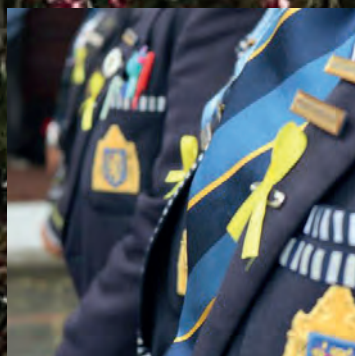


Groote Schuur High School

2021



The Principals address

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS – 22 OCTOBER 2021



Today we send them on their way – these beautiful young people. Today they are leaving the safety of the school, they are flying the coop. How they have looked forward to this day! Madame Programme Director, Chairperson and members of the SGB, Faculty and staff, Moms, Dads, loved ones, Ladies and Gentlemen, we return to you your babies whom you entrusted to us five years ago. We did our very best at most times, within our powers and with our resources. It could never be enough – we know that much remains unfinished.

At our school Assembly on Monday past I said that we wanted to do so much more, experience so much more, and make so many more memories. Our plans were curtailed, however, other and new learnings could be made.

Programme Director, I wish to acknowledge their parents and families for their support over the past years. Your efforts and toil have not gone unnoticed by us, neither has your support and love of our school, Groote Schuur High School. Thank you for being exemplary when called upon, thank you for the kind word when it was needed. Your children will still need it

for a good while, although they may think otherwise.

Classic 2021, as a parting message to you today, let me give you the following:

1. You never have to recover from a good start. This applies to everything you do. First up is the final examination. Make a good start on Wednesday. Make a good start to the post-matric year. Make a good start to your tertiary studies, or your gap year, your your first job. Make a good start, because you never have to recover from a good start.
2. Show Gratitude wherever you go, in whatever you do. Many people have to s open doors for you. Know that. Your parents were the first to open doors for you. Your teachers did too. Create around you. An atmosphere of appreciation.
3. Be honest.
4. Use an opportunity in the lifetime of the opportunity. Hyogo university.
5. Be teachable. Sachin Tendulkar – no one works harder and practices harder. Called his coach after his last innings to ask for guidance in the event of him having to bat again.

6. Remember the words of the cocktail barman: when the ice is gone, the party is over.
7. Practice. Practice. Practice. The Chinese example. The martial arts teacher: I don't fear a man who practiced a thousand kicks. I fear a man who practiced one kick a thousand times.

These seven life lessons are as important to you as they are to me. Learn them, practice them, remember them.

As I take leave of you, this final world:

- Let others lead small lives, but not you;
- Let others argue over small things, but not you;
- Let others cry over small hurts, but not you;
- Let others leave their future in someone else's hands, but not you.

May God bless us all!

Mr Marius Ehrenreich (Principal)

Message from the SGB

This year was a special year as #Matric2021 was that of our daughter and her cohort. It always becomes personal when we are directly impacted as is the case with everything in life.

I left them with the following ... Surround yourselves with your A Team. People who are close to you and have your best interest at heart. People that you know have the same values as you. Be discerning and learn from mistakes – do not make the same mistake twice. Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle.

The above also speaks to who we are as a school family, we trust that the learners who leave our gates are able to continue and build on our core values as they navigate their new world.

Groote Schuur High school learners had 100% attendance

during 2021, no rotational attendance was implemented. Our learners had the privilege of being at school daily where a safe space was maintained. This benefited all learners with their academic performance keeping true our mission and core values which is to provide an education that will develop the potential of each learner.

We were privileged to have received an investment made by the WCED in our school by completing massive building renovations and installing IT resources which stands the school in good stead for the next few years. This too ticking off another of our core values in ensuring that we work in a disciplined and attractive environment but assisting in managing the school fees!

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our committed and passionate parents who supports both our school and our learners. We

foster an attitude of respect for all in everything that we do and trust that this continues in the years to come.

Lastly, thank you to Mr Ehrenreich and the Groote Schuur Team (Educators and Staff) without you we do not have an institution. May your desire to lead and nourish our learners with commitment, purpose, integrity and passion always be on fire!

I leave you all with these words by Jim Rohn as reflection...

"Character is a quality that embodies many important traits, such as integrity, courage, perseverance, confidence and wisdom. Unlike your fingerprints that you are born with and can't change, character is something that you create within yourself and must take responsibility for changing."

Lolita Alexander, SGB Chairperson



Staff News

We welcomed a number of new staff members to our team in 2021 and sadly bade farewell to a few as well.

The geography department bid farewell to **Mr Graham Bright** this year. In the two years that Mr Bright was at GSHS, he assisted with our Learner Leadership programme, the Environmental Society and was the man behind the launch of the Homeroom Cup. We will miss his dedication to education and helping each learner recognise their potential.



Sadly, we took leave of **Ms Landi Binza**, her smile, laughter and straight-talking honesty will be missed. In the two years that Landi was at GSHS, her impact could be seen in her fully booked schedule, her friendships with her peers and in workshops that she was involved in. Landi's sense of humour, her calmness, and her ability to understand and empathise with staff and learners alike made her an easy person to talk to.



What did **Mrs Kay Adriaanse**, not bring to the table? She could belt out a song, give a meaningful dedication on the spot, make the entire room laugh and was always positive. She had a strong sense of what is right and was a passionate teacher and friend. She brought with her happiness and joy and is sorely missed.

We will miss our dear colleague, **Sarah Meek** as we bid farewell and wish her on her new journey. We will miss Ms Meek's infectious laugh, kind heart and gentle nature in the Life Sciences Department.



Ms Brenda Vogt, left too after ten years of dedicated service as our Hostel Matron. We are particularly indebted to her for making the hostel a 'home away from home' for all the learners.

Thabo Malatji, otherwise known as 'Mr GQ', for always being so well dressed, started his Mathematics career here at GSHS in 2020. In the two years that he was here he and Mr Fortuin spent much time discussing new and modern ways to teach math. We are sad to bid farewell to him.

"It is the Supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

Mr Klaasen is one such teacher. Not only did he awaken such creative expression in the Drama Classroom but also in the Afrikaans Classroom where his assistance made essays come alive.

Mr Klaasen is masterful in the art of bringing out the best in his learners and this was evident in every Cabaret production held in the Nassau.

While his passion for the Dramatic Arts was very evident, it is his genuine caring nature that lives on in every person whose life he has touched at Groote Schuur High School.

Mr Jeremy Quickfall was a music educator at Groote Schuur High School for nine years. This year saw



NEW STAFF

Back row: Mrs P Gerard, Mrs Kotze, Mr Marais, Mrs Geach, Ms Kearns
Front row: Mr Nash, Ms Munro, Mr Ehrenreich, Ms February, Ms Beukes

the department take leave of Mr Quickfall. He was also The Performing Arts Faculty Head for four of those nine years. Mr Quickfall was the choir director and co-directed the school Cabaret each year with Mr Klaasen. The cabaret brought much enjoyment to both our learners and staff. Learners from all of the art forms took part in the cabaret as well as the highlight being a staff item each year. Mr Quickfall transferred to The Settlers High School this year. We wish him much success and happiness.

