



June 2021

SNIPPETS

PRETORIA HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

LOVE IN A BOX



By Neha Singh

The Parent Association initiated the “Care Box” project in June. The purpose of the project is to support families within the PHSG community by supplying those in need with essential groceries.

Due to the current pandemic, the annual Spring Fair cannot be held. In the past, prior to the date of the fair, each girl was given a list of items to donate for Spring Fair. This year, instead

of donating items that would be sold at the fair, the girls were asked to contribute to the “Care Box” initiative.

To encourage learners to contribute, the PA the PA is running a competition. A prize will be awarded to individuals who brought the most goods or who spent the most time assisting with packing. A tasty treat awaits the form class who donated the most items.

With love from PSHG to PHSG.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF PHSG

By Emily Hawkes

PHSG has a rich and interesting history with many people influencing it to make it the diverse and striking school it is today. Mrs Cyrus, who has immense knowledge about the school's history, was interviewed to find out more about the things that make PHSG unique.



Miss Edith Aitken, the first headmistress of PHSG, established many of the school traditions and was instrumental in the designs of school symbols. This included the choice of the purple-blue iris for PHSG's emblem. The lozenge shape was chosen for the school emblem because it is the symbol for an unmarried woman.

The original architect of PHSG, James Cleland, put a lot of thought and care

into creating a beautiful school environment for girls to spend their days. Cleland designed PHSG to be very feminine. Whereas Boys' High has dark red bricks and a solid design, PHSG's design is much softer. The bricks are pink and darker around the edges, the windows are framed with darker bricks, the roof is high and majestic and the scalloped edges give a delicate impression, while sandstone taken from Pretoria is used in the plinths of the pillars to bond the school to its city. Cleland's "signature", a small bell tower, was also included. Cleland built the school on a perfect east-west axis, with the result that if you stand at the front door in the afternoon, the sun sets right in front of you. The school was also carefully designed to resemble the lozenge shape of the school badge when looked at from the sky.



Cleland designed every aspect of the school to create a forward-thinking and academic environment. The headmistress's office was designed with a balcony, so that the headmistress could stand on it and look to the future. The sundial in the Formal Gardens was to remind the girls of PHSG that time is passing, every morning as they walk into the school.

The gorgeous architecture and dynamic history of the school led to PHSG being named a national monument which has to be maintained for future generations. To this day, Girls' High girls, teachers and Old Girls can feel the love and thought put into the school's design, just as the original headmistresses and architects of the school had hoped.

NOUVELLES FRANÇAISES (FRENCH NEWS)

By Neha Singh

The French Department stepped out of the box in the second term with new initiatives, class competitions and more which afforded the French students an opportunity to further explore the language.

The French competitions that took place for the Gr 10s were completely optional. Those who entered were required to submit an original poem. The winners of the poetry

competition will have the pleasure of having their work published in the next Iris Magazine edition.

A dictation competition was chosen for the Gr 11s. This competition tested their listening abilities and was closely related to the fables they were studying in class.

These competitions have allowed the girls to step outside of their comfort zones and explore their creativity. The winners will be announced in the next edition. Don't miss it!



NJSA IPT TEAM

Congratulations to Darcey Brown on her selection to the U14 Northern Juniors IPT Squash Team to represent Northern Gauteng at the annual Inter Provincial Squash Festivals / Tournaments. We are proud of you, Darcey!

$$\sum_{i=0}^n x^i = \frac{1-x^{n+1}}{1-x}$$

$$y = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta z}$$

$$\ln = \sqrt{a \times b}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

$$\sin a = \frac{b}{c}$$

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

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$$B \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x - x}{x^3} = -\frac{1}{6}$$

$$\int (x \pm a)^n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$A - C =$$

