



COLLEGE GANDOUR



BISHOP
BAVIN
SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER #3 - AUGUST 2019

Dear College Parents and Guardians

It is hard to believe that we are already in August and looking forward to our well-deserved break. Our learners will come out of our mid-year examination and for our Grade 8s this will have been their first one in College. For our Grade 12s, these assessments will be a good indication of where they stand for their finals which start in October.

I have watched with interest, our learners in the mornings as they go into their examination venues and marvel at the myriad of different reactions to the same end result – a mark. The word ‘mark’ carries so many meanings. For some it is a reward for diligent studying, for others just a little hurdle in the path and for others yet again a reminder of failure. We sadly seem to define ourselves by the ‘mark’. Assessment scores only tell us something, they do not tell us **everything** about each of our learners. And so too, when you receive your child’s report at the start of Term 3, be reminded that your child is so much more than what a single assessment says he/she is. Your child’s most important qualities won’t be measured here. Educators and parents need to remind each child that we care about them as people, that we value each of their unique contributions and that we understand there is so much more to their world than what we see.

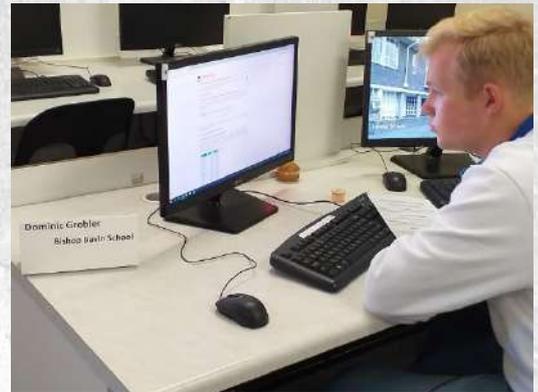
And if this sounds like a bit of a contradiction to the emphasis I place on good results, rest assured that children who know that they are loved for the uniqueness they bring, will achieve to the best of their abilities.

May your children return to us at the start of Advent Term, rested and excited for the challenge of another short and busy time ahead.

Head of College - Mrs Karen Ehlers

COMPUTER APPLICATION TECHNOLOGY

In June, 12 of the best Computer Application Technology learners across the country, competed for top honours at the tenth computer Olympiad finals. They were the best out of 5530 learners who had taken part in this year's Olympiad. Bishop Bavin was fortunate enough to have Dominic Grobler represent the school at the prestigious event. After a four-hour competition, Dominic made us proud as one of the runners up.



GEOGRAPHY

“Teachers’ Association (SAGTA) and the Society of South African Geographers (SSAG) hosted the second South African National Geography Olympiad (SANGO). It was held on Tuesday the 21st of May 2019, and 7 of our learners took part. Jayden Da Mata, Keanu Palm, Milkias Gebremichael, Runako Kanengoni, Thando Ngomane, Vunene Lubisi and Ryan Shen. We await the results.

Congratulations to all our participants for taking part in this event.

MATHEMATICS

The Maths department had a busy term with a number of Olympiads and Maths Competitions being written.

33 juniors (grades 8 and 9) and 18 seniors (grades 10 to 12) made it through to the second round of the South African Mathematics Olympiad. They wrote with



enthusiasm and all tried their best. We are still waiting for the final results to be sent through. A number of our learners (grades 8 to 12) have also participated in the Wits Maths Competition (22 learners) and the University of Pretoria Maths competition (13 learners) which learners wrote during the exam timetable. We are very proud of these learners for being willing to take on these competitions. The level of questions they are exposed to is extremely high. Exposure to these is vital in promoting critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Well done to these learners for participating.

This year we also had a few learners participate, for the first time, in a Maths Literacy Olympiad. We are proud of our three grade 12 learners who all achieved silver certificates for this. We hope to have more learners participating in the future.

ENRICHMENT CENTRE

Congratulations to Luke Lotter in Grade 10 for being selected for the Southern African Under-23 wheelchair basketball team.

ACADEMICS

College Reports will be available on Engage from 13 September 2019. Parents' Evening will take place on 16 September 2019 and bookings will open on 9 September. During Parents' Evening a presentation on subject choices will be hosted by Mr Vink. This presentation will try and ease some of the questions our Grade 9 parents might have regarding their child's subject choices. More information will follow during the first week of Advent term.

Academic top ten will follow soon after reports have been released during Advent Term.

CULTURE

Culture has grown in leaps and bounds at Bishop Bavin College. Our activities have virtually doubled from past years and this has given many more learners an opportunity to participate. Advent term is always a busy term and 2019 did not disappoint!

All Grade 6 – 12 learners participated in the World Knowledge Olympiad which is an Allen Gray initiative and although we are still awaiting results, we are proud to say that our learners gave of their very best! Well done to Mr Holland for organising this event. Chess league has run continuously and Dominic Grobler, our Head of Culture has done a sterling job in stoking the interest of the College in Chess. We saw an upswing in the participation, especially from our juniors giving rise to a healthy club run by our very own Mr Chess, Coach Shepherd. We are currently awaiting results from provincial trials and we are positive that we will be representing Bishop Bavin on that list.

