



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 2 July 2021

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – Coretta Scott King

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

With the expected announcement on Sunday night, there are so many different emotions associated with our combined responses to the move to Level 4. Initially there is a level of frustration - that we don't seem to get it right with regards to social distancing and covid protocols. I read a meme this morning that said:

"Be like Darth Vader...
Wear your mask!
Don't visit your son or daughter.
Be socially and emotionally distant.
Follow instructions."

Others have suggested that, if we can learn to walk in 12 months, and possibly even learn to talk in 18 months... surely we can learn how and when to wear a mask.

There are also other subsequent emotions that eventually settle in, once you understand the gravity of the impact that this has for many people. In our town, small businesses have had to deal with the original lock-down, then a forced

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closure due to strike action and now even more economic restrictions as we return to Level 4. In many cases the impact on small businesses is devastating. As individuals, we possibly have even less money now to help, but where we can, we need to support our community; especially those local businesses. There are so many families that have been hit hard, financially, because of the consequences that Covid has had on our community. We need to help somehow; and that reminds me of the old parable of the 'long spoons':

"An old woman is nearing the end of her life. As she closes her eyes one night, she sees a bright light and is transported to another realm. She doesn't pass away just then, instead, she returns to the living world to find her family gathered at her bedside. She smiles and whispers to her children, "I have seen the great hereafter. Heaven and hell. I have seen them both." The old woman goes on to explain, "I came upon a door, and behind it was hell. What I saw there confounded me. There was a dining hall filled with rows of tables, each table teaming with a magnificent feast. It looked and smelled delicious, yet the people seated around the tables were emaciated and sickly, moaning with hunger. "As I came closer, I realized that each person held a very long spoon. With it they could reach the feast, but the spoon was too long. Though they tried and tried again, they couldn't bring nourishment to their mouth. In spite of the abundance before them, they were starving." She continued, "I left this horrid place and opened a new door, one that led to heaven. Inside, I was surprised to see that very same scene before my eyes, a dining hall filled with row upon row of tables, and on those tables, a marvelous feast. But instead of moaning with hunger, the people around the tables were sitting contentedly, talking with one another, sated from the abundance before them. "Like those in hell, these people were holding very long spoons. As I watched, a woman dipped her spoon into a bowl of stew before her, but rather than struggling to feed herself, she extended her spoon out and fed the man seated across from her. This person, now satisfied and no longer hungry, gave thanks and returned the favor, leaning across the table to feed the woman." "I suddenly understood the difference between heaven and hell," the old woman said to her family. "It is neither the qualities of the place, nor of the abundance of resources, but the way people treat each other. "In hell, we are selfish. We would rather go hungry than give the people we don't care for the pleasure of eating." "But in heaven, we feed each other. We put trust in those around us, and never go hungry."

This is the time to support and look after our community. We need to 'feed each other', and just look after each other. It is so easy to be selfish in this space, because we focus on our own safety and well-being. Where you can, try to do a little extra for our community during the third wave. Support local shops and restaurants; order takeaway meals when you can, and just be mindful of those that have either lost their jobs or rely on customers to keep their business afloat. There are so many dimensions to the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. So please, wherever you can, do a little extra for the person next to you - and they will do the same for others. Due to the extreme disparity that we see in South Africa, with regards to wealth and standard of living - sometimes we forget what kind of impact this is having on all the people in our community.

Closure of Schools:

With our holiday being brought forward by a week because of the impact of the third wave, we will wait and see what further implications that this has for us. As it stands now, the length of the holiday period remains the same, and schools are scheduled to open on 19 July. That means no extra teaching time is lost, although we are always playing catchup this year. The forced closure of schools during the recent strikes have obviously not helped either. We will stay in contact, with regards to any further communication from the department of education.

We were thrilled that we were able to complete exams in Grade 10, 11 and 12 before we closed. There were one or two Grade 8 and 9 exams that will be completed in Term 3. The Junior school also managed to complete their assessment programme, and are handing out reports today. We will also be compiling Grade 12 reports which will be available during the holiday for collection.

G van Molendorff

Term 2 Formal Assessments

While many of the grades completed their formal tasks for Term 2, a couple of Grade 8 and 9 assessments remain outstanding. As a result of this, the marks will only be available after the boys return to school next term and all outstanding work has been caught up.



