



Dear Parents

A school term has a life of its own. With its frenetic start and sustained pace come tired teenagers and frayed nerves. This holiday comes not a moment too soon. They're yours for the next two weeks. A few late sleeps, some fresh air, a little tender loving care and an Easter egg or two and they should be ready for term two. With more of the same, so should we!

But next term won't be without its frustrations with the Parfitt Avenue upgrade commencing in earnest during the holidays. We can expect the disruption to traffic in the Parfitt Avenue area to be massive for the next year. To alleviate congestion, a peak time entrance and exit gate from Groenewoud Street - opposite Eunice House - will be provided by the Municipality's contractors as will both an access gate between Eunice and Grey - at the triangle near the courts- and access between Grey and the University at the top (west) end of College Avenue. All three of these measures are for the convenience of Eunice and Grey traffic only. Public access will be discouraged by limiting these concessions to set times. There will, however, be a 24 hour slow moving thoroughfare from just inside the Grey College Henry Street entrance to Nelson Mandela Avenue via College Crossing. Donald Murray Street, which is parallel to Jock Meiring, will be opened to one way (south to north) traffic, while whatever access will be available in Parfitt Avenue will be one way from north to south. The bottom line is careful planning, an early start and loads of patience. We will monitor the situation with a view to further initiatives such as security personnel, traffic officers, drop off zones or drive-by tranquilizer dispensers! Please grin and bear it. It's only one year!

Parents are reminded that extreme caution needs to be exercised when driving in our grounds. We have the most valuable "wildlife" of all. We especially urge those drivers who ignore the one way round system in the late afternoons and at night to cooperate. We realize that it's inconvenient to drive round the property, but such disregard for safety is irresponsible and dangerous. Pedestrians expect cars to be going in the other direction. An accident under these circumstances would have serious legal, liability and insurance problems.

One of the undoubted highlights of the Eunice calendar is the annual Midmar tour. 2009 was Eunice's 14th team swim with a total of nearly 180 swimmers, 156 of whom were transported by the school. Accommodation is provided at The Fig Tree in Amanzimtoti with a visit to U-Shaka in Durban on the Saturday as supplementary entertainment. This year the weather was brilliant and the swimming superb - Eunice won the schools' competition and, besides the girls, five staff members (Mrs Anmaré Harris, Mrs Louise Reinecke, Mrs Lizette Neethling, Mr Ferdi van Wijk and Mrs Mary Paine) showed their class in the water. Our thanks to these teachers for entering into the Midmar spirit, to Mrs Mary Paine for all the administration and to Dr Don Paine, who returned as Chief de Mission for the umpteenth time after a break of 3 years. Eunice is South Africa's No 1 Midmar School. Eunice's top five swimmers who won gold medals as the winning schools' team were Emma Delpont, Danielle Gouws, Lanelle Roode, Leané Badenhorst and Tasha Kock. All medallists, especially the non-gala swimmers, will testify to the merits of the Midmar adventure. Even your principal has four consecutive medals earned earlier in the decade. Too decadent these days. Maybe next decade.

Reporting on a swimming season is always a study in detail although this is the first year in my tenure that we do not have a single swimmer going to the National Senior Championships. The Free State swimming outlook is a little dry at the moment. Victrix Ludorum at our own gala was Emma Delpont with our age group champions being: u/14 - Bianca du Toit; u/15 -Emma Delpont; u/16 - Leané Badenhorst; u/17 - Danielle Gouws and u/19 - Jeanne Badenhorst.

At the National Girls' Schools' Aquatics Gala in East London, Eunice, in third position behind St Mary's Waverley and Durban Girls College, had the better of Oranje who came 7th. Remember, this is a national competition with the country's top swimmers competing in school colours. It was sad to see our traditional rivals, Pietermaritzburg Girls' High not in the mix.

