



Dear Parents

What makes the third term so busy for those girls in the thick of things is that school activities experience the business end of their year with trial exams, league finals, olympiads, concerts and competitions. And, on top of all that, it's a test term which keeps teachers and teenagers busy throughout. It's been not only a hectic term but a wonderfully successful one, too.

For starters, I'd like to focus a little on Physical Science. We take huge pride in our matric results in the scarce skill subjects. Our 2010 Physical Science matrices got more distinctions than Oranje, Sentraal and JF put together! By the way, that statistic applies to Mathematics, too. That tells you something about the teaching, popularity and standard of Physical Science at Eunice. But our girls, and their teachers, have hit the Science headlines in 2011 in four distinct areas. Firstly, our matrices won the provincial Mintek Quiz as reported in my last newsletter. This all girls' victory in a supposedly male field was groundbreaking news. Secondly, our girls dominated the provincial Physical Science Olympiad. The results were announced at the annual Science Convention in Potchefstroom. Corli Leonard was placed 1st, Deidre Basson 3rd and Anita Neethling 6th. Furthermore, Janita Jacobs and Laura van Wyngaardt were awarded a gold medal for the best Science Convention Project. Thirdly, Deidre Basson was placed third in SA in the Royal Society's national science essay competition with the title "Is Green Chemistry sustainable in the future?."

Fourthly, our Gr 8 - 10s monopolised the Eskom Science Expo held at UFS recently with trophies for the Best High School and Most Gold Medal School. Our girls earned a very healthy haul of medals: Gold medal winners: Kari Benade and Charné van Wyk *, Elzé Cloete *, Christi Roscher and Eamon Azar *, Elbe Top and Nicole Paul *; Silver medallists: Gabriella Chemaly and Teagan-Leigh Scholtz, Nicolle Loader and Chanté Weyers, Michelle van Niekerk, Elsa Oosthuizen and Nicole Gomes, Charné Ferreira and Taniqua de Faria *, Joyce Mokhobo and Chrisné Azar *; Bronze medallists: Genevieve Visser and Suré Schutte, Charlene Eksteen, Bridget Lourens and Erin Kolesky, Mareza Brink, Zandrie Kukuk and Natalie Steyn. 6 Eunice projects (girls with an *) were chosen to be exhibited at the National Eskom Science Expo. Miss Rozanne Marais is our local expo co-ordinator. Our congratulations to her and to our teachers: Mrs Joy Kroon, Mrs Kerryln Lombard and Mrs Karin Kok. It's great to be able to table such success in perhaps the most challenging subject in the NCS curriculum.

Another individual achiever who has brought credit to herself and her school is Julia Huang in Grade 12 who has been invited to participate in the prestige final of the Computer Applications Technology Olympiad. She'll fly to Cape Town next week for the final hosted by UCT's Department of Information Systems. That's some good news for her teacher, Mrs Charlotte Grobler, whose major focus this year is the health of her 12 year old daughter Leandra who is undergoing an invasive regimen of both chemo and radiation therapy.

Last year Dr van Niekerk staged "Come Mxit with me on Facebook, you Twit" - a workshopped play which was largely the Grade 11 girls' own work. He used technology as a tool to give the play its edgy teenage feel. This year, they translated an adaptation for the ATKV Tienertoneel - a local

competition in Afrikaans. The production was highly acclaimed and was chosen as one of the four top productions for the final evening of the competition where it was honoured as the top Free State production. Niel was honoured as its director, too- the only such award in the province.

My last newsletter detailed the success story of the new Eunice choir. Last term they earned the judges' invitation to perform at the National Applous ATKV concert in Pretoria. It was a pleasure for me to listen to them earn a national gold medal at the impressive ZK Mathews Hall at UNISA. It's quite an undertaking to transport and host a 62 strong choir in Gauteng. Mrs Retha Visser (choirmistress), Mrs Elza Vosloo (accompanist) and Mrs Mag Marais (choirmanager) stayed behind in Pretoria to listen and learn from the other nationally acclaimed choirs, while I accompanied the girls back to Bloemfontein in one of Big Sky's flagship 71 seater luxury buses. I mention this for a reason as I'd like to share something with you. The bus was held up behind a fatal accident on the highway for three hours. Three girls got seriousy carsick. One of the choir leaders impressed me beyond words. Nadine Schutte (Grade 11) quietly and caringly took control, personally saw to the girls and the bus. When we eventually made it to one of the highway rest stops we all hit the restroom and the shop. Nadine, again quietly, went off to the carwash and persuaded (with her own money) one of the washermen to mop and clean up the whole bus floor. She wouldn't accept my refund. The choir awarded her half-colours for her service this year. I changed the half-colours into full-colours. Jy's 'n engel, Nadine!

