



# Graeme College

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



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 22 October 2021

"You can't control how smart you are, how funny you are, how good-looking you are. The one thing you can control in your life is how hard you work." - Ian Brennan

### Message from the Headmaster

Many have said that the Covid pandemic will have an ever-lasting impact on the way we live. Schools have arguably felt this impact more than most. Even in these crazy times, we have managed to host a Grade 12 Prize Giving and Valedictory ceremony. The event brought the Graeme College community together in a celebration of academic and extra-curricular achievement. The prize winners are a true representation of everything that we stand for at Graeme College – these hard working, articulate young men are a credit to the school and an inspiration to their peers. It is through achievements such as those we recognised during the event, that we are clearly able to identify the skill, expectation and commitment of our staff and pupils; these prize winners are great examples of what we hope for from our learners.

It is tradition for a leaving staff member to deliver a message of goodwill, along with a parent from the Grade 12 group. Mr Riddin spoke on behalf of the staff, as he retires at the end of the year. He has taught at Graeme for more than 40 years, and his words were inspiring. He linked his own journey as an Old Graemian to the current Grade 12s, with a powerfully positive message. Mrs Sishuta spoke on behalf of the parents, and also delivered an incredible message with so much good advice and wisdom. She delivered her message in a manner that seemed to reach the learners in a profound way.

In what has been a challenging 15 months for these learners, it was a particularly moving ceremony, with an incredible amount of passion and pride.

Simnikiwe Bosman, our grade 10 learner who was injured in a rugby match is recovering at Aurora after his life changing operation. The Old Graemian union has set up a trust to raise funds to assist Simnikiwe in his rehabilitation and they are currently raffling a complete set of PING golf clubs (estimated cost R65 000). Please contact the school, Mr Izak Smuts or Mr Neil Smuts if you are interested in buying one of the 200 tickets selling at R500 each.

As we approach the end of a long, yet tiring year and, with exams almost upon us, you can almost feel a sense of nervousness in the air, especially amongst the grade 12s. The boys know that the only thing that stands between them and a well-deserved break, are the exams. They aren't just any exams – these are the final exams which, for some grades, carry a weighting of 75% of the year mark.

In closing, as we also move to that part of the year where our grade 9 boys start to consider their subjects (Thursday 18 November) for the FET phase of their schooling, it is imperative that they choose subjects or faculties that are best suited to their personalities and strengths: to spend the rest of your life doing something that you regret doing, is illogical. If all else fails, we can reflect on the words of Mark Twain who said, "To succeed in life, you need two things: ignorance and confidence."

All the best to our sportsmen this weekend. The junior cricket teams that are playing Selborne College (u13) and Sunridge Primary (u9 - u11) and the senior school cricket players are up against Grey High School. The water polo team is involved in a water polo tournament at SAC.

Mr Kevin Watson  
Headmaster

Pictured below: Proud Old Graemian parents, with the exciting new generation coming through on the cricket fields.



# Valedictory 2021



# Valedictory 2021



# Music



## Personality of the week:

This week our music personality of the week is Ryno Benn (pictured right photo in the middle). Ryno is in Grade 8 and unfortunately cannot be in any marimba bands, however this didn't stop him from helping Ms Coetzer teach all of her marimba bands this week. Ryno was a very talented member of the Grade 7 Marimba band last year, so fortunately he knew all the pieces. No one asked Ryno to be there - he simply wanted to help! We are always so grateful to have such kind older Graemians willing to help the younger Graemians.



## New practice points earned this week:

- Ben Shaw 4
- Yolani Jimmy 3
- Junaid Douglas 3
- Morgan Prevec 2
- Yandisa Sitsila 1
- Matthew Koopman 1
- Lihlomile Mdenka 3

## Graeme College Eisteddfod 2021:

Thank you to every learner who entered for our 2021 virtual Eisteddfod and submitted their videos or photos this week. However, we do have a few boys who needed assistance with the recording of their videos. As a result we are still accepting entries and the deadline for video submissions is postponed to MONDAY 25 October. If you need any assistance with taking or sending your video, please don't hesitate to ask! Mrs Niesing will be available to assist boys with recordings during first and second break on Monday.

