

Collegiate Girls' High School

150
Years of Excellence
1874 - 2024



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END OF TERM NEWSLETTER – 20 SEPTEMBER 2024



Dear Collegiate Community

As we reach the close of another busy and fulfilling term, I hope this newsletter will give you a glimpse into some of the events that have taken place at Collegiate.

We warmly welcomed three new staff members to our Collegiate family: Ms Julie-Ann Norton, the Visual and Creative Arts Subject Head; Ms Lara Potgieter, teaching Creative Arts – Drama; and Ms Lara Hayward, whom we welcomed back in the role of School Counsellor and Social Worker. We are thrilled to have them on board.

At the same time, we bid farewell to three staff members: Mr Keith Gibson, after many years in the teaching profession; Ms Jade Ashby, who taught English and is relocating to the Western Cape; and Mrs Taylor who we honoured with a special assembly. We thank them for their hard work and commitment to the school, and we wish them every success in their future endeavours.

This term has been especially productive and culminated in the successful launch of our first-ever *Spring Sports Festival, Powered by Old Mutual*,

another 150 Celebration. The event showcased the sporting talents of our U15 teams in Water Polo, Cricket T20, Rapid Chess, and Tennis. We were thrilled with the supporters who joined us to watch a game or two, and who enjoyed a coffee and chat at the Games Club.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome our 150th Patron, former Public Protector, Professor Thuli Madonsela, who will be with us for two days next term. Her visit promises to be a highlight, and we look forward to the inspiration and insight she will bring to our learners and parents.

As we enjoy this short break, I want to extend my warmest wishes to the entire Collegiate community for a restful and joyful holiday. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the school.

Warm regards,

Mrs Louise Erasmus

Principal

FAREWELL, MRS TAYLOR

Mrs Roelien Taylor joined the staff of Collegiate in August 2001, bringing with her a passion for teaching and an exceptional talent for needlework. Over the years, she expanded her expertise to teaching Technology and Consumer Studies: Clothing, always with the same dedication and care that defined her career.

From 2002 to 2006, Mrs Taylor served as the teacher in charge of rowing, where her commitment was nothing short of remarkable. She would rise at 4 a.m. to take the rowing girls down to the Swartkops River, never once complaining, even when on many rowing trips up country to various regattas and SA Schools Rowing Champs.

She also coached netball and athletics, managed water polo, and served as the Grade Eight Head for a number of years.

Her caring nature and approachable demeanour helped new Grade Eights feel at home, guiding them through the often-daunting transition into high school.

Mrs Taylor's talents as a seamstress are exceptional. She has made countless costumes for musical productions like *The Mikado*, *The King and I*, and *South Pacific*, spending long hours and late nights working out of love for the school. Her skill and creativity extended to designing and making stunning Matric farewell dresses, not only for our girls but for daughters of staff members and learners from other schools.

As the House Mother of Queen Victoria House for a few years, she provided the Vicky girls and House Captain guidance and support and was the biggest cheerleader when Vicky won inter-house events and the House of the Year Cup.

During the time of Carols practices, Mrs Taylor

worked with the non-carol singers, guiding them in making teddy bears and later quilts then knitting squares, activities that brought joy and a sense of accomplishment to all involved.

Her impact was felt not only in her professional life but also in her personal faith, which served as an inspiration to those around her. A strong Christian woman, Mrs Taylor was a part of the staff prayer group, drawing strength from her faith in tough moments and sharing that strength with others.

As Mr Wienand so aptly put it when writing a tribute for Mrs Taylor upon reaching her 20 years of service: "There are friends, there is family, and then there are friends that become family." Mrs Taylor, you have truly become part of our Collegiate family.

Mrs Roelien Taylor is a strong, and dedicated woman who has served her school and community with unwavering commitment and love. Her legacy will endure in the hearts and minds of all those she has touched, and though she is retiring, she will always remain an integral part of the Collegiate family. We are deeply grateful for her 23 years of service and wish her every blessing in the next chapter of her life.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF PREFECTS



We are thrilled to announce that Collegiate Girls' High School has elected leaders to serve on the Prefect Body of 2025. We are incredibly proud of these young leaders and excited to see the positive impact they will make in the year ahead. A heartfelt congratulations to the School Prefects, Hostel Prefects and their families for this well-deserved honour.

