The DHS Herald

27 June 2011 Issue 20/2011



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From the Head Master's Desk

Term 2 is at an end, and what a difficult term it has been. In all my years of teaching, I do not recall a period where we have had to deal with such a large amount of ill health. The good news is that it appears as if things are getting better with the staff who are unwell. Shaun Gray has shown remarkable improvement in the last week. He is talking now, and can sit up. He still has problems with the left side of his body, but intensive rehab is starting to show results. Chris Rein is in week two of chemotherapy, and as one would expect from him, he is in positive mood. Obviously he still has a long way to go, but he is extremely positive. Ms Kusial is at home and recuperating well. Johannes Mtshali has had an amputation of half his foot as a result of diabetes, and is back in hospital. I ask all of you to keep these people in your thoughts and prayers over the next period. I hope that when I return with my next missive, there will be good news all round.

A look back over the term leaves one with a good deal of positives; the atmosphere in the school has been good, and we have been relatively free of problems. The work ethic has been fair, though there is room for improvement. am particularly concerned with the attitude of the boys towards Afrikaans. As with virtually the whole world, our high school education system requires study pupils to second а

language. At DHS the choice is between Afrikaans and Isizulu. For non Isizulu speakers the obvious choice is Afrikaans, and the majority of the boys have chosen the subject. The attitude towards the subject is dreadful, however. Boys only need 30% to pass at first additional language level, and many of the boys seem to adopt the attitude that this is all they need. Our Afrikaans department is one of the most experienced around, and the staff are pulling their hair out with the boys.

It frustrates me enormously that there is such a negative attitude towards Afrikaans. I started learning only the language in Grade 6, as I had arrived in South Africa halfway through that year. I confess that I did not find it difficult, and by the end of my schooling I was achieving high marks in exams. My real understanding of the language, however, only when I was doing came National Service. During the two years I learned to speak the language fairly fluently, out of necessity! But I also realised is beautifully that it а expressive language, and I enjoyed the opportunities it gave me to get into the marrow of the language. Since then I have tried to keep up my fluency, as difficult as it is in Durban.

It is very clear from our investigation that the boys are very negative towards the language, and will not make the effort to improve. We need

Durban High School Head Master : Mr David Magner





Gateway to Fame finalist, Mthokozisi Hlela



DHS Old Boy, Tim Vels, snorkels the Great Barrier Reef



Andrew Kellner and Mr Coskey in the changeroom at Kings Park

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From the Head Master's Desk cont'd

parents to show greater effort and enthusiasm, and support the school in trying to get the boys more positive. I urge all parents to do so. You will not be sorry.

I hope all of you enjoy the break. I look forward to the business of term 3, and I am sure that we will tackle it with our usual gusto!

Gateway to Fame 2011

Mthokozisi Hlela in Grade 9 auditioned for the Gateway to Fame competition and has been selected as one of the 10 finalists from KZN in the Senior Singers Category.

Mtohoko will now attend a week's worth of workshops by leading professionals in the industry and the competition. A show will "When a man finds no peace within himself, it is useless to seek it elsewhere."

Rouchefolicauld

Talk to you after the holiday.

Dave Magner Class of 1973

take place at the Barnyard Theatre, Gateway on Monday 4 July where he will compete for the winning title and an opportunity to do a cameo performance in The Barnyard production, *The Final Countdown*, in September this year.

Congratulations to Mthoko!

Dale McDermott Golf Day

Durban High School is having its annual Dale McDermott Golf Day on 15 September at the Royal Durban Golf Club.

This is a very special day in our calendar and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Dale McDermott, was a dedicated teacher at Durban High School and Springbok technical adviser. All proceeds of this golf day are used towards rugby bursaries for deserving, disadvantaged pupils.

We would really appreciate your support in the form of either taking 4 balls, sponsoring a hole or greens and/or donating prizes.

Please contact Barry Coskey for further details on: 031-277 1500 or at: barry.coskey@durbanhighschool.co.za

Or refer to the Communicator to find an entry form to download.



SharkSmart Tour of Kings Park

Mr Barry Coskey (Marketing Department) and Andrew Kellner (DHS school's SharkSmart Pupil Representative) took a trip down to the Kings Park stadium last week to meet the SharkSmart team and take a tour of the stadium.