English Olympiad Results

The English Olympiad results for the country became available yesterday. Twelve young Graemians sat this examination earlier in the year. The theme for this year was People and Personae and the set anthology was entitled "This is my story". All the boys in the group had great fun discussing the various stories. The process allows for the assessing of different viewpoints and is a marvellous educational tool.

While we congratulate all the Graemians who participated in this tough competition, top English student, Wothando Funani (pictured left), needs to be singled out. Wothando received a gold award which is testament to his ability to read people and situations. This talent will stand him in good stead as he makes his plans for next year. He is an inspiration to those around him for his dedication to academic goals.

Some other noticeable results are as follows:

- Anotida Mawire: Silver
- Tito Hermans: Silver
- Sivuyisiwe Sixaba: Bronze
- Alexander Oosthuizen: Bronze
- Loyisa Nyoka: Merit
- Thabo Chikiwa: Merit
- Nqobile Bala: Merit

All other boys who entered the competition received participation awards. Many of them are very young and this will translate into higher awards as they mature and enter the competition in other years. We are extremely proud of all these young people who took part in this competition and those that continue striving to further their academic goals.

Top Academic Achievers

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Top 10 <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Blake Boswell2. Mawande Mayalo3. Anesipho Mraji4. Connor Holder5. Rory Roberson & James Muir7. Avuyisiwe Mnandi8. Jayden Conroy9. Gino O'Brien10. Daniel Czeredrecki-Schmidt	Top 10 <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kits McConnachie2. Ruben Bodenstein3. Jedd Youthed4. Mbulelo GamaKeyaan Goliath6. Kutenda Chinomona7. Keathan Edwards8. C-Jay Jeggels9. Morgan Prevec10. Nicholas Cock	Top 10 <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Andrew Muir2. Rikus Pieterse3. Lwakhe Nxosi4. Heinrich Bouwer5. Jayden Brits6. Leroy Adriaan7. Iviwe Mshubeki8. Rhys Wiblin9. Liam Bodill10. Cian Keulder
Top 5 best efforts: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tylo Bridger2. Ashton Burger3. Avuzwa Sotomela4. Aiadan Lensley5. Luke Cannon	Top 5 best efforts: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ibenam Butana2. Blake de la Mare3. Sizo Klaas4. Ahlumile Sideba5. Connor Richardson	Top 5 best efforts: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Larson McKaiser2. Athi Manyati3. Ahlumile Maqungu4. Amo Phahlamohlaka5. Schalk Pieterse

Campus

Pop-Up Sprinkler System:

It is exciting to see the installation of a sprinkler system on the Marais Fields, yet another project initiated by the proceeds from the Elephant Cup Invitational Golf Day.

The Elephant Cup, a corporate golf day and the brainchild of Jimmy Emslie, Douglas Cockroft and Milo Mills, started primarily to assist in the networking of local businesses and to raise funds for the local community, while enjoying a great game of golf. Brent Emslie and Graham Hains have taken over the reins and this initiative has gone from strength to strength.

Graeme College, as a whole, is very fortunate to have benefitted from this initiative. The irrigation system on the Marais Fields is in addition to other completed capital projects which have been sponsored by the proceeds raised by the Elephant Cup Committee over a number of years.



The Dream Project

Our Graeme College 2023 "Dream Project"



As Graeme College approaches its 150th birthday in 2023 we look to the past and celebrate numerous milestones of significant success and achievement. However as we look to the future we are determined to continue to inspire our boys toward future greatness. We do not want our boys to rest and rely on past glory, we want them to take a hold of their destinies and become the future leaders and champions we know they can be. In order to do this we want to offer our boys the best possible facilities to assist them to achieve their dreams. We could think of no better way to do this than to open a multi-purpose indoor sports facility as Graeme College turns 150 in 2023. What better way to celebrate an incredible milestone of an incredible school? And what better way to open the way for another 150 years of growth, achievement and success?

Sport is an unbelievable banner of unity and togetherness at Graeme College. It has enormous power for good, both for the individual and the community. It has the ability to change the way Graeme boys think about themselves and the world that they live in. It can challenge their assumptions about their own ability, about what it means to work hard and the sacrifice required to achieve a standard of excellence.