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MATRIC ART

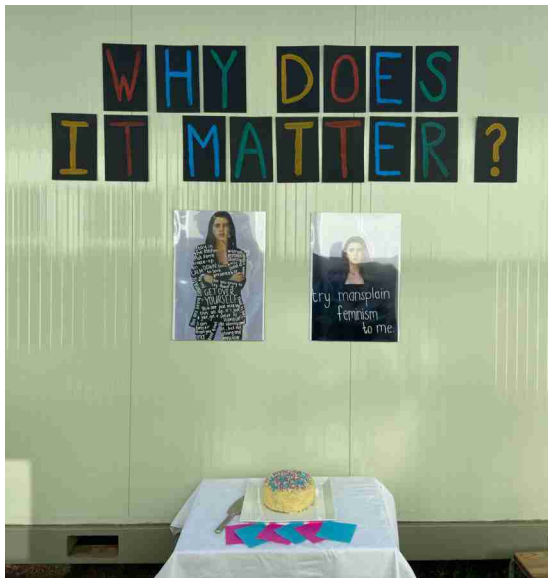
By Jasmine Beeforth

The Grade 12 Design students displayed their work on 24 June. The designs were based around the theme of Social Issues such as Cultural Awareness and Diversity and Global Warming and its Consequences.

During the first four periods of the day, the girls were hard at work, setting up their displays which were to be

shown at break and dismantled them during the last four periods. This meant there was a short window of time to enjoy the displays, which just added to the excitement for them.

It was an impressive display of the Design students' talents which was easily the highlight of many people's day, students and teachers alike.



STAFF NEWS

July Birthdays

1	Mrs	M Basson	(Academic Staff)
4	Mr	D Snyman	(Academic Staff)
7	Mrs	S Klopper	(Academic Staff)
10	Mr	C Marumo	(Hostel Staff)
12	Ms	K Hanwith-Horden	(Academic Staff)
15	Ms	R Mokubela	(Practitioner)
15	Mr	T Siko	(Support Staff)
16	Mrs	V Hohls	(Academic Staff)
17	Ms	K du Toit	(Office Staff)
18	Ms	M Andrade	(Academic Staff)
21	Mrs	L Van Heerden	(Academic Staff)
23	Ms	M Mabotja	(Hostel Staff)

Welcome and Farewell

Mrs Deysel joined us in the English Department. A warm welcome and lots of good wishes on becoming part of the PHSG family.

We bid farewell to our School Nurse, Sister Zietsman. All the best for your future endeavors and keep in touch.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Bullock on the birth of her beautiful daughter, Skylar-Grace.



PHSG SMARTIE BOX

By Courtney Gauld

Sudan is the name of the last male Northern White Rhino that we know of - in the wild and in sanctuaries. Sudan received his name from Joseph Wachira, who worked at the rhino unit at Ol Pejeta Conservancy in central Kenya.

We don't know the specific date Sudan was born but researchers say he was born during 1973. He, unfortunately, passed away on 19 March 2018 at age the 45 from "age complications".

Sudan was the third last Northern White Rhino. Sadly, the last two are females so there is very little hope left for the species unless another male is found.

The rhino is a very important animal to all Africans because it is a symbol of great strength and pride.



GENERATION NEXT

By Jasmine Beeforth and Neha Singh

The Dale Carnegie course is a prestigious, internationally recognized course that will be hosted at Pretoria High School for Girls. It will be held in term 3 and will run for a period of 8 weeks. This is a useful course for the Grade 11s university applications as well as helping to develop leadership skills and to strengthen people skills.

Both the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl of 2020 attended the course and benefitted from it. Students interested in this educational opportunity need to bear in mind that there is a fee attached and limited spaces available. Pretoria High School for Girls is eager to host again.

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Social media influencers are people who have established credibility in a specific industry and have the power to influence other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, 'influencers' will usually have a large number of followers and be viewed as authentic by their audience. It is for this reason that many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.



