Dear Parents, it has come to the end of another grueling term. It has been extremely busy with academics, sporting and cultural activity. In our sports report, we have some successes to celebrate. Our Grade 9s have just finalised subject selection for 2015. Our Grade 12s have just finished their Preliminary Exams, which would give them a good benchmark of performance at the end of the academic year. In all this, hope is not lost. There is still time for all our grades to get focused on a 100% pass rate. We caution that learners do take some time to rest as they will need all their strength at the end of the year to pass. Please allow them to have some good, safe and responsible fun during this short holiday. Our Grade 12s will be hosting their Matric Dance at The Measlow Hotel in Sandton. Photos will be taken for an exciting Yearbook which will be published and go on sale at the end of November 2014.

TERM 3 RECESS – AGM AND REPORTS

School closed on 3 October for the Term 3 recess, and will re-open on Monday, 13 October. The issuing of Term 3 Reports will coincide with Wendywood High School’s Annual General Meeting which will be held on Thursday, 30 October 2014. Reports will be handed to parents between 18:00 and 19:00, and this will be followed by the AGM which will commence at 19:00.

The safety and security of our learners is one of the top priorities of staff. But, what exactly, are we doing to stay on top of things here at Wendywood?

Apart from the surveillance cameras that monitor the school grounds, the staff is also actively engaged in tasks to monitor learner activities before school, during break and also during extra mural activities. Two educators are on duty at the gate in the morning before school starts, assisted by our full time guard. During break, three educators are on duty at strategic locations to monitor learners and to ensure adherence to school rules. Amongst educators, we also have a committee appointed to focus on the issues of occupational health and safety, and to analyse risk factors.

Once a term, the school is evacuated for a fire drill. All educators have an emergency plan, with which they are well versed; the emergency exit for each classroom has been indicated with a sign at the door.

During our formal assemblies, the principal addresses learners about the dangers of bullying, drug abuse, and often discusses the code of conduct to ensure that learners know what is expected of them.

The school is closed off with palisade fencing and electric fences to combat theft. There is also a boom gate system which limits access on all roads that lead to the school.
All classes are fitted with fire hydrants that are serviced as required by law. Learners who are suspected of taking drugs or alcohol are tested regularly and appropriate action is taken to deal with addiction issues at our school.

Police raids are organised without warning to search learners for illegal substances. Learners are also encouraged to approach the register teacher, grade tutor or RCL members with any issues of safety and security. Among educators and learners, first aid training has been completed and the school has taken its role of acting ‘in loco parentis’ very seriously. The idea of installing cameras in classrooms to monitor conduct and discipline, has also been mooted, and will be investigated further.

Even though it is the wish of staff that all learners enjoy a safe school environment, it cannot always be guaranteed. We would like to ask all parents and guardians of our learners to also become vigilant, and to become involved with our school and our objective of creating a safe learning environment.

Mr S Cohen
Safety and Security Co-ordinator

SAFETY AND SECURITY WORKSHOP AT WENDYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - COMBATTING DRUGS AND DRUG ABUSE

On Monday, the 29th September, staff of Wendywood High School took the initiative in organising an extremely important workshop on addressing the threat of substance abuse facing learners in both our High and Primary Schools.

Relevant stakeholders were invited to attend. These included the Principal of Wendywood Primary School, the South African Police Services and their Youth Desk, the Wendywood Clinic, SANCA and Valued Citizens who deal with youth ‘at risk’.

The workshop was an enormous success, allowing role-players to interact with one another and to discuss ways in which to tackle substance abuse in a holistic manner.

Wendywood would like to thank all those who attended this workshop and who gave their assurances that they would continue working with us going forward. Details to follow.

Mr S Cohen [Safety and Security Co-ordinator]

WENDYWOOD CELEBRATES TEACHERS’ DAY

Teachers’ Day is commemorated on the 5th October this year, but we held a programme for our Wendywood teachers at the end of the term, on the 24th October. Our Grade 11’s were involved in the process and put together a skit that was delightful in highlighting some of their teachers’ antics in the classroom. They ended the programme with a poem and speech which praised all teachers for the impact they have had on our learners’ lives. Mr Prince and Mrs Solomons rounded off the event with a wonderful duet which was well enjoyed!

