



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 25 March 2022

“Compliments from your companion will do you no good, but if you get compliments from your competitors it means you are really doing good.” - Amit Kalantri.

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

Banner photo credit: Bernard MacKenzie

The recent few weeks have been chaotic to say the least; Founder's Day, Rugby Day, Heritage Day... there is so much to reflect on. Reflections on where we started as a school, how we have progressed since then and where we are going in the future. Maybe the most important reflection is, 'who are we as a school?' Some schools are more complicated than others, while some seem to struggle with their identity in a modern world. Some seem to function as if it was 1980 and some have neglected to see the warning signs with regards to the ever-growing challenges in modern education. I cannot imagine that an 'outsider' will really understand the pressures, demands and challenges facing a school at the moment, and that's where maybe some schools have just been too slow to respond. I have said this so many times before, Graeme College is in such a healthy, positive and exciting space. We know who we are, and we are incredibly proud of where we fit into the South African education system. I sat next to a guest at a recent fundraiser, where she simply could not understand how we do, what we do, with the financial limitations that we have. In a nutshell, that's what makes this place so incredible, and it is why our learners are so proud, and why we get so much support from our community.

I think from the outside, people get confused about what drives us, and who we are as a school. We talk constantly about respect for other schools with our learners. Especially on the sports fields; and you can pick up within minutes which schools don't emphasize that message. We will never look down on another school at Graeme College; likewise though, we will never look up at any school either. That is where the confusion comes in, I think.

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We have a very specific niche in South African Education. We don't 'compete' with anybody with regards to being a better or lesser school – we just want to be the best school we can possibly be. Yes, we are incredibly competitive in the extra-mural spheres, and we always will be; it is a big part of our culture. Interestingly, that is not about the opposition, it is about us. It is about our own goals, our own development and our own pride. This proud school is turning 150 years old next year, and I know that we deserve respect for what we have built up in that time. If any school can't foster that respect for us, and what we are doing, then we simply don't want to associate with them. Of course, by being in this healthy position, we are going to achieve our own targets in all spheres, and then receive recognition for what we are doing. That then, by default, draws a bulls-eye on our backs in some spheres, which is actually a sign of respect on the sports fields.

Sadly, one of those side-effects of success, is the fact that schools then offer bursaries to our learners, in an attempt to fix their own shortcomings. This is mostly done to bolster their own academic or extramural proficiency. It is interesting to note that during the years around covid, this hasn't happened at all, largely because schools haven't played sport. Now, all of a sudden, its ugly head has risen again, as schools get back to playing competitive fixtures. I think our learners are streaks ahead of some schools because of our commitment to making sure we have not neglected this development, and hence the growing 'interest' shown in our learners. We need to keep our top performers at Graeme College – they are the future of our school. The top 2% academic or extra-mural learners, are the ones who push the others to excel. They play a crucial role in our progression and development.

So, who are we? We are a proud South African public boys' school. It is remarkable to think that we are the only school in South Africa that has Grade 00 to Grade 12 on the same campus, with one management structure. We are not an independent school, nor do we want to be one, and nor are we ever in competition with them. Our school fees are R26 000 per year, and yes, I don't know how it is possible to do what we do, but then we do it every year. I think our community is so proud to be associated with us, and hence we receive their overwhelming support for what we do. Graeme College never pretends to be anything that we aren't – 'Men of the Earth' is a phrase I heard long ago, and it still resounds today. I think we often refer to ourselves as a real South African School, with obvious and significant challenges facing us. We embrace the essence of what South Africa is, and you won't find a better microcosm for South Africa, than what you see on our incredible campus. We are 'old-school' with regards to discipline and values, but there is so much more to what we are. We are, however, nothing, without the incredible support of our community. Maybe that is the answer to 'who we are' and 'how we achieve what we do'... We are a community school, which functions at the level that we do, because of the unwavering support that we receive from our community. I know our families, our staff, our supporters and the local businesses in our town are so incredibly proud of their association with us – and we are so thankful for their support.

