

Glen Austin High School

Newsletter: October 2017



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From the Principal's Desk

It has been an exciting term! This month has been packed with adventure, tests and some fundraising. I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone that has supported us in any aspect during this term.

During the month of September the school was involved in assisting the SMF to sell tickets for the BARNYARD (*Divas that Rock*) event. This is a fantastic opportunity for the parents to socialise with one another, and to come together as a GAHS family. The event promises to live up to the expectations. There will be three learners that will be rewarded for their efforts to sell the most tickets for the *Divas that Rock* concert. The prizes are as follows:

1. R1000 cash + JBL boombox (R3500)
2. R500 cash + R1000 Total Sports voucher
3. Movie ticket hamper for two people and an exclusive vase worth R2000

All proceeds of the project will go towards building a new netball court.

On Tuesday 19 September Miss Iyer met with the parents and finalised all their arrangements for the European trip. The learners will be going to Italy, France and Switzerland. Miss Iyer and Mr Van Niekerk will be accompanying the learners on this trip. The team will leave for Rome on 28th September. We would like to wish the teachers as well as the learners an amazing time. May every turn excite you with a new experience. Have fun and most importantly, make memories.

Mrs Van Den Berg and Miss Iyer will be leaving the school at the end of the term. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well on their future endeavours. They have been reliable, teachable and a pleasure to work with, may their futures be blessed with the favour of the Lord.

Term 3 was a Cycle Test term and all the learners have written their Cycle Tests over the last two weeks. Parents, please note that reports will be issued on the 29th September. This is the last day of Term 3. Please also be aware that the end-of-year examinations will start on 3rd November, thus making Term 4 an extremely short term. Learners must use this break to prepare for the examinations ahead.

Resilience should be an integral factor in any person's life. It's important for parents to teach their children the four basic skills that are associated with resilience: independence, problem solving, optimism and social connection. There are a number of characteristics to resilience that should be considered:

- Internal focus of control
- Strong self-esteem, self-efficiency
- Have personal goals
- Use past successes to confront current challenges
- View stress as a challenge to get stronger
- Use humor, patience, tolerance and optimism
- Can adapt to change
- Have an action orientated approach
- Have strong relationships and ask for help when you are in trouble
- Have faith.

Remember that resilience is all about being able to overcome the unexpected and the goal of resilience is to thrive.

H.A. Abbott

Principal: Glen Austin High School



Mr H.A. Abbott



Update Centre



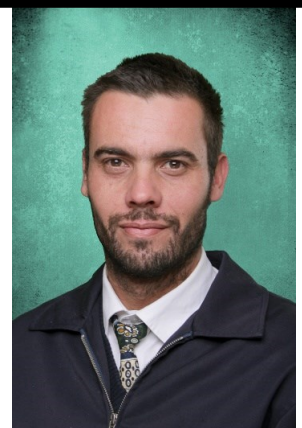
Academic Matters: Mr. van Niekerk

Last week saw our Matric parents corresponding with their children's subject teachers in order to discuss progress and possible interventions, in order to ensure that our first group of Grade 12 learners excel in both their Preliminary Examinations, but also their Finals.

Preliminary Examinations will begin on Friday 25 August, and will end 21 September. The Grade 12s are reminded to adequately prepare for this important milestone in their school careers, and though this will undoubtedly be a trying time, we have faith in your ability to excel.

Grade 8-11 learners are urged to submit School Based Assessments (SBAs) during Term 3, as there are no examinations this term. Term 3 brings the opportunity to lift year marks that can assist in promotion come end of the year.

Please note that there will be a compulsory Parents' Day on Saturday, 2 September.



Learner Conduct Column: Mr. Moyo

This month we would like to remind parents that Summer uniform will now apply. The school still witnesses learners wearing some beanie hats, which is a violation of the prescribed dress code; what now applies are the school caps.

As a result of an incident of theft, as well as other misdemeanours in the school, the Disciplinary Committee is awaiting finalization of the expulsion of two learners. These misdemeanours will not be tolerated by the school, and learners are urged to abide by school rules in order to avoid such drastic action.

