



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 10 September 2021

“Just because you can't figure out how ancient civilisations built stuff, doesn't mean they got help from space aliens.”
-Neil de Grasse Tyson

Message from the Headmaster

Our senses (sight, smell, touch, hearing, and taste) are powerful and necessary tools to perceive and navigate the world but they are not that powerful, or accurate enough, to judge the entire situation or complexity. How we interpret that sensory information affects how we interact with the world, leaving a lot of room open for our interpretations and judgments and hence differences in perceptions.

Perception plays such a significant role in our lives. It affects our beliefs and transforms our reality because we use our perception for more than just physical awareness. We tend to believe what we perceive, and those beliefs can affect our feelings, thought patterns and, consequently, our entire outlook in life.

In her article on “What We Perceive We Believe” Gayle Kurtzer-Meyers explains that our senses are not the only thing that affect our perception of reality. Some items can distort our perception and can present a skewed image of reality as well, such as:

- Experiences
- Motivation
- Perception of colour and chromatic adaptation

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- Exposure
- Personality
- Presence of others
- Physical conditioning
- Language

Social Media has had a major impact on our beliefs, has transformed our reality and has definitely changed our perceptions of ourselves, others, and the world. What concerns psychologists like Dr C Andraessen, regarding social media, is the danger of people slipping too far into a virtual world and losing a sense of real life, real self, and real priorities. Dr C. Andraessen explains that some people use social media to create something that they are not and that the virtual world can distract people so much from their real lives that they either forget who they are or become so involved in the reality they've created that they don't want to work on their own issues.

What further complicates perception is the advancement of technology which now allows us to be so accessible to global dramas. Today, it's possible to partake in a collective trauma from anywhere in the world, as though it were happening next door. And this is a challenge for our mental perception.

So, the next time you find yourself checking the headlines for the hundredth time that day, or anxiously scrolling through your social media feed, just remember that the news and social media feeds might be influencing your perception more than you bargained for.

Kevin Watson
Headmaster

Academic

ENGLISH OLYMPIAD 2022

The call for entries for the 2022 English Olympiad is now open. Any boy currently in Grades 8 - 11 may enter. The theme for next year is "A brave new world" and the anthology comprises different genres of writing. The cost of the competition is R100 which needs to be paid to Ms Stamper by 28 September 2021. Included in this cost is the anthology. Any other queries can be directed to Miss Kenyon.

ACADEMIC PORTFOLIO INITIATIVE

The Grade 12s in the academic portfolio launched a new initiative this term. This followed on the back of their "buddy" learning system which has been in place since the first term. Their new initiative involves peer teaching and learning. They have been meeting on Friday afternoons to study and learn from each other. This is a skill we would very much like to encourage. Should any other grade wish to start a similar system, they will be accommodated. It is an initiative that we would like to see spread and grow.

GRADE 12 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS

The Grade 12s commenced with their preliminary examinations this week. We continue to encourage these young men to really give these exams their all as they will help them prepare for their final examinations. Please be aware of the screening procedure that goes with Grade 12 examinations. Screening is done about 45 minutes before the examination is due to start. This allows time for all the other Covid procedures and gives the Grade 12s reading time. We wish all the Grade 12s every success for the remainder of their examinations. Please note that there has been a change in the timetable since last week. The timetable is as follows:

GRADE 12 PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE 2021

DATE	09H00	14H00
Monday 13 September	Mathematics Paper 2/ Maths Lit Paper 2 3 hours	CAT Paper 2 Theory 3 hours
Tuesday 14 September	History Paper 2 3 hours	Afrikaans FAL Paper 1 2 hours
Wednesday 15 September	Business Studies Paper 1 2 hours	
Thursday 16 September	IsiXhosa FAL Paper 2 2 hours	
Friday 17 September	Physical Sciences Paper 1 3 hours (Physics)	
Monday 20 September	Physical Sciences Paper 2 3 hours (Chemistry)	
Tuesday 21 September	Music Paper 1 3 hours (Theory)	Music Paper 2 1 ½ hours (Comprehension)
Wednesday 22 September	English Home Language Paper 2 2 ½ hours	Accounting Paper 1 2 hours
Thursday 23 September	Business Studies Paper 2 2 hours	
Friday 24 September		
Monday 27 September	Art Practical** (08h00 – 16h00)	
Tuesday 28 September	Art Practical** (08h00 – 16h00)	
Wednesday 29 September	Art Practical** (08h00 – 16h00)	
Saturday 16 October	Art Practical** (08h00 – 17h00)	

** These four days are compulsory for all Visual Art and Design Students. Please make sure that you take a packed lunch with you for those days. In addition, you need to arrange two additional mornings with your practical teacher on a day where you have no exam scheduled.