If video files are too large to send via email, they can be compressed via the link below. This link is affiliated with a free compressing app too. The app allows the compressed video to be saved on your device, which makes it easy to share via email. The link: <https://www.freeconvert.com/video-compressor>



'Music acts like a magic key, to which the most rightly closed heart opens.' ~ Maria von Trapp

Quote of the week  
Chosen by Ms Niesing

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# Music



In the course of the year in class music our boys learn about various aspects of music. Folks often think of class music as being a “singing class”. Although we do enjoy singing and learning about how to use one’s singing voice optimally, class music rather entails a ‘multi-disciplinary’ learning experience. Apart from singing, the boys learn about music theory, music appreciation, body integration in relation to beat vs rhythm, the music of various international cultures and different musical genres. With the COVID19 restrictions which brought a halt to most singing activities for the biggest part of the year, we had to rely more heavily on these other aspects this year.

From as early as Grade 1, boys are introduced to music theory. Music theory entails the writing and reading of music, as well as the understanding of the general structure of music. The structure of music is mostly made up of timing, beat and rhythm. Most people have a natural inclination to grasp the structure of music: after all, keeping the beat is one of the easiest and most feel-good ways in which we express our enjoyment of music! In the Junior School, boys learnt about 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4 time with crotchets or quarter-notes (ta), quavers or eighth-notes (ta-té) and semi-quavers or sixteenth-notes (tafe-tefe). Ask your boys to explain this to you by clapping the rhythms for you - they loved doing demonstrations in class by playing the “Poison Rhythm” game. The link to mathematics in terms of fractions and patterns is a clear one, while abstract thinking and cognitive processing in general remains actively engaged in all music classes. More information on the wonderful influence of music on the personal and academic development of children will be shared in a following newsletter.

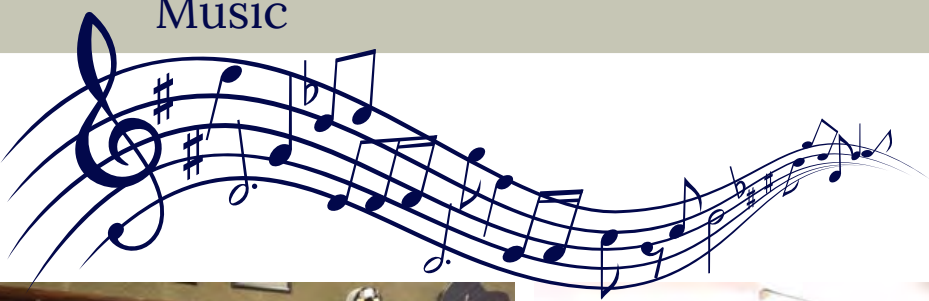
Music appreciation entails the passive and active listening to various kinds of music. For these listening classes we use music of different cultures as well as from different genres and styles. Passive listening requires the boys to sit back (or lie down!) and to simply absorb the music. These “keep still and listen” classes quickly became a favourite and boys loved sharing what they experienced or thought of based on the music they listened to. Active listening requires the boys to react to the music. Reaction to what one hears can include anything from free dancing to drawing a graph following the musical pitch or even just choosing colours to describe the musical mood. Of course, the boys also listened with focus to learn something specific -- like when they studied the philharmonic orchestra. They learnt to identify all the various instruments of the orchestra by sound and appearance respectively. Ask your boys to tell you about the Instrument Bingo game!

While our boys sing, listen to music or learn music theory, the integration of movement to the beat or rhythm is a continuous part of their learning environment. For example, being able to clap your hands to the rhythm (the way the words go) and to walk in place to the beat while you sing the words isn’t always as easy as you might think! Especially when learning new words and songs, the boys must read the words, keep the melody by singing, be aware of the beat and integrate their bodies to the rhythmical structure of the music. Whole-body integration is known to be a foundational aspect of development and self-awareness in children. And of course, when we get to dancing and jumping to the beat of the Lego Movie’s ‘Everything is Awesome’, boys return to their classrooms with big smiles, bright eyes and just a little less of that (seemingly limitless) extra energy!

For some family fun do the Cha Cha Slide with your boys for feel-good music-body integration:

The link: <https://youtu.be/l1gMUbEAUFw>

# Music



Above: The Grade 4s enjoying music class this week.  
Below: The Grade 2s doing the cha cha slide dance.



# Grade 2s

The Grade 2 class have been learning about different types of communication during their Life Skills lessons. Music is a powerful means of communication. It provides a means by which people can share emotions, intentions, and meanings, even though their spoken languages may be mutually incomprehensible! Music is also a firm favourite form of communication for the boys. This was their take on a 'guitar playing happy music' for Art.





