



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 6 May 2022

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”
-John Dewey

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

Banner photo: Parent and Pupil Power! The Legacy Project 2022 at Junor Field today.

Other than the ‘Don't smile till Easter’ cliché - the most famous phrase in education is probably: “Take care of the little things, and the big things will take care of themselves.” Of all the clichés attached to teaching - the ‘look after the little things’ has proven to last the test of time. Those, who are actively involved in education, will know exactly what this means, and it is even more prevalent to management within schools (or any organization). It is the Broken Windows Theory - don't leave the small things. By ‘fixing them’ we create a culture that changes the behavior of individuals within that environment. In its simplest form - if there is a broken window - fix it - don't leave it. If you start ‘leaving it’, you will eventually end up letting the slightly bigger more serious matters slide as well. The theory was popularized in the 1990s by New York City police commissioner and mayor, whose policing policies were influenced by the theory.

The theory suggests that if a window in a building is broken and is left unrepaired, all the rest of the windows will soon be broken. This is as true in nice neighbourhoods as in rundown ones. In education, nothing could be more accurate - with regards to both maintenance and discipline. In the educational context, we look at the small disciplinary issues - punctuality, homework, neatness, shaving, hair styles, etc. Probably the smallest one of all - buttons on blazers. These days - wearing masks appropriately seems to make the list. Without any doubt at all - this leads to the bigger issues in schools somehow falling into place.

There is a direct result - which, not everybody, will understand or appreciate. In the midst of the 'hair style' crisis in South Africa, I read a comment that said 'a hairstyle has zero impact on a child's learning' - and in its raw simplicity, that is probably accurate. BUT - being in uniform has a direct impact on classroom discipline - and hair uniformity definitely falls in that space as well. You just have to teach lessons during a 'civvies day' to understand the difference.

Likewise, the New York example, had a massive focus on graffiti, litter, petty crimes which over years seemed to have some further significant impact on larger crimes. The statistics showed a drop in murder rates - which is a contentious conclusion to deduce, I know. Obviously murder and graffiti are two vastly different crimes. But they are part of the same continuum, and a climate that tolerates one is more likely to tolerate the other. So in schools, by being pedantic about the minor infringements - we definitely see a reduced number of serious disciplinary issues.

It is important then that our parents (especially) support us in this notion. Without parental support, and their own understanding of these smaller issues, the school will always struggle to maintain a good level of discipline. Hopefully, every parent agrees that the personal discipline of each learner, will help them to develop into mature and responsible adults. That is a massive part of any educational process at any school. It is not just about the content covered in classes, but also the development of individuals to become positive and productive members of society. The discipline at an all-boys school is critical in the development of each learner.

G van Molendorff

Academic

Mathematics Support

Mrs Boynton has kindly offered to give Mathematics support classes after school on Mondays to Thursdays from 13h45 - 14h45 in her classroom. Boys will be given an opportunity to do their Mathematics homework with guidance from a teacher. Any boy from Grade 9 - 12 who got less than 60% for Mathematics at the end of Term 1 is encouraged to attend these sessions.

Covid resurgence at school

We ask parents to be sensitive, cautious but not to panic in the current space. It seems that because of a lack of sensitivity from visitors to our campus - some of our staff were exposed to covid and have been booked off as a result. As usual - please do not send your son to school if he is showing the usual symptoms. What does complicate it - is the fact there are the seasonal flu issues that are concurrent in this space. Hence the request for patience and not panic with regards to the current situation. As always - the school will monitor this very closely.



This Mother's Day please remember to swipe your My School card at participating stores. Simply get a free MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card, swipe it when shopping at the retail partners, in-store or online, and the retail partners will give a percentage of your spend back to our school. It's that easy and won't cost you a cent!

You can link your MySchool card to Graeme College in order to earn much needed funds. If you do not have a card, you can download the Free MySchool app for an instant virtual card.

Below are the links for special Mother's Day gifts at Woolworths, one of the main retail partners of My School in Grahamstown.
https://www.woolworths.co.za/dept/Mother-s-Day/_/N-x5y0zo

- 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 Senior A Steelband

- Choir

Junior choir: Tuesdays 13:30-14:30
 Senior Choir: Thursdays 13:00-14:30

- New marimba times:

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

Grade 9 Class Music

Below: The Grade 9 Music classes have been having fun experimenting with rhythms and time values using Boomwhackers to create sound.