'Virtute et Opera'

G van Molendorff

Donation- Thank you

Thank you to Mr Greg Eichbauer of Labcor Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd for the exceptionally generous donation of 30 bags of cold mix to repair the school campus potholes.

Thank you also to Mr Siya Mbombiya for supplying twenty bags of cold mix to Graeme College at a reduced rate.

Support provided by the community is always valued and greatly appreciated.

- Steelband rehearsal times:

Monday: 14h00 - 14h30 Beginner Steelband (Grade 8)
 14h30 - 15h00 Intermediate Steelband (Grade 9)
 Tuesday: 13h30 - 14h15 Senior A Steelband
 14h15 - 15h00 Senior B Steelband (Grade 10)
 Friday: 14h00 - 15h00

- Junior Choir:

Special Notice:
 Junior Choir times for Term 2 has changed. Junior Choir will take place on Tuesdays 13:30-14:30.

- New marimba times:

Marimba A:
 Mondays at 14h00-15h00
 Marimba B:
 Tuesdays at 13h30-14h15
 Marimba C:
 at 13h30 - 14h15

- Diligent Practise Points:

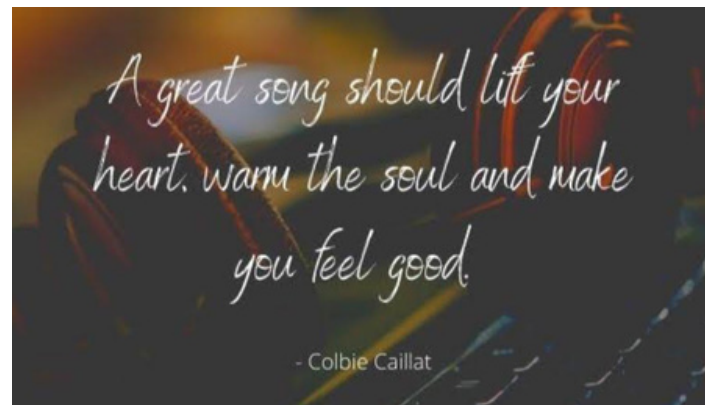
New points earned this week --
 Ben Shaw 2
 Gabriel Corrêa 2
 Gustav Jordaan 2
 Bongji Toto 3
 Morgan Prevec 1
 Yolani Jimmy 2
 Junaid Douglas 2
 Bilal Motara 1
 Uthmaan Motara 1

Right: Grade 4 and 5 boys made playlists of their favourite songs for the last class music lesson of the term. We thoroughly enjoyed a surprisingly wide variety of music: from Bob Marley's "Three little birds" to Michael Jackson's Billy Jean; from Amapiano to George Ezra's Shotgun.

Celebrity Music Birthdays



| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| MARCH | 28 |
| 25 | Paul Whiteman (1890) |
| Bela Bartok (1881) | J-Kwon (1986) |
| Aretha Franklin (1942) | Lady Gaga (1986) |
| Elton John (1947) | 29 |
| Big Sean (1988) | Errol Dyers (1952) |
| 26 | 30 |
| Pierre Boulez (1925) | Eric Clapton (1945) |
| Diana Ross (1944) | MC Hammer (1962) |
| Teddy Pendergrass (1950) | Tracy Chapman (1964) |
| 27 | Celine Dion (1968) |
| Johannes Kerkorrel (1960) | Norah Jones (1979) |
| Mariah Carey (1971) | 31 |
| Fergie (1975) | Johann Sebastian Bach (1685) |
| | Franz Joseph Haydn (1732) |
| | Herb Alpert (1935) |



Music

Three Grade 5 boys asked permission to come and practise on the xylophones during break times this week. They were very creative and worked out a few interesting rhythms and harmonies.



Below: Well done to all the boys who performed in the Masicule Music Concert. It was the 9th edition of the most amazing performance featuring the voices of Makhanda.



