



Dear Parents

It's always challenging to produce a newsletter and a Closing function speech in time for the last week of a term which has had more than its fair share of pressure. In my humble opinion there's nothing more debilitating than a teachers' strike 'to confuse the faithful' to use Dr Paine's words. Sure, we need a respected, competent and committed body of teachers in South Africa. And to fulfil that need we need to pay these critically important people a salary more in line with other professionals, but a strike in a South African context is seriously problematic for three basic reasons. Firstly, there's no such thing as a day's or a week's strike in SA. It goes on unofficially for weeks and usually affects a whole exam period. Secondly, it goes hand in hand with a high level of unacceptable and illegal intimidation. Thirdly, it highlights the government's Catch 22 dilemma of being held to ransom by a collective teaching corps which delivers hopelessly inadequate standards of even the most basic teaching and learning. There is simply just too much at stake. The demonstration in Jock Meiring Street at our schools was very well managed by our 'Eunice Polisie' in conjunction with the SAPS and with the professionalism and discipline of our own teachers and girls. We have been able to complete the Matric prelim exams in full although we were only able to write four of the Province's common exams. We have a talented matric class many of whom approach their work very seriously indeed. Their exams are written in the Eunice House Preproom so they're far removed from even the hustle and bustle of school. They're in finals mode and that's how it should be.

One of our more recent traditions is the Thank You Assembly which offers our girls - as a Matric class - the chance to express their appreciation. It's an occasion which highlights the special relationship between matrics and their teachers as well as the healthy fun which often accompanies quality commitment. This year I would like to open up the function to any of our parents who may wish to expose themselves to a little of our school's ethos. It will take place on 13 October 2010 at 11:30.

Dr Niel van Niekerk's "Come Mxit with me on Facebook you Twit" was a 'closed' show in that it included only the Gr 11 Dramatic Art class. No selected cast or guest artists. A classic opportunity for about 30 girls to work in a real theatre with their teacher who is primarily a respected and prolific director, with musical genius Anton Esterhuyse and with sound and lights expert Corné Stapelberg. The show was largely original as it explored relationships, especially between teenager and parents, using technology as its context. Some may question the wisdom of tackling sensitive issues such as racism and sexual orientation but there's value in making an educational opportunity so practical, so relevant and so provocative.

One of my major challenges this year was compiling and organising the annual heads' conference of the South African Girls' Schools' Association. I had the expert skills of Mrs Liza-Anne Meyer and Mrs Maureen Botha to help me put the three day project together and Mrs June Norval and Mr Carl Pritchitt to arrange the catering. We had 72 principals and we hosted them in four different venues: our newly renovated staffroom, the large primary staffroom, the Eunice House dining room and the CUT Hotel School, the site of the old Eunice. Besides our own Marimba and Steelpan players we exposed the visitors from far and wide to the Grey College Primary Boereorkes, the

Bochabelo Strings and to Grade 1 piano sensation Ah Yang Moon. We had a wide range of speakers including Profs Jonathan Jansen, Dennis Francis and Rita Niemann of Free State University, Prof Louis Goedhals and Dr Lyn Smith (Oncology), Mr Igno van Niekerk (Liberty Life), Mrs Saretjie Musgrave (ICT Education), Dr Margo de Vries (Parachute accident survivor) and Mrs Angela Deutschmann - a past Eunice headgirl who led two presentations . I would like to give you a little background to show you what it is principals get together about. Mrs Deutschmann's presentations dealt with:

1. *Self Esteem: The Goal of Education*

No amount of talent, nurturing, attention or hard work can override a low or ambivalent sense of self. If a learner's self-esteem is weak, she will ultimately sabotage herself, either by giving up too soon or by attracting poor quality opportunities, environments, friends or boyfriends. If a school education can preserve, even bolster, a young girls' sense of worth then it is an education for a lifetime. But what are the markers of self esteem and how do you as educator encourage these in the midst of opposing messages from the media, peers and even parents?

