



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 6 November 2020

Quote:

“Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.” - — Helen Keller, *The Open Door*

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

Our community was rocked by the tragic passing of an Old Grameian recently; of course, all our thoughts and prayers are with his family. A colleague also had to say good-bye to a very dear family friend recently as well. When I read this extract, I knew that I needed to share it with them and our community. As always, I searched for the origins, and sadly, found the emotive story behind it wasn't that accurate. I am referring to the poem written by the Cranky Old Man. I was probably a little disappointed to discover that it was actually written by a nurse more than 50 years ago. Although the original is equally as powerful and emotive as the edited version. The Sunday Post explains the origins more accurately:

“The deeply moving poem is a plea by an elderly patient to a nurse. It urges the carer to see beyond the frail and confused old person before them and to consider the life they've lived, full of hopes and dreams, triumphs and tragedies. The version of its origin doing the global rounds on online social networking sites claims the poem was left behind by an old man who died in a nursing home in a rural Australian town. The story goes that the elderly gent passed away leaving nothing of value. While clearing possessions from his locker, staff came across the work on a scrap of paper. They were so impressed they had copies made, and thus the poem gradually came to the world's attention. It's a nice story but completely false. The original poem was called *Look Closer* and was about a crabbit old

woman obviously for an international audience the guid Scots word “crabbit” had to go. It was written by a Montrose nurse, Phyllis McCormack, in 1966.”

It is a stunning poem. I am sure it is a poem that many of our newsletter readers have seen, but maybe some would not have seen the original. It is just the most amazing piece of writing - so please allow me to share it again. And allow me to share the original version in this newsletter - but please feel free to read the edited social media version here:

'Cranky Old Man' - edited social media version

LOOK CLOSER (The Cranky Old Man) - the original version.

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?
What are you thinking, when you look at me,
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,
Who, quite unresisting, lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding the long day to fill.
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I move at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of 10 with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters, who loved one another.
A bride now at 20 my heart gives a leap,
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
At 25 now I have young of my own,
Who need me to build a secure happy home,
At 50 once more babies play around my knee,
Again we know children, my loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,
I look at the future, I shudder with dread,
For my young are all busy with young of their own,
And I think of the years and the love that I've known.
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart,
There is now a stone where I once had a heart,
But inside this old carcass, a young girl still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,
And I'm loving and living life over again,
I think of the years all too few gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, nurse, open and see,
Not a crabbit old woman, look closer see ME.

I read this and immediately thought of the loved ones that I have lost and what some of their final thoughts were. Sometimes we need to be careful of letting the elderly slip away without the respect and love that they deserve. More importantly, do we celebrate the incredible lives that they have lived, and the role that played in our own lives? The 'younger generation' sometimes struggle to respect what has come before them and this is just one reminder to always respect and appreciate the elderly among us. The one thing that this year has taught us all, is that life is fragile.

I would love to do a poetry lesson, and try to discuss the power of the imagery within this poem. But of course, a poem means something different to each person reading it. So please, take your time reading it, and just marvel in the emotive message behind it.

G van Molendorff

A.G.M. & SGB 2021 BUDGET MEETING

Parents are cordially invited to attend the above meeting in the Templeton Hall at 17h30 on Tuesday 17 November 2020. Please note:

The audited Annual Financial Statements for 2019 and summaries of the School budget for 2021 will be available for inspection 14 days prior to the budget meeting (please make an appointment with the finance office in this regard).

Library times

As from next term the library will be open at first break only, every day. If you would like your son to study in the library in the afternoons, you need to write a letter to the school (Mrs Strutt) to get permission. Thank you for your cooperation.

Junior School Academic Performance in Term 3

A hearty congratulations to the following boys for their academic performance during Term 3. Included below are the Top 10 performers in each grade as well as those boys who worked really hard to achieve their best possible results.