Our two Inter High Conductresses, Portia Lehasa and Rushna Josiah were popular choices who earned support through their ability to give the Eunice beat a lively boost. Their style and enthusiasm were infectious and promoted a welcome inclusivity on our stands. Our walk in became a swim-in with Dr van Niekerk's touch clearly evident. In the water we managed only the u/14 trophy, losing the u/16 one by only 11 points, but retaining our longstanding Inter High record with 1041 points to Oranje's 977 in the Jeanine Steenkamp overall Schools' Trophy. Our Inter High medallists were:

u/14:

Bianca du Toit (2 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze)
Suné Storme (2 silver, 3 bronze)
Chaneri Cilliers (1 bronze)
Madelein Kritzinger (1 bronze)
Juan-Amie Gutter (1 bronze)

u/16:

Emma Delpont (1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze)
Tenielle Coetzer (1 gold)
Lanél Roode (1 bronze)
Ene-Mari Röscher (5 silver)
Leané Badenhorst (1 gold, 3 bronze)
Maryke van Rooyen (1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze)

u/18:

Danielle Gouws (2 gold, 3 silver)
Megan Theart (1 silver, 1 bronze)
Melissa Smith (3 bronze)
Jeanne Badenhorst (1 bronze)
Vicky Polydorou (3 bronze)
Martiné van der Merwe (1 silver, 2 bronze)

This year the selection of the Free State team going to SA Schools was dependant on swimming a qualifying time thus making it much more difficult to make the team. The following girls qualified:

Danielle Gouws
Emma Delpont
Bianca du Toit
Ene-Mari Roscher
Leané Badenhorst

Emma Delpont earned a bronze in the 200m IM. At the SA Prestige Gala (National level 3 gala) in Sasolburg Bianca du Toit won a silver medal in the 100m freestyle in an impressive time of 11:02:98.

Although Eunice's divers ended second overall in the Inter High Diving Competition, our girls were the top performers in the U/14 section (Sumari v/d Berg), the U/16 section (Lienke Metz) and the U/18 section (Eunike Britz). All three girls earned selection to the Free State Schools Team which participated in the SA Schools' Gala.

Three of our versatile sportswomen, Maryke van Rooyen, Leané Badenhorst and Vicky Polydorou have earned Free State Colours for Biathlon. Congratulations, too, to Michelle Viljoen, one of our strongswimming Matric boarders who went home to earn five golds at the Botswana National Gala earlier this month.

Our girls have done particularly well at Athletics this year. We were placed 3rd at the Sentraal Top Twenty Meeting behind Bloemhof and Oranje mainly due to a points-scoring throw by Joané Bredenkamp our discus and shot-put star. The Sentraal meeting restricts schools to teams of 10 athletes with the result that we were able to beat schools like Sentraal and JF who usually rely on their superior depth. Elana Deacon, Lau-Mari Naude and Minjon van Tonder first played at the Astro opening before charging off to Sasolburg to compete at the Free State Championships later the same day. Danél Prinsloo produced the performance of the season with a gold medal in the u/17 1500m with a meeting record time. Danél and Joané have both qualified to participate not only at the USASSA Championships in Durban but also at the ASA SA Youth Championships in Pretoria. We are proud of these two elite athletes.

27 Athletes qualified to participate at SFS level with 9 girls earning first places at the Southern Free State Championships. These 9 were: Bontle Mokhelenyane, Suné van Heerden, Elné van Coller, Mignon van Tonder, Joané Bredenkamp, Lau-Mari Naude, Jessica Stevens, Danél Prinsloo and Elana Deacon. We had good performances at the HTS and Zone meetings, too. Our own Athletics meeting was seriously affected by rain. Our thanks to Mr Ferdi van Wijk, our athletics co-ordinator, and his helpers - Mrs Mariana Spangenberg, Mrs Rani Schutte and Mrs Louise Reinecke.

Congratulations to the following girls who made the Top 10 in their age group during the Southern Free State Squash Tournament: Suné Seale, Candice Richter, Jennie Oglesby, Hannah Oglesby, Christianna Polydorou, Dominique de Gouveia, Nina Nel, Jeanne Myburgh, Minzke van der Merwe, Deonette Viljoen, Kendall Richter, Jacqui Ras and Pamela Bubb.