Academic

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL - COVID 3RD WAVE

With the rise in COVID-19 cases around the country, we ask that parents be vigilant and monitor their children for the real COVID symptoms. Should they present symptoms, please take them to the doctor and have them avoid attending school. Please can you continue to report when your son will be absent from school, as it makes monitoring easier.

GRADE 8 AND 9 TEST SCHEDULE:

Please note that other tests and assignments will be allocated by subject teachers during the term. This list merely gives an opportunity for standardised tests to be written. Grade 8s and 9s will write tests every Tuesday (Days 2 and 7). These test results will comprise part of the SBA result.

DATE	GRADE 8 TEST	GRADE 9 TEST
14 September 2021 (Day 7)	Natural Science Test	Natural Science Test
21 September 2021 (Day 2)	Term 4 Exam Original English Writing	Term 4 Exam Original English Writing
28 September 2021 (Day 7)	Term 4 Exam Original Afrikaans/isiXhosa Writing	Term 4 Exam Original Afrikaans/isiXhosa Writing

Campus news

The common coral tree (*Erythrina lysistemon*) blooms in early spring (from August to September) and is a lovely, small to medium-sized, deciduous tree with a spreading crown and brilliant red scarlet flowers. It is a handsome tree at any time of the year, and its dazzling flowers have made it one of the best known and widely grown South African trees. Here are some pictures of our gorgeous corals on campus!



Grade 4s

The Grade 4 boys had to make musical instruments for Natural Science and Technology. The theme for this term is Vibrations and Sound. They were super excited to create their instruments using recycled materials. The boys are practicing a song during their music lessons and the Grade 4 band will soon be ready to record their first song!



Grade 6s



Grade 6AR Afrikaans research topics are of cities of South Africa. Pictured are Ruben Bodenstern, Mbulelo Gama, Malande Bikitsha and Nicholas Cock with their projects.

Grade 10s

The ardent Grade 10 boys are rehearsing their Romeo and Juliet plays this week. Anganathi Mkhathali will be playing the role of the beguiling Romeo. He has done a stellar job performing his role.



Grade 11s

This term the Grade 11 Business Studies class was tasked with creating their own product made only from recycled materials. In addition, the project also included a TV and printed advert. The gents came up with some great ideas such as a chair made out of old tyres, musical instruments, speakers, lights, fans, head torches, homemade vacuum cleaner, wire cars, file organizers, coat/hat rack, piggy banks, photo frames, bird feeders and even a portable sanitizer and toilet paper holder for camping. The boys did a great job and can be very proud of themselves.



Raffle winner



Pictured left: Daniel Barnard, the happy winner of the Entrepreneur's Day sweet raffle, flanked by organizers Cairis Appollis and Caden Sickel.

Community Projects & Fundraising

Our Topes (tubes of hope) have arrived at the office! Please buy your topes at the admin office in the foyer. In September each year, Graeme College commemorates and celebrates Sunflower Day – an opportunity to raise much-needed funds and awareness for life-threatening blood cancers and disorders such as leukaemia, sickle cell disease and aplastic anaemia, among others. It falls on Friday the 17th this year.

The campaign is centred on the sale of a multipurpose accessory called a Tube of Hope (TOPE). All funds raised goes towards helping patients in need of a life-saving blood stem cell (bone marrow) transplant and to grow the patient support programme to help patients who cannot afford the cost of transplant.

Cost remains one of the biggest barriers to transplantation in South Africa. To raise funds the TOPES at just R30 each. A TOPE is an affordable, multipurpose article of clothing that can be worn as a headband, mask, scarf, cap or arm-band. It is used in a wide variety of sports and outdoor activities (and can be an emergency mask when you have left yours at home!) and is available in six eye-catching colours.

The TOPE offers practical functionality and also gives wearers the opportunity to show their support for this important cause. The design is inspired by people taking action to bring hope to patients in need of a stem cell transplant. As per usual, Graeme College will participate in the national competition. Last time Graeme College came second in South Africa! We are still so very proud to have won that award. We are very much aware of the effects of cancer in our community of Makhanda. Let's support our families and friends! Buy your topes at the school please to help us in our endeavour to once again achieve great heights for a worthwhile cause.

