those who understand the financial implications of the current lockdown restrictions and who continue to pay their school fees monthly.



2019 School Magazine:

The school magazine is available to buy. School magazines fill an important niche in any school's culture. They are a window on the School's activities throughout the year and provide the most accessible historical record for the refreshing of memories.

This issue of The Graemian will find its way into the Grahamstown community, the surrounding areas and wherever Old Graemians have taken root, both in South Africa and overseas.

The purchase price of the 2019 Magazine is R150. For now, parents can pay via EFT using the learners name as the reference: Learners initial, surname and magazine. It will be ready for collection when school re-opens.

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Grade 00s

The Grade 00 boys have been very busy at home this week. Their project this week was to create a traffic light, with the correct colours and recite a traffic light poem they learnt.

Grade 00 Project

STOP SAYS THE RED LIGHT



GO SAYS THE GREEN LIGHT

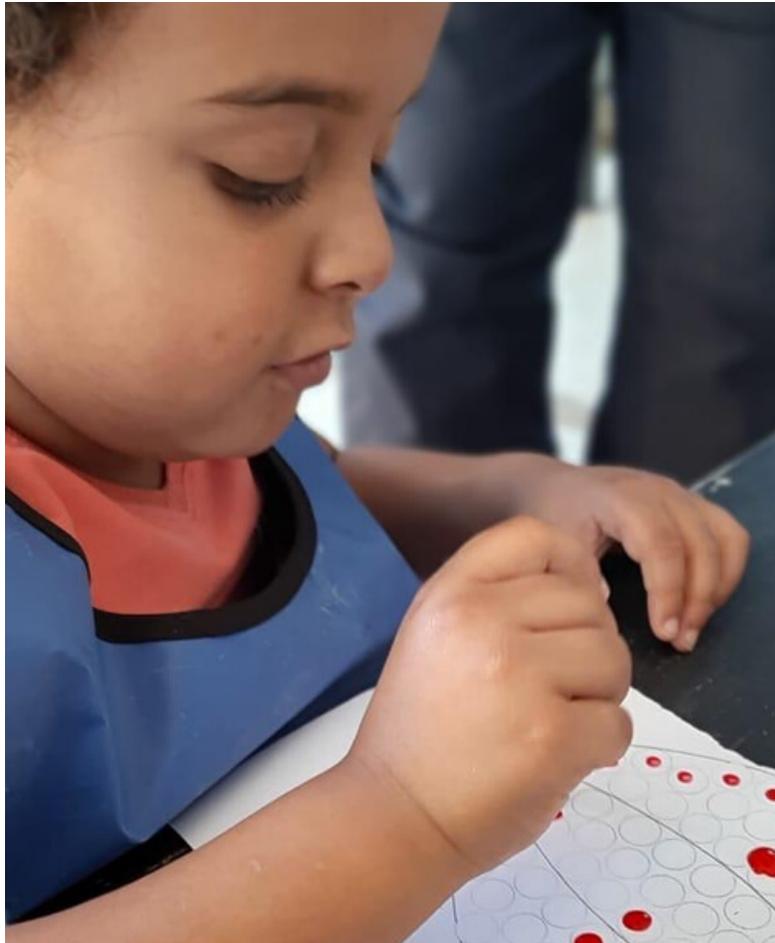


BE CAREFUL SAYS THE ORANGE LIGHT

WINKING IN BETWEEN

Grade 00s

The Grade 00 boys received their new distance learning packs this week and are enjoying them so very much!



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Grade 4s

The Grade 4 learners practiced making adverts this week. The advert was about a missing dog. Luckily no dogs were actually missing but the boys now know how to make adverts. Great jobs boys!



