



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 24 July 2020

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

Quote:

“Fall in love with the process of becoming the very best version of yourself.” - Anonymous

I read a stunning message this week, and knew I had to share it with our Graeme College community, but hoping many of you have seen it already. Community... a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. Our school, our town, our country - we all have so much in common. Our country, if not our world seems much more divided now than ever, and maybe small things will help bring us back together. The message was as follows:

“I asked one of my friends who has crossed 50 and is heading to 60 what sort of change he is feeling in him? He sent me the following very interesting lines, which I would like to share with you...

- 1) After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children, my friends, now I have started loving myself.
- 2) I just realised that I am not “Atlas”. The world does not rest on my shoulders.
- 3) I now stopped bargaining with vegetables & fruits vendors. A few Rands more is not going to burn a hole in my

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pocket but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.

- 4) I pay the petrol attendant a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to his face. He is toiling much harder for a living than me.
- 5) I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. The story makes them walk down the memory lane & relive the past.
- 6) I have learnt not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.
- 7) I give compliments freely and generously. Compliments are mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me.
- 8) I have learnt not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.
- 9) I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.
- 10) I remain cool when someone plays dirty politics to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.
- 11) I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.
- 12) I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof whereas with relationships I will never be alone.
- 13) I have learnt to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.
- 14) I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself.

I decided to send this to all my friends. Why do we have to wait to be in our 50 or 60 why can't we practice this at any stage and age..."

Straight away, a number of those learnings stood out to me. I am not sure if you call them challenges, goals or maybe just lessons to admire. On reading this viral message, I immediately made decisions and some seemed non-negotiable. Some are obviously far more difficult to fully embrace. But the points listed are all powerful words to inspire a community. "Why do we have to wait to be in our 50s or 60s... why can't we practice this at any stage and age..." Can you just imagine our community if everybody managed to live a few of these thoughts everyday, nevermind all of them. It inspired me, and I hope it does the same for some of the many people reading this newsletter. We all aspire to be better people; to be the best version of who we are. Well, let's start right here. Choose a number; maybe choose a few... and let us see what happens. Right now though, I am just going to take this advice from somebody who is clearly wiser and more experienced about life, than I am. It is true what they say though, you can be inspired by outside influences, and true motivation needs to come from within yourself.

G van Molendorff



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24 July 2020

Dear Parents /Guardians

Re: Update from President's Announcement

The announcement by the President on 23 July 2020 with regard to the closure of schools from 27 July to 24 August provides clarity on a number of issues, but also gives rise to many uncertainties. The latest facts are:

- * Schools will close for a period of "four weeks".
- * Gr 12's for only one week and return on 3 August .
- * Gr 7's for two weeks and return on 11 August, owing to 10 August being a public holiday.
- * Gr 00 & R return on 17 August.
- * All other grades return on 24 August.

Academic packs will once again be available for collection on the following days:

05 August 2020 (13h00-14h00) - Gr 00 - 03
11 August 2020 (13h00-14h00) - Gr 04 - 08
12 August 2020 (13h00-14h00) - Gr 09 - 11

With the Grade 12s returning on 3 August, it should still be possible to commence with the trial examinations in August and NSC final examinations on 06 November 2020. There is a lot of confusion around the overflow of the academic year into 2021, which has definite implications for the enrollment of Gr 1's and Gr 8's.

The traditional start up during January 2021 will have to be amended in terms of an adjusted 2021 school calendar. This period of school closure implies that the school calendar for 2020, with specific reference to the proposed school holiday from 24 September to 02 October, will in all probability have to be adjusted. With regards to boarding, the Grade 12's and 7's will be returning on 02 August and 10 August respectively. The peak of infections is still on its way and following the advice of the WHO, Graeme College will follow a balanced approach to any decision making process.

Yours sincerely

Mr Kevin Watson
Headmaster

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

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.

Elephant Cup Donation



Brent Emslie hands over a footpedal sanitizer to Mr Watson as part of the Covid-19 Outreach programme from Elephant Cup.

Awards Assembly

There was an interesting and unusual awards ceremony under Covid protocols today. We decided to separate the grades into their teaching venues and then Zoom a feed to the other learners, while the Grade 12s gathered (spaciously) to celebrate their peers in the Junior Quad.

The highlight of the day was a re-award for Joshua Pamphilon's swimming Honours Award, and two new Cricket Honours Awards to Garwin Dampies and Sonwabile Tshona.

Full Colours were also awarded to Garwin Dampies and Tinashe Gomo for tennis.



Honours Awards

Sonwabile Tshona - Honours Award Citation

“Sonwabile has not been at Graeme College very long, and hence this award is even more impressive. He has captained the 1st XI in 2020, and has taken his own game to a new level with this added responsibility. He has had countless match winning performances, and he has also led his team to the CSA T20 Finals in March this year. That in itself is an absolutely incredible achievement for our 1st XI.

