



# Graeme College

*To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential*



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 12 June 2020

### Message from the Deputy Headmaster

Quote:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

~ Mark Twain

I have two thoughts regarding this week's newsletter. One is a very serious, and the other just the complete opposite.

So let's start with the serious stuff. I was incredibly privileged to join a video conference chat with Justin Langer, the current cricket coach of Australia. He spoke about a conversation he had recently, around the topic of leadership. This is appropriate for two reasons; the fact that we are currently discussing our own leadership structure and the secondly, because what Langer mentioned resonated so much within the current Graeme College context. He spoke about the origins coming from the term 'Leading' the 'Ship'. And suggested that when the ship is in any crisis, that is when it is crucial that the leaders stand up and take charge. It is always very easy being the captain of a ship in calm waters, but it is when there is an ice-berg in the way, or when there are rough waters ahead, that people start jumping overboard. That is when true leadership gets tested, and true leaders make a positive, significant and constructive difference. In the context of Covid and also just the process of returning to school, we have all been so thankful for Mr Watson's guidance and leadership. He has, without any doubt, risen to the occasion in this educational crisis. He has led from the front, and almost carried the burden single handedly. That's what great leaders do, and it is what we are very privileged to have at

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Graeme College. So often it is a thankless job, and I would like to pay homage in a small way, just recognising the incredible role that he has played during this process. I have no doubt that is also why Graeme College is in a healthy space right now.

My second part of the message is far less important and far more light hearted. At the risk of adding this to the newsletter for pure entertainment reasons... I have decided it might be the smile that we all need today. I came across this fun little piece of writing on social media recently and in the midst of our own conversations about our Foundation Phase starting soon, I couldn't resist including it here:

"A local school board is deciding whether or not to make foundation phase kids wear masks at school. This was one of the responses:

Here's how I think requiring masks might work in elementary.

Please don't snap Billy's mask in his face.

Your mask is not a necklace, bracelet, or any other form of jewelry.

You should not be using your mask as a slingshot. Please put it back on your face.

Please do not chew on your mask.

Your mask should be on your face, not on the back of your head

I'm sorry your mask is wet, but that's what happens when you lick the inside of it.

I'm sorry you sneezed. Here's a tissue. Wipe out the snot as well as you can.

No, you may not blow your nose in your mask.

Why is your mask soaking wet? You just came back from the bathroom?

And you put it back on your face after you dropped it?

I'm sorry you broke the elastic on your mask by seeing how far the band would stretch. Now you'll have to hold the mask on your face ... or use this duct tape.

Please take the mask off your eyes and watch where you're walking. I don't care if you have X-ray vision.

Please take the mask off of your pencil and stop twirling it.

I know the mask fits over your pants like a knee pad, but please take it off of your leg and put it on your face.

What do you mean you tried to eat your lunch through your mask?

Please don't share your mask or trade masks. I don't care if you like Ingrid's mask better than yours.

I'm sorry, but your mask is not school appropriate.

We're not comparing our masks to other kids' masks... everyone's mask is unique and special.

No, you may not decorate your mask instead of doing your work. I don't care if you have a Sharpie.

You're not a pirate, please take your mask off your eye.

Try to get the gum off as much as you can.

Please don't use your mask to pick your nose.

I'm sorry you tripped, but that's what happens when you put your feet inside the elastic of your mask.

No, your mask doesn't make it hard to get your work done.

Your Mom will need to get you a new mask since you chewed a hole in that one.

Why is there a shoe print on your mask?

No, you cannot eat the snow through your mask.

I don't care if you were in art class and being creative; we do not decorate our masks.

We do not beam other kids in the face with balls. No, their masks don't make it not hurt.

Please don't plug your nose holes with your mask.

Who's making that noise?

I'm sorry your ponytail is stuck, that's what happens when you see how many times you can wrap it around your mask.

I'm sorry to tell you, but your child thought her mask made her a superhero. She tried to fly off the jungle gym at recess ...

I'm sorry your breath stinks in your mask, maybe we should all try to brush better.

Please take those cookies out of your mask. No, you are not a chipmunk."

If that doesn't make you smile and chuckle, then lockdown has done some serious damage. I would just like everybody to take a moment, smile, and wish the Foundation Phase teachers good luck. We are planning an extensive orientation phase for them, which will assist the learners from Grade 0 to 1, to return gradually to normal school routines. And hence the wry smile, when I read this entertaining piece of writing. Have a great weekend. Stay safe.

Gregg van Molendorff

Deputy Headmaster

## DISTANCE LEARNING PACKS - Drive Through Pickup

The learning packs have proved successful and the high school staff would like to continue with these. These packs will go out every second week and will include hard copies of notes that boys doing distance learning will need to finish the year. Vehicles coming to collect packs will need to enter the school property via the Selborne Gate and exit via the Pool Gate. The collection time for each grade will be between 13h00 and 14h00. Please display the name of your son and his grade and class on a A4 piece of paper. Please note that face masks need to be worn at all times and that the social distancing rules will apply. Collection will be as follows:

DATE	GRADE
<b>Monday 15 June 2020</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>
<b>Wednesday 17 June 2020</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>
<b>Thursday 18 June 2020</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>
<b>Friday 19 June 2020</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>

## Update on Academic Work and Lockdown:

We are pleased to report that the Grade 12s and Grade 7s are back in the classroom and are learning to adjust to the new norms. This is fairly complicated as times have been shifted to make social distancing easier.

Please could you continue to enforce the ideas of distancing at home. Lockdown has eased, but still needs to be adhered to. People are still at risk and, as the other grades return, we need to make sure that we are behaving according to the protocols and guidelines.