What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'INFLUENCERS'



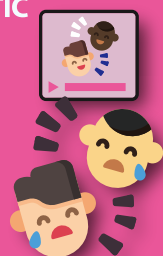
AN UNREALISTIC PERCEPTION OF BODY IMAGE

Some of the most popular social media influencers often depict themselves as having the 'perfect body' and are paid to promote items such as health supplements or swimwear, which young people believe can help them achieve the same look. What is not always realised is that these images can be edited or filtered and aren't always a true-life representation. Your child may feel like this is what they need to look like and in some cases, become obsessed with their body image, which could contribute towards a lower self-esteem or even becoming depressed if they can't achieve the same look.



BECOMING UNREALISTIC ROLE MODELS

As children become more and more involved on social media and identify who their favourite people are to follow, they may come to see social media influencers as role models, particularly if they are attracted by the lifestyle they see online. This could lead them into developing potentially unrealistic expectations of life and in some cases, using their role models as an escape from reality, particularly if they feel like they're own life isn't very fulfilling.



ENCOURAGING BAD HABITS

Although many social media influencers will get paid to advertise brands and their products, they will also post their own material online too, usually depicting their daily life or an activity for example. This may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, with influencers able to inspire both good habits, such as healthy eating, exercise or kindness. However it may also encourage children to adopt bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing or even criminal behaviour, particularly if these are seen to be endorsed by the influencer.



THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING

Many social media influencers will take photos or videos of themselves wearing the latest fashion or jewellery which companies want them to promote. They may also be provided with the latest gadgets to promote or, if they are children, toys to play with in order to persuade their followers to purchase them. Many children will be keen to buy these items in order to keep up with the latest trends however if they get left behind, they could be made to feel inadequate or inferior by other children who do have them.



AUTHENTICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS

Social media influencers hold a lot of persuasion with their audience and are often looked up to by younger followers. Many children will see them as credible, authentic and trust what they see online. However, some influencers may not always believe in the product they are promoting and therefore can mislead their followers, abusing their level of confidence in them. Your child may therefore find themselves looking up to people who are disingenuous or who feign interest in activities that they themselves do not actually care about.



Safety Tips For Parents



FOLLOW WHO THEY FOLLOW

A good way to see first-hand who may be influencing your child is to create your own social media account and follow the same people they do. This will give you a strong indication of what is shaping how your child behaves, what they like and what they are taking an interest in.



TALK ABOUT ROLE MODELS

Role models can play an important part of your child's life, particularly outside of the home. Talk to your child about who they look up to and why. Remind them that not everybody online is who they seem to be and if you do have concerns that your child is being negatively influenced, work with them in finding more positive alternatives.

BUILD THEIR SELF-ESTEEM

It's important that your child is aware of how unrealistic perceptions of life can be depicted on social media and that it is easy to be deceived. Discuss with your child how images can be heavily edited, cropped or manipulated to create artificial scenarios and that often the lifestyle that people display on social media isn't always realistic or in fact the truth.



DISCUSS REALISTIC VS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

If you notice your child has suddenly taken a strong interest in the way they look, or you find they are a lot more body conscious, then it's a good idea to speak to them about why they feel that way. If they seem unhappy, try to build their self-esteem by talking to them and listening to their concerns, helping to build their confidence through praise and positivity. Remind them that looks aren't everything and not everything they see online is actually a true depiction of real life.



ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING

Social media influencers can be quite powerful individuals who hold a lot of persuasive power so it's important to encourage your child to think independently about everything they see and engage with online. Talk to them about the dangers of blindly following others and in keeping an open mind when viewing content. Teach them to always question people's motives online, especially when they see individuals are promoting a brand or product which they are likely to have been paid to advertise but may not necessarily personally endorse.