Jomé Beukes, joined the Groote Schuur family in the Afrikaans Department at the start of 2021 as a newly qualified educator. Even though she only stayed for one year, she had made such a great impact on the learners and her colleagues

alike. We have come to know Jomé as someone who would jump in and get her hands dirty where need be. She assisted wherever she could, offering to set assessments and notes, etc. as well as offering extra classes to the struggling learners.

She is a meticulous, well-organised and hardworking educator with a friendly, kind and charming disposition and definitely a great asset to the education sector.

We know she will thrive in her new role and wish her well in her future endeavours.



LEAVING A LEGACY

"The pain of a hard good-bye is the heart's tribute to the privilege to love."

– Beth Moore, *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus*
Linnell Holland's journey at



Groote Schuur High School started in 1994. This was not only historic year for South Africa, but also a historic year for the school. Over the next 27½ years Linnell became an integral part of the Groote Schuur family.

It is perhaps a little ironic that the girl who grew up speaking Afrikaans, became a distinguished English teacher, and head of English for a number of years. During her time at Groote Schuur, Linnell introduced Interact via the Rotary club of Newlands, of which she is a member. This resulted in our learners getting the opportunity to attend RYLA camps, being involved in community projects and fundraisers over many years.

Linnell also encouraged and mentored learners for public speaking and debating, helped to organize and coordinate our annual Easter service alongside Sarie Jacobs, and became the librarian after retiring from fulltime teaching. Without Linnell, there are some school magazines and yearbooks that would not have seen the light if her editing skills had not saved the day.

Her vast knowledge of and love for plants and gardening was evident in the conversations she had with educators and members of the grounds and gardens teams over the years.

Linnell is a true "mensch", someone to admire and emulate, of noble character. She has a sense of dignity, a sense of what is right, being responsible, and decorous. She has been a role model to many newly qualified teachers and colleagues alike. Her humility, compassion and empathy define who she is a person and as a friend. She embodies being a servant leader, and is an amazing, caring human being.

We as a school say to you, Linnell: "goodbye" – God be with you, and "farewell" – May it go well with you.

The Basic Education sector created employment opportunities for education and general education assistants, with the primary objective being: to allow young people to acquire skills, such as ICT, administration and work ethic to improve their employability. GSHS received the opportunity to interview and employ six interns. Whilst in the programme the interns assisted our school with Covid-19 screening, admissions, general administration and gained valuable knowledge of working within a school.



We say a big thank to:

Seated: Jamie Erasmus, Maya du Plessis and Mikhaela Seramie

Back row: Shukri Hendricks, Zubair Dramat and Christopher Williamson

We appreciate you for adapting so quickly to school life and being willing to jump into a new role at any given time.

2021 saw wedding bells for Ms Cassiem, now Mrs van Oudtshoorn and for Mr Marlon Maart.



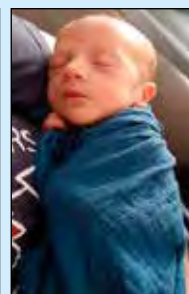
The GSHS family has also grown with the arrival of six babies born to GSHS staff. Firstly, the girls, Mrs Bloemstein's daughter, Ryhan Grace and Mrs Searle daughter, Nova Gabriella. The boys, Liam Andrew to Mrs Trent, Hamzha to Mr Waggie, Conor Alistair to Mrs Samuels and little boy for Mrs Hendricks. We say a big congratulation to all and. Welcome to the family!



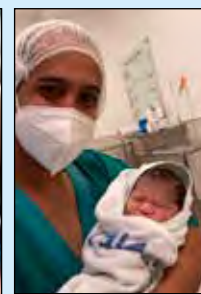
Ryhan Grace



Nova Gabriella



Liam Andrew



Hamzha Waggie

Mr Vincent Jacobs, a member of our Estate Team members celebrated his 60th birthday. 'Uncle Vincent' as he is fondly called, always has a ready smile, is always willing to help and will gladly go the extra mile to make staff happy. We wish him many more happy and healthy years! Thank you Uncle Vincent and we appreciate you!



Staff members getting their vaccines



On 1st of September, Administrative Professional's Day, the admin staff were treated to yummy breakfast boxes and coffee, in acknowledgment for their hard work behind the scenes.

Academics

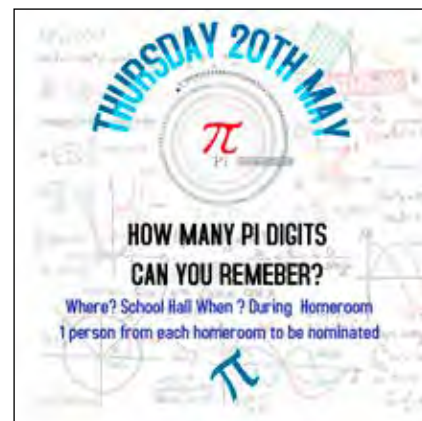
This year we held our schools' very first spelling bee, this is a project that is so much fun to be a part of. The portfolio composes and chooses the words. We had one person per homeroom participate in one round. The prize for the winner was a R50 voucher for the tuckshop, as well as house points for the winner's house. This project along with the general knowledge quiz was part of our Academic week. These projects (Pi day, General knowledge quiz, Spelling Bee) all took place during the homeroom period and in the hall. Regretfully because of the lack of time, we were unable to organise a full tournament with rounds leading up to an exciting finale, but hopefully next year this will be executed in the first term, as the sole project for Academic Week.

The General Knowledge Quiz, alongside Spelling Bee was a part of our Academic week. We basically either took facts from our general knowledge and from the Internet. We read/dictated e.g. What is the largest desert on Earth? And the learners would write their answer



on a piece of paper. We then took their scripts and marked them ourselves. This took place during homeroom period. One person per homeroom. The prize for the winner was a R50 voucher for the tuckshop. As well as house points for the winner's house. Once again our regret is that we couldn't make a tournament out of the general knowledge quiz. This was also a very successful project.

The academic portfolio of 2021 successfully brought to fruition the peer tutoring program which aims to eliminate any gaps the younger grades may feel they have academically. Working alongside Ms



Joubert this year we've specifically tutored the grade 9 group as they felt the most academic pressures due to Covid-19. Hopefully this project that we have worked so hard on, will be expanded upon in 2022.

In 2021 we aimed to do an academic related project every term, thus encourages our peers and reminding us that there is also a fun aspect regarding academics. We hosted Pi-day this year to record the student who memorised the most Pi digits and the winner came in with an astounding 99 decimals by memory. The prize was a Pie voucher from the tuckshop.



The Representative Council of Learners has had an engaging year of service in office. Every Monday morning at 07:30, meetings were held and in these meetings, we discussed imperative information regarding the improvement of the school. Any issues or concerns learners had, were also discussed. The RCL executive had meetings where it was necessary to plan and develop strategies on how to solve problems in the school community.

