



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 14 August 2020

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

Quote:

“One of the most amazing things about elephants mourning in the wild is their ability to grieve hard, but then truly, unequivocally, let go. Humans can't seem to do that. I've always thought it's because of religion. We expect to see our loved ones again in the next life, whatever that might be. Elephants don't have that hope, only the memories of this life. Maybe that's why it is easier for them to move on.” - Jodi Picoult

It is easy to get caught up in the negativity that has enveloped our society in 2020. So I am going to share one of those epic 'feel-good' stories, to remind us what society should be and what humanity is all about in a normal year. It is just a reminder that we aren't the only species on the planet that cares. It is well documented that elephants mourn the loss of their own loved ones, but the story around Laurence Anthony's passing in 2012, is a very unique and special one. A YouTube link to the story can be found at the bottom of this newsletter message.

Roughly twenty years ago, a herd of wild elephants went rogue in Zululand. They created havoc as they destroyed and escaped from every enclosure they were isolated in. This obviously infuriated the communities where they were located, and eventually Laurence Anthony was asked to place them inside his game reserve. Fearing that they might be killed if he declined, he agreed to take them in. Obviously the elephants were wild and therefore had a natural fear of humans. They were scared and confused in their new environment and to compound the issue, their matriarch had just been killed.

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They did break through the electric fences on numerous occasions, which put them in danger of being killed outside the reserve territory. With hunters ready outside the perimeter, Anthony, out of pure desperation, started to verbally plead out loud with the elephants from the fence. Obviously knowing that the animals wouldn't understand him, he was still hoping that his body language and tone would work. Every night, the elephants seemed to prepare to escape, where he would be waiting and pleading with them. To everybody's surprise the tactic worked and the elephants became calmer. The elephants bonded with Anthony and they eventually accepted the reserve as their new home. The legendary story resulted in Anthony being dubbed the 'Elephant Whisperer'. And in the years that followed, he seemed to be accepted as part of their family. Sadly, 13 years later he passed away, which led to the most epic surprise. The herd of elephants arrived at the house that Anthony and his wife shared, despite the elephants not having been there in years. This would have been a trip which took hours to walk. The majestic animals stood around the house for two days in an apparent wake. Seemingly grieving a man, who had saved them and given them a safe home. They did end up heading back into the bush, and it is obviously unknown how they could have possibly known that he had passed, but they obviously embraced this incredible man as one of their own. It is just a gentle reminder of the incredible and beautiful world that we live in.

Youtube link - Elephant Whisperer

G. van Molendorff

Academic

HIGH SCHOOL PROCEDURES FOR THE WEEK STARTING 17 AUGUST 2020

From next week Grades 8, 9, 11 and 12 are all at school. The Grades 9s, 11s and 12s will follow the timetables that they already have. They will follow the same screening procedures as well. The Grade 12s report to the junior quad at 07h30. The Grade 8s and 9s report to the senior quad on the given days at 08h20. The Grade 11s report to the senior quad at 10h15. The procedure for the Grade 8s on Monday and Tuesday will be as follows:

- The Grade 8s will have their screening procedure done outside their allocated class every day. On the first day back however, they will be expected to meet in the senior quad at 08h15. Here they will be screened and the procedures will be explained.
- On Monday 17 August, Grade 8JvM will be expected to return to school. On that morning an orientation programme will be held for those boys and they will receive a pack that contains their timetable and mask.
- On Tuesday 18 August Grade 8MP will be expected to be at school. Similarly, they will attend their own orientation and receive their pack.
- The Grade 8s will follow the timetable that was sent out with the previous newsletter.
- Full school uniform is to be worn on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. School tracksuit is to be worn on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please note that from Monday 17 August, Grade 9SA and Grade 8JvM will come to school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during week one. Grade 9PdL and Grade 8MP will come to school on Tuesday and Thursday and on the Friday of the second week of their return.

- Uniform at school 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.
- 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.

Grant House



Grant House

Exclusive boarding facility to Graeme College (est 1873) now has limited places for 2021. Apply now to avoid disappointment.



Grant House hostel (est 1975) prides itself on providing a safe and nurturing environment that caters for boys from Grade 4-12. With access to all that Graeme College has to offer, as well as having its own facilities, Grant House enables young men to make the most of their future.

Enquiries: m.pretorius@graemecollege.co.za

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.



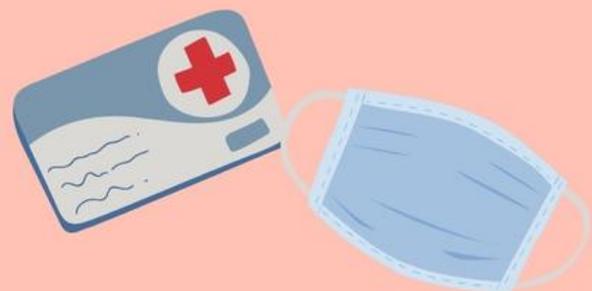
MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

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