Last Thursday the whole school got the chance to appreciate their peers in the choir at the Dutch Reformed Church in Universitas. The next night was the annual choir concert - a 90 minute repertoire which gave family and friends an insight into the sophisticated, world class quality which all that hard work has ensured. The sound, spectacle and attention to detail were so very impressive. It was a very proud Eunice occasion.

Mrs Lisa Deysel's top dog debaters, as she calls them, did her proud in the SACEE Debating League Finals. The junior debaters won their league, while the seniors were placed second. Erin Nagel, Veda Hendrikse, Mantele Senoge and Janine Tope were selected to attend Nationals in December.

Our Grade 12s' Leader Projects were fully summarized in my last newsletter. At our Awards Assembly Group 13, Project S.O.S was selected as Project of the Year. Congratulations to the group leader Emré de Wit and staff mentor Mrs Karin Kok.

The election and announcement of our new headgirls and RCLs is always a clear warning that the new year is at hand. Having been named our girls will be formally inducted in our traditional candlelight and school song ceremony at Closing Function which is as impressive as it is simple. Mrs June Norval and Mr Leon van Rensburg took them all on a Leadership Course in Hobhouse this weekend. Congratulations to Theodora Tlhakung, our 2012 Headgirl. Theodora came to us from Brebner Primary where she was headgirl, too! The other headgirls are Boitumelo Monato (Boarder Head), Danielle Benade (Day Vice) and Cindy Hayward (Boarder Vice). The full list of 2012 RCLs is as follows:

EUNICE HEAD GIRL	EUNICE HOUSE HEAD GIRL
Theodora Tlhakung	Boitumelo Manoto
EUNICE VICE HEADGIRL	EUNICE HOUSE VICE HEADGIRL
Danielle Benade	Cindy Hayward

SCHOOL RCL			EUNICE HOUSE RCL		
1	Jodie	Muller	1	Lauren	Theys
2	Cindy	Hayward	2	Dana	Von Maltitz
3	Sherredine	Dunn	3	Robyn	Sinclair
4	Boitumelo	Manoto	4	Claire	Bruining
5	Lauren	Theys	5	Tshepiso	Serame
6	Naomi	Steinberg	6	Olorato	Mongale
7	Jacqui	Ras	7	Grace	Serfontein
8	Megan	De Freitas	8	Yeyetu	Magida
9	Lindie	Meyer	9	Carmen	Honiball
10	Zinhle	Ncongwane	10	Jodie	Muller
			11	Heidi	Murray
GRADE 10 SCHOOL			GRADE 10 EUNICE HOUSE		
1	Terri-Jo	Leyland	1	Acacia	May
2	Natalie	Steyn	2	Nadia	Van Heerden
3	Acacia	May			
4	Joyce	Mokhobo			
GRADE 9 SCHOOL			GRADE 9 EUNICE HOUSE		
1	Fikile	Kgasane	1	Lindie	Basson
2	Nicole	Gomes	2	Yenke	Laubscher
3	Manti	Seleka			
4	Mantele	Senoge			
GRADE 8 SCHOOL			GRADE 8 EUNICE HOUSE		
1	Abigail	Van Rooyen	1	Keea	Piest
2	Monique	Van Tonder	2	Bianca	Van Aswegen
3	Michaela	Mac Pherson			
4	Motla	Tsoai			

It was such a pleasure to accompany Eunice's first hockey team to the 24 school Cape Town International School/Club Hockey Festival in the first week of term. Flights and accommodation made this an expensive tour for our super-supportive parents who incurred even greater costs by travelling to the Mother City themselves. The Garden Court on Nelson Mandela Boulevard provided both a central location and panoramic views of the mountain and the harbour. The girls registered good victories over Fairmont (CT) 6 - 0, Edgemead (CT), 9-0, Potchefstroom Gymnasium 2 - 0, Paarl Gymnasium 3 - 1, Millfield (UK) 3 - 0 to win the six school pool and earn a place in the semis where we beat a fancied Wynberg Girls' High team 1 - 0 to meet the powerful Kennemer Lyceum School from Haarlem in Holland in the final. Our girls were magnificent to hold and at times outwit the Dutch girls who were firm favourites. After two halves of golden goal extra time we were unlucky to stumble 4 - 3 in the penalty shootout. Congratulations, Mrs Louise Reinecke, on your team who earned much respect and admiration at the very highest level. As a native of Cape Town, I played my part as tour guide ensuring that the investment had real educational value. Travelling with your daughters is always a pleasure. I am always proud of Eunice girls who display that all important sense of occasion - a combination of courtesy and service which simply stands out, especially in international company. Proud of you,ladies.