Campus News

And we're away. After months of planning - Thursday was an exciting day, as we 'broke ground' to start the process of building the Indoor Sports Centre at Graeme College.

Photo - Ms Natalie Ripley (Chair of SGB), Mr Andrew Swift (Planning Committee), Mr Lunga Twaku (vice chair of SGB) and Mr Kevin Watson (Headmaster) were thrilled to mark the occasion this morning.



Junior School

The Rubik's Cube Challenge

On the last day of school the anticipated Rubik's Cube Challenge was held. Only 5 competitors from the junior school were up for the mighty task of taking on a Rubik's cube. Boys cheered on and upbeat music was played while boys were timed while attempting to crack the Rubik's cube.

Kits McConnachie in Grade 7 broke the previous record and completed his Rubik's cube in a incredible time of 23 seconds.

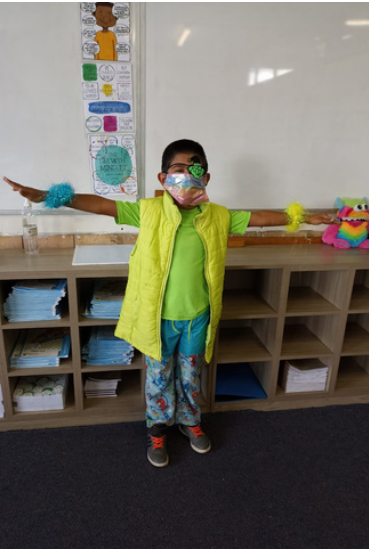
Well done to the 5 competitors and we are looking forward to seeing more boys up on stage attempting to crack the Rubik's cube next year.



Junior School

The Junior boys celebrated the end of term by dressing as brightly as possible. The boys did not disappoint. Well done to the following winners:

- 1st - Uthmaan Motara
- 2nd - Connor Holder
- 3rs - Mason De Vos
- Teacher - Mrs vd Meulen



Top Achievers

Grade 5 Top 10

1. Matthew Lamont
2. Sheraad Russian
3. Aya Jili
4. Slater Hart
5. Tseli Matsoso
6. Avela Sam
7. Abakhe Luwaya
8. Jed van der Merwe
9. Kenzo Prince
10. Keagan Berriman

Top 5 Best Effort

1. Jayden Isaacs
2. Lusenathi Manzana
3. Soso Somala
4. Mila Nothoko
5. Maka Klaas

Grade 6 Top 10

1. Connor Holder
2. Blake Boswell
3. Anesipho Mraji
4. Mawande Mayalo
5. Aidan Lensley
6. James Muir
7. Ezra ter Bruggen
8. Gino O'Brien
9. Onako Kili
10. Iyazi Zwedala

Top 5 Best Effort

1. Tyler Boucher
2. Likhanye Ndevu
3. Avu Mnandi
4. Daniel Czeredrecki-Schmidt
5. Joshwin Burger

Grade 7 Top 10

1. K McConnachie
2. R Bodenstein
3. M Gama
4. N Cock
5. CJ Jeggels
6. S Klaas
7. A Sideba
8. B de la Mare
9. K Edwards
10. J Youthed

Top 5 Best Effort

1. C Ngala
2. B Gxekwa
3. M Bikitsha
4. T Boy
5. H Ntshakaza

Graemians of the week

The following boys went on a tennis tour to Gqeberha and while they were at Baywest Mall they greeted strangers as Graemians always do. They greeted a person, unbeknown to them, this person was an old Graemian from the 2000's. He felt so proud that he sent Mr Watson an email to say how proud he was to be called a Graemian. Well done boys, you guys made Graeme College very proud!



Grade Competition - Father & Son Camp

We decided to host a grade competition to see which grade had the most boys attending the Father son camp. Well done to the grade 3 boys, they had 78% of the boys going to the Father and Son camp night. They have each received a chocolate for this. The Grade 00s had 75% of boys attending camp. This was a close second place.