Ms D Naidoo
Grade Tutor Grade 11

‘Invest in the future, invest in teachers’

The theme for World Teachers Day 2014, ‘Invest in the future, invest in teachers’, is of particular significance for South Africa whilst it commemorates 20 years of democracy. In its bid to overcome the turbulence in education and the havoc wreaked on educational systems during the apartheid era, the Department of Basic Education has engineered many paradigm shifts, including the change from Outcomes Based Education to the new Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). Whilst educators received the fullest academic support in the CAPS Programme through training sessions executed at provincial and district levels, much still needs to be done in South Africa to invest in the welfare of educators.

In a country where there is a critical shortage of skilled and properly trained personnel at every echelon of society, and from schools to university, the role of the educator, is pivotal as ‘Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions’ (Author Unknown). Conditions of employment need to be re-visited as a matter of urgency, with teachers’ salaries prioritized. This needs to be commensurate with remuneration received in other public sectors, and in the world of business and commerce, to prevent a brain drain from the teaching fraternity. One hopes that the Commission of Enquiry appointed recently by President Jacob Zuma to investigate such matters, will yield desirable results.

If we believe that ‘A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others’ (Author Unknown), we need to ensure that the training programmes of student teachers at tertiary educational institutions are critically re-appraised. Do we have people with the requisite expertise, skills and educational qualifications training our students at both public and private tertiary educational institutions? Are these ‘cinderella’ departments at university? Should we take a leaf (or two) out of the book of the former Teacher Training Colleges where training was par excellence, to improve the current system of teacher training? A commission of enquiry into current student teacher training programmes is crucial, if we are to ‘invest in the future, invest in our teachers’.

Nonetheless, a well-deserved tribute to my fellow teachers, from UNESCO, ‘World Teachers Day shows the considerable token of appreciation, awareness and understanding displayed for crucial contribution which teachers make to development and education.’ (http://www.altiusdirectory.com)

Remember, you are ‘stars’, as the following poem indicates:

Star Teacher

By Joanna Fuchs

I always love your class;
Your teaching helps me see,
That to have a happy life,
Learning is the key. You understand your students;
You’re sensitive and smart.
You’re a skilful teacher;
I knew it from the start. I’m grateful for your wisdom
For the teacher that you are;
You’re a very good person,
And as a teacher, you’re a star!

Dr R Naidoo
Editor
On Wednesday, 17th September 2014, the Grade 11 Peer Counsellors embarked on an excursion to Hayani Preschool in Alexandra Township.

The Hayani Preschool comprises 62 children and only a handful of workers. The children spend their day working in two small classrooms and playing and eating in the courtyard. The school was started and is run by Lillian, an extremely passionate and hardworking woman!

As a donation from Wendywood High School, and using the money raised from the Takkie Day on Monday 15th September, we took along fun stationery, new soccer balls, Nik Naks and lollipops as a treat for these precious children - they were delighted!

The children really took to the Grade 11s, who lavished attention on them. They played games, sang songs, drew pictures and succeeded in making their day that much brighter.

The young ones were not the only ones to benefit, however. The Peer Counsellors were taught some impressive dance moves, and all came away with huge smiles on their faces!

Lillian explained how important these visits are, as it makes the pre-schoolers happy and the school is in desperate need of stationery and other supplies.

Not only is it important for the Hayani children, but it is important for the learners of Wendywood High School, too. It offers our learners a glimpse into another world, where little ones have so much less than us, and yet can be so full of joy and awe for the world!

I sincerely hope we can return to this special place soon!

Ms M J Fraser  
Peer Counsellor Co-ordinator

NATIONAL TEACHERS’ AWARDS

These awards, ‘are but one of the ways in which the Department of Basic Education acknowledges and encourages dedicated and caring teachers in their efforts to develop each learner as a citizen of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa’ (DBE website).