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Appeal for Furniture

Durban High School has been given the use of a cottage outside Underberg for the Grade 10 pupils' annual leadership trip to Cobham, and any other leadership outings the School may wish to use it for.

The cottage is currently unfurnished. We are appealing to the DHS family to assist us to furnish it. The items of furniture needed are for the two bedrooms, the lounge and the kitchen. We would be happy to accept any useable furniture for these rooms.

If you have something you would like to donate, please contact Mr Dave Dunn on 031-277 1500 or at dave.dunn@durbanhighschool.co.za

Thank you for your assistance.



The Weeks Ahead

Holiday Activities KZN Debating Tournament in Wartburg : 24 to 26 June Fishing and Orienteering Excursion 24 to 28 June

Monday 18 July School Opens for the 4th Term Seabrooke's Theatre : Topsy Turvy : Until 24 July

Wednesday 20 July Inter-House Sports Day Test Day

Saturday 24 July Grade 10 Leadership Tour to Cobham : 24 to 30 July Grade 11 Work Experience : 25 to 29 July

Thursday 28 July Grade 12 Drama Internal Finals

Friday 29 July June Exam Reports Out

Saturday 30 July Matric Dance at Moses Mabhida

Sunday 31 July Inter Schools Climbing Comp 1

Topsy Turvy at Seabrooke's

Calling all Gilbert and Sullivan fanatics! Jonathan Roxmouth, (multi award winning star of A Handful of Keys, Rock Me Amadeus, The Buddy Holly Story and In Black and White), is coming back to Durban with his latest offering, with a fresh look at Gilbert and Sullivan.

This time round, Jonathan takes the audience for a laugh-outloud ride through a magical world of ridiculous characters from their most famous comic operettas like The Makido, The Pirates of Penzance and HMS Pinafore - to name but a few.

This is no 'traditional' opera recital. These classic songs are dusted off and given a modern Monday 1 August Grade 8 Selling Week : 1-4 Aug Blood Clinic Grade 12 Parents Evening : 17h30

Wednesday 3 August Jes Foord Talk Grade 12 Drama Parents Evening

Thursday 4 August Grade 12 Drama Prac Finals

Thursday 4 August Women's Day Walk Test Day Inter-House Athletics Chess Finals in Hall : 3 to 9pm

Friday 5 August Long Weekend

Monday 8 August School Holiday

Tuesday 9 August Public Holiday



twist whilst still keeping the integrity of the originals. Come swash your buckle with the Pirate King, giggle with the Three Little Maids from school or even dance with the motormouthed Major General in an evening of classic English nostalgia.

If you have never heard of them, this is the perfect introduction to their work that the rest of the die-hard Gilbertians out there will love to see and hear again.

The show is on at Seabrooke's Theatre at DHS from 13 to 24 July. Tickets through Computicket.

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DHS SPRING FESTIVAL 2011

The Spring Festival is planned for the 30 September 2011, 01 and 02 October 2011. During the Festival there will be a number of activities planned for each day. A variety of food stails, catering for every individual will be available throughout the day. Also featuring:

A Rock Concert Eastern Extravaganza Fashion shows Master & Miss Spring Festival Zulu Cultural Show Children's rides & entertainment and lots more

The committee is organising an inter class soccer tournament. As a highlight we are negotiating with Amazulu to play an exhibition soccer match against our First Team.

Entrance fees are set at R10 per person. Learners are encouraged to buy a DHS 3 DAY PASS at a minimal cost of R20. Learners who sell the highest number of tickets in EACH GRADE will be eligible to win a BLACKBERRY CELLPHONE. (Terms and conditions apply).

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As this is a mammoth undertaking for DHS we NEED your help. Please contact Bharat Ramjee or any members of our committee for ANY details regarding STALLS, SPONSORSHIP, SHOWS or any information. Any form of assistance will be HIGHLY APPRECIATED.

REMEMBER THIS IS A DHS INITIATIVE!

SPRING FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: B K Ramjee (Co-ordinator) K Krause, C Chapman and 5 Naglah

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