



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 10 July 2020

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

Quote:

“Semper aliquid novi Africam adferre” (There is always something new out of Africa). - Pliny the Elder
(Roman statesman and philosopher).

I am thrilled that there are now many more of these stories in South Africa, but it's one that I love sharing, and I hope you enjoy it. It is a feel-good South African story, with one of the most controversial and polarizing topics at the core. When the Grade 12s deal with Land Reform in their Geography syllabus each year, they probably don't quite realise how much tension surrounds the topic. I always try to share this story, just because of that 'feel good' notion, and use it as a positive case study within the complicated South African context.

During a Geography trip to Franschoek a number of years ago, I was privileged to meet Mark Solms, and listen to him tell his story. I am sure many people know the story, and have seen various articles or documentaries detailing his success. Solms is an incredibly charismatic man, and a storyteller that could rival the local 'Boet and Swaer'. I remember walking into a room at Solms Delta, where he was struggling to switch off the speakers, and laughed at himself saying 'the music just never stops on this farm'. After managing to get the audio system to cooperate, he then told his own story. Solms was a 6th generation farmland owner, who was a neuropsychologist by profession and employed by UCT as a Professor. He had left South Africa and returned post-apartheid, under the expectations of taking over the family farm. He had a plan which involved an idealistic approach to the 'new South Africa', and

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was going to use his farm as a microcosm for his own take on a social development programme. He found the going far more difficult than he anticipated. He described living within a 'feudal system' which meant that he somehow 'inherited a farm with seven families on it' - which sat very uncomfortably with him. He tried to discuss this with the families, who must have all thought he was crazy at the time. In fact, it was seen as a sign of weakness and led to decline across the farm in general, which included theft and damage to the farm. There was a poor work ethic and included a number of serious social issues amongst the people living on the farm.

His background in neuropsychology led him to an 'analysis' of the situation. He brought in archaeologists and historians in what he referred to as a 'Psychological Diagnosis' of the problem, which he could then 'treat'. This resulted in an epic South African story. He spoke about his own education while excavating tools and artefacts dating to the early bushman of the area. It became clear that his family were obviously not the original inhabitants of the land, and he faced a serious personal dilemma. He spoke about feeling a need to give the land back, but selfishly knew that he wouldn't be able to. Who could in that situation?

The families now working on the farm he owned, had ancestors who lived on the land much longer than his family had. This fact haunted him; never mind the fact that the house he had stayed in, was built by slaves centuries in the past. He then approached a neighbour and proposed a groundbreaking and revolutionary plan. Together the two farmers, using their own farms as collateral, purchased a third piece of land adjacent to their own. This formed what is now known as Solms Delta. The newly acquired land was given to the families living on the farms and they became instant partners in the winery. This started a slow but unstoppable road to success. A school was built out of the profits and along with education, standards of living soared. It did result in an eventual unparalleled success story, as the farm developed economically, and became a tourism hotspot, but more importantly, it became an incredible example of land reform in South Africa.

He speaks so passionately about the Jazz Band which is comprised of everybody living on the farm, and hence 'the music never stops'. There is no doubt that there is now a sense of ownership on the farm where everybody works together towards a common goal. And hence the economic success of the farm along with the story of social development.

I have copied two short links to this story, below and hope you enjoy them as much as I did. Any browser search will bring up countless articles and videos detailing the success of the farm as a Geography and South African case study of what can be done. See links below:

- Mark Solms - Ted Talk
- Solms Delta documentary clip

Both are very different video links, so do yourself a favour and watch them. Then add Solms Delta on to your family bucket list re holiday destinations.

G. van Molendorff

Academic:

Update on Grade 12s, Grade 11s and Grade 10s returning to school:

The Grade 12s are well into catching up the work that they need to and the date of their preliminary examinations is starting to get closer. Having the Grade 11s back has also allowed for them to acclimatise to the new way that things work. On Friday 3 July, the Grade 10s came in for their orientation meeting. This was a lot to absorb and they will need to be committed if they are to finish the year off well.