The school is also looking to make the discipline policy stricter regarding infringements. The committee is studying various Discipline policies from other schools with a view to change and incorporate new processes if necessary.

Parents are urged to remind their children that school rules are not optional. Discipline in a school environment is essential to its functioning as an institution.

Subject Spotlight



Science: Mr. Sibanda

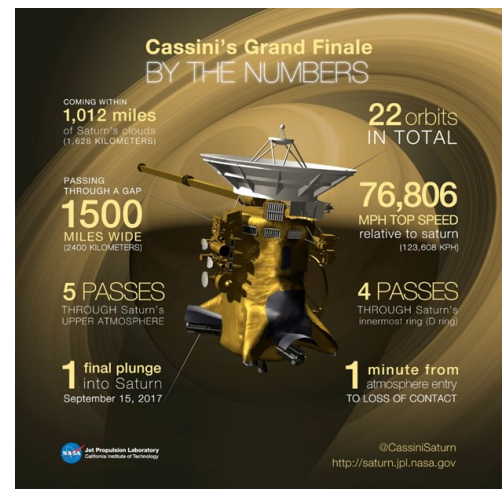
For the scientist who enjoy studying astronomy

On the 15th of September 2017 Cassini's life/mission came to an end. Who is this Cassini? The Cassini–Huygens mission, commonly called Cassini, was a collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Italian Space Agency to send a probe to study the planet Saturn and its system, including its rings and natural satellites.

For those who've followed NASA's Cassini mission these past 20 years, it's still a bit hard to believe it's gone. On Friday, September 15th, the spacecraft plunged itself into Saturn's atmosphere, becoming part of the planet it had studied tirelessly for 13 years. While



Cassini's mission is over, there's plenty of data and imagery from it to inspire us for years to come, including the last photo the spacecraft ever taken (see the image below). In its 20 years with us, Cassini travelled 7.9 billion kilometres, discovered six Saturnian moons, and collected 635GBs worth of scientific data. Though the spacecraft is no more, the hard, exciting work of poring through its information is just beginning.



English: Ms. Joubert

Four reasons why learning English is so important

1. English may not be the most spoken language in the world, but it is the official language in a large number of countries. It is estimated that the number of people in the world that use in English to communicate on a regular basis is 2 billion!
2. English is the dominant business language and it has become almost a necessity for people to speak English if they are to enter a global workforce. Research from all over the world shows that cross-border business communication is most often conducted in English. Its importance in the global market place therefore cannot be understated, learning English really can change your life.
3. Many of the world's top films, books and music are published and produced in English. Therefore by learning English you will have access to a great wealth of entertainment and will be able to have a greater cultural understanding.
4. Most of the content produced on the internet (50%) is in English. So knowing English will allow you access to an incredible amount of information which may not be otherwise available!

Although learning English can be challenging and time consuming, we can see that it is also very valuable to learn and can create many opportunities

If you have the dream of travelling the world and enhancing your life experience, you now have the motivation to study hard to master the English language.

Activities



Grade 8 Market Day

The Grade 8s hosted a market day on the 1st September as part of their EMS curriculum. The learners prepared delicious meals, drinks and desserts. They also planned fun games and competitions, as well as face painting and henna. The groups spent two weeks advertising their project and were able to generate a large profit on the day.

It was a fun day celebrated by all. We are certain that there are many budding entrepreneurs that will come forth from this Grade 8 group. Well done Grade 8s.



Spring Fun Day

Dear members of the SMF who participated of the Family Fun Day,

Thank you so much for all your support to this FIRST SOCIAL EVENT organised by the SMF and with support of parents, school and staff. I'm sure you will all agree that it was a lovely day and a promising experience.

We had Frisbee, soccer with students, parents and teachers, a 400 meter relay (in which the girls savagely beat the boys) and netball (which the boys surprisingly won).

Approximately 60 parents, pupils, teachers and staff members enjoyed a pleasant get-together, braai and having cold drinks in the shade, under the trees beside the sports field.