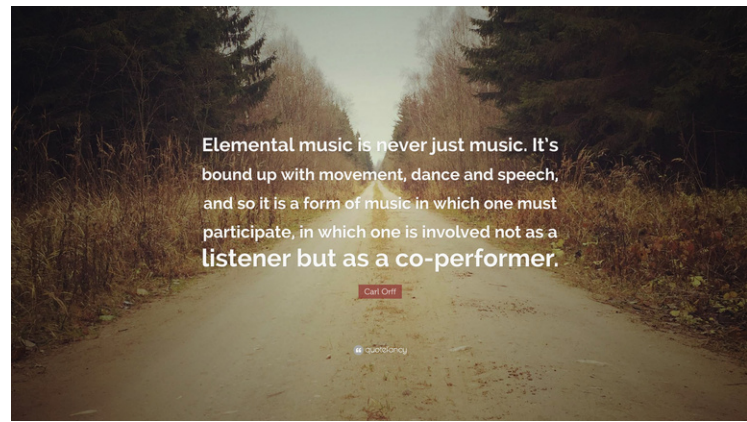


Celebrity Music Birthdays



MAY

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 7 | Johannes Brahms (1833) | 10 | Milton Babbitt (1916) |
| | Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840) | | Koos du Plessis (1945) |
| | J Balvin (1985) | | Mbongeni Ngema (1955) |
| 8 | Carl Philipp Stamitz (1745) | | Bono (1960) |
| | Oscar Hammerstein (1846) | 11 | |
| | Enrique Iglesias (1975) | 12 | Andile Khumalo (1978) |
| | 6ix9ine (1996) | 13 | |
| 9 | Billy Joel (1949) | | Ritchie Valens (1941) |
| | Tamia (1975) | | Stevie Wonder (1950) |
| | Sho Madjozi (1992) | | |



Left: The marimba A team enjoyed waffles at Wimpy with Ms Coetzer as a congratulations for their entry into a provincial music competition. We are looking forward to the results!



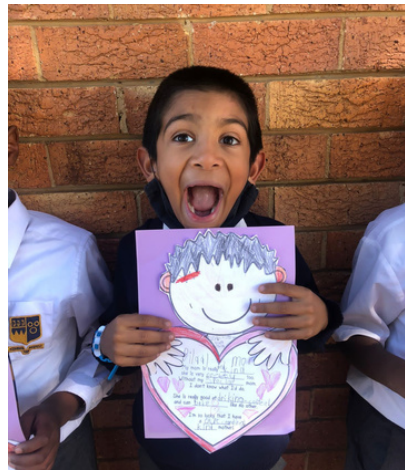
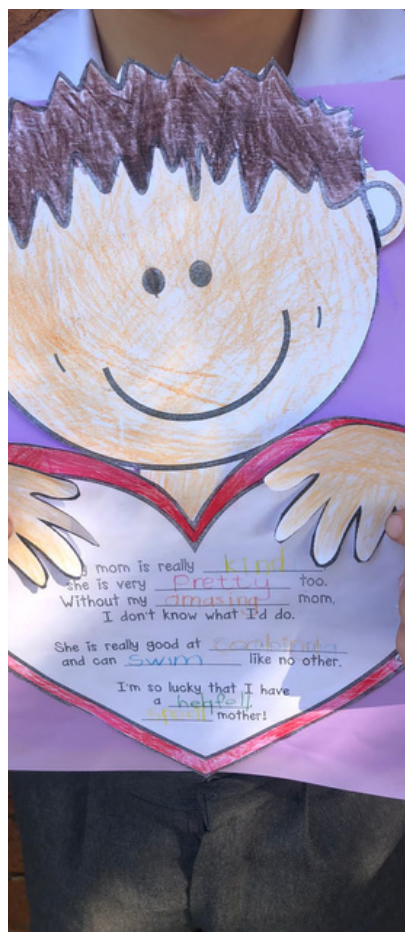
Junior School



Above: The Junior school have had the Notch system running for many years. It is a reward system that awards learners “notches” when something good has been done or achieved. Notches can be received for picking up litter, helping a teacher, doing well in a test, achieving on the sports field or through cultural activities.

Grade 2

With Mother's Day on Sunday, the Grade 2 class brainstormed adjectives that describe their moms and we spoke about everything that they do for us. They each wrote completed a little poem for their mom.



Grade 4s

The Grade 4 learners prepared a 3 minute oral on a country in the world that they find interesting. They had time in the computer lab to search for information. The learners needed to know exactly where their country is located on the map, they needed to have a flag of their country and know many different facts about their chosen country. The orals were exceptional and the boys really impressed us this year!



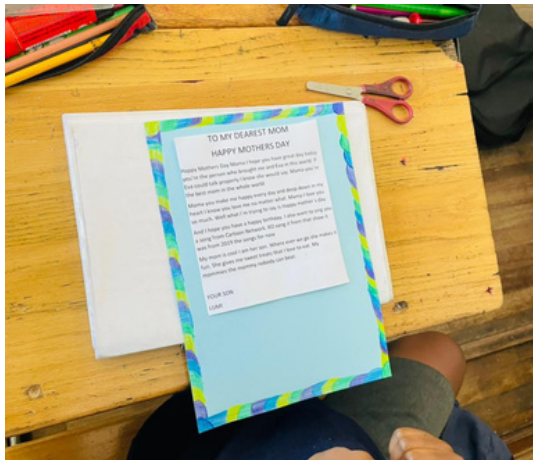
Grade 4

The ardent grade 4 boys made a little book of appreciation for a very special mother, grandmother or aunt. We hope every mom will feel special on Sunday and we hope they enjoy every word and drawing in the "Mom and Me" booklet. Little boys grow up so fast!



Grade 5

The grade 5 boys too have been very hard at work on Mother's Day postcards. Each one was prepared with lots of love and attention. We are sure that their moms are going to be thrilled with them!



