



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 13 November 2020

Quote:

“It’s not always the people who start out the smartest who end up the smartest” Alfred Binet

Message from the Headmaster

(Above pic: The school grounds kindly taken by Ellouise Muir)

With exams having begun for most of the high school boys this week, many of the boys have reached a saturation point and cannot wait for the final examinations to be completed, so that they can enjoy a good break from the daily routine of school life.

During this time, boys often discover what it is like to feel that they have reached rock bottom. The challenge, in this final hurdle, is for the boys to remain motivated and committed to their goals. They need to find the spark or “fire in the belly” and this fire often comes from exam challenges and setbacks.

Professor Carol S. Dweck coined the term “fixed mindset and growth mindset” to describe the underlying beliefs people have about learning and intelligence. When students believe they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Therefore, they put in extra time and effort, and that leads to higher achievement.

Professor Dweck wrote a book titled *The New Psychology of Success*. In her book she uses the analogy of the movie

Templeton Drive, Grahamstown • PO Box 281, Grahamstown, 6140

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called “Groundhog Day” where the main character wakes up one day and sees that his life has not been worthwhile.

“In Groundhog Day, Bill Murray doesn’t just wake up one day and get the message; he has to repeat the same day over and over until he gets the message.

Phil Connors (Murray) is a weatherman for a local station in Pittsburgh who is dispatched to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to cover the Groundhog Day ceremony.

On February 2, a groundhog is taken out of his little house; if he is judged to have seen his shadow, there will be another six weeks of winter. If not, there will be an early spring. Phil, considering himself to be a superior being, has complete contempt for the ceremony, the town, and the people (“hicks” and “morons”), and after making that perfectly clear, he plans to get out of Punxsutawney as quickly as possible. But this is not to be. A blizzard hits the town, he is forced to remain, and when he wakes up the next morning, it’s Groundhog Day again. The same Cher song, “I Got You Babe,” wakes him up on the clock radio and the same groundhog festival is gearing up once again. And again. And again. At first, he uses the knowledge to further his typical agenda, making fools out of other people. Since he is the only one reliving the day, he can talk to a woman on one day, and then use the information to deceive, impress, and seduce her the next. He is in fixed-mindset heaven. He can prove his superiority over and over. But after countless such days, he realizes it’s all going nowhere and he tries to kill himself. He crashes a car, he electrocutes himself, he jumps from a steeple, he walks in front of a truck.

With no way out, it finally dawns on him. He could be using this time to learn. He goes for piano lessons. He reads voraciously. He learns ice sculpting. He finds out about people who need help that day (a boy who falls from a tree, a man who chokes on his steak) and starts to help them, and care about them. Pretty soon the day is not long enough! Only when this change of mindset is complete is he released from the spell.

In summary, Professor Dweck suggests that people who believe in fixed traits feel an urgency to succeed, and when they do, they may feel more than pride. They may feel a sense of superiority, since success means that their fixed traits are better than other people’s.

Nevertheless the professor notes that, lurking behind that self-esteem of the fixed mindset is a simple question: “If you’re somebody when you’re successful, what are you when you’re unsuccessful?”

As the Graemians embark on the final lap of the year, let us hope that our boys find that spark and feel that urgency to succeed, grow and mature.

Kevin Watson
Headmaster

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).

School Magazine

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.



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Exams and COVID-19 Protocols

Please take note that next week all the Grade 8 - 12s will be writing exams. It is essential that everyone arrives in time and then leaves, so that the venues may be sanitised and that the next session can sit their exams. The Grade 8s need to report to the senior quad every day at 10h30. The Grade 9s need to report to the senior quad every day at 07h30. The Grade 10s and 11s need to report to their relevant meeting points 30 minutes before the start of the exam. On most days this is at 07h30. The Grade 12s are given their meeting times via WhatsApp as these are dependent on the number of candidates writing.

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.

Google Calendar

Please click on the link below to be directed to the school Google Calendar. The link helps you subscribe to the school calendar which you can add to your phone, tablet or computer. Just click on the 'plus sign' at the bottom right hand corner of the calendar.

<http://www.graemecollege.co.za/calendar.html>

Staff news



Team GC: Two of our staff members, Mr. Andrew Swift and Mr. Lawrence Ferreira participated in the Grahamstown 2 Sea race, last Sunday the 7 November. The 58km mountain bike ride from the hills of Grahamstown to the coast (Port Alfred) covers track and dirt and was some serious fun!

Remembrance Day Service and Parade

On Sunday 8 November, a community Remembrance Service and Parade was held to celebrate what used to be known as Armistice Day (which is celebrated on 11 November). A touching service was held outside the Cathedral of St Michael and St George in High Street. The service paid tribute to those who had fallen in battle and those that fought for freedom.

Representing Graeme College were Headboy, Mzubanzi Mndi, and Deputy Headboy, Wothando Funani, who both laid wreaths as part of the ceremony. It was the perfect summer's day and a fitting way for these two young men of the College to perform their first official duties.



Grade 7s

Leopard Certificates are awarded to boys in the Junior School for consistent praiseworthy performance in Behaviour, Manners and Academics. A noteworthy achievement indeed! Certificates were awarded to the below boys: (L to R): Duncan McLeod, Okuhle Madinda Lwandle Dlamini and Oko Figlan.



Certificates were awarded to the below boys: ((L to R): Noah Tabensky, Lungako George, Cullen Goliath, Joy Mukenge, Nick McKeown, Ali Rizvi, Damien Swart, Jesse McConnachie, Jaycie Pieterse, Leon Mwepu, Jethro Visagie and Aya Bill.



Grade 5s

The Grade 5 made their very own DIY tie dyed face masks, which all turned out looked bright and colourful. The boys loved being creative in this way.



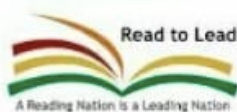
Grade 00s

Today was such a wonderful day. The Leopard Cubs experimented with baking skills to make ginger bread men, after which the boys iced Marie biscuits and decorated them with sweets. These they enjoyed straight away!





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
	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						

March 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			

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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						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					

June 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			

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)