The indoor sports facility would provide the space for world-class strength and conditioning equipment and training, indoor cricket nets and meeting/coaching rooms.

We are determined not to wait another century before producing our next international fly-half or cricket all-rounder. This project seeks to celebrate and affirm our past, while embracing – with great passion – our shared future.

2023

Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Grahamstown
Branch code: 050917
Account name: Graeme College
Account number: 081996551
Ref: Name & "Dream2023"

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Junior school news

The Junior school had a crazy sock day this week and it was a huge success. Well done to Leroy Adriaan, Blayden Connolly and Rickus Pieterse who organised a cake sale; which was a great success due to a lot of donations from mainly the grade 7 parents.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in some way; especially to Mrs Adriaan, Mrs Pieterse and Mrs Connolly for helping the boys with the cake sale.

We're looking forward to what is in store for term 3.

Grade winners:

Grade 1: Ahlumile Lupuwana

Grade 2: JP vd Walt

Grade 3: Chad Amos

Grade 4: Tylo Marthinus

Grade 5: James Muir

Grade 6: Keagan Jattiem

Grade 7: Andrew Muir

Overall winners:

1st – Keagan Jattiem

2nd: Tylo Marthinus

3rd: James Muir

Teacher Winner:

Mr Andrew Swift



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Music

Grade 4 and Grade 5 Instruments of the Orchestra Bingo Competition

One of the themes in music class this term was learning about the philharmonic orchestra. The boys learnt about every instrument in the orchestra and had to identify each instrument according to appearance and solo or ensemble sound clips. The grade 4 and 5 classes competed against each-other in three speed rounds based on the Bingo game structure to see which class could collect the most points for correctly identifying instruments from sound clips. Of course, quicker responses directly related to the collection of points per round. Needless to say, every round was filled with lots of excitement and adrenalin as the boys chased each-others' high scores.

Over the three rounds, the four classes jointly collected 465 points. Between the Grade 5 classes, 5LM collected the most points (118) with 5JB following in a close second place (115). Grade 5JB also had the most Bingo wins across the three rounds. Between the Grade 4 classes 4CvdM collected the most points (96), with 4MG in a close second place (92). Grade 4MG had the most Bingo strikes across the three rounds. Each boy received a small prize and watched music videos from famous children's movies to celebrate their efforts.



- School Golf Plan

The Belmont Golf Club School plan is available for all boys at Graeme College that are interested in becoming scholar members. Please contact Mr Kilian if you would like further information on s.kilian@graemecollege.co.za.

- Junior School Cross Country

Winners of various age groups:

U10 - Iminathi Mali

Hutton House

Time 9 minutes 5 seconds

Record - 8 minutes 44 seconds

U11 - Connor Holder

Hutton House

Time 8 minutes 55 seconds

Record - 8 minutes 26 seconds

U12 - C-J Jeggels

Hutton House

Time 8 minutes 1,16 seconds

Record 8 minutes

U13 - Cairis Appollis

Hutton House

Time 12 minutes 3 seconds

Record 11 minutes 15 seconds

Well done to all the winners and all boys who participated in the Cross Country events.

Photo: 2021 Junior X Country winners. u10 Iminathi Mali, u11 Connor Holder, u12 C- Jay Jeggels, u13 Cairis Appollis. All four athletes represented Hutton.



Pre-Primary

The Grade 00 class received their cupcakes as the winning class of the SPCA drive this morning. Cupcakes made by Michelle Beyleveld of EC Fresh. Well done boys for all your passion for the SPCA project.



Grade 1s

The Grade 1 class learnt about the 'sh' sound during shark week. Each of them did an activity about their favourite shark after learning and reading about all the sharks in the ocean. They also drew their sharks which will be used as the cover of their new work book. We all had great fun while learning interesting facts about sharks.



Grade 3s

We can no longer afford to experiment with how much waste the planet can handle. We're facing an environmental catastrophe, so learning how to care for our environment, is an essential life skill and one that should start from a young age.

The Grade 3 boys have learnt this week about how to look after their environment, especially in terms of reducing, re-using and recycling. In groups they created recycled items by re-using materials that they brought from home, such as cardboard boxes, buttons, magazines and so much more!