The elected School Prefects are Acgobile Magwevana, Kate Erasmus, Amy Botha, Yimitha Mbekeni, Melanie Djongoue, Ava Beary, Kaylee Barton, Anna Porter, Sinalo Mfecane, Amy Heukelman, Rebecca Coombes, Aqhama Poyana,

Maria Freercks, Tayla Wilson, Lara Lötzt, Elizma Ferreira, Milisa Tukulu, Shanna du Plessis, Jennifer Friskin, Angelica Loyson.

The Hostel Prefects are Milisa Tukulu, Aqhama Poyana, Amy Heukelman, Yimitha Mbekeni, Lara Lötzt and Tara Bettridge.

We are also excited to share that the Prefect Induction will take place on 1 October 2024, where the Office Bearers will be announced. We look forward to this special occasion and to celebrating the future leaders of Collegiate Girls' High School.

HERITAGE DAY ASSEMBLY

We celebrated Heritage Day with a special assembly to celebrate the many cultures in our beautiful country.

The Grade Eleven Diversity, Inclusivity and Transformation Committee and the Cultural Committee and volunteers, worked hard to bring South African spirit alive on stage.

Our guest speaker was proud Old Girl of the Class of 2004 and SABC journalist, Lerato Fekisi who gave an inspirational speech about the importance of culture. She spoke of her rich Xhosa and Sotho roots and how a culture of love and excellence should be encouraged in everyone.

It was special to remember Heritage Day and why it exists as well as celebrate the rich and vibrant cultures which make up our beautiful Rainbow Nation.





aspire to inspire

- A AGENCY**
 Sense of control you have over your own life.
 Your capacity to influence your own thoughts and behaviour.
 
- S SAFETY**
 Physical
 Emotional
 Pshychological
 
- P POSITIVITY**
 Random acts of kindness
 Resilience, to recover from a negative experience
 Deal with emotions in a positive way
 
- I INCLUSION**
 You matter!
 You belong!
 Connected to Collegiate Sisterhood
 
- R RESPECT**
 Active listening
 Paying attention
 Acknowledging strengths
 
- E EQUITY**
 More wellbeing for all
 TRUST
 Leads to a happy culture
 Value diversity
 

Inspired by the life and values of our 150th patron, Thuli Madonsela



ASPIRE PLEDGE



In my interactions both in person and in cyberspace,
I Pledge

- 

I will respect that we all have the right to disagree. I will endeavour to remain respectful when I disagree with someone else
- 

I will tolerate and accept diversity
- 

I will avoid entertaining or spreading any gossip or rumours.
- 

I will learn to solve problems with others in a helpful way, not hurtful
- 

I will treat others with RESPECT and KINDNESS
- 

I will have the COMPASSION not to be the oppressor and the COURAGE not to be the bystander.
- 

I will help others feel safe and comfortable at our school
- 

I will recognise the inner worth and value of everyone

ASPIRE Programme

Term Three started with a renewed focus on Wellbeing as part of the academic programme of the school. Learners were exposed to a wealth of guest speakers and activities focussing on conflict resolution, communication skills, social media and positivity.

Artistic Excellence

Ava Filmer and Jade van Tonder in the Top 40 in the 2024 Tavcor Volkswagen Design-a-Kombi competition. The winners were revealed at the prestigious Gala Awards Evening on Thursday, 22 August 2024, at Tavcor. We are especially proud of Jade van Tonder, whose beautiful design earned her second place in the High School category.

We are proud of our Grade 12 learner, Anovuyo Mabutho, who attended a prestige event at the Pretoria Art Museum where her artwork is currently being displayed in the Sasol New Signatures Exhibition.

Mathematics Achievers

Jennifer Friskin (Grade 11), Olivia Freercks and Elizabeth de Kock (both Grade 9) were selected to take part in the South African Mathematics Team Competition, on 14 September 2024.

The junior team was placed 14th in the country out of 48 teams and the senior team, captained by Jennifer Friskin, was placed 16th out of 55 teams. Each learner received a certificate of participation.

Grade Twelve Trial Examinations

We are immensely proud of our Grade Twelve learners who wrote their trial examinations with fortitude. The Bachelor Passes rate was 94% , and our challenge to the Grade Twelves is to attain a 100% Bachelor Pass rate in the final NSC examination. We have 212 Subject A's and eighteen learners attained a A aggregate, with many close to achievement.