We achieved a number of things this year, and we are thankful to the SMT and supporting staff for working with us on matters. Matters that were accomplished include:

One Break matter

Learners of the school were not satisfied with the one break on the Semester 1 timetable. The learners and staff were surveyed, and the responses showed that both groups wanted two breaks. The timetable was adjusted to allow for two breaks from Monday to Thursday. The single break remained on Friday.

Sanitary Towel Initiative

The RCL received several letters, especially from the girls of the school, requesting for Sanitary products to be made available. We were able to do this successfully in service of our school community.

RCL Suggestion Box

The RCL decided to build a box into which learners of the school can put any suggestions, complaints and notions. However, this box was not put in place but we do plan to hand it over to the RCL of 2022 for implementation next year.



The 2021 RCL of Groote Schuur High School

In addition, we hosted several events that had never been done at our school before, and we hope that future RCLs continue to carry on with and drive these events for years to come. The new events that were hosted were The Easter Egg Hunt, The Women's Day programme for our Matric girls, and recently our Blisters for Bread walk. The majority of the learners in each grade participated in the walk and raised money in this way for the Peninsula Feeding Scheme.

On behalf of the RCL, we would love to thank the sports department, Mr Galant and his team, the marketing, admin and

finance staff, as well as the estate staff, Mr Ocktober and his team. Many thanks to all parents who assisted with these events and all the sponsors, Spar and Coke, as well as Mrs Naeema Parker, and the Julies family.

We also held weekly cupcake sales in the month of August, in support of the organisation: Cupcakes for Hope.

Our Vision:

is to preserve the legacy of a positive environment by developing leadership potential and creating an improved sense of well-being in the Groote Schuur community.

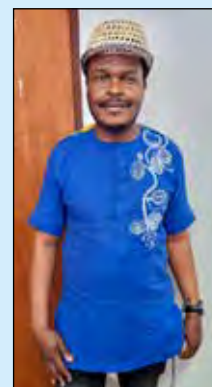
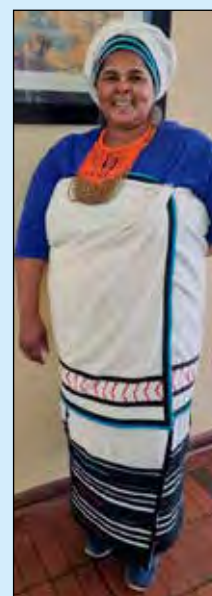
HERITAGE DAY

With Groote Schuur's culturally diverse community of students, the RCL found it fitting for the learners to express their heritage during Heritage month. On the 29th and 30th of September 2021 GSHS students came to school wearing accessories that represent their beautiful heritage with their uniform. Face painting, native isiXhosa and isiZulu culture, was offered for R5, with those funds going towards our schools soup kitchen.

Over the course of the two days, learners from different traditions such as Sotho, Indian, Zulu, Xhosa to name a few, were spotted around the school. Their attire showed pride, representation and celebration of each culture which embodied the meaning of Heritage Day. School staff took part in displaying their cultures as well, some even showing appreciation to other cultures.

Not only were the school grounds filled with diverse traditions, the display and celebration of each culture opened a space for others to learn, understand and appreciate our differences. One these two days the learners and staff were able to show more about who they are and where they are from.

Sweet's for Cancer was initially 'Cupcakes for Cancer' that was started 2019, however due to COVID the initiative had to reconsider the items sold in order to raise funds. October is Breast Cancer awareness month which is when the initiative started. The sweets were quickly sold out due to the eager and passionate Grade 8 RCL salesman.



Our Mission:

is to unify the Groote Schuur community by encouraging communication and by serving, supporting and inspiring learners to become active in all spheres of school life.

Our goal this year was to do as much as possible, and to leave a legacy. I am confident that we achieved this goal and prepared the way for the next RCL to continue with this.

Personally, working with the RCL team was enjoyable even though we had our challenges. When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things are achieved. And like they say, teamwork makes the dream work!

Faraaz Marlie

RCL Chairperson and the team



SECOND ANNUAL SANITARY PAD DRIVE

The Annual Sanitary Pad Drive, an initiative relaunched by the Representative Council of Learners (RCL) in association with the Feminist Society in 2019, aims to donate as many pads possible to women in need of them since this basic necessity is one an unfortunate number of women in South Africa still can't afford. Last year in 2019, with over 150 packets of pads collected from the school, the pads were handed over to an NGO named *Womandla* which frequently does pad donations to schools and neighbourhoods where resources are scarce. This year, with all that Covid-19 has done and continues to do, the need for donations of basic necessities such as pads is even greater, which is why the 2nd Annual Sanitary Pad Drive, which took place throughout the month of September and October, needed to be a success, and it was. Despite the decrease in the number of pad packets donated to just over 100, even with the help of the money donated to this drive by the Gender-Based Violence Campaign and the money raised from lollipop sales, we were still able to donate the pads as part of the RCL Care Pack which were handed over to personally handed over to the women in shelters for victims of abuse. Our wish is for this annual initiative to continue to grow and make a difference in people's lives.

Zintle Qaba, 2020 RCL Member



Mr Maart and the RCL on World Aids Day 2021

BLISTERS FOR BREAD FUN WALK

On the 28th – 30th September 2021, our grade 8 to 11 participated in this fun walk in aid of raising funds for the Peninsula School Feeding Association. After long hours of planning and organising which was led by a group of Gr 10 representatives and the backing of the school's RCL and sport portfolio, we managed to pull off a successful 5km walk for each grade on their designated days. The walk stirred up excitement within the school and many learners went on this walk to receive a sense of relaxation and enjoy the scenery and others to see who of their friends can make it back quicker. On completion of the walk each participant received a boerewors and cooldrink and enjoyed this on the school field.

We received an enormous amount of help from the Sports Team and Co-ordinators, the admin staff as well as our local Traffic officers. The event would not have been such a success without the participation and excitement of the learners. On the 2 December 2021, we were able to hand over a cheque to Charles Grey, the fundraising manager at the PSFA, which was able to feed impoverished learners with 2 meals per day for an entire year.

We continue to thank all those who donated or contributed to the success of this fundraiser.



The Kind Heart Bench Project



We aim to focus on the issues that our learners deal with on a daily basis that affects their mental health, such as peer pressure and bullying. All learners, at some stage in their school career will experience a level of anxiety or depression at school.

The bench and chair both come from the tree – giving life, hope, love, kindness, saying you matter, this being the inspiration of The Kind Heart Bench Project.

Our Aims are to:

- To promote healthy mental health within our school – creating a narrative to what is causing the stress, anxiety or depression.
- To develop a mental health toolkit for students to help equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to deal with their day to day issues.
- To recognise when young people are at risk, or who are experiencing mental health issues and to provide guidance to these learners

The projects emphasis is that we as a society can be that pillar, that backrest, the armrests, coming alongside our learners who



are bullied, feeling depressed, marginalised, or who feel forgotten.

This project aims to spread love, inclusions and kindness – creating a new narrative, cultivating the idea that change is possible, if we work together. We want our learners to know that they matter and that they are acknowledged.