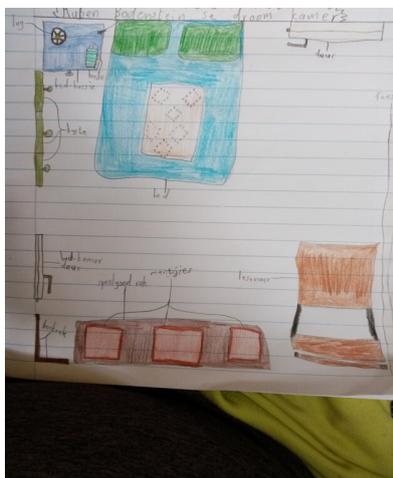
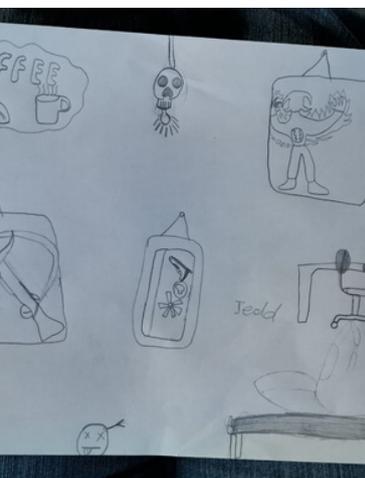
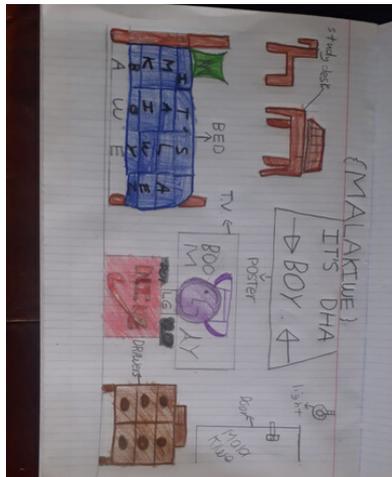
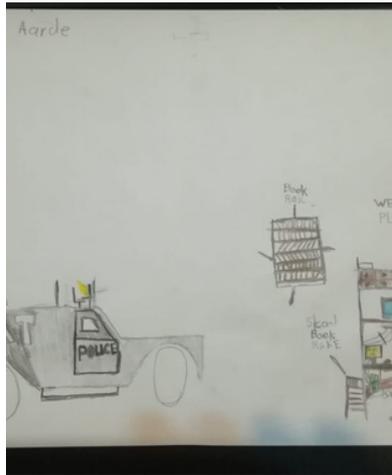
The Grade 4 learners also created some collages made with leaves for their Afrikaans 'diere' project.