As chairperson I thank everyone who participated. It is exciting to see the Glen Austin High community growing stronger while making new friends.

Looking forward to the next one, THIS SATURDAY ALREADY where we hope to enjoy a night of rock and roll with the Divas show at The Barnyard Theatre in Rivonia.

Hope to see you all there!

Regards,

Camilo Ramada

Heritage Day



The land service team under the leadership of Miss Iyer and Mrs Van Den Berg held a Heritage Day Festival at the school on Friday 22 September 2017.

The Land Service team prepared various cultural dishes, such as pap and tripe, samosas, biriyani and many others. The team also hosted a show on the day where learners got to perform different dances to portray the beauty and uniqueness of their respective cultures.

Thank you to the students, teachers, and parents who took part in this celebration of our Rainbow Nation!



Quote Of The Day

If you have a Family that loves you,
a few good Friends,
Food on your Table
and a Roof over your Head,
You are Richer than you Think.

A Farewell Message



Miss Iyer

It's hard to sum up what the last 4 years and 9 months have meant to me as a person. I starting working at Glen Austin High School with a big task ahead of me, which was to build sports and culture to reputable departments within the school. Over the years, with the help of the teachers and management, we have seen Glen Austin achieve amazing accomplishments, such as winning the Junior Soccer League in 2014 as well as reaching the quarter finals of the Girls' Soccer League in 2014 and 2015. We further introduced sports such as softball, netball and touch rugby, and have had learners represent the school provincially in both dance and athletics. Furthermore, we completed the school's public speaking season with an overall B+.

All these accomplishments speak for themselves, but they will not be what I remember the most when I leave. I will remember my learners: how they made me laugh, how they made me cry, how some have broken my heart, while others have made me smile with a simple hug. Throughout my stay at GAHS, I have become a mother, a friend, a councillor, a mentor, and often a shoulder to cry on.

To my learners: I pray that in our time together, you have learnt that it's important to keep God at the centre of your life. Hard work, perseverance, and a refusal to give up is the key to a successful life. Go after your dreams and never stop believing in yourself. Remember: the trials are temporary, but the lessons learnt will stay with you forever.

I would also like to thank the Principal, Vice-Principal, SMT and all other stakeholders for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of this school. To the parents: thank you for your support and love over the years. I hope I have made a difference to the lives of your children.

I leave you all with one of my favourite bible scriptures:

"In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul."

- Psalm 138:3

Know that God will always strengthen you and keep you in the times when you don't understand why or how. Trust His way and He will take you through.

Mrs. Van den Berg

I would like to thank Mr. Abbott, Mr. van Niekerk, and the stakeholders involved for the opportunity to grow as a teacher at Glen Austin. I learned a lot from being the dance coach and the Land Service organiser: I learned that you only grow when you get out of your comfort zone because that's where perseverance and determination stem from.

I will miss the relationships that I have built with learners and colleagues, and those bonds will never be forgotten.

I wish the SMT, teachers and learners all the best. I greet you with the following verse:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

- Deuteronomy 31: 6

God bless

A Dose of Inspiration

Your social media profile could be career limiting

Written by Nicoleen Davies

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp, YouTube, Tumblr... the list goes on and on. These virtual social environments provide wonderful platforms for communicating and sharing information and so, we slowly start to create a permanent, virtual online personality. Increasingly we are spending more and more time posting status updates, selfies and other photographs, chatting online and, for some users of technology, it is becoming an all-consuming pastime. In this world of immediacy, people post comments and pics without thinking twice – possibly to their own detriment. Sadly, teens measure their popularity by the number of “likes” they get or followers they have.

We know, and various studies have proven, that teens share a lot of information about themselves on social media sites. The PEW Internet study, *“Teens, Social Media and Privacy”* report revealed that over 81% of parents expressed significant concern regarding this. In addition, 95% of all teens aged 12-17 have an online profile.

Snooping or due diligence?