The highlight of our term was the opening of the Eunice Astro on 6 March. The first match saw Eunice and Oranje primary schools draw 2 -2 followed by a goalless draw between Grey and Pretoria Boys' High with over a thousand boys in attendance. Oranje then managed a thrilling 4 - 3 win over St Mary's Waverley. Before the final match of the day which saw Eunice's firsts beat Pretoria High School for Girls 2 - 0, the Astro was officially opened during a formal ceremony with all the players providing a moment for the history books. The contractors (Peter Construction), the engineers (Ninham Shand), the sponsors (Konica Minolta) and the Astro Committee were all called on to the turf to witness Mr Pat Uys cutting green, blue and yellow ribbons. A governing body member since 1980 and Eunice's financial manager since 1994, Mr Uys championed the Astro initiative and ensured that it was fully paid for before the first goal was scored. That honour went to Keatshepa Magano of Eunice Primary. Lou -Mari Naude's two maiden first team goals deserved more than a box of Astros. How privileged our girls are, especially the tiny tots who will come to regard the Astro as normal as surfing the net.

The good rains throughout January and February made our school look Eunice Green with our fields and gardens looking so good. We can all be very proud of a school which looks like a top school. The High school quadrangle with its trade mark fountain gives Eunice an ivy-league feel and cannot but offer our girls a sense of expectation as they work to uphold standards 135 years in the making. I thank each and every Eunice girl, teacher, parent and worker who help to promote our Proudly Green and Proudly Clean campaigns. It's not only the school that needs to look good. So do our girls. They look so much better with Eunice schoolbags and signature jerseys. Please ensure that girls do not colour their hair during the holidays. There are unavoidable school implications which are so unnecessary. No 'mistakes' please. No exceptions.

A group of nearly 40 Eunice girls, comprising of 1 tennis and 2 hockey teams left for Argentina on Wednesday. Their tour takes them to Rosario and Buenos Aires where they will play against clubs and schools before participating in the Argentina Hockey Festival (tennis at the Vilas Club). More than a year's planning undertaken by Mrs Emsie Bouwer has resulted in this special opportunity. This is not the best time to subject parents to such a large expense. Our girls and staff are certainly mindful of the sacrifice involved. While Mrs Bouwer will manage the tennis girls Mr Leon van Rensburg and Mrs Louise Reinecke will

try to keep up with the hockey girls. I saw them off at 22:00 on Tuesday evening. It was uplifting to see all the girls and parents gathered at the bus in silence as Mr van Rensburg got the tour off to a prayerful start.

It was also with pride that I watched the High School Musical tour bus leave for Johannesburg early one Saturday morning. In full school uniform they looked like a formidable contingent. By all accounts it was a fabulous show and another quality Eunice opportunity. Thank you Mrs Marais for the initiative and organization.

I look forward to the day when my birthday goes by relatively unnoticed. But at Eunice it's a calendar occasion with an Assembly which includes so much preparation by a range of personalities. I was blown away by the song and dance number presented by our daygirl matric leaders, the hidden notes from all 840 girls and their teachers, the "phonetic" speeches by representatives of each grade, the performance of our Grade 00s (the matrics of 2022!) and the remarkable piano skills of Elbé Top in Gr 8. My thanks to Dr Niel van Niekerk, Dr George Dennill and Mrs June Norval.

Our Valentine Assembly was something different - a TV Talk show - featuring pupil conducted interviews with teenagers and teachers on a range of relationship issues. Our girls loved the informality and the relevance of the occasion. Listening to two teachers talking frankly about a friendship that has lasted most of their lives was inspirational. Our new Steelpan Band, under the leadership of Mrs Retha Visser, made their well-received debut at the same Assembly. Their Caribbean sound struck the right chord and it was obvious to all that our drummers enjoy their new opportunity - the first of its kind in the city. They're playing at the Bloemfontein Show on 7 May at 18:00 and on 9 May at 12:00. Our Pro Carmine Choir, under the leadership of Mrs Elza Vosloo, sang love songs at the assembly and performed at our recent Women's World Day of Prayer Assembly, too. A group of staff and girls and the African Choir under the guidance of Mooki Maghetha, a Grey old boy who promotes African culture at Eunice provided the prayerful music at our Easter Assembly on Wednesday.