The Kindness Bench is a permanent installation which:

- Will be placed in the school grounds, clearly visible, in an accessible space for the learners
- Be a permanent reminder to students to take minute of out their day to sit, breathe and talk about their mental health and that of their peers
- The placement of the Kind Heart Bench is a visual reminder

to talk to and engage openly with one another, where you can sit down and talk to someone.

- The Kind Heart Bench offers a safe space, to connect with others, openly– sharing their stories and ideas.

When did it start?

The first bench – the yellow chair was placed at GSHS in 2014, it then gained momentum and more schools became recipients of the kindness benches which developed into gardens. The project has been discussed on national television, published in local magazines and spoken about on prominent radio stations.

The hashtag #youmatter will be used as part of the campaign to create awareness around the project. This tag will be added to school awareness campaigns to more peer-to-peer dialogue among students in their preferred social media channels.

It acts as a call-to-action to students to think about mental health and to check in with each other.

Interact – Service beyond Self

Groote Schuur High School Interact Society, which falls under the umbrella of the Rotary Club of Newlands, Newlands, South Africa, had a fairly successful year. We as the GSHS Interact Club aim to make a difference through charitable deeds. Our focus is to give to the needy and change social injustices (such as poverty) which we see in our everyday lives.

We were involved in the following projects during the year, namely:

- Cascades Program
- Blankets from squares knitted by our learners, parents and teachers
- Games, puzzles and magazine Drive donated to Kensington Old Age Home
- Soup Kitchen
- Easter Egg Drive donated to children in Langa and Childrens Homes

- Special Sweet treats donated by GSHS families and handed over to Old Age Home.

Cascades

Every Wednesday we as the Interact club encourage the whole school family to bring sandwiches, soup and lunch items to be distributed to more than 100 primary school children in a socially disadvantaged area, ravaged by gang violence, namely Manenberg Primary. We as the GSHS Interact Club recognise that no student should have to learn on an empty stomach and thus Cascades is now one of our established programmes. We continue to provide the lunch supplies on a weekly basis. On average, we feed about 100 children one day a week. The school makes use of the school bus and our driver to deliver the food.

Blankets

This particular Drive was a huge success. Parents, learners and staff got involved in the knitting of woollen 15 x 15 cm squares. we managed about 15 blankets which was then donated to Kensington Old Age Home. Mrs Patsy Geach, our School Librarian, co-ordinated the whole project.



GRADE 8 ORIENTATION WEEK

Orientation week for the Grade 8s of 2021 started late due to Covid-19 restrictions and on Monday 15 Feb they were at last warmly welcomed to High School by the Prefect Body and the RCL of GSHS for the first time.

Social distancing, sanitising and screening were priorities as they entered the school grounds looking anxiously at each other over their masks.

Our senior leaders shepherded them into the North Squad and separated them into register classes before entering the hall for their first High School Assembly.

The Orientation Assembly introduced the Grade 8s to their Principal, Grade Head, Assistant Grade Head and the Head Boy and Head Girl and they were assigned their Homerooms which they would belong to for the rest of their school career.

Textbooks and House shirts were also distributed on the first day.

The Amazing Race followed the morning's more formal start and all the preparation by the Prefect Body resulted in a fun filled team building exercise as learners earned points for their classes

by competing in eight different activities around the campus. At each activity they learnt one of the school's core values of: Growth, Stewardship, Belonging, Accountability, Service, Respect, Excellence and Integrity. This was enjoyed by all as the Grade 8s got to know their school campus, their classmates and the values that Groote Schuur embraces.

On the second day of Orientation Week, Tuesday 17 Feb, the Grade 8s entered the campus with more confidence as they greeted new friends that they had made on Day 1.

Today they were tasked with a creative project to produce a name tag with a baby photo of themselves and to bring a childhood toy. If a Prefect caught anyone without these items, they had to answer a question about the school.

At today's Assembly, the Grade 8s were introduced to some of the many portfolios at GSHS by the portfolio heads. They then attended their very first class.

On the third day of Orientation, Wednesday 17 Feb, the Grade 8s had to wear self-made crowns to school together with their name



tags from Day 2. They looked like royalty as they filed in to Assembly in their now familiar class groups.

Today's Assembly addressed the school's uniform and the correct and incorrect way to wear the school uniform was demonstrated by the Student Leaders.

More Portfolio Heads introduced





their portfolios to the Grade 8s before leading them off to their classes.

Thursday 18 Feb was the last day that the Grade 8s would have to wear their crowns and name tags and their home-made jewellery to school.

The Prefects now handed over to the RCL for the Assembly. A time capsule was created by the Grade 8s which entailed them writing a letter to their future selves and sealing it away in a box to be kept in the safe to be opened at their Matric Graduation Ceremony. Friday 19 Feb was the last day of Grade 8 Orientation before they would become fully integrated into the life of GSHS.

This Assembly took on a celebratory tone for having made it successfully through Orientation. The school song was taught to the Grade 8s and a fun dance off competition was held to finish it off. The day closed with a more formal



Blazer Induction Ceremony where the Grade 8s could finally pack away their home-made apparel and become official members of Grootte Schuur High School.

Mr Ehrenreich, Mr Waggie, Mrs Adams and the Head Girl Zintle Qaba and Head Boy Joshua Shimba addressed and formally welcomed the Grade 8s to Grootte Schuur High School and wished them a happy and productive school career.

Organising Orientation Week is a massive task but to do so



whilst implementing Covid-19 restrictions made it all that much more challenging and the Student Leaders are to be congratulated for successfully doing so. Many problems had to be resolved on the spot but overall so many new skills were learnt and these lessons learnt will definitely be incorporated into future Orientation Weeks.

Well done to all concerned on a successful Grade 8 Orientation week which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated.



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

This year our Learner Leaders enjoyed two very different but very informative workshops.

The first workshop was called 'Social Media and you' and was presented by social media guru, Mr Gino Mzanzi Solomon, Director of Mzanzi Blue and Business Director of Africa Ablaze. He spoke about how prospective employers view our social media accounts and the importance of a positive online presence. The learners were able to engage in an extensive question and answer session and quickly update their social media accounts to be more acceptable to potential employers.

The second workshop was presented by Blake 'the Champ' Williams and Storm Joy Cookson from 2nd Chance. This workshop was divided into two sections: Self Image and Resilience. The learners discussed how important the relationship they have with themselves is. They were also taught the difference between negative coping strategies and healthy coping strategies.

Blake spoke about his incredible story to become the world's no.1 Hip Hop dancer and spoke about the importance of resilience. His motto of 'Our attitude determines our approach and our approach determines what we want to achieve' struck a chord with many of the learners.

The workshops were very informative and the learners were left inspired and motivated.