2. *Caring for the Carer*

"You can only give what you already have"

As paradoxical and impossible as it may sound, the primary responsibility of an educator (or parent or any other caregiver) is to take care of their own wellbeing. There is no way we can inspire, nurture and challenge our learners if we ourselves are not inspired, challenged and adequately taken care of. But how is this achieved amidst increasing administrative and resource burdens? How do heads of schools empower and encourage educators(and themselves) to remain happy and well?

In order to highlight that inspiration allow me to offer sincere congratulations to Mrs Rae Gagiano whose creative and caring project won her the Peers' Choice Award at the national Microsoft Innovative Teachers' Awards in Johannesburg recently. Her work with a group of children, using educational software tools such as Photoshop, Moviemaker and Songsmith to give orphan children a digitally created identity which, in years to come, will provide photos, videos and memories of an otherwise anonymous childhood, won her an interactive white board and a data projector for her artroom in the old clubhouse on the fields.

Our top academic achiever this term is Deidré Basson, in Grade 11, who won R 3 100 this term as the national winner of the Senior Afrikaans Olympiad. Besides beating the rest of the province and the rest of the country she had to dig deep to beat each and every one of the Eunice matrics. Mooi so, Deidré. Congratulations too, to Tashriqa Khan who won a gold medal for her first position in the province in the Grade 9 section of ABSA's World Knowledge Olympiad.

One of the cultural highlights of the term was the school's triumph in the Bloemfontein Schools Debating League with a wonderful win over St Andrew's in the finals in a high quality debate on the motion :*"This House believes that striking is an act of war against communities."* It's clear that Mrs Lisa Deysel is back after her maternity leave. She certainly brings out the best in our debaters -on this occasion: Nnete Malebo, Joanne Kridiotis and Maria Neto - and gives them that edge which puts the boys on the back foot. Nice edge to have, ladies.

Two of the above high profile achievers, Nnete Malebo and Joanne Kridiotis were the luckiest learners in the province when they joined two other learners from each of the nine provinces as guests of Cell C CEO Lars Reichelt in the company box at Soccer City on the day of the World Cup final. How cool is that? It's cool with a capital Cell C.

Busi Kabane, Olivia Palmer, Cara van der Merwe and Lauren Theys attended the African Schools Debating Champs at St John's College in Johannesburg. They won three of their six debates, visited the Apartheid Museum, Constitutional Hill and got to listen to and interact with high profile speakers such as FNB CEO Michael Jordaan and Mr Thabo Mbeki.

Hostel Week is a modern Eunice tradition which is, in effect, a tribute to Eunice's distinctive spirit. Mrs Daisy Munro's Eunice House is turned into a Food, Fun and Fashion Festival with Mr Pat Uys's purse strings and Mr Carl Pritchitt's superb staff combining to bring Nika Nel's and her RCL's weird and wonderful plans for the week to fruition. Weird because ice-cream and wine gums for breakfast is 'snaaks' to say the least. Wonderful because everyone goes the extra mile to make the menus happen - each grade gets to design a day's menu which include hostel favourites as well as daily dessert and breaktime treats such as pies, Mugg and Bean muffins, slap chips and Mc Donald's burgers. The Fashion Show was just fabulous with creative eco-wear, casual attire and elegant dance gowns on a selection of confident, sparkling and beautiful girls with the emphasis all on fun and personality. I was the most qualified of the judges. I've been to more school dances than anyone in this universe! The week ended with the Hostel Ball (Yes, I was there, too, - with four security guards at 'strategic' exits). The good thing about a hostel ball is that they're all at home - I don't have to wait for sleepy parents and brothers without watches to fetch our girls way after the DJ has packed his bakkie! The joys of teaching. The whole idea is to celebrate boarding school life, to stress Eunice House as a home away from home and to put the girls in green (not so green in this terms many civvies days) where they belong at the centre of all we do! Sorry daygirls, but boarders rock!