The NTA Committee at Wendywood High School nominated educators in various categories. This received staff support and the nominations in the various categories are indicated below:

- Excellence in Secondary School Teaching: Mrs C Pillay – English; Ms D Naidoo – Life Orientation; Mrs S Pillay – Afrikaans; Mr Ellis – Accounting; Mr Sika-Pooko – Mathematics.
- Excellence in Technology – enhanced Teaching and Learning award: Ms Rabolele.

We congratulate our educators on their nominations, and wish them well for the final selections.

Dr R Naidoo  
NTA Awards Committee Member

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Since the beginning of 2014, our Wendywood High learners have been actively participating in Tennis at school. Focus was placed on getting to know the basics of the game and developing discipline. The team aims to enter a tennis league next year and they have practised religiously over the last three terms.

Recently, during term 3, the school had our own internal Tennis Championship. Povidhan Vengasamy was the winner of the Championship, and is therefore currently our Number One Tennis Player, with Michael Bopape in second place.

The men's doubles tournament left Povidhan Vengasamy and Gerald Mandlazi as the reigning Champions.

We would like to congratulate these boys, as well as all the girls that joined the Social Tennis Club this year. Thank you for your diligence and dedication to the Sport.

Ms L Nel  
Tennis Co-ordinator
ATHLETICS

Wendywood high school participates in the co-educational schools athletics league. We were part of the H-league, Wendywood high hosted the inter high athletics meeting for H-league the school that participated are as follows

- Wendywood High School
- Crawford Sandton
- Covenant college

Wendywood high school won the inter-high and 10 athletes proceeded to prestige at Rumsig stadium where they ran against winners from all leagues. It was a great experience for all our athletes.

RUGBY

Wendywood high re-introduced Rugby first term the boys and girls played touch rugby, which is a social league that over 100 schools participate in and over 700 kids participate. Our boys and girls did very well.

During the 3rd term the lions introduced a 7’s tournament which was hosted at Wendywood high for all development schools, Wendywood again did very well with our U/16 boys winning the tournament.

Mrs T Makola
Sports’ Co-ordinator

LEAGUES REPORT

Participating Schools

The following 16 schools participated in the JCSL in 2014, they together formed 53 teams that participated in the six divisions in this year’s league.

- Wendywood High School
- Roosevelt High School
- Marlboro High School
- Morland High School
- Sandown High School
- Norbrook High School
- Manyale High School
- Holy Family College
- Liberty Community School
- Rand Girls High School
- Parktown Girls High School
- Hyde Park High School
- Waverly Girls High School
- Glen Austin College
- Athrone Girls High School
- Sagewood High School

JCSSL Description

The league was divided into six divisions as following.

- U14 Boys – 5 schools participated in this division
- U15 Boys – 8 schools participated in this division
- U16 Boys – 7 schools participated in this division
- Open Boys – 8 schools participated in this division
- Junior Girls – 12 schools participated in this division
- Senior Girls – 13 schools participated in this division

The league was played in a round-robin format, single round, where all teams collected points during their games. At the end of the league the top four teams in each division participated in the knock-out cup competition.
League winners

U/14 winners – Wendywood High school
2nd Place – Roosevelt High School

U/15 winners – Noorwyk Secondary school
2nd Place – Wendywood High school

U/16 winners – Holy Family College
2nd Place – Wendywood High school

U/19 winners – Wendywood High school
2nd Place – Liberty Community College

Junior Girls winners – Waverley Girls High
2nd Place – Rand Girls

Seniors Girls winners – Parktown Girls High
2nd Place – Waverley Girls High

JCSL CUP WINNERS

U/14 winners – Marlboro Gardens Secondary
2nd Place – Wendywood High School

U/15 winners – Maryvale College
2nd Place – Roosevelt High School

U/16 winners – Holy Family College
2nd Place – Wendywood High School

U/19 winners – Wendywood High School
2nd Place – Liberty Community College

Junior Girls winners – Parktown Girls High
2nd Place – Rand Girls

Seniors Girls winners – Parktown Girls High
2nd Place – Rand Girls
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