Grade 8 and 9 Learner Support Material

With the proposed date of returning being 27 July for the Grades 8s and 9s, it will be necessary, once again, to issue them with some additional material to work from. This will happen from 13 July. The collections will take place between 13h00 and 14h00 at the usual pick-up place. Please display your son's name and class clearly on an A4 piece of paper. Please note that masks must be worn at all times and that the social distancing norms will need to be obeyed. Collection will be as follows:

DATE	GRADE
Monday 13 July	9
Tuesday 14 July	8

Proposed phased in return to school including various grade orientation plans:

Grade 1

DAY	DATE	GRAD ES	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
MONDAY	13 July	1	07H50 - 08H10	12H00	½ CLASS	Classes divided into 2 groups in a 10 day cycle

Groups : Blue Group comes Monday, Wednesday, Friday during week one, with Gold Group coming Tuesday and Thursday; during the second week the Gold Group will come on the Friday.

Grade 2

DAY	DATE	GRAD ES	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
MONDAY	20 July	2	07H50 - 08H10	12H00	½ CLASS	Classes divided into 2 groups in a 10 day cycle

Groups : Blue Group comes Monday, Wednesday, Friday during week one, with Gold Group coming Tuesday and Thursday; during the second week the Gold Group will come on the Friday.

Grade 3

DAY	DATE	GRAD ES	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
WEDNESDAY	15 July	3	07H30 - 07h45	12H00	½ CLASS	Classes divided into 2 groups in a 10 day cycle

Groups : Blue Group comes Monday, Wednesday, Friday during week one, with Gold Group coming Tuesday and Thursday; during the second week the Gold Group will come on the Friday.

Grade 4

DAY	DATE	GRAD ES	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
MONDAY	20 July	4	07H45	12H00	½ CLASS	Classes divided into 2 groups in a 10 day cycle

Groups : Blue Group comes Monday, Wednesday, Friday during week one, with Gold Group coming Tuesday and Thursday; during the second week the Gold Group will come on the Friday.

Grade 5

DAY	DATE	GRADE	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
MONDAY	13 July	5	07H45	12H30	½ CLASS	Classes divided into 2 groups in a 10 day cycle

Groups : Blue Group comes Monday, Wednesday, Friday during week one, with Gold Group coming Tuesday and Thursday; during the second week the Gold Group will come on the Friday.

Grade 8 & 9

Start Orientation:

DAY	DATE	GRADE	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
MONDAY	27 July	8 & 9	08H20	13H05	½ CLASS	Classes divided into 2 groups in a 10 day cycle

Groups : Blue Group comes Monday, Wednesday, Friday during week one, with Gold Group coming Tuesday and Thursday; during the second week the Gold Group will come on the Friday.

Grade 10

Start Orientation:

DAY	DATE	GRADE	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
MONDAY	13 July	10	07H30	13H05	Groups	Learners divided according to class and attending on alternate days

Groups : Grade 10 MW will come to school on Monday, Wednesday, Friday during week one, with Grade 10VT coming Tuesday and Thursday; during the second week Grade 10VT will come on the Friday. Practical art lessons will take place at the art school on “off” days.

Uniform changes (from 29 June onwards):

- Full school uniforms will be worn on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Full school tracksuit will be worn on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Campus Facilities:

- Unfortunately, a reminder that all campus facilities are off limits/ out of bounds to our community members; as per the state regulations.
- Mr Watson has allowed affiliated coaches and staff to use various facilities, adhering to strict protocols which are busy being established depending on the facility.
- Sadly, this is very much out of our control, and in the meantime we are going to ask parents to be patient, as we work through the logistics of this.
- Slowly but surely the Graeme staff, will get our learners involved in activities that will have very strict social distancing and sanitization procedures.

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- The safety of our learners and community members is always our priority.

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Website update & 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/>

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.

The Department has released the list of websites that are zero-rated. Zero rating means that the person visiting the site does not use any data to view or download documents.

The full zero-rated list is available at <https://bit.ly/zeroratedsites>.

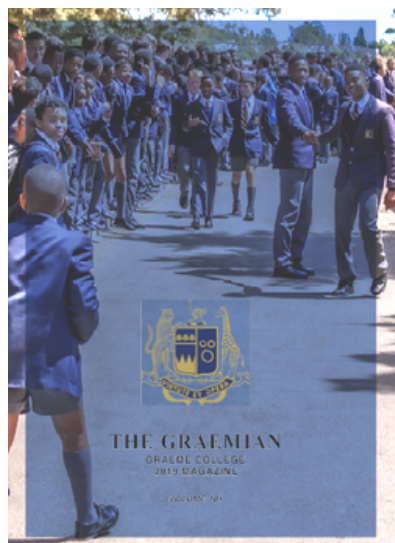
Finance

Internet payments- please note

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 7s

Below are the 'Champion's League Top 10 Academic Performers'.