Additionally, we would love you and your family to take a photo wearing the topes, with your son in their school uniform. We would love to add these to the newsletter every week. Below are the photos we have received this week.



Left top: The Grant House boys sporting their colourful topes this week.



Left below: The Grade 10 Maths class also showing their support!

Community Projects & Fundraising

Top competition between classes:

00 - 21
R - 35
1 - 13
2 - 0
3 - 14
4MG - 11
4CVM - 21
5JB - 15
5LM - 15
6AR - 13
6DS - 2
7AS - 10
7OX - 13
8MP - 15
8JVM - 4
9NH - 9
9SA - 8
10LN - 9
10VT - 15
11FS - 18
11PDL - 8
12MW - 19
12LF - 0

The winning class will receive a class braai as per our usual Sunflower Day competition.

Junior School



As top season ends and Rubik's Cube season begins - the boys have nominated Erin Stevens as the unofficial Top Champion of GC Junior.

Sports

- 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
s.kilian@graemecollege.co.za

- Cricket

PLEASE SHARE AND SUPPORT OUR LATEST CRICKET FUNDRAISING PROJECT.

This is a link to Jumpstarter - where we have created a page to raise funds through donations.

<https://bit.ly/GC-Cricket>

JOKER POKER IS BACK!

1st XI Cricket Fundraiser - THE COVID (REMOTELY ORGANISED) VERSION...

All funds received go towards the 1st XI cricket tour costs in 2021.

To summarise, 52 playing cards plus a joker are shuffled and pinned face down on a board. Each week or fortnight, a raffle is held where supporters pay for the opportunity to possibly be the lucky winner who selects a single card from the board. The objective is to select the joker from the playing cards that are pinned faced down, and thereby win the grand prize. Part of the excitement and fun of Joker Poker is that after each unsuccessful card selection the prize jackpots and technically the odds improve with each draw as well. The prize will be carried over to the next draw if the Joker is not turned. Tickets are R10 per draw entry and you are allowed as many entries as you like in each draw. Your ticket will get you into the draws which will be organised by the parent group. The prize is a percentage of all ticket sales and a 5000 litre Eco water tank donated by Eco Tanks and Bucu, which is valued at R7000. That is an incredible prize which will generate a lot of interest in Grahamstown.

Tickets can be bought at the Graemian Centre, School Reception and via the Karri App. Draws for the Joker will be made on the following dates:

Wed 8 September (16h30)

Fri 17 September (20h00)

Wed 29 September (16h30)

Fri 15 October (16h30)

Fri 29 October (16h30)

*All draws will be held at the Graemian Centre. This gives you several opportunities to win the grand prize. Social Media videos of draws will be held - you dont need to be present; you will be contacted telephonically.



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Sports

- Hockey

Last week Friday the junior hockey boys participated in an internal hockey league to end off their hockey season. The boys were randomly placed into team at the beginning of the term and each team had to come up with their own team name and uniform. The U11 boys played 6-a-side and the U13 boys played 8-a-side all on 1/4 fields. The boys all had a fantastic afternoon of hockey and look forward to receiving their prizes at next weeks final practices. The final scores were as follows:

First place - Devil Porcupines (9 pts)

Second place - Blue Eagles (6 pts)

Tie for third place - Shadow Ninja's and Team Delt (1pt each)

U13 teams

First place - Fighting Griffiths (7 pts)

Second place - Eagle Strikers (5 pts)

Third place - Fain Emus (2 pts)

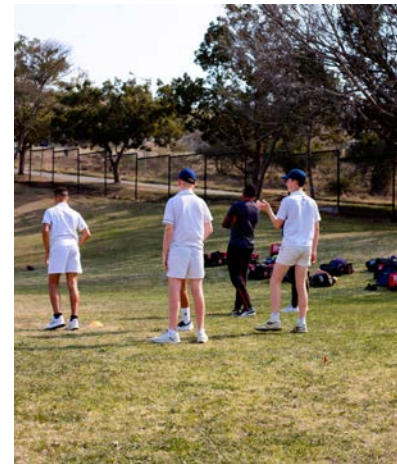
Fourth place - The Demolishers (1 pt)



Sports

- Cricket

The U13 cricket boys had their first cricket practise today preceding the imminent tour to Knysna at the end of the month.