Valentine must have been a cool dude because he made dances in February possible in schools all over the world. It's always special to see the quick transformation from Grade 7 applicant to teenage dance debutante with all the necessary accessories - fine dress, fascinating shoes, fancy hair and a rather self conscious guy(accessories usually in that order!). Thanks Mrs Norval for making this, and many of our dances, possible. And thanks too to Mr Leon van Rensburg, Mrs Karin Kok and Mrs Joy Kroon for their work at the dance. For the most part I'm enormously proud of your daughters at these very limited but carefully organised and supervised functions. It was just a few years ago that my own daughters enjoyed these developmental opportunities. Enjoy them while you have them. They don't get cheaper though, in case you were hoping....

Having spoken to quite a few Gr 9s, the general consensus seems to be that their Adventure Week in Zastron was a positive exercise with valuable team building, problem solving and environmental activities as well as a few opportunities for physical challenges which offer a real sense of achievement and camaraderie. Mrs Mariana Spangenberg, Mr Marius Coetzee and Miss Rozanne Marais went beyond the call of duty in taking 24/7 responsibility for the whole grade for the week, but they were the first to offer their services for the 2010 week. Thanks to our parents for supporting this memorable Gr 9 extra. Our girls always return with broad smiles, new friends and loads of spirit.

Eunice's top tennis players are afforded national opportunities which amount to a top tennis schools' circuit. This term they reached the finals of two of the country's top tournaments - the Wilson Cup at Sun City and the Paarl Girls' High Invitational. In both finals Eunice came up against Bloemhof of Stellenbosch. The first was drawn when disrupted by rain (the two schools had drawn their pool match 14-14) while the second was narrowly lost 5-4 after the singles had seen the teams level at 3-3. At Sun City the U/ 15 tennis team won their 5 day challenge earning the R 4 750 team prize while the firsts shared the R 10 250 prize with Bloemhof.

Our Netball girls committed themselves to a three day intensive coaching course which was held in school and hostel over a recent weekend. This initiative took the place of a too costly tour undertaken two years ago with the same purpose. Our thanks to the 130 girls and their parents for supporting this initiative. A few of our teams used the Fichardt Park Sports Day to get the season in motion while our first team's 10 - 14 loss to the very powerful Sentraal team - one of SA's finest sides - clearly showed that Eunice Netball, under the leadership of Miss Dorette Badenhorst, is certainly on the move. Eunice's thanks to the many teachers and coaches who make such positive progress possible.

Basetsane Motsapi, in Grade 11, represented Eunice at the recent RYLA Camp in Kroonstad held under the auspices of Rotary. Eden Theron, one of our top matrices last year, was honoured recently at school by Shooter and Shuter for her third place in a National story telling competition.

The SACCEE Debating League started this term and Eunice made their presence known by winning all 4 of their debates and all 4 Best Speaker Awards went to Eunice girls. Bojosi Morule entered the Anglo-American Young Communicators Award, a very prestigious public speaking event. Bojosi competed against speakers from all over the Free State and was awarded first place. A final provincial round will take place on 25 April to determine who the Free State representative at Nationals will be. We wish her the best of luck.

43 of our Matrics are undergoing Cisco IT Essential Training - an international qualification which focuses on both the operational knowledge and the assembling of a computer. The total cost of the course is R 300 paid over 3 terms. These girls have been exposed to a very useful and technical opportunity which both supports and extends their Matric Computer Applications Technology curriculum.