Champions League Top 10 prizewinners:

isiXhosa

1. Dini Mjuku
2. Lwandle Dlamini
3. Aya Bill
4. Lungako George
5. Bukhosi Nongauza

Best effort:

Oko Figlan
Sibabalwe Nqoto

Afrikaans:

1. Cullen Goliath
2. Christian Niesing
3. Ryan Stobbs
4. Ajay Jeggels
5. Duncan McLeod

Best effort:

Joy Mukenge
Andrew Isaacs

Grade 7s



The Grade 7 'Wall of Fame' Challenge is underway. 1 challenge per term = 3 challenges. Succeed in 1 challenge and get your name up on the classroom wall.

Succeed in all 3 and your name stays up on the wall until you are old and grey!

Challenge 1 - learn the names of every country in Africa.

Challenge dates:

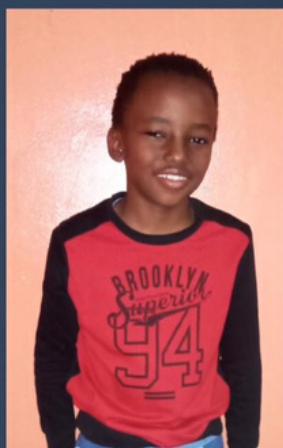
A groups - Monday 20 July

B groups - Friday 17 July.

Don't back down - take up the challenge!

Grade 4s

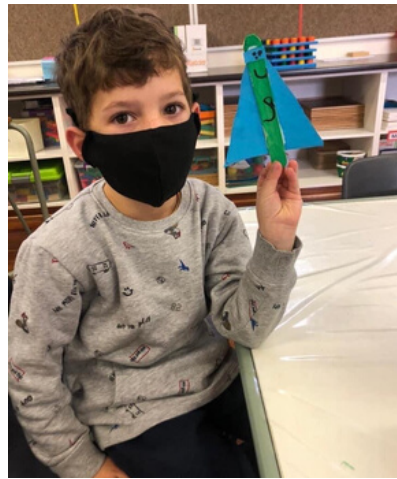
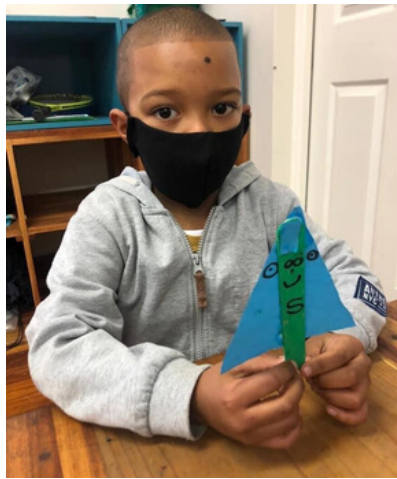
Grade 4 'Lockdown Notch Kings'



The Grade 4 learners have continued to receive Notches throughout Lockdown. Notches are awarded for good behaviour, improvements in marks, good results and for just being a true Graemian by going out of your way for someone. Well done to these learners who received many notches for their brilliant work and for them to keep record of all their Notches.

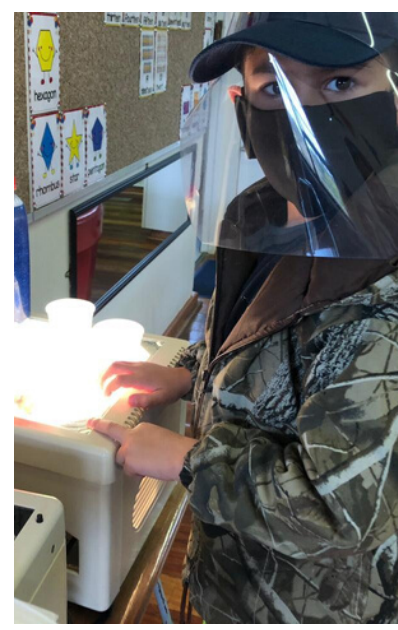
Grade Rs

The Grade R boys enjoyed their very first week back and already are enthused about all their new learning projects.