Grade 4

Top 10

1. Connor Holder
2. Gino O'Brien
3. Aidan Lensley
4. Anesipho Mraji
5. James Muir
6. Avuzwa Sotomela
7. Yiva Dyira
8. Mawande Mayalo
9. Daniel Czeredrecki-Schmidt
10. Avuyisiwe Mnandi/Rory Robertson

Best Effort

1. Jayden Conroy
2. Tylo Bridger
3. Iyazi Zwedala
4. Tyler Bouwer
5. Likuthi Mtise
6. Bukho Munyadzwe
7. Emmett Sias

Grade 5

Top 10

1. Kits McConnachie
2. Ruben Bodenstein
3. Blake de la Mare
4. Keyaan Goliath
5. Ibenam Butana
6. Mbulelo Gama
7. C-Jay Jeggels
8. Jedd Youthed
9. Nicholas Cock
10. Kutenda Chinomona

Best Effort

1. Tristan Boy
2. Sizo Klaas
3. Cartial Ngala
4. Morgan Prevec
5. Atilu Sideba
6. Ewan Bradfield
7. Connor Richardson

Grade 6

Top 10

1. Andrew Muir
2. Lwakhe Nxози
3. Leroy Adriaan
4. Jayden Brits
5. Rikus Pieterse
6. Ethan Mostert
7. Cian Keulder
8. Iviwe Mshubeki
9. Rhys Wiblin
10. Liam Bodill

Best Effort

1. Heinrich Bouwer
2. Cairis Appollis
3. Caden Sickie
4. Hendrik Myburgh
5. Ahlumile Maqungu
6. Inika Pantsi
7. Luphelo Mdyesha

Grade 7

Top 10

1. Cullen Goliath
2. Nick McKeown
3. Noah Tabensky
4. Leon Mwepu
5. Jesse McConnachie
6. Damien Swart
7. Aya Bill
8. Christian Niesing
9. Ali Rizvi
10. Jethro Visagie

Best Effort

1. Jaycie Pieterse
2. Oko Figlan
3. Okuhle Madinda
4. Duncan McLeod
5. Lwandle Dlamini
6. Lungako George
7. Joy Mukenge

Music

Xolisa Foley, a grade 11 Graemian, has been installed as head chorister at the Cathedral. He is taking over from Nzulu Nzwana, another Graemian in matric. We are very proud of Xolisa and wish him all the best at the cathedral!



The school magazine is a historical document of the growth of the school. It informs the future generation of students about the traditions built up of their school and is the window to the activities of the school.

The 2019 Graeme College school magazine is available to buy for R150.00

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.

Eco Brick Project

A big thank you to the boys, parents and staff who are so diligently donating bottles, plastic and foil to fill the 2 liter bottles and help us support the Eco Brick Project. We are on 130 bricks to date. Please continue sending the material to get us to our target of 150 by the end of the term. One of the aims of this project is to raise awareness of the effects of plastic pollution and the effects it is having on our planet - we want to make a difference! As we are going into exam time now, the Grant House boys' focus will be shifting to their books! We will be continuing this project in 2021 as we are looking to do something special for the community along with Dr Trevor Davies and The Grahamstown Project.



Grade 3s

These grade threes are investigating products from plants and brought these to display.



Elephant Cup Invitational Golf Day

The 16th edition of the Elephant Cup Invitational, held at the Belmont Golf Course, took place on Friday the 6th of November 2020. There was some great golfing followed by a prize giving and auction. Graeme College is one of the beneficiaries of this golf day. The Graeme College staff also participated and had their own fourball and came 8th out of 24 teams. More photos to follow in next week's newsletter.



Grade 00 and Grade Rs

The Grade 00 and R classes held a pajama and movie day this week. The children came to school dressed in their cozy pajamas and along with their favourite movie snacks and popcorn too, they got comfortable and together watched a movie. Even the teachers dressed up too!



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Grade 00 and Grade R

The Grade 00s and Rs had a very exciting day this week with a visit from Mr Fox from East Cape Pets. He brought some snakes, lizards and other fun reptiles for us to look at. Here are some photos of the experience.

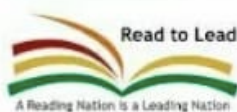


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basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Weekends
Days for administration
School days
Public holidays
Special school holidays
School holidays

April 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Public and School Holidays 2021

01 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
22 March	Public holiday
02 April	Good Friday
05 April	Family Day
26 April	School holiday
27 April	Freedom Day
01 May	Workers' Day
16 June	Youth Day
09 August	National Women's Day
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill

July 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Duration	No. of weeks	No. of days	No. of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
(25) 27 January-31 March	10	46 (48)	1	45 (47)
13 April – 25 June	11	54	2+1	51
13 July – 23 September	11	53	1	52
05 October – 08 (10) December	10	47 (49)	0	47 (49)
Total	42	200 (204)	4+1	195 (199)