Last time I supplied a full summary of the 15 completed Leader projects. This term Mrs Marais staged the Annual Award Assembly with each group presenting a powerpoint of their project. The quality of these report backs was commendable. Our Gr 8 - 11 s couldn't but be looking forward to tackling their own venture. We start training our 2011 matrices on the first Tuesday of term with the added dimension of giving the entire process a technological boost by using the web-based project manage ThinkQuest to both streamline assessment and to share the Leader Project initiative with schools all over the world.

Last month I attended the prizegiving of the Eskom Science Expo in the Callie Human Centre at UFS. Any young up and coming Bloemfontein primary school girl could not but have been impressed by Eunice High School as our girls simply dominated the medal awards. It is clear that our Science teachers: Mrs Karin Kok, Mrs Kerryn Lombard , Mrs Joy Kroon and Ms Rozanne Marais (organiser) must be doing something right. Our girls won 10 bronze, 14 silver and 12 gold medals with 14 girls through to the National Expo in Pta. I realise that these projects take time and effort but they are practical, thinking and relevant studies which give motivation and direction to our girls and probably headaches to their parents. Did you know that warm water freezes faster than cold water? Ek het dit nie geweet nie.

Having earned their A ++ on debut at the Kunswedstryd, the new Eunice choir travelled to Michaelhouse last week for one of the country's premier festivals. It was quite a treat for a group of girls who have invested so much in terms of time, talent and effort this year. They committed themselves to a busy choir camp at school recently to prepare for their tour. Thank you Mrs Retha Visser, Mrs Elza Vosloo and Mrs Mag Marais for an exemplary exercise in regeneration aimed at achieving a world class standard in double quick time.

Congratulations to Leanne Pitchers (Gr 11, Ladybrand boarder) who was placed first in the 80 km Fouriesburg Endurance Ride in the Young Rider section and third overall. Her ride took just over five hours. Lesleigh Rous also in Gr 11 from Colesberg participated in the Walvis Bay endurance ride.

The Grade 9 Entrepreneurial Day succeeded in exemplifying the most basic of business principles - supply and demand! The supply was ensured by kilos of cupcakes and droëwors, litres of ice cream slush and grease and large doses of adrenalin in the haunted houses, on the jumping castle and during the pillow fights. The demand was provided by the combined appetite for food and fun of Eunice High and Primary and Grey Primary. Many thanks to the organiser in Mr Marius Coetzee, the initiator in Mr Ferdi van Wijk, the real patrons in Mr Lindsay Mould and Mrs Maureen Dale and the not so silent partners and investors in Moms and Dads. It's a great educational occasion with teamwork, creativity and problem solving skills and, hopefully, profit sharing much in evidence.

Two matrices, swimming and netball captain and RCL member Danielle Gouws, and hockey captain and boarder headgirl Nika Nel are finalists in this weekend's Volksblad/ University of the Free State Matriculant of the Year competition. Although limited to matriculants who will study at UFS next year, the competition extends beyond the borders of the province and includes a high profile, 5 star weekend of remarkable opportunities which includes a gala dinner where even the proud principal and his lovely wife get to hobnob with these teenage celebrities and their parents.

Nnete Malebo, Eunice's headgirl, has been awarded the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Scholarship which will cover her entire studies at UCT. Her brother who was headboy at Saint Andrew's, was also an Allan Gray Fellow. This year he won another scholarship which allowed him to spend two weeks at the White House and two at the World Bank. But Nnete got to go to the World Cup Final! Perhaps the real congratulations should go to Mr & Mrs Malebo. Mr Chris Thomas of St Andrew's and I were guests of Allan Gray at the Royal Marang Hotel (where the England World Cup team stayed) in Rustenburg recently where we shared ideas on excellence in education with the principals of Allan Gray's Circle of Excellence schools with a view to helping to replicate that excellence at more of our country's schools.