Grade 00s

The Grade 00 boys were so excited to be back this week. They had so much fun being back in the classroom and learning about numbers- they even practiced writing numbers in whipped cream!



Grade 5s

The Grade 5 boys did some poetry this week and here are a few of their poems.

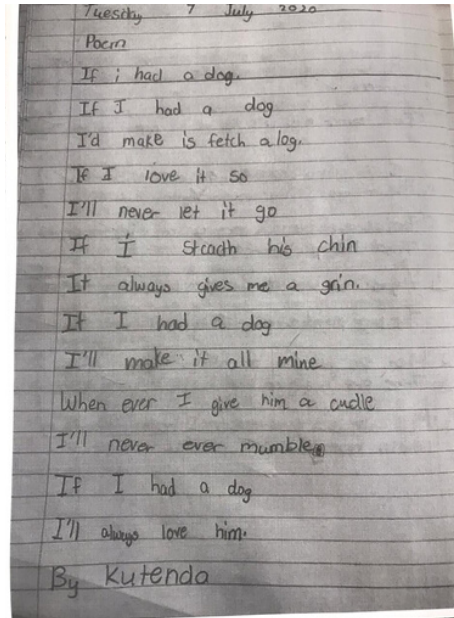
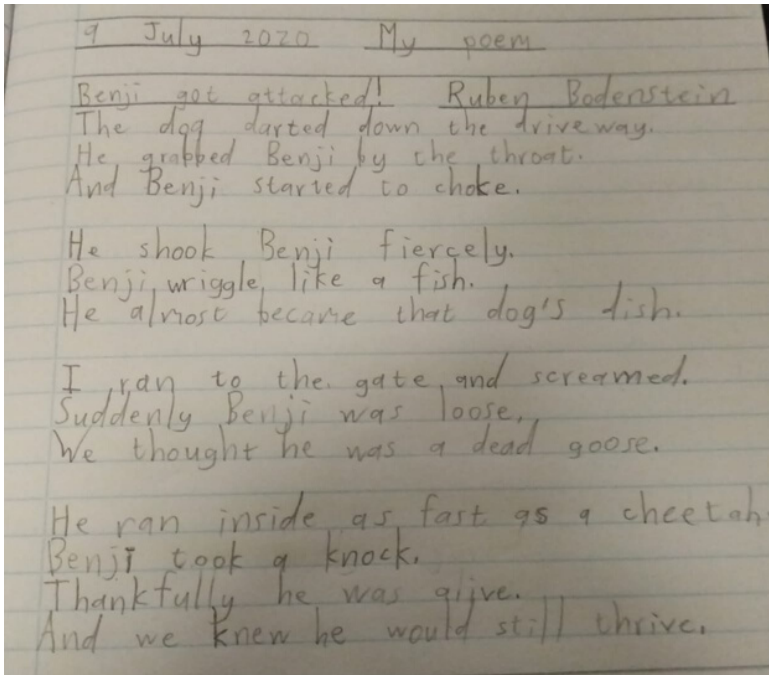
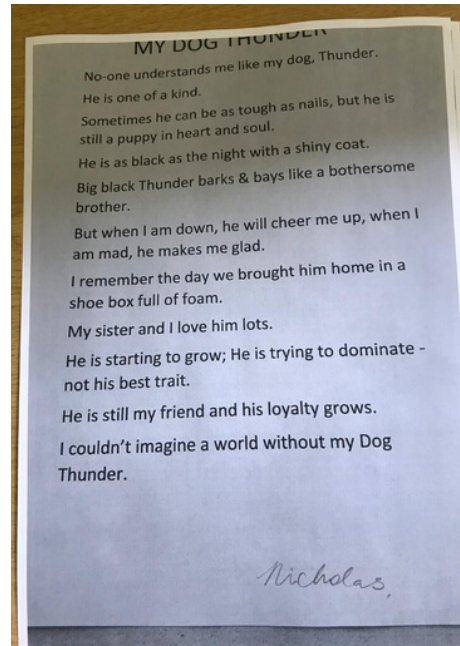
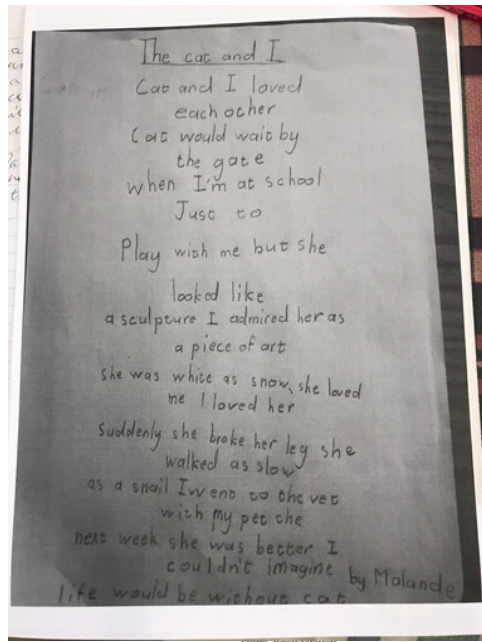
Shark pups in rock pools