The new challenge our teens face, when making applications to study further or when applying for a job, is that a real risk exists that their virtual life can come back to bite them and prove career-limiting. Whether they will admit it or not, employers are increasingly using social media platforms for initial screening of candidates and an ethical and legal debate is raging in some countries as a result. A US study by Harris Interactive for CareerBuilders in 2013 showed that 37% of companies are using social media to research candidates and another 11% indicated that they intend starting. Their intention is to determine if the candidate presented themselves professionally and if they would be a good fit for the company culture. Thirty-four percent found information that caused them not to hire the candidate!

Generally, this was provocative or inappropriate photos and information, evidence of drinking and using drugs, poor communication skills, discriminatory remarks and bad-mouthing previous employers.

According to an article in the Mail & Guardian, Nerushka Deosaran, an IT law specialist is quoted as saying that there are currently no laws in South Africa prohibiting the use of public information for background checks. “It comes down to whether personal information is private or not. Everyone has the right to privacy in terms of the Constitution and common law, but once they post information on a public forum it would be very difficult to argue that looking at it is an invasion of privacy,” she said.

The reality is that social media has added a new dimension to pre-employment screening. Recruiters are researching social media sites for additional public information on candidates as part of the acceptable recruitment process. They are obligated to demonstrate that thorough checks were done.

Bottom line - keep your profile clean and only publish content you would be happy for people to see. That is the best way to protect your reputation and yourself.

EMPS, SA’s oldest pre-employment screening and vetting company published Employee Screening Statistics in 2013 and stated that: “Social network searches are being used less for background checks and more for recruiting and sourcing. We anticipate the use of social media will remain a means of screening for SA companies. Companies do need to be very cautious of how such information is used and that applicants are not discriminated against based on personal information.” So, with this being a fact of life, this places our young teens, with their tendency for risky behaviour and decision-making at greater risk than ever before from a source that didn’t exist until recently. A 15 year old, posting online, will certainly not be thinking about their future job application in ten years from now.

Your social media profile could be career limiting Continued

Online reputation management

We know that living our lives online, combined with over-sharing, could have significant, long-term impact. Online reputation management has become the new buzz-word but it is vital that parents teach their children how to control and manage their digital profile. Have a conversation with them about safety and awareness in the world of social media, about appropriate behaviour and consequences and possible repercussions that could harm their reputations.

Below are some useful tips to share with your tween or teen:

DON'T:

- Accept anyone as a 'friend' if you don't personally know them;
- Post anything online when you are angry or hurt;
- Post anything you wouldn't want your parents, teachers or future employers to see;
- Be unduly negative or offensive online;
- Lie;
- Sext – if you are underage this can become a legal matter as it may be considered child pornography;
- Post inappropriate photos – especially not when drinking, drugging, or being sexually provocative or inappropriate;
- Beware of political or radical statements of opinion – your views may change over the years.

DO

- Set your profile to private;
- Think before you post;
- Showcase your interests and hobbies;
- Create a positive blog if you wish to write online content;
- Build your credibility;
- Project an image of who it is you want to be known as and what you stand for;
- Delete anything or anyone questionable;
- Using common sense is a good rule of thumb;
- Speak to a trusted adult if you are concerned about anything;
- Report online abuse.

Remind them that whatever they put out there can come back to haunt them. Also be aware that teens that make online mistakes are at risk of being ostracized, bullied and ridiculed to the point of becoming depressed and possibly even suicidal.

The best remedy is prevention.

School Bus Information

The school buses leave the school at 4pm everyday. The D6 Communicator is used to keep in touch with parents and advise of any departure time changes. During exams or if there are no afternoon activities parents may be advised that the bus will leave earlier. Transport changes are communicated by means of the D6.

If there is an away sports game, parents are required to pick up their children from GAHS at the indicated time. This notification is included with the required indemnity letters.

Sports cell phone number: 074 851 4655

Drivers' Supervisor: Sam 062 961 0021



COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

D6 Communicator

All-important information regarding the school, such as important dates and homework will be uploaded onto the D6 Communicator.

Follow the link and keep in touch with us:

<http://www.school-communicator.com/download.php>. Ensure to set the application to allow notifications and alerts to pop up for on your pc or mobile device.



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