Junior House Shield

The House Shield was awarded to Hutton House this term.

Ranking for Notches this term:

- Hutton 5542
- Vernal 4878
- Nielson 4817
- Wiles 4413



Grade 1

Thematic dress up days are fun ways to celebrate learning at school most especially for the youngest of the junior school boys. This is the Grade 1 boys and their lumoniscent outfits.



Grade 4

The Grade 4 boys worked on their own poems this week. We were so impressed by their poetic creations.

My Poem

Happiness is the colour blue.
 Happiness tastes like cake.
 Happiness smells like flowers.
 Happiness looks like heaven.
 Happiness sounds like jazz.
 Happiness feels like a warm blanket.

My Poem

Sadness is the colour blue.
 Sadness tastes like litchis.
 Sadness smells like molay cheese.
 Sadness looks like someone crying.
 Sadness sounds like a whale dying.
 Sadness feels like clay.

My poem

Happiness is the colour blue.
 Happiness tastes like cake.
 Happiness smells like perfume.
 Happiness looks like a sunny meadow.
 Happiness sounds like birds.
 Happiness feels like a soft blanket.

My Poem

Love is the colour pink.
 Love tastes like chocolate.
 Love smells like flowers.
 Love looks like a couple.
 Love sounds like romantic music.
 Love feels like a heart.

My Poem

Love is red.
 Love tastes like peaches and cream.
 Love smells like perfume.
 Love looks like everyone laughing.
 Love sounds like a happy day.
 Love feels like softness.

My Poem

Love is pink.
 Love tastes like ice cream.
 Love smells like oud span.
 Love looks like God smiling.
 Love sounds like the seven trumpets blow from heaven.
 Love feels like a hug from Jesus.

My Poem

Hate is black.
 Hate tastes like a rotten apple.
 Hate smells like some hundred year old tomato.
 Hate looks like a sad person.
 Hate sounds like crying.
 Hate feels like darkness.

My Poem

Happiness is the colour red.
 Happiness tastes like pizza.
 Happiness smells like flowers.
 Happiness looks like family.
 Happiness sounds like love.
 Happiness feels like a teddy bear.

My Poem

Sadness is the colour black.
 Sadness tastes like grape fruit.
 Sadness smells like ink.
 Sadness looks like a monster.
 Sadness sounds like lions.
 Sadness feels like knives.

My Poem

Happiness is pink.
 Happiness My Happiness is My mom.
 Happiness tastes like pizza.
 Happiness smells like beautiful roses.
 Happiness looks like smiling people.
 Happiness sounds like kind people.
 Happiness feels like joy.

Grade 7

As term one commenced the grade 7 boys were tasked with a reading challenge for the term. Well done to Ruben Bodenstein, Kutenda Chinomona, Tristan Boy and Connor Richardson. These boys placed first, second, third and fourth for the reading challenge. Ruben read a total of 62 books and Kutenda read a total of 42 books during the course of term 1. The boys received a prize for their stellar efforts this term. In addition to this, Kutenda obtained one of the highest marks for English this term.



Grade 4

The Grade 4s were awarded their “Class Compliment” for their amazing behaviour this term. It is a team effort that only one letter of the word “compliment” is awarded to the whole class if their behaviour is good, their homework is all complete or if they are working hard.

Popcorn and a movie was the best way to celebrate their “Compliment” on the last day of term.



Athletics

We are proud of our national trialists:

Esinako Jadi competed at SA Schools Athletics Championships and he was awarded a certificate of participation for the U15 3000m finals in which he was ranked 15th in the country.

Likhona Mhono has made the EP team that will participate in the Athletics Clubs’ National championships in Potchefstroom from the 31st of March to the 2nd of April. He will be competing in both the U18 100m as well as the 200m.