Sports

- Rugby

The results of the rugby matches against Grey last Saturday 4 September:

u14A lost 5-3

u15A lost 39-3

u16A lost 27-17

Pictures of the u16 match below.



Sports

- Rugby

The results of the rugby matches against St Andrew's College last Saturday 4 September:

vs St Andrews

2nds won 31-12

1st lost 21-15



Sports

- Rugby

Aren't these pictures just so special? Photos below of Mr Riddin's last rugby practice with the U11 team. They initiated a war cry for him and it was truly emotional!



Below: Pictures of the U11 B side who: won 10/7



Sports



Below: Pictures of the junior rugby this week.



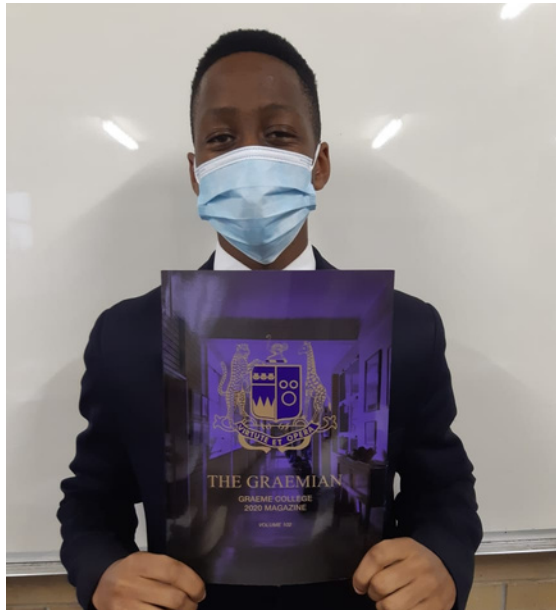
Pre-Primary

What a gorgeously hot spring day it was today and what better way to commemorate the warm weather by enjoying some Vitamin D and some refreshing water!

Our Pre-School boys had hours of fun outside today enjoying all different types of water play activities. The children loved it - splashing and pouring, spraying and creating waves! Water play enhances their creativity and imagination, promotes good health and well-being and provides opportunities for some wonderful learning.

Water play activities allow children to explore and interact with each other, which they love doing on any given day, but especially more so when there are water guns involved!





The 2020 Graeme College School magazine is now available at Reception at R150 a copy. It is the reflection of the year Covid-19 became part of the world, the GC community and your son's school life. We would like to encourage you to buy it and keep it as a reminder of quite an exceptional year.

My School Card

Did you know that your MySchool card gives you a super discount to Worksheet Cloud? Signing up to WorksheetCloud will give you instant access to hundreds of printable school worksheets, but if you're a MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet supporter, a percentage of your subscription fee will be given back to Graeme College at absolutely no cost to you. Plus you'll also receive a 50% discount on your WorksheetCloud sign up fee! Cardholders also receive a R100 discount on the WorksheetCloud subscription fee when entering your MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card number during sign up. Head on over to WorksheetCloud and help your child with the Term 3 tests. They'll get access to thousands of study notes, practice questions and practice exams.

Click here to learn more:

<https://www.worksheetcloud.com/myschool/>



WorksheetCloud
Online & Printable School Worksheets

You might also find these other posts helpful: (click on the theme)

- My English / Xhosa / Zulu child is failing Afrikaans. What can I do to help?
- Introducing WorksheetCloud Study Notes
- Why is Reading Important?



School Events



GRAEME COLLEGE FUNDRAISER INITIATIVE

COIN-IT CHALLENGE

FILL THE 5L CONTAINER
IN YOUR CLASS WITH
AS MANY COINS AS
POSSIBLE.

AWESOME CLASS
PRIZES

1ST - BEACH OUTING
2ND - FRIESLAND TREAT
3RD - CIVVIES DAY

FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS:
* FAMILY IN NEED
* UPGRADING SCHOOL FACILITIES

CLOSING DATE
WEDNESDAY 29 SEPT 2021



U13 cricket teams present our
tour fundraiser

BURGER EVENING

THE FOOD:

150g Grass-fed beef burgers
PLUS chips and mushroom sauce
for only R70.
Takeaways will be available from
17:30.

DATE AND VENUE:

17 September 2021
Graemian Centre

TAKE-AWAY PRE-ORDERS

For pre-orders you can email your
order to
marketing@graemecollege.co.za

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.

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