Community & Fundraising request:



The Community Outreach Portfolio is looking for 200g coffee glass bottles with lids for our term 3 project.

Kindly wash your bottles and send to school for the attention of Ms White.

We thank the Graemian family for all their support and interest in our community projects.

Stay Connected

Do you follow Graeme College on the following platforms?

- Instagram:

@graemecollege

@graemeboys

- Facebook:

Graeme College

- Link to online Covid Questionnaire - must be completed by all visitors and sports teams visiting Graeme College. It must be completed on the day that you visit. Click on this link: <http://bit.ly/GCccovidQ>

- Awsum App:

<https://www.awsum.co.za/download-the-awsum-app-for-schools>

Library

Library times

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.

2nd Hand Clothing Shop

The Graeme College second-hand clothing shop will be open between 13h00 and 14h00 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (excluding public holidays and school holidays). Please contact Mrs Mary Siebritz should you have any queries.



A sweet moment and worth a mention:
Likhanye Ndevu decided not to eat his “prize”
for the Instrument Bingo competition. Instead
he wanted to take it home to give to his little
sister. Best big brother!

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The Karri App

You would have received a notification regarding the use of the Karri payment app. There are some new parents to Graeme College, so let us explain what it is briefly.

We are trying to slowly move away from learners carrying cash to school for a number of reasons. Obviously it is safer, but even just for accounting purposes - we prefer to use the app. The app itself is backed by Nedbank and you can find more information at:

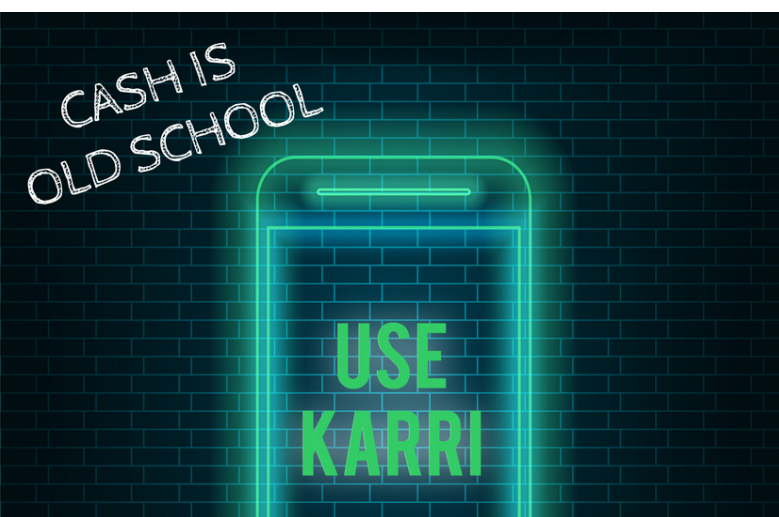
Click here to read more on their website: <https://www.karripay.com/za/>

The app is free and the school has supported using it in many capacities like tours, fundraisers, events etc.

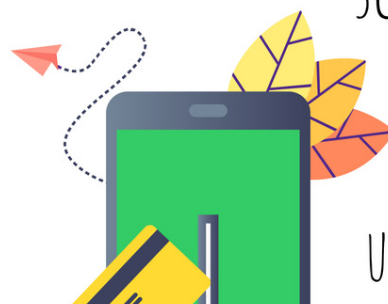
The school's database is linked to the Karri system - hence the notification that you received.

We have not had many events over the last 12 months obviously - so we thought we would send out this reminder of how the app works. This Friday we are hosting a Burger Night as a fundraiser for the 1st XI cricket team, and burgers can be purchased using the app. Of course, you can pay with cash or via card at the Graemeian Centre as well. Take away burgers will be available from 17h00 onwards this Friday. There is also a T20 cricket match against the Stanley CC starting at 14h00. The OGU has their AGM at 5pm. Please pop in and support the event, or just maybe order take-away supper for your family.

THANK YOU for your support. If you need any help accessing the app - please don not hesitate to contact the school.



REMOVE CASH ON OUR SCHOOL GROUNDS



USE KARRI TO PAY!

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