



# Graeme College

*To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential*



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 27 November 2020

Quote:

"It's not what you achieve, it's what you overcome. That's what defines your career." — Carlton Fisk.

### Message from the Headmaster

With the end of the academic year racing to the finish line the grade 9 class made their decisions on subject choice for the final phase of their secondary education. These life-changing decisions will not only impact the rest of their schooling career, but their futures as well.

In today's volatile and uncertain world, it is more important than ever before to continue to cultivate an extended base of skills from which you can draw on, to improve one's chances of succeeding.

Choosing subjects that will take you into your future is a challenging task, as subject combinations not only influence learners' choices, but will also determine performance and motivation over the next three years, and beyond.

The University of the Witwatersrand, have come up with five skills they believe you'll need to succeed in your future career, no matter what subject combinations are chosen.

**Cognitive flexibility:** The rise of digital technologies means you're going to need to be able to handle the plethora of opportunities and challenges that come with it.

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

info@graemecollege.co.za • www.graemecollege.co.za • Tel: 046 622 7227 • Fax: 046 622 7491

The question is, do you have the ability to adapt to change and conceptualize complex multiple ideas all at once? If so, you're showing qualities that reside in advanced multi-taskers and which are highly valued by employers and recruiters.

**Digital literacy and computational thinking:** As the world continues to rely on highly technical and continuously evolving technologies, the need for those with the digital skills to match also increases.

Although it may seem like we're being bombarded with digital buzzwords, being digitally literate offers capabilities beyond what was once thought possible when it comes to emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, Internet of Things (IoT), and data science.

We need to train and expose ourselves to deal with the challenges of the 21st century, some which we may not yet have encountered and in this way advance your digital skillset and accelerate your technical acumen in these emerging fields, from learning about data visualization and exploration, to computational intelligence, and natural language technology.

**Judgement and decision-making:** Although robots and automation technology may be better than humans in other ways such as calculations and diagnostic solving, it's still going to be humans that deal with the subjective side of data analytics.

Considering we're on the cusp of the fourth industrial revolution, we're still going to need to have somebody who is able to show the world what numbers mean and their significance.

**Emotional and social intelligence:** For everything that can be replaced by digital technologies and artificial intelligence, emotional and social intelligence remain uniquely human capabilities.

In some sectors, these qualities are absolutely crucial. The demand for jobs in healthcare, for example, are on the increase – demonstrating how some roles will always require a human element. Your future job is more than likely going to include working closely with others, so having empathy, the ability to collaborate, as well as excellent communication skills is something you're most definitely going to need.

**Creative and innovative mindset:** Despite a report by the World Economic Forum in 2018 suggesting robot automation will create more jobs than they displace, you'll still do well to keep on top of your creativity skills and maintain an innovative mindset.

Much like having an excellent sense of social intelligence, natural creativity is something which can't be easily replicated by the latest digital technologies. As long as you can think outside the box, you'll be just fine.

**Do what you like and do what you are good at:** These are often one and the same thing as we tend to enjoy doing what we are good at. We need our boys to engage in their learning. Your son will be the better for it, both in terms of enjoyment and achievement, and so ultimately will the world. The better your son does the more options will open up to him in terms of future study too.

In the movie Chariots of Fire, Eric Liddle says, "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast, and when I run I feel his pleasure". Lets let our children "run" according to the way they are created. They'll go faster, further and find pleasure in the process.

Kevin Watson  
Headmaster

## Junior School (Grade 1-7)

From Monday 30 November to Thursday 3 December:

School is OPTIONAL for all boys. Weather permitting, some outdoor activities have been planned (traditional and fun sports), for example X-Country, Tennis, Squash, Golf, Cricket, Touch Rugby, Soccer, Rounders, etc. The boys must wear tracksuits over sport shirts and GC white shorts if they attend. Boys are to be collected at the Graemian Centre at the end of the day.

Friday 4 December:

Reports are to be collected between 7:30 and 8:30 from the Graemian Centre verandah.

NB : Grade 1, 2 & 3: reports are to be collected from the respective classrooms.

## 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>

## Steelband

After the success of the New Zealand Virtual Steelband project, "1.5 Climate Change", a select group of steelband members participated in the USA Virtual Steelband Project, "Pan in Unity". Together with Mr Appollis the boys include Conway Burgess, Aswyn Classen, Duran Jass (all Grade 12) and Cairis Appollis (Grade 6).