We participated in the EADS festival this year – a One Act Play competition and we competed against some extremely tough opposition. The play we performed was



directed by our Drama Captain, Jayden De Mata and guidance was given by Ms Marx, our Drama teacher. For our very first attempt, we are beyond excited to report that we had two nominations namely Best Cameo Performance by Patrick Bennie and Best backstage crew. We ended up winning Best Backstage, sneaking in as the underdogs out of 17 schools! Well done to all involved! On that note, we have to congratulate Jayden de Mata on his lead role in the musical *Dreams* which was run by Windmill productions, SAFATA, Roodepoort theatre and Talent Africa and directed by Nicho Barnard. What an absolute feather in his cap that he was selected for this role. We see great things ahead for this young man.

Not to be outdone by any of the above, we hosted our 6th annual World Scholars Cup hosting 14 schools and 280 learners. Yet again, Bishop Bavin was proudly represented in all categories but our standout performance goes to Patrick Bennie who won the Asimov Trophy for the Best All Round Senior Learner. A tremendous achievement, as many hours of study is put in for this event. Well done too, to Dominic Grobler who made his mark as he was selected to speak in the Debate Showcase event whereby the 6 top debaters are chosen based on performance. Thank you to all the staff who assisted and worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the regional round. A few of our teams are going forward to attend the Global round in Durban in September and we wish them well! Hopefully they make it to the Championship final at Yale University.

Interact has worked hard doing their bit for charity, as the club, presided over by Aceng Akii lead many collections for charity and continued their efforts at the crèche Vukukhanye, visiting with the children and helping to fix up a few things. Thanks must go to Ms Llale for her input. This is invaluable, selfless work and we are proud to be teaching the learners humility.

We participated in the English Olympiad and entered 43 learners to write the exam, we are proud of Carol Silva in grade 10, Dominic Grobler and Jayden de Mata in grade 12 who all attained a Silver certificate which is 70 – 79%. Excellent results. We had a number of bronze certificates as well as merits.

We also competed in the Presentation Festival and are proud to announce that we achieved 44 A symbols. Well done to all the speech coaches and Mr Holland for running the event so efficiently. Special thanks to Leila Williams, our super-efficient Public Speaking Captain who has assisted in putting speaking on the map!

Our Choir has been hard at work training once per week to thrill us with their awesome range of vocals. Ms Tinniswood and Ms Matalakatsa are to be thanked for their work with the choir in uplifting the school at Chapel and Masses. We look forward to entering a few competitions in 2020.

We entered the Bedford Eisteddfod this year and Ashleigh Witney, Ricardo da Costa and Rebecca Tomatala were all invited back to the showcase evening. None of these participants scored less than an A+ for their performances. We are incredibly proud of our juniors.

The Blood Drive run by Ms Mocke has enjoyed success at Bishop Bavin as many of our learners have assisted by donating blood that could save a life. We donated in the region of 42 pints at our last drive and hope to beat that at our next one next term. Good job!

Drama club and Art club are meeting once per week and good things are happening in these sessions. Who knows the next Denzel Washington or Michelangelo may come from Bishop Bavin! Thank you to Ms Marx and Ms Maene respectively for the initiative.

I wish to commend my Cultural Executive Team, Dominic Grobler –Head of Culture, Leila Williams – Public Speaking Captain, Jayden de Mata – Drama Captain and Patrick



Bennie – Debating Captain. Without these young people, my days would have been grey – thank you for all your hard work and effort you put in to make Culture what it is. You are valued more than you know.

Well done to all participants and staff on a very successful term in Culture. Immerse yourself in school life and never be just an observer.

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn” – Ben Franklin.

SPORT

As our winter sport comes to an end, we have a number of successes over multiple sports during this term.

INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS

The College inter-house athletics meeting ran smoothly over the course of the day with a number of students breaking previous standing records. The majority of the students participated during the day in one or more events. We owe our success for the day as a Sports Department to all the college students as well as all the staff members who contributed to the event.



After tallying the points the scores stand as follow:

- 1st place: St. Georges with 626 points.
- 2nd place: St. Margarets with 606 points.
- 3rd place: St. Francis with 554 points.

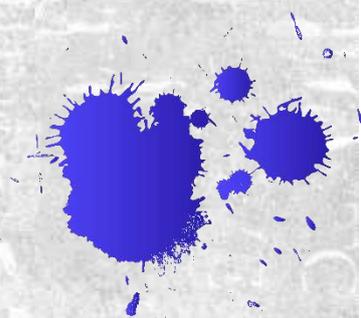
A big congratulations to all competitors involved.