# Grade 4s

Well done to the following boys for their academic achievements in Term 3:

## TOP 10 ACHIEVERS

1. Matthew Lamont
2. Tseliso Matsoso
3. Kenzo Prince
4. Avela Sam
5. Usiphile Jadi
6. Lusenathi Manzana
7. Sheraad Russian
8. Abakhe Luwaya
9. Lethabo Bayi
10. Llnathi Twaku
11. Jed van der Merwe



## TOP 5 EFFORT

1. Musawenkosi Ngcayisa
2. Makandunyiswe Klaas
3. Somila Somala
4. Cuban Madubula
5. Daniel Hanlon



Photo 1 - top right: The boys who achieved Top 5 for effort.

Photo 2 - bottom right: : Top 10 achievers.

Photo 3 below: All the boys who received a certificate.



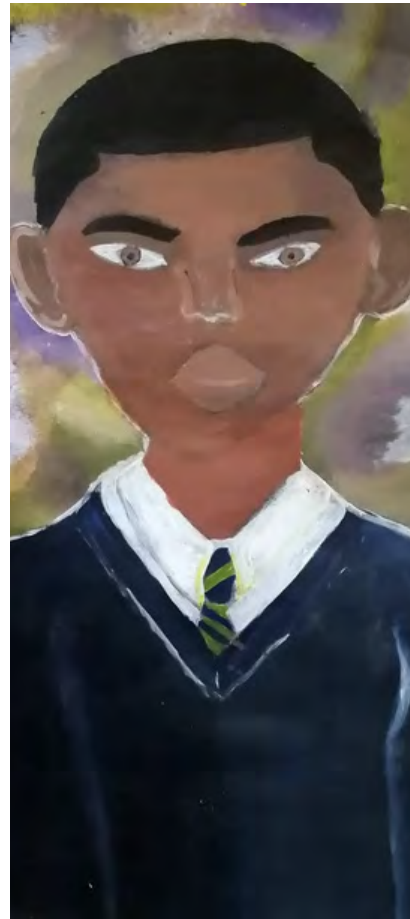
# Grade 7s

The Grade 7s went on a very interesting history outing this week, as part of the curriculum focus for Term 4, focusing on the colonisation of the Cape and discovering frontier wars. The two classes visited Egazini, which is across the road from Nathaniel Nyaluza, where the Battle of Grahamstown took place 202 years ago. In 1819, British soldiers, led by Colonel Wilshire, defeated and killed over 1 000 Xhosa warriors with live ammunition. The war continued for several months thereafter, whereby the Xhosa's suffered heavy losses. Makhanda Nxele was highly sought after and pursued by the British forces, who they saw as being the leading protagonist in causing the war. Makhanda later surrendered, under the belief it would bring an immediate end to the conflict, and was taken captive. The battle site continues to be called "Egazini" ("Place of Blood"), and a monument was erected there for the fallen Xhosa in 2001. The guest speaker was Heritage Practitioner, Mr Ramie Xonxa, who is also a parent of the Grade 7 history teacher, Mr Xonxa.



# Grade 9s

Artists' self-portraits are critical to our understanding of both portraiture and the history of art. They are the form in which many artists have come to be remembered, offering insights into their lives, surroundings, and even their state of mind. We loved the self portraits of the Grade 9 boys that they have completed in their art class this week.



# Sports

- Squash

Squash league results on Tuesday 19 October:

- GC U13C vs KC U13 - KC won 13-5
- GC U11A vs DSG U15B - GC won 10-7
- GC U11B vs DSG U11A - Drew 10-10
- GC U13A vs DSG U15A - GC won 12 - 4
- GC U13B vs DSG U13A - GC won 15 - 2
- GC U13B vs DSG U15A - GC won 10-7
- GC U13A vs DSG U13A - GC won 15-3

- Senior Tennis (pictured right)

School Championships (doubles) results:

Winners: ETHAN Beyleveld & Murray Tyson  
Runners-up: David Tyson & Steven du Preez.



- Tennis: EC Buffalo City Pro-Kennex Mini 4 Tournament

Kits McConnellie u/12, Jesse McConnellie u/14 & Ryan Stobbs u/14 were upgraded to the Platinum group at this tournament. All three boys ended in the top 8. Kits won the u/12 finals 6-1, 6-0; Jesse ended 4th and Ryan 8th in the u/14 section. Well done boys!