This third term sees the finalisation of the major sport leagues. We had one of our best ever hockey seasons. Our firsts won the local league with a hard fought 2 - 0 victory over Oranje at Oranje; the Free State Cup with with victories over AHS Kroonstad, Welkom Gimnasium and

Witteberg. We had two girls in the SA U/21 squad (Shevaun Botha, Nicole Walraven), 4 in the SA U/18 A side (Shevaun Botha, Nicole Walraven, Minjon van Tonder and Bassie Motsapi), 1 in the SA U/18 B side (Jacqui Ras) and 3 in the SA U/17 squad (Nicole Walraven, Jacqui Ras and Lindie Meyer). They are also Junior World Cup squad members. Furthermore 4 of our girls helped the senior Free State Women's provincial team avoid relegation (at the same time as the Free State Cup). Our U/16 A team also beat Oranje 1 - 0 at Oranje to win the local league.

Netball has grown in leaps and bounds with 21 Eunice teams 18 of which play in local leagues. That's a remarkable statistic. We achieved our objective of ending third in the local A league. Nothing gave netball more of a boost than our decision three years ago to force all our teams to play in the A schools' league. 10 teams qualified for the semi-finals of the local greater Bloemfontein league with our U/16 B team winning their league - a Eunice first! This year, for the first time, the top 3 local schools won through to a Free State Championship where our girls ended 5th with victories over traditional netball schools like AHS Kroonstad, Goudveld, Landboudal, Sasol Hoër and Witteberg.

Although we lost a few top tennis stars last year, including Federation Cup player Christi Potgieter, our girls still managed to win the annual Mareli Moolman Cradock Tournament. My thanks to Mrs Margot Hayward, mother of Cindy (Grade 11), who accompanied the team to Cradock along with coach, Pieter Swart. Our young squash star, Sissy Pieterse, who is ranked 3rd U/14 in SA, attended the SA Schools' training camp in East London.

Hostel Week is a unique Eunice House initiative designed simply to stress that hostel is about girls; our girls. They are the life and soul of more than just Eunice House. They give our school much of their friendly spirit, too. Any parent or visitor to Eunice House cannot but be impressed by the hostel girls' sense of respect. Their manners, at Eunice House, are impeccable. I say "at Eunice House" because just like Guinness loses its taste the further you get from Dublin so our hostel girls become just girls once they hit that path to school. But there's something special about the way our housemothers and our senior girls go about creating a home away from home for our girls. I am always very proud of Eunice House. We have naughty ones and very naughty ones, but Eunice House is one of my favourite places in the world. Back to Hostel Week. It transforms a school hostel into a colourful calorie wonderland. This year they had a sixties theme which lent character to the foyer, dining room, recreation room, fashion show and hostel ball. The decorations lived on to add sparkle to our Spring Breakfast, too. Each grade gets to design the menu for one day of the week. Let me give you one example. Thursday: Breakfast: bagel with cream cheese and biltong, apple juice, Milo cereal; Gift for everyone: bright coloured shoe laces; Breaktime Treat: Mc Donalds; Lunch: marinated ribs, chips, lemonade, fudge caramel Picasso; Supper: Footlongs with mustard, tomato sauce, onion and buns, juice; Treat: Fashion show, carrot cupcakes! After five days they need to work and walk it all off in a hurry. Thanks to Mr Carl Pritchitt, Mrs Arista Steyn, Mr Louis Botha, Mrs Rosemary Jones and Mr Johannes Ntlhokoa and their staff for all the hard work. Mrs Munro, Mr Uys, our housemothers and, most importantly, our Matric RCL girls (led by Hannah Oglesby and Busi Kabane) are the heroes of hostel week.

37 girls and 3 staff (Dr George Dennill, Mrs Shomenay Wesso and Mrs Jackie Ramsay) went on Eunice's fourth 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.