INTER-HOUSE FOOTBALL AND NETBALL

This is the first year we as a Sports Department decided to do a joint inter-house football and netball day. This day showed remarkable sportsmanship throughout the college as we experienced maximum participation during the day. All teams worked really well together, with good skills on show, coupled with the good weather, helped make a great tournament.

Combined results for the day stand as follow:

- 1st Place: St. Georges with 365 points.
- 2nd place: St. Francis with 285 points.
- 3rd place: St. Margarets with 280 points.



BADMINTON

Badminton across the different phrases, has become an unrivalled sport here at Bishop Bavin during this year. All teams (college boys and college girls) have excelled in their individual leagues, creating a keen sense of awareness regarding the proficiency of Bishop Bavin's Badminton.



The pre-eminent college boys' team has worked well this year, ending off their season with a 5-4 win over Alberton High in their respective league finals. Well done to Andy Yang for showing great leadership while captaining his team to the No. 1 spot.

The College girls' team captained by Mindy You has proven to be a close match for the boys. Their hard work and consistency is paying off. The college girls will be playing in the finals against Mondeor High on the 2nd of August 2019.

FOOTBALL

We are very fortunate that both boys and girls football has high levels of participation in the College. Both teams have improved greatly over the course of the season culminating in the u/14 boys making it through to the semi-finals of their league and the open girls' football team making it through to quarter finals. This is the outcome of the hard work and dedication of the boys and girls football team and their coaches.

INTERACT



Mandela Day is marked every year on Nelson Mandela's 18 July birthday. Making every day a Mandela Day celebration. We have collected essential items that will be donated to Siyamthanda Care Projects and Vukukhanye Crèche to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate.



Interact started a new project this term partnering with a non-profit organization called Warm the World. We have knitted squares that will be sent through to the organization to sew blankets. Beneficiaries of these blankets include, Thuthuzela, Kids Haven, The Sublight Safehouse etc.



We have also continued with our weekly crèche visits to Vukukhanye crèche where we Interact and play with the children and also read stories to them.



VIETNAM AND HONG KONG TOUR AUGUST 2020

We are excited to announce our 14 day educational and cultural tour of Vietnam and Hong Kong in the August break of 2020. All College learners from Grade 8 to 12 are welcome to attend. Parents who would like to accompany us are more than welcome too! We would like to make this tour accessible to as many of our learners as possible, and therefore share this exciting news with you now, nearly a year in advance, with the option of a payment plan, once your deposit has secured your child's place on the tour. If you are interested in your child attending, please mail me at karen.ehlers@bishopbavin.co.za for a more detailed break-down of the tour.

Herewith some important details:

(Note that the cost price is an estimate, and excludes visas - South African citizens' do not require a visa for Hong Kong and visas for Vietnam are around R900 - and excludes tour pocket money).

1. Vietnam

Day 1: Welcome to Hanoi

Day 2: Hanoi – Full Day City Tour with 1-hour Cyclo Ride & Water Puppet Show

Day 3: Hanoi - Visit Bat Trang Village, Dragon Kiln and Ancient House ½ Day

Day 4: Hanoi - Halong Bay Cruising (Join with other travellers on the cruise)

Day 5: Halong Bay Cruising – Return to Hanoi – Overnight Train to Hue

Day 6: Arrival in Hue & Afternoon Visit a Royal Tomb

Day 7: Hue - Imperial Citadel, Dong Ba Market & Drive to Hoi An

Day 8: Hoi An - Guided Walking Tour ½ Day – Free Afternoon of Leisure

Day 9: Hoi An - Morning Flight to Ho Chi Minh City & City Tour

Day 10: Visit Cu Chi Tunnels – Free Afternoon of Leisure

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Costs include: All pick-ups and transfers by private vehicles with experienced drivers. Domestic flight tickets Danang - Ho Chi Minh City - economy class. International flights and airport taxes - Travel Insurance - Accommodation in chosen hotels - Twin/Double share and 1 night on a cruise boat on Halong Bay. - One-way overnight train ticket from Hanoi to Hue by Reunification Express Train (SE1) - Experienced English-speaking local guides - Meals as indicated in the programme - All entrance fees as mentioned in the programme - 1- hour cyclo ride and first-class water puppet tickets. All VAT and other government taxes.



Hong Kong

Day 1: Arrive Hong Kong

Day 2: Morning tour of Hong Kong, afternoon Hong Kong Disneyland

Day 3: Breakfast at hotel – at leisure for final shopping

Costs include: 2 nights' accommodations in Hong Kong in Twin/Double/Triple sharing room - Touring by air-conditioned vehicle - Porterage for 1 piece of standard sized luggage per person for arrival & departure transfer. - Services of local English Speaking Guide. - Meal according to itinerary - Entrance fees according to the itinerary. - Mineral water on tour: 1 Bottle of water per pax per tour day.

Estimated cost: R41 830