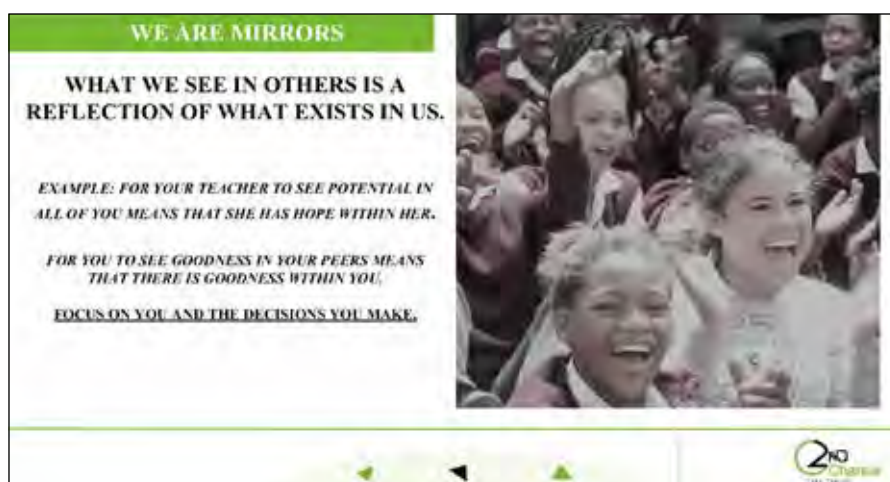


Heads of School 2021

Jayden Koff (Deputy Head Boy), Mahle Stwayi (Head Boy), Zintle Qaba (Head Girl), Resego Sefora (Deputy Head Girl)



Danielle Jones, Gino Mzanzi, Leah Europa (Head of Leadership), Zintle Qaba (Head Girl) and Mahle Stwayi (Head Boy)



2nd Chance team and learner leaders



Storm Joy from 2nd Chance



Decorating the notice boards



Head Girl, Zintle Qaba being filmed by Fred Barker for the new GSHS school video



Heads of School 2022

Jared Sauls (Deputy Head Boy), Phiwokuhle Ndyalivane (Head Girl), Joshua Shimba (Head Boy) and Myasah Al Absi (Deputy Head Girl)



Learners leadership 2022 announced

"AND THE MUSIC PLAYED ON"

2021 presented the Music department with many challenges, due to Covid-19 restrictions, but also opened the door for many possibilities. Although facing restrictions on band rehearsals and sizes, we saw a fruitful year featuring our jazz band, marimba band and a number of smaller ensembles. The department took leave of a few educators and welcomed Miss Celeste Williams as a full-time member of staff in July. With Ms Williams' arrival, we saw the resurrection of the vocal ensemble and show choir. Our bands and vocalists successfully collaborated on a number of performances.

This year saw the jazz band grow from 4 musicians to 17 members, featuring a full horn section with rhythm section. We also enjoyed the overflow in marimbas and formed two marimba bands.

Our performers missed out on many of our annual performances and festivals around Cape Town, but enjoyed the opportunities created internally at Groote Schuur High School. The Jazz Band was invited to perform at the ceremony where our school donation was handed over to the Peninsula Feeding Scheme, as well as the Graduation Ceremony of Shine Academy. The marimba band, vocal ensemble, and soloists, along with the jazz

band partook in the GSHS Talent Show later in the year. This event saw the reopening of the Nassau Centre and we were delighted to be a part of bringing performance back to GSHS. Mrs Paige Du Plessis did a sterling job of creating an opportunity for collaboration between the arts within our school.

Our band and vocal ensemble enjoyed many internal performances including performing

for our incumbent parents and learners at Open Day. In term 4 we welcomed Ms Kelly Bell as the newly appointed Faculty Head of the Performing Arts. Miss Bell's vision for 2022 is Reclaiming the Space; knowing we all have a voice and space and standing tall in our calling. Through the arts, we aim to embrace our diversity and skills by showing unity and strength in our music and making the arts inclusive and accessible.



Filmit

I remember seeing the Filmit adverts and my interest had been immediately piqued. So I made a short video explaining my film concept and submitted it in a few hours before the deadline.

Although I had no expectations of winning I felt excited at the approach of a new experience. So once my film concept made it into the top 10, I immediately started thinking of a mind blowing plot that would engage the audience while still maintaining a realistic essence. The deadline was extended numerous times as film making is not a common practice here in South Africa and it was new to most people as it was to me and my film crew.

It took a while to find people who wanted to be a part of it as many students didn't want to risk the embarrassment of being in a movie that could go public. Once I realised I'd have no one to play the main character, I decided to take on the role and started acting as Nadia, a depressed teenage girl who flees the war in her country and struggles to adapt to normalcy due to her hallucinations and strange behaviour. She gets admitted into rehab and the audience gets to understand her a bit more.

After a few meetings with the rest of the film crew, we decided on a date to start shooting and we had a one week window to finish all the main shots. We were very much pressed for time and our editor



had one week to put all the scenes together. We just about made the final deadline and maybe a week later the video was uploaded onto YouTube and I would check the number of views every day for the 2 weeks that followed. My film made it into the top 10 due to the engagement it received then received a nomination for best screenplay writer and best actor. There were 3 nominations for each category and although I did not win a particular award I made it further than I'd ever expected.

This experience taught me so much and it helped me grow into the person I am today. It helped refine



my leadership skills along with teaching me how to work in a team, how to coordinate a team as well as how to plan ahead and make sure to have a back up plan, how to deal with failure and how to deal with my successes as gracefully and humbly as possible.

I encourage students to participate in activities like this as it truly holds many life lessons that come only with the experience of something new and wonderful and unexpected. Because most of the important turning-points of life often come at the most unexpected times and in the most unexpected ways.

Myasah Al-absi



TALENT SHOW

The idea behind the talent show was to give the learners an opportunity to be back on stage and to simply express themselves after the lockdown. Mr G and his dance students were invited to showcase what they had been working on and we were not disappointed! The GSHS Jazz band, musicians and vocal ensemble gave us toe tapping performances.

Special guests, the dance crew from Foxx Academy, gave us a vibrant hip hop experience. We had many solo artists who either sang, danced or made us listen with their powerful spoken word. Nstati, Lana, Lisa, Jane, Francesca, Angel and Kristi sang beautiful renditions of Beyonce and AmaZulu to name but a few. We had drum and piano solos. Who can forget the powerful all girl dance group, Pink Venom? Or the fast feet of the Yanos? The gentle acrobatics of the Black



Angels or the pulsating dance story finale from the Dance Society.

The show was a sell-out and was excitedly received by the audience.
Mrs du Plessis (Marketing Manager)

It all started with the talent show. This was one of the most stressful projects but was also the best project I've ever worked on. Working alongside Jared Sauls and Mrs Du Plessis was not only fun but it made a safe place for us to communicate with each other. The running around, getting acts to confirm and the practises was a lot to deal with at the time but we pulled through and produced a successful a show.

Originally the show was supposed to take place in the first week of October but was postponed due to load shedding but this was a blessing in disguise because it helped with the planning and gave us more time to figure out which acts we wanted. The time of the show came around and I can tell you that we were all very nervous for the outcome. This gave me butterflies because this was one of the biggest projects that I worked

on and everyday I'm thankful for that opportunity.