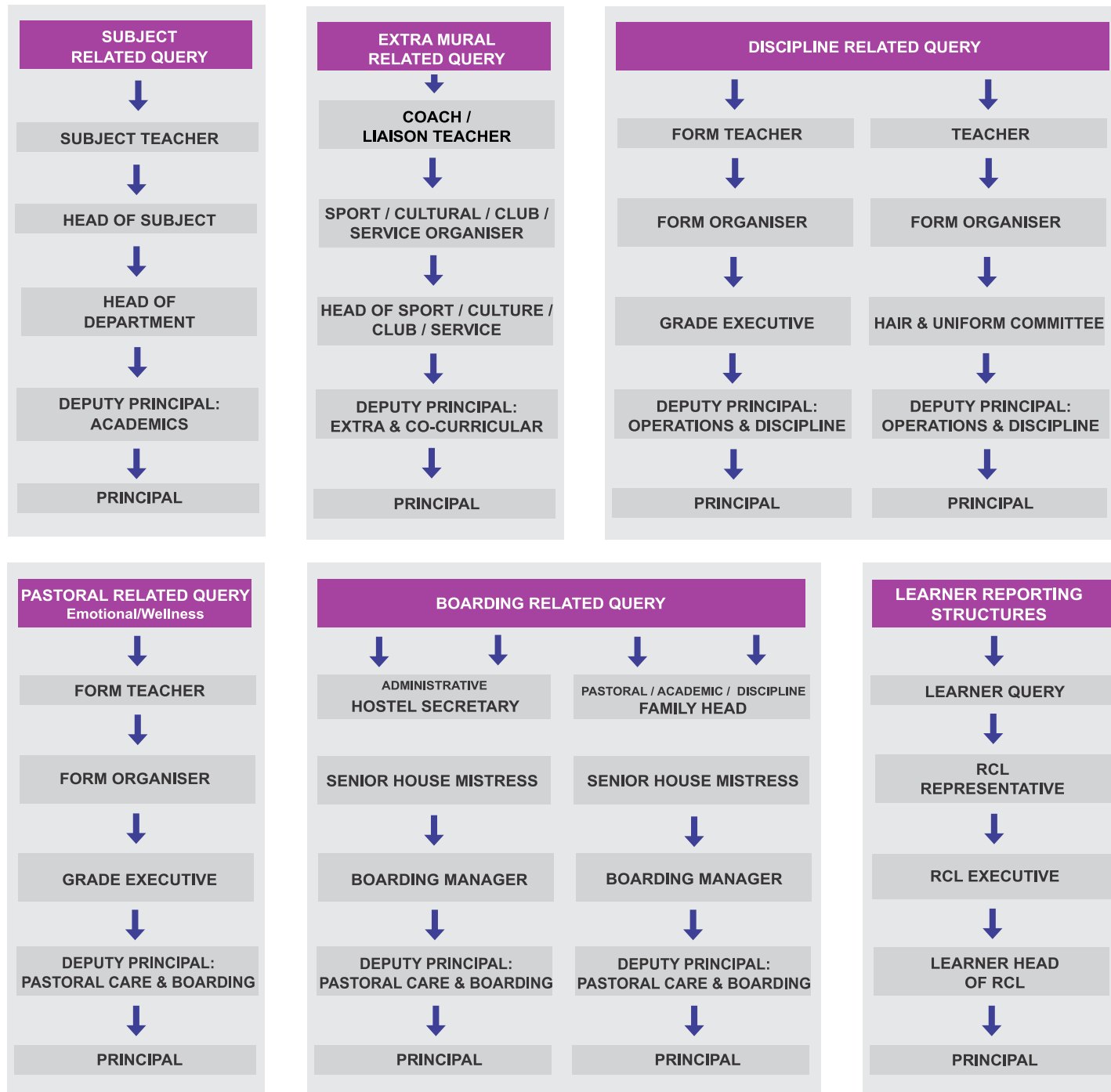


Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



REPORTING STRUCTURES FOR PARENTS AND LEARNERS



Note:

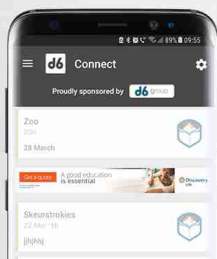
Please address all complaints in writing to info@phsg.org.za and they will be forwarded on to the relevant person or department.

Should all these avenues fail to address your concern, please contact the School Governing Body.

EVENTS

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REMEMBER TO CONNECT TO YOUR DAUGHTER'S PROFILE!