



General Smuts High School

Newsletter 02 / 2018

20180319

Dear Parents / Guardians

We are quickly approaching the end of Term 1- effectively, including today, there are only 6 school days left then it is School Holidays. We wish all the learners a blessed resting period and hope that they come back at the beginning of Term 2 refreshed and motivated to do well.

We are always very concerned about late coming in the morning and will have a zero tolerance policy on that in the future. We are grateful for the visits by the District Director and several officials on Friday where she could experience about 80 of our learners who were late for School. Some even arrived at 8H15. The District Director, Mrs Mathebula, made it very clear that if the reason for late coming is that you stay far, e.g. Sebokeng, then you should not be in this school and will be placed at a school closer to your home.

Some learners stay in Vereeniging and they claim that they have overslept. Parents should assist the School in this venture please. We are aware that in some cases the parents leave the house before the learner and do not realise what time the learner leaves from home. The situation is made worse on Cycle Test days when some learners are not writing and claim that they only have to be at school at 9h00 am when teaching continues. They should rather sit in class and use this time to study.

Our Matriculants are as usual very high on our priority list. We want a 100% pass rate at the end of the year too. Our aim is to get 60 % Bachelor passes which means at least 50 % in a minimum of 4 subjects. Since all subjects are now designated subjects, previously subjects like Tourism, CAT etc were not on the list it is much easier to obtain a bachelor pass. The easiest two are the Languages and learners should focus on that because it is not difficult to get 50 % in English and Afrikaans. As discussed with parents early in term 1, the grade 12 students should have started with a summary file already. Parents please ask your child for this file to see whether he/she has started studying for end of year exam. Now is the time!!

Our elections of the School Governing Body for the next Term of three years has been completed. Congratulations to the following people and thank you to them for their willingness to represent the parents.

They are:

Mrs R Ramatlane (Chairperson)

Mr K Moloko (Vice Chairperson)

Mr W Maseko (Treasurer)

Mr C Madisha (Secretary)

Mr T Radebe (Parent Member)

Mrs A Xaba (Parent member)

Mr Malemo (Parent member)

Mr Damiso (PM)

Mr Mthimkhulu (PM)

Mr Jamice (PM)

Mr Mareletse Deputy Principal (Educator Representative)

Mrs E Labuschagne Acting Deputy Principal (Educator Representative)

Mrs E Kriek Educator (Educator Representative) Mrs A Mphaphang (PS Staff representative)

Kholso Moloi

Sandile Mazibak

Bongani Moloka (Learner Representatives)

We are very proud of some of our learners who have performed well so far this year. After the Interhoër Athletics 14 of our athletes were invited to D7 Championships. In the end two of our athletes Bokang, Monegesi and Ketheho Rathale will represent Gauteng (and our School) at the SA Championships to be held in Potchefstroom next weekend. I also want to mention that our Cheerleaders and Spectators won the Spirit Trophy at the Interhoër competition for the 18th consecutive year. We are so very proud of our learners and educators, Mrs S Bester and Mrs M Swart who took them through their paces. Fourteen of our Netball girls were invited to Gauteng trials on Wednesday.

Back to the Academics. Parents please make sure that you check your child's books every day. There must be homework for everyday and it is important that it is done daily. Reminder to parents: about the Cammy Lab which is available with Mr Jordaan to oversee. This will help Grade 8,9 learners in Languages and Mathematics.

Our Academic committee of the RCL is also available once a week in all the subjects to assist learners if and where assistance in any subjects is needed. From next term we will have two qualified Mechanical Engineers who will be available to assist learners in Mathematics and Physical Science. (See attached letter) A photographic club will also start soon where learners will be trained in editing and all other finer aspects of photography. Learners should consult Mr N Jordaan about these lessons. (See attached Flyer)

As mentioned before, we are very concerned about learners late coming. Hand in hand with that is the lack of respect teachers receive from learners coupling this with lack of discipline and we realise that we as educators together with parents have a very big task ahead of us. A simple example of how learners reason, is that they think they can throw papers anywhere on the school grounds because the school employ workers to clean up the grounds. This must stop and if I have to extend the school day by 10 minutes somewhere for the learners to clean the grounds, then so be it. We as adults must lead by example and not throw rubbish from the car while we are driving. South Africa belongs to us all and we must take care of it.

We trust you had a pleasant Human Rights Day yesterday.

Kind Regards

Mr JL Maré
Principal