In anticipation of the other grades returning to school, we need to thank our parents who ensure that their sons are on top of their work. The Grade 10s and 11s need to be mindful of staying up to date, as the date for return gets closer. We will continue to distribute work packs for Grades 8 - 11 and will keep posting the relevant work on the WhatsApp groups and on the schedule that goes out with Friday's newsletter.

# Website update & academic progress

Website Updates & Academic Progress We are attaching a breakdown from teachers in specific areas to this newsletter.

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. Follow the link below for e-learning and online resources:  
<https://www.graemecollege.co.za/online-resources/>

We are slowly but surely adding content. If you are a cricket supporter, have a look at an example of the new content: Also - now might be a good opportunity to download the Awsum app via your respective app/ play store. Graeme College will also send out information via that app which is also very interactive.

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.

## 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.

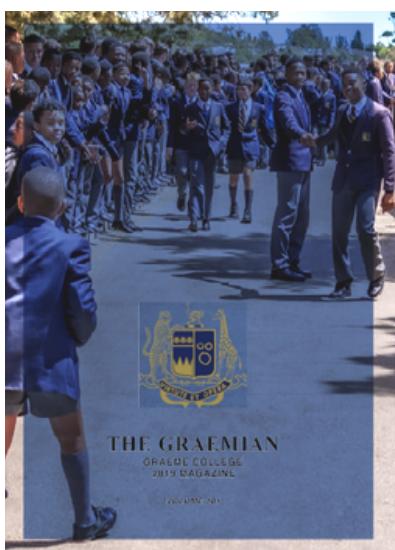
- Monthly payments per written request in January (of each year) to the School Bursar [R2 000 on first day of first term and balance in 10 [ten] equal monthly instalments at the start of each month [01 February – 01 November].
- Defaulters: Both biological parents / legal guardians are responsible for 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.

# Grade 00s

The Grade 00 boys have been very busy at home this week. Their project this week was to sign up their cars and count them all- they had so much fun doing this!

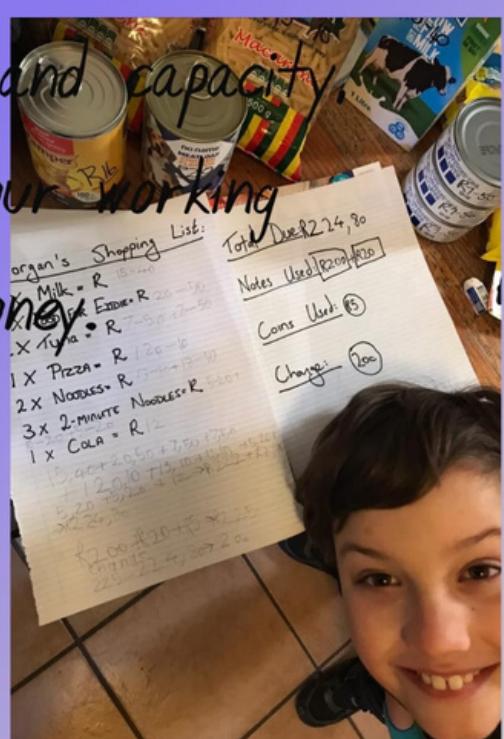
How many toy cars can you find?  
Can you build a car-train with them?

The collage features 15 individual photographs of young boys of various ethnicities, each playing with a long train of toy cars. The cars are mostly small, colorful racing models. The boys are shown in various indoor settings, including living rooms, bedrooms, and hallways. Some are kneeling or sitting on the floor, while others are standing. The photos are set against a light blue background that is framed by a decorative border of colorful race cars, each with a number from 1 to 10. The overall theme is playful and focused on early learning through a fun activity.

# Grade 3s

We are extremely proud of the grade threes. We have completed studying Insects and Life Cycles. Practical Maths continues to get us out of our seats. We've compared mass (g, kg) on products and have practised mapwork by following instructions.

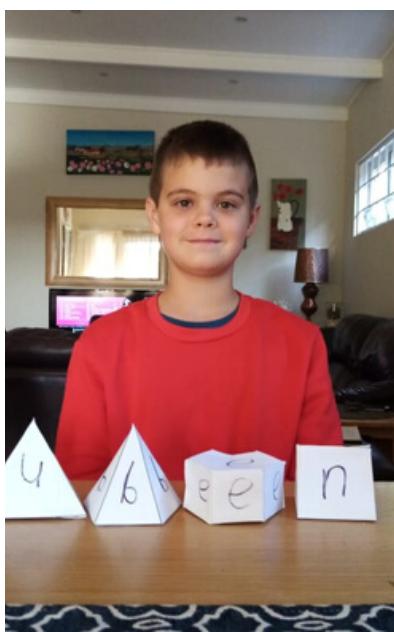




Fantastic Morgan!

# Grade 5s

The grade 5 boys learnt about shapes this week and had to fold the shapes provided.



# Grade 5s

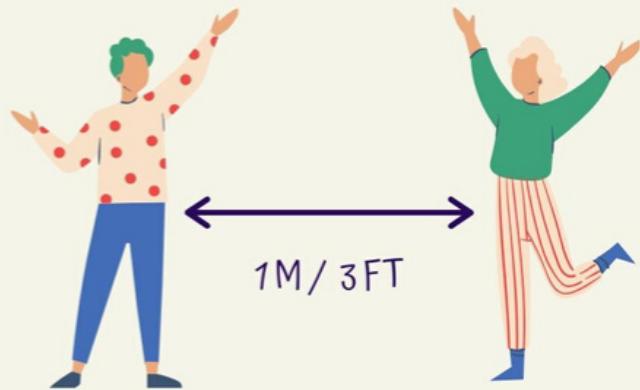


# STOP THE SPREAD



## 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