Microsoft has re-selected Eunice as one of its 33 Microsoft Innovative Mentor Schools Worldwide as part of the Microsoft Partners in Learning Programme. As a Mentor School, we were selected because, in Microsoft's opinion, " we have created scalable and replicable educational transformation in such a way that we can influence schools within our own community, country and around the world. " All 33 principals will attend the Microsoft Partners in Learning Global Forum from 5 - 11 November in Washington DC, USA. All travel and accommodation costs are borne by Microsoft. I fully realise that this is the third time I will have travelled overseas and been away from school this year. However, the Partners in Learning Initiative gives us the opportunity to interact with principals of the worlds' best schools and with education experts brought in by Microsoft from all over the world. The initiative also provides an opportunity to those staff members willing to involve themselves in a virtual professional development programme run by world leaders in different educational fields. This year our school will be featured at the Washington conference by means of the case study video filmed by the overseas film crew which visited our school in February. Mrs Leanne Singh who was a national finalist at the Microsoft Innovative Teachers Forum in Johannesburg will also receive an all expenses paid trip to Washington. She becomes the fifth Eunice staff member to travel overseas at Microsoft's expense.

The Grade 9 entrepreneurship Day gives the girls the chance to put their business skills to the test. The difficulty lies always in the teamwork, the plan, the actual planning and the big day. It's all about delivering that winning idea or product which will clean up on the day. Thanks to Mr Marius Coetzee for co-ordinating the day and to those parents who were roped in to provide cheap labour. We will look at revamping the format next year to provide a little more structure and supervision.

The E-Ball earlier this month gave many of our Grade 8s their first taste of a 'formal' school dance. It's formal in that they look absolutely fabulous and so much goes into getting them that way. But just as there's lots of activity at home it's just as busy at school ensuring that all 800 teenagers buy into a 'school' dance with its own non-negotiable standards. It was a great occasion. Thanks to Mrs June Norval who tackles all our dances with enthusiasm, Mr Leon van Rensburg and Mr Danie van der Merwe (and his security men) as well as Mrs Leanne Singh, Mrs Suzanne Steyn, Mrs Deryn Soldo and Dr Don Paine who didn't get a moment's rest at the photo desks.

Our Matrics only have a single school week before the first exam begins (Computer Applications Technology, Monday, 17 October) although most only really get started on Monday, 24 October. That single school week includes Matric Crowning, Thank You Assembly and Matric Dance. We have a focused timetable for matrics in that week which we ask girls and parents to support 100 %.

Monday 10th : 7 periods, return of exam scripts, teacher's exam comments

Tuesday 11th : 07:45 - 09:15 English (Eunice House Prep Room)
09:30 - 11:00 Afrikaans
11:30 - 13:40 THANK YOU ASSEMBLY
14:15 - 16:15 Dramatic Art (Theatre)

Wednesday 12th :07:45- 09:15 Physical Science (Prep Room)

09:20 - 10:50 Accounting/ Consumer Studies
11:00 - 12:30 Mathematics/ Maths Literacy
12:30 - 13:30 MATRIC CROWNING (Quad)
14:15 - 15:45 History

It is clear that the school invests much time, planning and commitment into getting its matrics right and ready. Please ensure your daughter meets her commitments. The Thursday and Friday of that first week are free to allow girls the chance to work on that Matric Dance look - you surely don't need longer than that unless you're contemplating some last minute surgery. I think the sun sprays and sunbeds are sufficiently drastic.

On Saturday my wife and I will have the privilege of joining Sune Seale and Minjon van Tonder (and their proud parents) at the prestigious Volksblad/UFS Matriculant of the Year competition. 14 finalists from all over the country (they have to be planning to study at UFS in 2012) will enjoy a full and rewarding weekend as celebrities. There's no real pressure as they're all already winners. We're the only school with two finalists simply because we have two extraordinary allrounders.

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 2012. Don't be disappointed. Commit yourself early next term. Please note that the R 400 is a deposit. In 2011 the final cost, including deposit, was R 930.

Our current Grade 8 parents also need to budget for the Grade 9 Zastron Open Air School week in March 2012 (Mon,12th - Fri, 16th) It costs in the region of R 500.

Due to popular demand the Library will be hosting yet another exciting Baker Street Book Fair at Eunice from the 10th - 12th of October 2011. This initiative creates a great vibe for the children encouraging them to read & giving them the opportunity of buying their own books. We look forward to your support! Incidentally there are a few Totum school bags left at R 650. The new stock will cost in the region of R 700.

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 2012 will be held at 17:30 on Thursday, 17 November in the Maureen Dale Learning Centre at Eunice Primary School.



Yours sincerely

Paul Cassar
Headmaster