I would like to introduce an initiative concerning Parents' Association fundraising projects which requires parents to react without automatic negativity. Fundraising at primary school is so much easier with tiny girls whose requests can never be denied and parents young enough to react with enthusiasm and energy. At high school your daughters like to keep you far away from me and their teachers. They prefer you to hear little and see less! I'm exaggerating, but parent involvement at high school and fundraising are problematic challenges at the best of times. Our small band of willing PA Committee members - we have to invite and persuade supportive parents - have decided to implement a high school PA Levy of R 100 per year so that even older, more distant parents can support the school.

The PA undertakes not to "tax" parents with raffles or spellathons this year. We ask, rather, that you pay a once off levy which our PA will use for one major capital project outlined below. Our functions this year will thus be aimed at value for money service extras such as school photos, mother/father and daughter teas or dinners, boarder parents outreach on back to school afternoons, Valentine's Day sales at cost price, coffee and tea at productions, etc.

What's the levy for? The PA is keen to drive a EUNICE MEDIA CENTRE UPGRADE. Currently all our Gr 8 - 9s receive quality computer literacy education. It is not computers for the few - every single girl does the two year course. The result is that our two fully equipped Computer Centres are used almost exclusively for teaching purposes. The IT Centre is open and full every afternoon.

We would like to upgrade the research facilities in the library with a computer network dedicated to high quality resource material. We have a new media co-ordinator, Mrs Norah Tuckett, who has the expertise and experience to provide a quality facility which can direct and manage our girls' research needs.

Parents are requested to support this PA Levy idea which was proposed unanimously at our first meeting of the year. The R 100 levy will be included as a one off item on your third term school fee account. We budget to break even with no provision for capital projects. All such developmental expenditure is funded through our Holiday Hotel Enterprise which requires massive extra effort on the part of our school and hostel structures. Parents are pleadingly requested to support this PA Levy idea. If you have a problem with this please pick up the phone and discuss it with me directly. There is much in terms of background and context which I would love to debate with parents whose negativity can be damaging.

I would like to pay tribute to our school and Eunice House student leadership. They certainly serve their school with distinction. The manner in which they arranged special activities to welcome our new GR 8s is a source of example to many schools. The GR 8 sleepover is a case in point. The matrics are not even present which underlines the fact that there is no hint of initiation in these activities. Thank you Portia and Lizé for your leadership, example and service. At Eunice House, Headgirl Annemie van Niekerk has worked tirelessly to create opportunities for appreciating staff, for interaction with the boys' schools on weekends, for including brothers and others at lunch and for giving special character to Eunice House. Our Eunice RCL took the lead recently in reaching out to their counterparts at neighbouring schools not only socially but in sharing best practices at Bloemfontein's single sex boarding schools.

Our Leader Project 2009 training- presented by Mr and Mrs Marais - took place in the CR Swart Building at the University. The girls enjoyed the chance to "attend University" to the point that training for 150 matrics started 10 minutes ahead of schedule with 100 % attendance. The 15 leader project coordinators and treasurers received a further day's training in preparation for the projects which will take place from April.

We recently received the first half of our Anglo Mathematics funding in an initiative known as The South African Public Schools Challenge aimed at improving access and performance in the field of Mathematics. A Maths Computer network and two smart boards are being installed and resource material has been purchased.

Below please find an offer regarding individual school photographs. This is not compulsory. Please complete the form and attach the money if interested.

Kindly note that the last week of April consists only of Tuesday (28 April), Wednesday (29 April) and Thursday (30 April). We will have had a long holiday which includes the Easter Weekend. If travel costs are a problem please regard the first long weekend as an ordinary weekend. If your daughters miss those days they will be missing academic assessments and sporting fixtures.

Sorry for the long newsletter but it keeps you informed on all activities and it's free!

Paul Cassar
Headmaster

The Parents' Association is offering a package of individual school photographs for R 35 (A5, Jumbo and 2 bookmarks). If you wish to take up this offer complete the form below and enclose R 35.

I..... (name of pupil) in Grade..... would like to order the R 35 photo package (A5, Jumbo, 2 x bookmarks).

PAID: (R 35 enclosed)