The "Pan in Unity" Medley was arranged by the internationally renowned steelpan artist from Trinidad, Len "Boogsie" Sharpe. Performed by the largest Virtual Steelband ever assembled that consists of 691 musicians representing 23 countries. They all came together to unite under ONE LOVE because NOW IS THE TIME to IMAGINE what this beautiful world was always meant to be...EVERYONE living in PEACE and HARMONY...The Medley consists of 3 songs, "Imagine" (John Lennon), "One Love" (Bob Marley) and Trinidad's own "Now Is The Time".

Link below to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovpKOXfT5GE&t=319s>



# 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

- A note from the Finance Department: Please note that school and hostel fees are now due and payable in full. This is the final month for payment of outstanding fees.

### 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 160 bricks to date! 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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## Amakhala drawing competition

The following boys participated in an Amakhala drawing competition for a book that will be published soon. Over 200 children participated and 4 of our Gaemians' drawings were chosen to be used in the book. Well done to Ruben Bodenstein, Corbien Hassim, Jedd Youthed and Tristan Boy. A great achievement. Thank you to Mrs Jennifer Gush for initiating this.



## Sports

These hardy souls have pushed Mr Swift to open the pool for them to train for the 2021 water polo season. We are proud of their attitude, self-motivation and enthusiasm! From left to right: Nqobile Bala, Siphon Mgidlana, Devon Fincham, Stephen Pittaway, Oliver Ripley.





Congratulations to three of our cricketers who have been included in South Africa's toughest u19 cricket week. Sonwabile Tshona, Garwin Dampies and Aphiwe Mnyanda have been selected into the Warriors Cubs team. The Cubs Week will take place from 10- 14 January 2021.



## Staff news

We took the staff photo today and then this photo thereafter was taken of all the staff that are old and proud Graemians!







Huge congratulations to Foundation phase teacher, Ms. Michaela Hobson, who teaches the Grade Rs, on getting engaged last weekend. We wish her all the very best for this exciting journey in life.

## Grade 2s

Artistic freedom and freedom of artistic expression is such a freeing way to express oneself and leads to very creative and imaginative art. The Grade 2 boys loved doing free art this week- with the only theme being animals. They let their creativity run wild!



Left: The Grade 00 class have been getting very much into the Christmas spirit this week with their art too. See below even more photos of their week- a Christmas concert as well as a Christmas party was held for them.



# Pre-Primary

A truly memorable Christmas concert:

Our Pre-Primary children and staff enjoyed performing at their Christmas concert to their families and friends this morning. The children have been practicing so hard to achieve this. We are incredibly proud of the children who gave of their best and provided us with such a heart-warming performance. A production like this can only happen with the help of a very dedicated team. A big thank you goes to our teachers and assistants for all the hours that went into the planning and for all helping to put the plan into action. Every song taught, dance learned and practise had, resulted in a very successful performance. We hope you all enjoyed the concert as much as we did.

Here is a link to their concert: [https://youtu.be/KfKyUlhP3mQ?fbclid=IwAR0kBvJrBIMJdxPS7-WJx8fnOeGMUa0CsWB5z9y7zOs\\_wRviD96wYE-9Q7E](https://youtu.be/KfKyUlhP3mQ?fbclid=IwAR0kBvJrBIMJdxPS7-WJx8fnOeGMUa0CsWB5z9y7zOs_wRviD96wYE-9Q7E)





# Pre-Primary

"For every bear that ever there was, will gather there for certain. Because today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic..." Today the Pre-primary had a teddy bears' picnic party with lots of treats and snacks, combined with the end of year Christmas party. To top it all off, Mother Christmas (aka Grade 00 teacher, Mrs. Pretorius) arrived and handed out some presents for each of the boys. Everyone got into the Christmas spirit. "The world has grown weary through the years, but at Christmas, it is young."





# Grade 3s

The Grade 3s have absolutely loved having Ms.French, a final 4th year B.Ed Foundation Phase student from The University of Pretoria, joining them and doing her practical teaching at Graeme College. The children have learnt some hands-on maths by playing 'shop' by counting change and then also indulging in their creativity through some very stimulating and exciting art classes with her.



Afrikaans comes alive in Grade 3! Below pictures of the boys listening, speaking and reading the story of Little Red Hen.





# Grant House Hostel

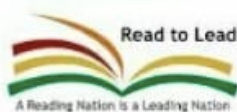
It's been a long year but the time finally came to toast to all the good memories and special moments that were had in Grant House over 2020. And what better way to do that with a end of year banquet, which was held during this week. We said some sad goodbyes but we also very much look forward to welcoming new boys joining the hostel in 2021.







**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
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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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						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)
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>200 (204)</b>	<b>4+1</b>	<b>195 (199)</b>