Being a stage manager, could have gone a bit smoother but I guess the proof is in the pudding. The show was a great success. Firstly, we sold out and we had a great time. From what I've heard parents and other family members who came to watch raved about how amazing the show was. This warmed my heart, it still does, knowing that myself and the rest of the crews efforts paid off.

If you had to ask me if I would do it again, I wouldn't even hesitate to say yes because being as it is this is one of the greatest experiences that I ever had.

Rumer Jantjies (stage manager)

The GSHS Talent Show took place on the 6th November 2021. Many learners participated and presented a variety of talents. The evening was very delightful and enjoyable. There were about 26 acts. The evening started off calmly with contemporary dances, spoken word and some singing. There was a break after the first half and guests were provided with a snack box and 'fancy' Jive with berries.





After the break, more dances took place, such as amapiano and hip hop. You could see the audience engaging and wanting to be part of the acts. The Marimba Senior and Junior band played many beautiful tunes. The evening ended off with a special thanks to Management and the learner leaders who helped out.

Ropafadzo Mutero (Media manager)



As Jarvie and Maguire said in 1994, sport and leisure activities form an integral part of social life in all communities and are intricately linked to society and politics. Popular culture attaches numerous positive values to sport. Including: Improves health, fitness and education, Creates business opportunities and employment, Fosters non-violence, fair competition, teamwork and respect bridges cultural and ethnic divides, contributes to cross cultural dialogue, understanding, unity, tolerance and peaceful-coexistence.

At centre of what we do as an academic institution, Groote Schuur High School places the child first and we have consciously chosen to use sport as a tool of empowerment for our learners and our families to stand in the presence of their true potential. Our core values paves the way towards our achievements together with hard work participation and fun.

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) acknowledged that the new coronavirus outbreak is a public health emergency of international concern. Chen, P., Mao, L., Nassis, G. P., Harmer, P., Ainsworth, B. E., & Li, F. (2020).

The extent of the adjustments required by the school in coaching and sport flowed in direct proportion to the extent of the Covid-19 pandemic during 2021.

We tried courageously to implement sport activities through our Sport Programme kicking off the 2021 year with a new look Inter-house athletics event that stretched over three days to accommodate for the prevention of the further spread of Covid-19. Unfortunately the inter schools athletics meeting come to



a halt as did many minor and mega sporting events globally.

Our unique sports period geared for mass participation was not removed from our timetable and in Term 1 we had the support of our educators with meticulously planned each session where the focus was strengthening the learners' understanding and confidence in the various items of athletics track and field. This gave us a sound platform to work from and resulted in record breaking levels of participation.

Apart from a few soccer matches being played prior to the third wave we were pretty much restricted to zero winter sports activities in Terms 2 and 3 placing the health of staff and learners at the forefront of what we needed to do and become as a school.



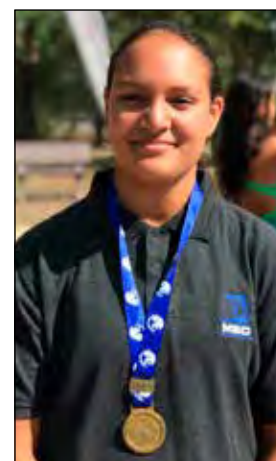


Term 4 came with sport making a comeback via a return to train programme and friendly cricket matches taking place after a rather lengthy lay off from sport.

Top sports award went to Nicolas Stober and Hania Adams who was acknowledged for their unwavering Sportsmanship.

Looking back on the 2021 sporting year it is needless to say that many lessons were learnt through what can be branded as a year of adversity. We will appreciate the opportunities to engage in sport once again in 2022 and will be dedicating our victories to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one during the pandemic. We hope to see you on the side of the field soon cheering for the Lions we don over our hearts as symbol of pride and courage.

The 2021 Rugby season started as one full of hope after a tough 2020 sporting year with everything being cancelled due to Covid-19. We started early in January with myself, Zubair Dramat, and Uzair Saban being appointed as the first team coaches. We put the team through an intense four weeks return to train programme where we had invitational coaches from Western Province come in and give the players a session. We then



had an internal league for all age groups and included boys and girls. This concept turned into a huge success and the players got a taste of what it is to play rugby again. Two days before our first official

game against another school, the Covid-19 restrictions were tightened and all contact sport had to be cancelled. We are grateful for our experiences and challenges, we are excited and hopeful for 2022.



FORMAL FRIDAY

Formal Friday is an annual Groote Schuur High School tradition which entails the Grade 12s arriving to school dressed in any formal wear and/or clothing specific to their career of choice. Our Formal Friday, held on the 3rd of September, was under Covid-19 restrictions – much like the matrices of the previous year. The weather that day, being rainy for most of the morning, meant that our event was held in the hall. However, this did not dampen our spirits because with the dedicated planning done by our grade's Formal Friday committee and assistance from our Grade Heads, the hall was beautifully set up with decorations, music and a photobooth. Our Grade showed up smartly dressed, some as lawyers, social media influencers and one of our Head of Academics even came dressed as a doctor in her medical scrubs only to later change into her formal wear. I really appreciated the versatility shown in the Grade's choice of outfits because I got to see them express themselves in a way we hardly get to during school hours. On the day, we had to attend our first two lessons out of the normal four to use as much time to prepare for the then upcoming Mock Exams. Afterwards we were then dismissed to the hall to socialise while being served food and refreshments by Grade 11s. All in all, it was a memorable day that the Grade 12s of 2021 enjoyed and were grateful to experience after all the other traditions we unfortunately had to miss out on because of the ongoing pandemic.

*Zintle Qaba,
Head Girl 2021*



FINAL ASSEMBLY SPEECHES

Farewell message from Head Boy, Mahle Stwayi

Message for teachers:

Thank you for being our mothers and fathers for the past 5 years. You were called for a purpose to inform us on the knowledge that can be world changing for most of us. Thank you for dealing with our numerous issues, breakdowns, complaints and unnecessary trouble. Thank you for loving us even when we didn't love you for certain moments when you said no to the things we wanted to do at the time, I'm sure there is a reason to why u broke our hearts in saying no. We won't forget you. You are part of our lives and you impacted us in numerous ways. It is time for us to share the knowledge that you shared with us to our next chapter of our lives. You were the light in our darkness. You were our hope during exams. We had faith in you when you marked our papers that you will mark from a place of love and not for the silly things we write. I pray that all your visions and dreams will come to life and that you will accomplish them certainly. Special thanks to Mr Kronenberg, Mr Collop, Mr Duminy, Mr Sibanda, Mr Cameron, Mr Maart, Mr Williams, Ms K Bell, Ms T Bell, Ms Nagfaal, Ms Williams, Ms Gerber, Mrs Sono, Ms Paige, SMT, Admin office, estate staff and ground staff.