Grade Nine GEC Pilot Project

Our Grade Nines participated in a pilot project for the introduction of the General Education Certificate. The Grade Nines described their experiences as accomplishable but time-consuming. We commend them on the positive and organised manner with which they undertook these many tasks.

English Alive Publication

We celebrate Collegiate's wordsmith, Amy Heukelman, whose poem, "Never Let Go," has been selected for publication in the 2025 edition of "English Alive." With its contemplative tone, "Never Let Go," is simultaneously an intervention and self-assessment that necessitate emotional rescue. Amy is commended for rendering the human condition with maturity, insight and tenderness.

Outdoor Education

Our Grade Eleven Life Sciences learners enjoyed a hike at Van Stadens Nature Reserve where nature proved to be a great teacher. The Grade Elevens then furthered their outdoor education with an overnight camp for team building. The Grade Eleven Geography girls took a trip to Nieu-Bethesda and Graaff-Reinet for some real world experiences. They were treated the some fossil discoveries, sculptures at The Owl House and the majestic views of the Valley of Desolation.

The Grade Eleven learners had an amazing experience at the Leaders In Life-School and Sports Camp in Addo. Over two days, they not only had a lot of fun but also built strong bonds and formed new friendships that will last beyond the classroom. The camp activities helped them develop leadership skills, teamwork, and a real sense of camaraderie. We are so proud of how they embraced the experience and supported each other throughout.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH: CHARITY BAZAAR

On 20 August, Collegiate held its eagerly anticipated annual Charity Bazaar, and it was a resounding success!

This year's theme, "Travel the World," brought vibrant energy and excitement to the event, with each class representing a different country. Learners showcased their creativity and craftsmanship by producing a variety of items, from beautifully designed pot plants to stunning jewellery. The bazaar also featured a range of homemade desserts, a fun photo booth, and a thrilling haunted house experience.

Food stalls offered a diverse array of tasty treats, including chips, pizzas, and more, adding to the international flair of the event. The Matrics took

part in a special way by running their own cozy tea garden, which was a hit among attendees.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our teachers, RCLs, and the support of the entire school community, this year's Charity Bazaar was an incredible success. We are proud to announce that a whopping R74 595.95 was raised, all of which will be donated to support important charitable causes.

The event truly reflected our school's motto, *Facta Non Verba*—"Deeds, Not Words." We are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed, participated, and supported this initiative, allowing us to make a positive impact on our community.

Well done to B1 who won the award for the best class!



SPORT

This season has been filled with exhilarating matches and hard-fought victories. Our teams took to the field with tenacity, and we celebrated thrilling derbies against Framesby and York.

Our travels took us to Bloemfontein, where we faced off against the top-tier teams of Oranje and Eunice. It was inspiring to see the camaraderie and determination displayed by our athletes. Our adventures continued at Kingswood, where we celebrated convincing victories.

We also hosted a fun-filled Winter Sports Day, where laughter and sportsmanship reigned supreme.

Ending our season with a resounding win against Clarendon, our girls proudly chanted, "We know who is the real CGHS!"

A major highlight this season was the crowning of our U16 A hockey team as the top team in the

country at the Top 12 Tournament. Our first team netball brought home gold at the Fast Five tournament. Our Tennis First Team ranked third at the Wilson Shield Tournament at Sun City. These achievements not only reflect hard work, but also ignites excitement for the future of Collegiate sports.

As we transition into our summer season, excitement is in the air! Our Water Polo girls showcased their potential at the Mackenzie Cup, finishing 5th overall. What an outstanding achievement for our young team!

We are immensely grateful for our dedicated staff, coaches, managers, and parents who drive our girls to every game and support them with unwavering enthusiasm. Your commitment makes a world of difference!



CULTURAL

On the cultural front, our learners dazzled at the Knock-on-Wood Festival, showcasing immense talent and pride. Special recognition goes to our band and choir, who walked away with double gold, elevating our school to new heights in the competition. Our band concert was a true celebration of musicality, and the vocal ensembles mesmerized us with their performances.

The SASMT Gqeberha Centre's Annual High School Music Competition took place at the Nelson Mandela University South Campus Auditorium on 23rd and 24th August. The Collegiate Girls' High School Clarinet Ensemble, known as the "Claribelles", were selected as finalists for the High School Medium/Large Ensemble Section. Amy Elliott was awarded First Place in her section. She is also the recipient of the Bryars Scholarship for Music Studies in 2025.



The news of the term can be viewed at <https://www.collegiatehigh.co.za/news>.