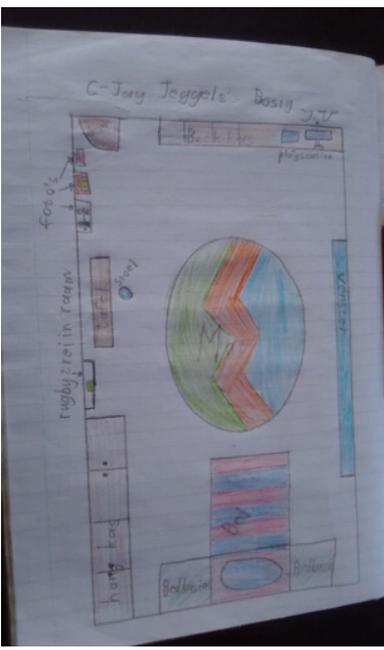
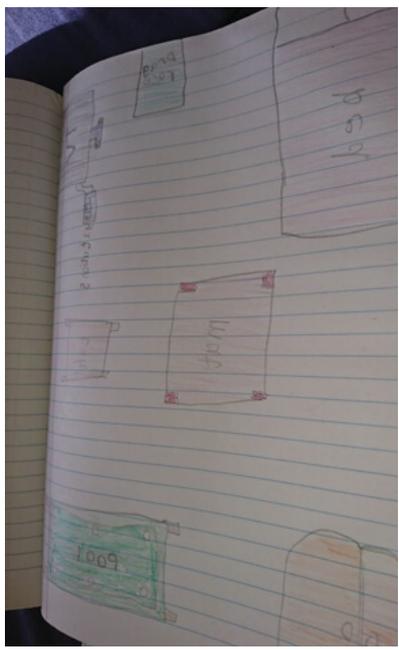
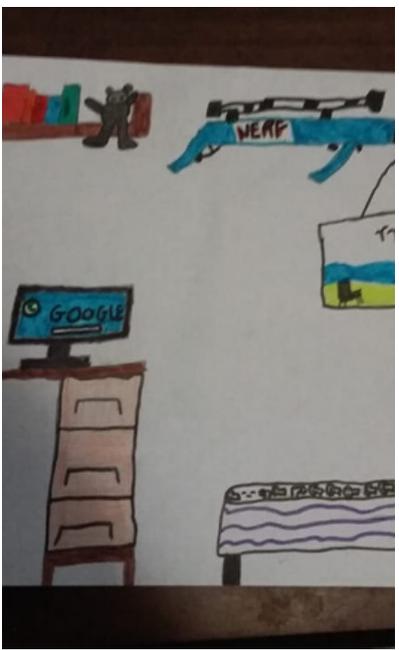
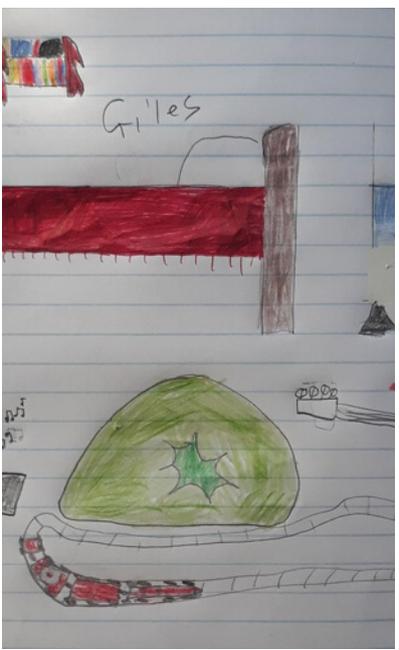


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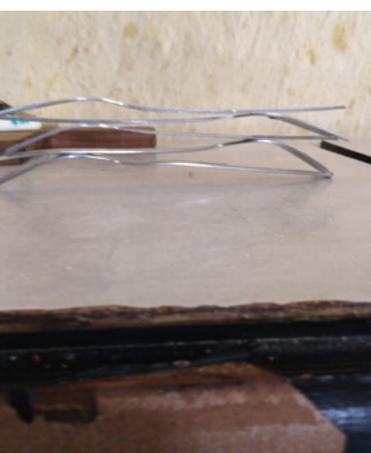
Grade 5s





Grade 7s

Grade 7s were challenged to balance a coin on a banknote, build a stack of forks and balance a can on its edge. Here are some of the photos of their challenges.

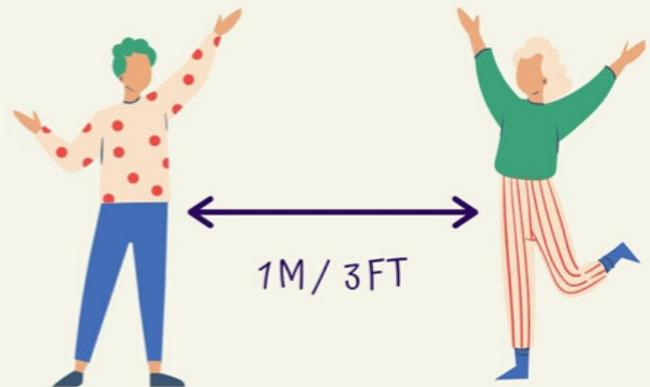


STOP THE SPREAD



WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.



MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.



AVOID TOUCHING EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH

Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth.



IF YOU HAVE A FEVER, COUGH AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING, SEEK MEDICAL CARE EARLY

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

Source: World Health Organization