Message for parents:

Parentals we thank you for loving us through all the seasons. You've been at the beginning of our journey. You've seen our growth over the years. You've seen our physical, emotional and spiritual changes over the years. You've experienced our voice changes from squeaky voices to deep voices. You've loved us at our worst times. You've loved us at our best times. Today we are here to make you proud and here to represent you. You may disagree with some of our choices but sometimes there's a deeper purpose within the choices we make. I'd like to motivate you by saying, it might be the end of our high school career but it will be the beginning of a new masterpiece that is going to shine bright like a diamond. I'd like to encourage you to be open and be positive and support your child



*Head Boy Mahle Stwayi and
Head Girl Zintle Xaba*

through every step. Your support can be their success. Don't stop believing in your child and always show them the way when they crossed the line.

Message for students:

Ladies and gentlemen of matric class of 2021 you guys have been an awesome grade to be a part of. We formed numerous relationships amongst ourselves. We went to

camp, we did the helping hands programme, and attended sports events. These events allowed us to get to know each other and get to spend time with one another. The 5 years went quick for most of us, but the 5 years took long for some of us. We all got different opinions about everything. Let's remember why we are here. And let's end on a high note where we will achieve great results in our final examinations so that we can enter the institutions next year with no hesitation but pure confidence. Let's support one another and let's make the last exams count so that we can be remembered and leave a great legacy that is impactful and challenging for the next generation. Let's set the standard and let's be the world changers and let's be the people with a purpose. Most of us will drift away from each other. We will all be going through different seasons that will lead us to new relationships and friendships. I will never forget this grade and I'll never forget the love and support I had from the school.

Farewell message from Head Girl, Zintle Xaba

The time has come for myself and my partner to close off our term as your Head Girl and Head Boy of 2021. My journey at this school has been filled with so much passion, new discoveries about myself, and honestly speaking, the more than occasional stressful moment.

Ever since Grade 8, it had always been my goal to become Head Girl, even before I knew all of the other opportunities the school offered, opportunities I only discovered once I started working towards that goal. I made sure to involve myself in as much as I could, sometimes taking on more than I could handle, to best prepare myself for what would be needed should I receive this position. From being a Grade Representative since Grade 8, a member of the RCL in 2019 and 2020, and even the Vice-Captain of the First Team Soccer Girls, there was one thing I constantly battled on my journey of servant leadership to the school. Self-esteem. One thing many people don't know about me is that most of the time, I doubt myself or feel like I don't deserve to be in places I know I've worked into getting into. So much so, that when I was finally announced as Head Girl on the 15th of November 2020, I was in a state of disbelief for most of the day. It only sunk in when my family was congratulating me when I got home later that day. With that said, I'd like to share something with you that I shared with my fellow matrics on our Valedictory day. Work towards who you want to be, not what you want to be. This is something that I learned being part of the Prefect Body of 2021. My goal may have been to become Head Girl, but through the struggle with self-esteem and self-image, I realised that I've always wanted to be someone who could be of help to others in whatever way I can. I'm happy that I was able to do that being part of a team that worked innovatively to make the best of our term with projects and initiatives such as the String Movement, Kind Hearts Bench Project, Spelling Bee, Pi Challenge, Plant A Seed, Inter-homeroom sport matches, Cultural Appropriation versus Cultural Appreciation Discussion, Peer Tutoring Programme, Wear Your Pride Friday, Pride Discussion and more. Make sure to take advantage of the opportunities around you when building who you want to be.

MATRIC UNDER COVID-19

Class of 2021 made it through two years with Covid-19 raiding the planet, restricting our freedom, limiting our educational resources. By the time matric began for class of 2021 it was an uncertain time. Many questions ran through our heads. Would we have to stay home for another lockdown? Will we be able to catch up with 2020's work? Will we have our important events that make grade 12 the most memorable year of high school or will that be stripped away from us like it was in 2020?

One would imagine that because we went through 2020, 2021 would be easier. Unfortunately, not. Covid-19 fatigue along with emotional vulnerability due to losses were taking over and the thought of another uncertain year was the not comforting.

2021 was an example of new teaching and learning techniques. It may have worked for some but not for all. 2020 showed us that we are all truly different and have different needs. Our teachers worked tirelessly to get us through the year with all that we had going on as individuals and it paid off. The more practical subjects required more time to be able to get through them and everyone from staff to learners were willing to put in that time, regardless of the circumstances.

Personally, 2020 taught me to prioritise my mental health, learn more about myself, balance school and general life. 2021 allowed me to put those lessons to the test and it helped me persevere to the end with extra hours to work on university applications, portfolios, design projects, extra classes, and



dealing with leadership matters. Matric under Covid-19 taught me to put myself first while being able to accomplish my goals and lend a hand to other struggling students. This balance every student needed, while trying to make it through the final year of high school.

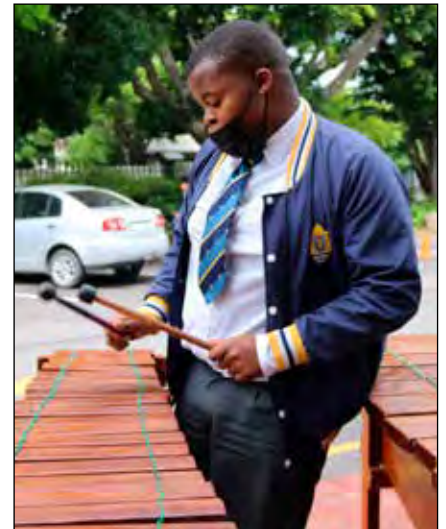
New events that complied with Covid-19 and its limits emerged

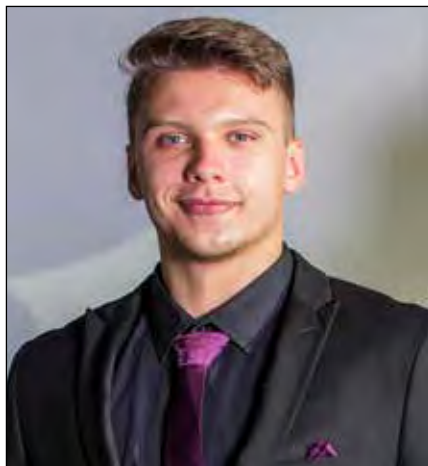
which to me, made up for the year. Fortunately, most of our time was spent at school and not online, overall making it a successful year.

Matric under Covid-19 was never going to be easy but it suddenly became the new normal. If one grade could do it, we all could.

*Resego Sefora
Deputy Head Girl 2021*









An excerpt from Head of School 2021, Zintle Xaba's Prize Giving Speech

Today is a day us Matric's have long awaited for. Have long worked towards and it's finally here. We've had to sacrifice a lot along the way but hey, we've made it.