The rocks were slippery
at the beach
Rock pools alive with animals
Shark pups! Three of them

One spotted gully shark
camouflaged like a cheetah
scared like a child
hiding like a chameleon

Two pyjama shy sharks
circling the rock pool
skin like soft sandpaper
slow and calm

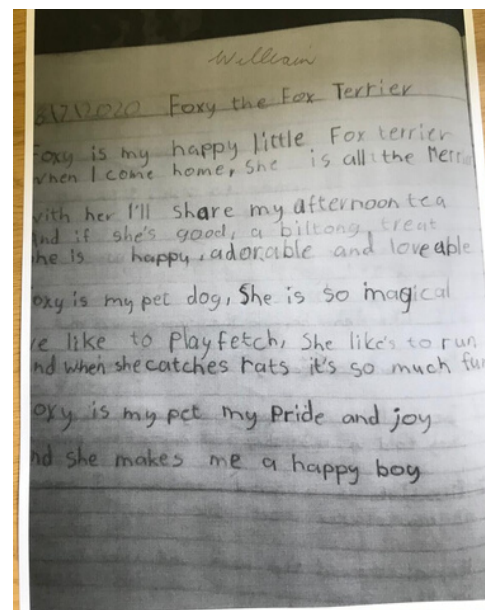
Oh, the joy I felt
joining their swim
in their watery nursery
pups in a pool



Because of covid 19 we are in quarantine Its a breeze

To cover your mouth when you sneeze
Don't hesitate
To isolate
Be wise
And make sure to sanitize
Corona is mean
So try to stay clean

By Zuko Duma

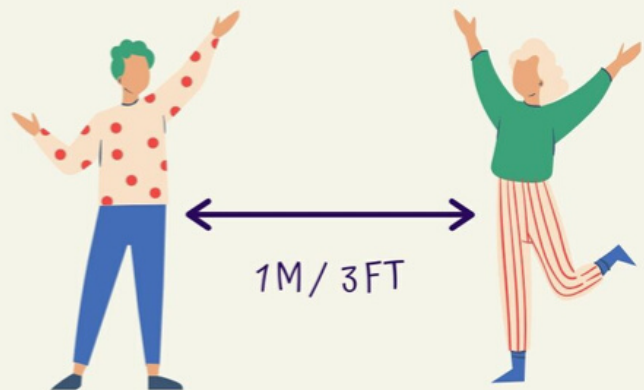


STOP THE SPREAD



WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY

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



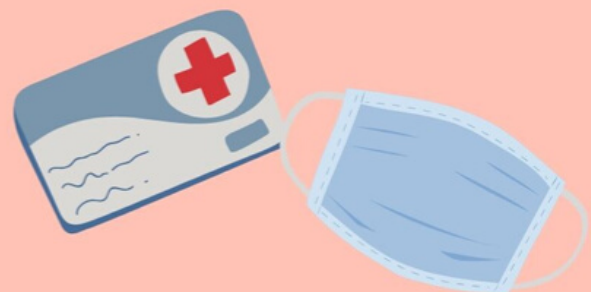
MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

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