Grade 7

Parent Power! With the support of a wonderful group of Graeme parents, the Grade 7 boys continued their Legacy Project 2022 at Junor today. They have dug, planted, carried, watered their hearts out today to create a more beautiful Junor precinct. A huge thank you to the parents and a big well done to the boys!





Grade 10 & 11

This week a number of Grade 10 and 11 learners took part in the Representative Council of Learners (RCL) development. It was hosted by FEDSAS (Federation of Governing Bodies of South African Schools). It was attended by Graeme, VG and PJ Olivier. The learners said that the workshop was inspirational and that it taught them ways to deal with the issues that arise in the classroom and with their fellow learners, teachers and parents.



Squash

The top 10 junior squash boys could finally go on their annual mini tour to Queenstown again this year. The boys had a lot of fun and played some excellent squash. Well done to all the boys on how they conducted themselves, on and off the squash courts. The boys were hosted at the 4 star Luxe Molen Hotel- a huge thank you to the Edwards family from Queens Junior College who so kindly paid for the boys' accommodation.

Results as follows:

GC Jnr beat GHS mixed 1st/2nd team 27 - 7.

GC Jnr beat Queens College Jnr 24 - 11.



Makana squash result:

Wednesday 4 May

6th league - GCJ3 beat SAP2, 10 - 6 in games.

Hockey

Senior Hockey:

Results vs SAC Wednesday 4 May 2022:

U15A Won 0-4

2nds Drew 2-2

1st XI Lost 2-0

Senior rugby results:

Results vs Hudson Park High School:

- U14a won 28-19
- U14b won 12-0
- U15a won 13-0
- U15b lost 5-24
- U16a lost 7-33
- U16b lost 15-54
- 3rds lost 12-43
- 2nds lost 21-22
- 1sts lost 17-22

Fixtures for the weekend:

Junior Rugby:

Junior Rugby vs Port Alfred and St Marys

Saturday 7 May 2022

Marais A

09H00 u13B vs St Marys u13A

09H50 u11A vs Port Alfred u11A

10H45 u13A vs Port Alfred u13A

Marais B

09H00 u11B vs St Marys u11A

09H50 u9A vs St Marys u9A

Senior Rugby: Fixtures vs St. Andrews College, 7 May



Please click on the following link for the Live Streaming of Saturday's Rugby St Andrew's College vs Graeme College

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q46aGd3cIQE>

Lower		Knowing 2	
09H00	SAC U14A vs GC U14A	09H00	SAC U14C vs Graeme U14C
10H00	SAC U15A vs GC U15A	10H10	SAC U15C vs Wynberg U15E
11H10	SAC U16A vs GC U16A	11H20	SAC U14C vs Wynberg U14E**
12H20	SAC 3rds vs GC 3rds	St Aidens	
13H30	SAC 2nds vs GC 2nds	09H00	SAC 8ths vs Graeme 8ths
14H40	SAC 1st XV vs GC 1st XV	10H10	SAC 8ths vs Wynberg 8ths
Knowing 1		11H20	SAC U16C vs Wynberg U16D
09H00	SAC U16B vs Graeme U16B		
10H10	SAC 4ths vs Graeme 4ths		
11H20	SAC U15B vs Graeme U15B		
12H20	SAC U14B vs Graeme U14B		
13H20	SAC U16CU15C vs Wynberg U15F**		

Watch the games live on this link tomorrow:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q46aGd3cIQELower>

- 09H00 Knowing 1:
- SAC U14A vs GC U14A 11H20
- 10H00 SAC 4ths vs Graeme 4ths
- SAC U15A vs GC U15A 12H20
- 11H10 SAC U15B vs Graeme U15B
- SAC U16A vs GC U16A
- 12H20 Knowing 2
- SAC 3rds vs GC 3rds 09H00
- 13H30 SAC U14C vs Graeme U14C
- SAC 2nds vs GC 2nds 10H10
- 14H40 SAC U14B vs Graeme U14B
- SAC 1st XV vs GC 1st XV St Aidens
- Knowing 1
- 10H10 12h30
- SAC U16B vs Graeme U16B SAC 6ths vs Graeme 5ths

Pre-school

One of the pre-school's favourite events that we host in The Graemian Centre annually is Muffins with Mom. All the boys work really hard on preparing a short presentation for their moms or grandmothers, including some very heart warming songs. The moms were then presented with some special projects that were handmade and a gift. This mothering business is hard work and so there was tea and muffins on hand too! What a beautiful and sentimental morning was had.





Community Outreach Project

The community outreach boys want to do a very special drive this term. To welcome their new sister (Lilly) to Graeme College they would like to do a drive to collect items for the home that Lilly came from.

Obviously with the sensitive nature of the situation we cannot actually use the name of the home where Lilly came from for confidentiality purposes. The boys would like to call this drive "Lilly's Home".

Having been in the home they require anything baby related such as clothing, wipes, bath products, washing powder and staysoft.

There will also be a raffle to win a prize of R500 worth of dry goods. Tickets will be R5.

All items must please be made for the attention of Dr Shaw.

The class that donates the most items will receive a prize.



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:
@graemecollege
@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.