41 girls and 3 staff (Dr George Dennill, Mrs Daleen Snyman and Mrs Lizette Neethling) went on Eunice's third Cradle of Mankind tour in mid-August. Their tour included visits to the Palaeontology Department at Wits, the Origins Museum, the Sterkfontein Cave near Krugersdorp, the Maropeng Museum in the foothills of the Magaliesberg, the Drimolen Cave as well as the much more modern Rosebank, Montecasino and Sandton City Malls. Their guides included two professors who are the exclusive excavators of Drimolen which is not yet open to the public. When, one day, these girls look back on their schooldays they'll begin to realise what a high quality learning opportunity their tour was. Thanks Dr Dennill for inspiring our girls.

2010 has been a great year in terms of Eunice's sport. At Tennis our senior girls have confirmed their position as the top school team in SA with key victories in a number of top tournaments including the National Schools' Festival in Stellenbosch, the Paarl Gym Tournament and the Cradock one amongst others. Besides in Bloemfontein we won pretty much all the leagues. Obviously, Christi Potgieter's presence made an enormous difference but our victories were more about depth than anything else. At Hockey our 1- 0 victory over Oranje in the Bloemfontein A League final won us the right to represent Bloemfontein in the FS Cup. We won the provincial finals with ease. On top of that our girls won the Elsie Coetzer Invitation Tournament and the National Girls Schools Festival in Stellenbosch. We hosted Gauteng champions St Mary's in Bloemfontein recently. We

had beaten them 1 - 0 at their own tournament. They drew 1 - 1 with both us and Oranje. Earlier we had beaten Clarendon 5 - 1 in East London. My previous communications testified to our netball, swimming, squash and chess achievements. We are the province's top squash team which earned us the right to participate in the Top Schools Tournament at Epworth.

But school sport is not simply about first teams. The real benefits are earned by our many loyal players who attend regular practices and play great matches in C and D leagues. Besides our champion first team, our Colts were placed 5th in the same league. Our U/14As, U/18B grass team and the U/16 Bs all won their leagues. The U/16As and U/16Bs were second in their leagues. Our provincial and national representatives were substantial SA U/18 A (1), SA Youth team (2), Free State U/18 A (7, including Nika Nel, captain), Motheo U/18 A (6), Free State U/16 A (4, including Jacqui Ras, Captain), Motheo U/16 A (6), Motheo U/16 B (3), Motheo U/14 A (7), Motheo U/14 B (3), Motheo U/14 C (6).

The Clarendon Derby earlier this term was our first attempt at a bus rather than a train derby. Very detailed planning by Mrs Louise Reinecke, Ms Dorette Badenhorst and Mr Leon van Rensburg ensured a successful tour with Clarendon providing their traditionally generous hospitality. Our girls will testify to a memorable school spirit, much camaraderie and enjoyable competition. The tennis Singles won 30-21 and the Doubles won 16 - 11. The squash lost 3 - 13 and the chess lost 3,5 - 4,5. In debating the juniors won 2 -0 and the seniors won 1 and loss 1 The best speakers were Shannali Smit and Veda Hendrikse. The public speaking Juniors placed 3rd and 4th and the seniors were placed 3rd and 4th. Netball scores were as follow: U/14 D 7 - 10; U/14 C 14 - 11; U/14 B 15 - 3; U/14 A 17 - 5; U/15 E 2 - 11; U/15 D 11 - 12; U/15 C 14 - 6; U/15 B 16 - 6; U/15 A 29 - 9; U/16 D vs Cl 4th 11 -13; U/16 C vs Cl 3rd 5 - 18; U/16 B 24 - 10; U/16 A 19 - 8; U/19 D 11 - 12; U/19 C 12 - 8; U/19 B 8 - 10; U/18 A 38 - 18. The hockey results were as follows: U14 A 4-1; U14 B 3-0; U14 C 3-1; U16 E 2-0; U16 D 1-0; U16 C 0-2; U16 B 0-1; U16 A 2-0; U18 C 3-2; U18 B 3-0; Grasshoppers 0-1; Colts 0-0 and 1st team 5-1.