Tennis

The U13A tennis boys went on their annual tennis tour from 16-20 March. This time the festival was in Gqeberha. The schools Graeme competed against were Rondebosch, Bishops, Grey, Queens, and Selborne. Graeme managed to win 2 out of the 5 fixtures. Our biggest win was against Bishops. The fixtures against Grey and Selborne were also very closely contested.

Well done to all the boys, who all played incredibly well and exceeded their own expectations. The boys also behaved very well and showed everyone how well mannered Graemians are.



Tennis

Some more photos of the Match against Grey.



Cricket

"Pad on Mate"

The u15A cricket side decided to carry on the legacy of last year's team, where the boys started the "better late than never" initiative. The boys decided that if any player is late for a meeting, practice or match then they ought to pay R10,00 and that doubles for the coach. The money is then collected at the end of the season and we buy sanitary pads for the underprivileged girls from the Nolukhanyo Location in Bathurst. The boys have decided to turn a negative into a positive and we are so proud of them!



Rugby

March 2022
GRAEME COLLEGE RUGBY DAY
OFFICIAL SPONSORS
Proudly hosted by Graeme College



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

- | | |
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| Settler City Toyota | GBS |
| Eastern Cape Academy of Sports | Prestige School of Dancing |
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Rugby

RUGBY DAY- what can we say? It was such an awesome day for everybody involved.

Results from the day:

- U14A: Graeme 15 - 19 Selborne
- U16A: Graeme 10 - 10 Selborne
- U15A: Graeme 8 - 22 Selborne
- Graeme 2s/3rds 27 - 5 PJ Olivier 1st
- Pearson 64 - Mary Waters 5
- Hudson Park 21 - Nico Malan 14
- Marlow 31 - Dale 12
- Grey High 31 - Brandwag 27
- Muir 24 - Cambridge 7
- Framesby 24 - St Andrew's 22
- Kingswood 14 - Queens 3
- Graeme 7 - Selborne 7





GRAEME COLLEGE RUGBY DAY 2022

*in partnership
with*

SPORT FOR LIVES

You're invited to join the Sport for Lives movement to **activate generosity** through try scoring at this year's Graeme College Rugby Day by supporting our Tries for Lives Campaign.

Try scoring is important.
Try scoring for a greater purpose is significantly important.



TRIES FOR LIVES **TRIES FOR LIVES -
PLEDGE AN AMOUNT PER TRY SCORED**

**GRAEME COLLEGE IS PARTNERING WITH THE SIMNIKIWE BOSMAN TRUST FOR THEIR 2022 RUGBY SEASON
(CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGN)**



Established in 2017, Sport for Lives NPC facilitates the opportunity for sports teams to play for a greater purpose by raising funds for a cause. Their online crowdfunding platform is unique in that they are about relationships, a heart shift in our youth and bridging the great divide in South Africa, through the power of sport.

To start your own campaign:

1. Find an NPO in your area (perhaps one already linked to your school) and ask if you can partner with them for your rugby season.
2. Visit www.sportforlives.org and set up your Tries for Lives campaign through the easy step by step process. The Sport for Lives team will assist you from there on.



Contact carmen@sportforlives.org for more info.

MySchool card



Can Graeme College beat last year's swipes and WIN?
In this year's MySchool card challenge, our total number of swipes from April 2021, will be compared against the total number of swipes we receive in April 2022.
10 SCHOOLS with the highest percentage growth in swipes will win their share of R230 000 CASH. We would LOVE Graeme to get some of this money!
Our total swipes for April 2021 were 354, so please support us by remembering to swipe your My School card.
Each swipe is an entry.
Supporters will also be able to win their own share of R200 000 CASH.
Competition dates: 1-30 April 2022.
If you do not have a MySchool card please contact marketing@graemecollege.co.za to get a card.

Calendar

Link to Graeme College Google Calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r?cid=public.calendar@graemecollege.co.za>

Stay Connected

Do you follow us on the following platforms?

- Instagram:
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@graemeboys

- Facebook:
Graeme College

- 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/GCcovidQ>
- 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.