Sonwabile was selected into the EP u17 team in 2018, and then into the EP u19 side in 2019. And there is no doubt that we would obviously have been included into the u19 team in 2020. He was also selected in the Warriors Cubs team earlier this year, after consistent performances for Graeme College and Eastern Province. People often refer to great all-rounders as being able to make a team as a bowler or a batsman. The reality is that you can probably count them on one hand when you refer to international cricketers. Sonwabile is incredibly respected as both a batsman and a bowler in South Africa and he would easily be selected into the EP u19 side as either. As a batsman, it did not take him long to record his first century for Graeme in September 2019, and has always led from the front in the bowling attack. It is with much sadness that it appears that we will lose so much school sport this year, and won't be able to see Sonwabile dominate in his final term at Graeme. It is also with much sadness that the provincial cricket weeks have also been cancelled this year. The 1st XI was going to be thoroughly tested in the September holidays, playing against the best cricket schools in the country, where Sonwabile would as usual, stand up and make the difference in a young 1st XI. His stubborn, disciplined and gritty match-winning innings against Kingswood on Gane Field, is one that probably will go down as one of the most significant for him and for me as a coach.

In his short time at Graeme, Sonwabile has scored 759 runs, and taken 36 wickets at an incredible bowling average of 18.6. He joins the Graeme College elite, as we award him the highest award possible; Honours for his achievements on the cricket field.”



Honours Awards

Garwin Dampies - Honours Award Citation

“It is with much sadness that it appears we will lose so much school sport this year, and we won't be able to see Garwin dominate in his final term at Graeme. It is such a pity that Garwin won't be tested against the best cricket schools in South Africa in September this year, because it is where he would possibly have made a great statement with regards to EP u19 selection. Garwin represented the EP u15 team in his Grade 8 and 9 year, which is a significant achievement. He went on to be selected into the EP u17 side in 2019, where he performed admirably. He is the only player to represent Graeme College at two CSA T20 Final tournaments, and was obviously crucial in the team reaching that achievement earlier this year.

Garwin has been a key member of the Graeme College 1st XI, during a period where we have played a lot more cricket than previously. In fact, if we did continue to play later this year, he would go on to become the highest capped cricketer in Graeme College's history. As it stands now, he is only the fourth cricketer to ever represent the College on more than 100 occasions and currently sits on 105 caps. He has scored 1875 runs and also taken 63 wickets for the 1st XI. In a young 1st XI, we needed him to stand up and be counted this season and he responded brilliantly. In a remarkable weekend, he scored a century against Kingswood in a T20 match on the Friday night, and then followed that up with another century the next morning against St Andrews on Lower Field. I am not sure that this particular achievement will be matched any time soon. He was also part of the 1st XI when Graeme won the Shaw/ Brown T20 Trophy for the first time.

Garwin will no doubt feel robbed if we don't play any cricket this year, but his name will always be recorded as one of the elite cricketers at Graeme College. It is with much pride that the College bestows its highest award on him today; that being Honours for his achievements on the cricket field.”



Grade 4s



Welcome back Grade Fours!



Request for frames

Graeme College are in the process of decorating the junior school corridors. We have the last 15 years of u13A cricket and rugby, but we would love to frame them.

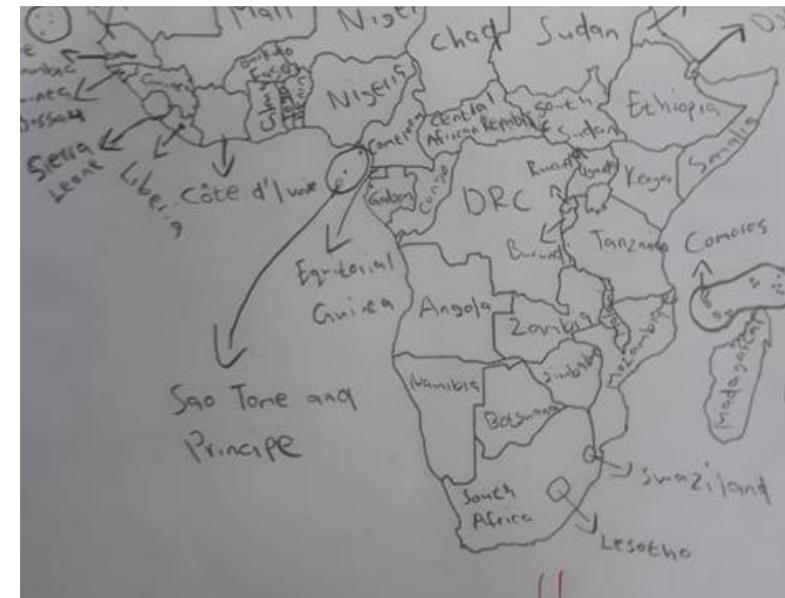
If anyone has any unwanted frames that they would like to donate to the school, we would be very appreciative.

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Grade 7s

We have our first 2 'Grade 7 Wall of Famers'! The challenge (which was voluntary) was to learn EVERY country on the African continent. Well done to Cullen Goliath and Noah Tabensky for showing the way to the rest of the grade, a fantastic effort boys. There are another 3 boys who are knocking on the door - who we expect to see becoming 'Famers' when we return to school.



This week's Grade 7 Top 10 'Champions League' from left to right:
 Chris Long, Cullen Goliath, Ajay Jeggels, Bene Msindo, Noah Tabensky, Leon Mwepu, Damien Swart, Aya Bill.
 Absent: Duncan McLeod, Dini Mjuku and Sibabalwe Nqoto
 Absent: Ali Rizvi, Matthew Koopman

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