# Sports

- Junior and Senior Cricket

Please take note of the junior cricket practice times below:

11c/d Cricket 14:30 - 15:30

13c/d Cricket 15:45 - 16:45

A good start to the cricket season at Graeme.

Graeme College enjoyed a good day against our friends from Dale College on Saturday. The Junior School also enjoyed their fixtures against the Alice RPC this weekend.

The 1st XI were thrilled to have SA u19 player, Aphiwe Mnyanda, back in the team. He was sensational, picking up 4 wickets on return. The Graeme 1st XI were very happy with an all round good day in the office.

Graeme won all four contests with Dale with some exceptional performances throughout the teams. The 1st XI won by 29 runs, the 2nd XI won by 5 wickets, the u15A team won by 71 runs, and the u14A side won by 89 runs. The highlights of the day were the unbeaten century by Connor Holder in the u11A game and Murray Tyson's 6-for in the u15A game!

Summary of scores:

1st XI vs Dale

Graeme 189/ 9 after 50 overs.

Liselihle Maphekula 46

Onosizo Ntinga 44

Viwe Gana 35 not out

Dale 160/ 9 after 50 overs

Aphiwe Mnyanda 4 for 22

Cristiano Jasson 2 for 32

Connor Pieterse 1 for 19

Graeme won by 29 runs.

2nd XI

Dale 176 all out

M Fritz 4/42 in 10

M Mnandi 4/33 in 10

S Gysman 2/39

Graeme 2nd XI

177/5

F Rischbieter 73 (35)

D Tyson 33\*

AC Mnandi 20 (7)

Graeme won by 5 wickets.

GC u15 scored 170

Ajay Jeggels 48 not out

Athandile Feni 37

Marcus Williams 35

Dale scored 99

Murray Tyson 6 - 18

Ashton Williams- 2- 15

GC won by 71 runs

# Sports

Graeme u14A

171 all out 25 overs

Luphelo Mdyesha 94

Ethan Bockbard 48

Dale u14A

82 all out

Luphelo Mdyesha 4/16 (8 overs)

Cullen Goliath 3/19 (10 overs)

Mikhulu Hoboshe 2/19 (10 overs)

Graeme won by 89 runs.

U13a vs Alice RPC in 40 overs match

Alice RPC 104 all out

Rhys Wiblin 4/14

Zuko Pontshi 2/5

Graeme U13a 109/1

Rhys Wiblin 60 not out

Chris Zimmerman 43 not out

Graeme won by 9 wickets.

That was followed by a T20 between the teams.

Graeme 134/6

Andrew Muir 50 not out (retired)

Ola Jaca 32 not out (retired)

Alice RPC 110/4

Elgenio Oerson 1/13

Keagan Jattiem 1/13

Olo Jaca 1/17

Graeme won by 24 runs.

Graeme u11A vs Alice RPC u11A

Graeme 351/3 in 40 overs

Connor Holder 105 not out

Tyler Bouwer 88 not out

James Muir 58

Alice RPC 50 all out

Daniel Hanlon 5/10

Graeme won by 301 runs

Right: Top cricket achievers from last week who received a certificate.



# 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](mailto: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:

- 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.



# Pre-Primary

The pre-primary boys enjoyed a day entitled “Mind your Manners” today. Of course good manners aren’t taught in a day, but if you start from an early age, children will grow up to be polite and considerate- part of the ethos of a Graeme College boy! The boys were encouraged to dress up smartly if they wanted to and spoke about all things manners related. They were able to put this into practice by going around the school greeting teachers and even got to go into a “big school” classroom to practice how to greet a teacher coming into the classroom, for when they are a little older. During snack time, they practiced their table manners by eating with a knife and fork and remembering all the other table manners they had been taught. The day ended with each boy receiving a badge congratulating them on their good manners. Learning manners is a vital part of growing up from a very young age, and the process teaches children many valuable lessons. Teaching manners helps develop adequate interpersonal skills, allowing them to positively interact with their peers and the adults in their lives. This leads to the healthy development of social skills, an understanding of social norms and expectations, improved communication skills, and the ability to practise patience and self-control. We are so proud of the boys today for being on their best, well-mannered behaviour.







The 2020 Graeme College School magazine is still 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.

## Campus news

A further speed bump will be built on the road linking the school to Grant House Hostel. Parents are reminded to use the Selborne and swimming pool gates to drop off their sons. Foundation phase and Pre-school parents to please use the hostel gates.

## 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.