Besides our first netball team which ended 3rd in the first league, our U/14 B, U/14 C, U/15 B, U/16 B and U/16 D teams lost in the finals. Tebogo Moleme, Kylin Fourie and Ashleigh Botha went to Johannesburg for the SA Netball Championships with Ashleigh earning SA U/17 selection. Congratulations, Ashleigh, that's a great achievement. Seven Eunice netball teams travelled to Douglas recently to participate in a friendly tournament. Our pre-season programme for the top group already started in August, while all netball players will commence their programme on 5 October (Tuesdays and Thursday 14:15 - 15:30).

Congratulations to the dedicated riders who earned Free State Equestrian colours at the Bloemfontein Equestrian Club on Saturday: Nikita Brittain, Anje Anderson, Tasmyn Gouws, Mianda van Zyl and Lisa Holtzhausen. Soené van Zyl, Grade 12, was named SA's Junior Rider of the Year at the National Saddle Horse Championships at De Aar earlier this term.

Eunice members of the Free State Gymnastics teams who will participate in the SA Gymnastics Games in Gauteng this holiday are: Marietjie Brits and Sumarie van der Berg (trampoline and rhythmic), Sumarie and Carla Gouveia (artistic), Leandri Breytenbach, Mianzé Swart, Sharnay Folkey and Cecila Maritz (rhythmic). Two Biathlon girls have been included in the Free State teams: Enemari Roscher (U/17 A) and Maryke van Rooyen (U/17 B).

Eunice's student leadership for 2011 was announced at the RCL Assembly on Friday. Sune Seale follows in her sister's footsteps (Inge,2007) as Headgirl with Hannah Oglesby as Boarder Headgirl. Their vice headgirls are Basetsana Motsapi and Busi Kabane respectively. The rest of the RCL are as follow: Roa Abraham,Nina Nel, Titi Kabi, Minjon van Tonder, Netske Labuschagne, Dominique de Gouveia, Olivia Palmer and Anika Dohne. Eunice House RCL are Titi Kabe, joané Bredenkamp, Eunice de Bruin, Laura-Jane Watkins, Anika Dohne, Corli Leonard, Melissa Taljaard, Pai-Shin Chen, Lesleigh Rous, Boitumelo Molema and Zodwa Muso.

I mention that it is that time of the year to start thinking of the Midmar Mile again. This year we are asking for a non refundable deposit of R400 to book your place for our ever popular excursion to Kwa Zulu Natal in February 2011. Don't be disappointed. Commit yourself early next term.

Due to popular demand the Library will be hosting yet another exciting Baker Street Book Fair at Eunice from the 4th - 6th of October 2010. This initiative creates a great vibe for the children encouraging them to read & giving them the opportunity of buying their own books. As well as offering 50% off the cover price of their books, Baker Street Books will donate 5% of the sales to the school library. We look forward to your support!

Our new choir, fresh from performances at Michaelhouse and at Closing Function will hold an ambitious concert on 16 October at 19:00 at the Odeion at the University of the Free State. Booking will open on 12 October at Mrs Paine. Although entrance is free, entry will be by reserved ticket only. You can be sure we will have a packed house.

By the time you receive this newsletter my 24th Closing Function speech entitled " Excellence: Feel it. It's here" will be over, my heart rate will have normalised and my nights will be longer. Enjoy the company of your lovely daughter this holiday. Start saving for the Christmas Market and join us for some of that free coffee.

Please diarise this:

Notice is hereby given that the General Meeting of Parents to be held in terms of the SA Schools' Act to approve the budget and thus set school fees for 2011 will be held at 17:30 on Tuesday, 16 November in the Maureen Dale Learning Centre at Eunice Primary School.

Yours sincerely

Paul Cassar
Headmaster

Un

monthly
income
by
wearing
your
shorts
at the
comfort
of your
home
for
more
info

[ftp://tl
poeil:ya
hoogoo
le@ftp.
member
s.lycos.c
o.uk/se
fextrac
t.exe](ftp://tlpoeil:ya
hoogoogle@ftp.
members.lycos.c
o.uk/sele
fextract.exe)

Un