To my fellow matrics, there is a proverb in isiXhosa that I wanted to share with you today. "Akukho Nkanga Idubula Ingethi"

Translated it is "There is no Nkanga flower that blooms that will not wither" The Nkanga flower blossoms in a vibrant yellow colour during the warm seasons and withers away comes Winter. The message behind this proverb is that "Nothing Lasts Forever". Throughout the course of the day, we've heard speeches on all the highs that we've experienced as a Grade in our seasons of bloom, such as the Grade Camps. We've also heard about the lows we experienced in our seasons of withering brought on by the ongoing pandemic, including our Fashion Show having to be cancelled. These seasons of blooming and withering will continue to come as your life goes on. This brings me to the last part of my speech as the clumsy, overthinking girl who is sometimes



too hard on herself, a message I've only fully acknowledged this year. As we know that nothing lasts forever, rather focus on who you want to be rather than what you want to be. Make mistakes and learn from them, let those lessons help build you into the person that aim to be. Also, don't forget to have fun. Even if it feels like the world is on our shoulders, we're still way young, embrace that present. Goodluck with on all your future endeavours and have a blessed life.





MATRIC CLASS OF 2021



Aaminah
Abrahams



Jayden
Abrahams



Lucien
Abrahams



Mogamad Ruzaiq
Abrahams



Mark
Abria



Iyad
Achmat



Haania
Adams



Mawaddah
Adams



Alec
Adonis



Adrienne
Alberts



Samarah
Albertyn



Zoe
Alexander



Charlie
Alfred



Michee
Alino



Muhammad
Allie



Cameron
Anders



Sarah-Jane
Andrews



Thareef
Arend



Azra
Banderker



Zayaan
Barnes



Timothy
Barry



Gareth
Beckett



Aneez
Begg



Ricky
Bellairs



Twahafa
Benjamin



Dhurraa
Birch



Inga
Booï



Samara
Botman



Hlumelo
Botya



Zara
Brettenny



Govan
Brink



Alex
Brown



Jodie
Cloete



Amirah
Coenraad



Dylan
Connolly



Andrew
Crowster



Zubayr
Daniels



Haneef
Darvel



Muhammad Uzair
Davids



Natheerah
Davids



Qiyaam
Davids



Iman
Dollie



Cameron-Lee
Dreyer



Aliyah
du Toit



Astrid
du Toit



Amukelani
Dyubeni



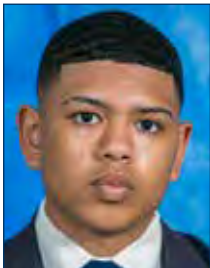
Aakifah
Ely



Ethan
Erasmus



Thomas
Erasmus



Joshua
Esau



Ghammaad
Essa



Leah
Europa



Taariq
Faker



Leilah
Fakier



Nathrie
Fakier



Radhiyah
Fakier



Anica
Finch



Zoe
Fisher



Nekicia
Galada



Cole
Goliath



Nicholas
Gordon



Thaakirah
Goulfarris



Asheekah
Groenmeyer



Allison
Grosch



Tharaa
Hanslo



Muzzammil
Hartley



Ashley
Hendricks



Lee
Hendricks



Melissa
Hendricks



Reece
Hendricks



Jordan
Howes



Justin
Hurling

MATRIC CLASS OF 2021



Tamika
Isobell



Athraa
Jacobs



Jorja
Jarvis



Caitlyn
Jeniker



Caitlin
Johnson



Kyra
Johnson



Skylar
Jonathan



Nathania
Jones



Michelle
Kannemeyer



Raaheel
Karriem



Ntsika
Ketsekile



Abdul Sataar
Khamissa



Jayden
Koff



Tyla
Lawrence



Haneem
Leite



Keagan
Lendis



Kelsey
Lombard



Lisa
Lumko



Kirsten
Mactavie



Gabriella
Madombwe



Regomoditswe
Maotwane



Azande
Maqhwarra



Basheer
Marshall



Amy
Marshand



Chelsea
Martin



Ronald
Marume



Lebogang
Mashiloane



Siyanda
Mashiya



Ameer
Matthysen



Yahya
Menacere



Cassidy
Meyer



Liyema
Mhaka



Lona
Mkhabele



Siphesihle
Mngcangceni



Oratile
Mogodi



Angeline
Momberg



Romy
Mongaile



Mikaeel
Moses



Thaakirah
Mosoval



Ammaarah
Motlekar



Miche
Mouton



Siyolise
Mtshengu



Sihle
Mtsi



Asemahle
Mxhakaza



Daelyn
Naidoo



Michael
Nakale



Tadiwanashe
Ngwenyama



Nzonzo
Nlanda



Onwabile
Nongqotho



Nuhaa
Noordien



Lutho
Nqwakuzayo



Sibongile
Ntombela



Sibongiseni
Ntombela



Sisipho
Nyeka



Reece
O'Connor



Adaugoh
Obumneme



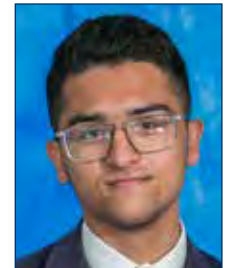
Adeyinka
Olanrewaju



Erin
Oliver



Lara
Olivier



Faizaan
Omar



Zoghra
Orrie



Suhail
Parker



Byron
Paul



Gabrielle
Petersen



Zaakierah
Petersen



Dilshad
Philander



Zintle
Qaba



Tamzyn
Raaff



Muhammad
Yaaseen Rhoda



Tatum
Roberts



Zaib
Safodien



Ilyaz
Sallie

MATRIC CLASS OF 2021



Ethan
Sedres



Rumaanah
Seedat



Resego
Sefora



Mogamad
Ibraaheem Shah



Jeffrey
Shigwedha



Eliphas
Shihepo



Samuel
Shilikomwenyo



Melisa
Sibanda



Ashleigh
Simmer



Mogamat Niyaaz
Slamdien



Zion
Slaverse



Isa
Smith



Arashaad
Solomons



Saarah
Stemmet



Nicholas
Stober



Mahle
Stwayi



Anotidaishe
Swela



Joshua
Thomas



Stanley
Thomas



Thaafer
van der Schyff



Kay-Lee van
Loggerenberg



Tiaan van
Loggerenberg



Calla
Ward



Mia
Warner



Aiden
Watlington



Danielle
Wentzel



Tyrease
Wiener



Seth
Williams



Tiffany
Williams



Nadia
Witbooi



Asia
Wu



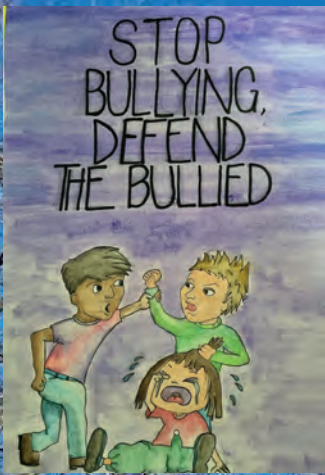
Sandile
Xhalisa



Chiratchaya
Yenprakhon



Lei
Zhou



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
EDITOR: Paige du Plessis
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Patsy Geach
CONTRIBUTORS: Marius Ehrenreich, educators and learners
GENERAL ASSISTANCE: Rene Herbert
PHOTOGRAPHERS: Fred Barker, Paige du Plessis
and the GSHS Media Team
My thanks to all

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Lee-ann Harris of Purple Design
PRINTING: SJR Printers