



# Veritas College Springs



## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER NO: 9 of 2008

Dear Parents and Learners

This month was one of goodbyes and hellos. We said goodbye to the matrics of 2008 at a valedictory dinner and award ceremony on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October and the following day the school had the opportunity to bid farewell at a moving and meaningful farewell. The class of 2008 has showed great maturity and has made great strides in transforming the College into a place where all pupils strive to take leadership positions. We wish them well in the examinations and their futures.

As the matrics left it was the turn of the grade 11's to take up the reins and start their leadership year. At the assembly on 16 October it was emphasized that Leadership is a choice a person makes and not a place or position that is occupied. Anyone can choose to be a leader wherever he or she is at the time, by starting to adopt the thinking, learning the skills, and developing the habits of the person you wish to be. It's a mistake to daydream about 'one day when you'll be on top' instead of handling today so that it prepares you for tomorrow. It was explained that Leadership is all about influence and that this was shown this several times this year when people who did not have titles saw a need in the school, did something about it and how the College is a better place for it.

The qualities of a good leader were explained in the following way:  
Good leaders rarely think in terms of boundaries instead they think in terms of opportunities. Leaders are initiators- they have the ability to make things happen.

Leaders also have their problems as many people think that leadership is a ticket to freedom but in fact leaders have greater responsibility and therefore less freedom. If a person is in the position of a leader, they will be scrutinized all the time and are expected to follow all rules even if they don't quite agree with them. It was pointed out that it is silly to expect people to change because they are given a badge. If they can't



lead before being given a position, what difference will a badge make in the long run? So for a person to say, "When I am in that position I will...." Begg the question why that person is not taking some sort of initiative to help fix that particular problem now?

The leaders who were appointed, have undergone a rigorous selection procedure. They had to apply for a position after studying the job descriptions; they had to endure a strenuous job interview, in which very searching questions were asked. They were then short listed. The College voted for these candidates and then they were matched to the available portfolios. These leaders will be held accountable to the College and they have to report to the school on a regular basis to explain how they are fulfilling their responsibilities.

As always there were some disappointments. Some people did not get the position that they expected or had applied for and others did not get an official title at all. This situation begs the question: How these people will react to the situation? It was reiterated that leadership is a choice an individual makes, not a position that they hold. Anyone can choose to be a leader wherever he or she is at the time. A person can make a difference no matter where they are. If someone decides to be a leader and get on with the job- people will notice and will be recognized and rewarded. So it actually depends on the individual.

### **Science Expo National Finals**

Genevieve du Toit and Abigail Penman (Gr 10) represented Veritas at the National Finals in Pretoria from 2 October – 4 October 2008. Their project was titled 'Rainwater Purification System'. Congratulations on your excellent work!

### **South African National Blood Service**

On Tuesday 21 October we held our first blood donation clinic. Over thirty units of blood were donated by our teachers and students. It is a great way to be of service to others and we are planning to hold several clinics next year.



### **Thought for the week:**

*"True leadership is not the urge to surpass all others at all costs, but the urge to serve others at what ever the cost."*  
Arthur Ashe

M. Pullinger  
(Senior School Principal)

## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF ACADEMICS

(Mrs. T. Holland)

Only one week to go before our students begin to write their final examinations, and most students are busily preparing! A reminder to all **Gr 11 students**: your Gr 11 results are used by Tertiary Institutions when you make application, so you will need to regard these examinations with due seriousness.

Our Matric portfolios have been regionally moderated and we are thrilled to have received very complimentary feedback. Moderators have written glowing reports about the calibre of staff at the High School and also about the standard of work that is expected of our pupils. Well done, Matriculants, on your excellent work!

Some of our staff members are, themselves, Regional or National moderators – this has given us valuable insight into the standards set at other schools in Gauteng. We are thrilled that our education standards are of such quality that we match and very often surpass the standards of other Gauteng schools.

Our accounting teacher, Mrs Drake, has had another book published: a Guidelines Matric Accounting book published by MacMillan. Congratulations, Mrs Drake!

Some of the Music, Dance and Art talent in our school was recognized in the Springs Art and Music Festival held last month. We are so proud of our young 'culture vultures' who managed to achieve such amazing results! They were handed their certificates in a special awards ceremony at school.



## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS

(Mrs. C. Duncan)

### VALEDICTORY DINNER

On Thursday 23 October, a Valedictory Dinner for the Matriculants was held in Trinity Hall. The hall was beautifully decorated according to a theme, "Dreams and Wishes". The Matriculants, their parents and the staff enjoyed a delicious meal and were entertained by Mrs Ute Hartman, who spoke about the importance of portraying a true and appropriate image throughout life. Sean Jamison, the president of the Leadership Council, provided many laughs when he related stories about the staff and his memories of highlights of the school years of this matriculant group.

Many certificates, trophies and special awards were presented at this dinner.

The Prizes and recipients were:  
**Attending Veritas College for 12 years or more:** Bavishka Bantso, Kyle Rostron, Megan Williams, Rina Purshotam, Thato Mogotsi, Karabo Ncokazi, Shakar Beharie, Khulu Masuku,



Alessandra Caldeira, Nicos Charalambous, Monique Gillespie.

Overall aggregate of 70% or above and subject percentage over 80% awards were given to:

Rina Purshotam overall average: 86%	Acc – 87%, LO – 86%, PSci – 82%, Eco – 81%, Maths – 94%, Afr – 85%, Eng – 87%
Anthony De Freitas overall average: 72%	Maths – 81%
Bavishka Bantho overall average: 72%	Eco – 87%
Alessandra Caldeira overall average: 71%	Life Sciences – 86%
Shakar Beharie overall average :71%	Maths – 94%
Dumisani Misibi	Life Sciences – 86%
Robyn Jacobs	Afr – 82%
Ziphozonke Mkize	Zulu – 83%
Nkanyiso Mkize	Zulu – 81%

### Special awards:

Principal's award: (Awarded for outstanding leadership, loyalty and willingness to assist wherever he was required.) Emanuel De Sousa

Rotary leadership award: (for outstanding leadership and taking the leadership Council to new heights). Sean Jamison.

### Trophies:

Award	Name
Pienaar Trophy for Senior Accounting	Rina Purshotam
Veritas Senior History	Robyn Jacobs
Senior Afrikaans	Rina Purshotam
Senior Biology	Alessandra Caldeira
P.F.G. Senior Mathematics and Senior Science	Rina Purshotam
Award for outstanding achievement in English throughout his/her High School career	Robyn Jacobs
Chappel Trophy Senior English	Rina Purshotam
Business Economics & Economics Trophy	Rina Purshotam
Senior Chef/Hospitality Studies	Emanuel De Sousa
Senior Geography	Alessandra Caldeira
Senior Zulu	Thato Mogotsi
Senior Life Orientation	Rina Purshotam
Cosulich Trophy for Good fellowship	Alessandra Caldeira.
Donker's Trophy – best team player Netball	Thato Mogotsi
Pillay Trophy – commitment to cricket	Sean Jamison
Huntly Trophy: Excellent contribution to Sport throughout Senior School Career	Sean Jamison
Veritas sportsman of the year	Sean Jamison
Veritas sportswoman of the year	Thato Mogotsi

All the Matriculants received a testimonial and a gift to round off their high school careers.

Grateful thanks are extended to the staff who assisted in organizing this dinner and to the Grade 11 learners who were waitrons. The dinner was indeed a splendid occasion and a



fitting end to 12 years of schooling for our matriculants.

Kesan Pentia, President of Leadership Council 2009 wrote this poem to the 2008 matrics as part of the farewell mass. It was read at the conclusion of the Valediction mass:

### Predictions on angel's wing

The future waits for no-one; it will take you before you know it, take you to  
(Where you need to be)

Take you to your freedom, to a place you know where your dreams lie  
Take you to your sanctity

The future waits for nothing, not for university application, not for one single mark  
When it takes you, you leave behind; you leave your school blazer and school life stark

Joy, anger, bliss

These nostalgic school days you soon will miss

Anxieties, fear, hope, wonder

Will you reach your dreams or have them fall prey to plunder

In your younger years you've hatched into high school and you have failed under  
your teacher's wing

And from that day on they have groomed you, protected you from all that was  
unsafe and harm

Now you have reached the end, as you stand on that cliff, and plan your next step.  
Do you jump off and free fall to the safety of your parents arms?

OR

Do you spread your wings and soar to your ambitions and so much higher?

Through all the years you have walked briskly through the school gates, in and out  
Each leaving your mark here, your name sealed within the grounds, now worthless  
without

Every event, every function, every meeting you have attended

Shall forever remain untarnished with evil thoughts expelled and cruel  
intentions suspended?

When equipped with knowledge and comprehension, time becomes your  
tool

And so you study and establish yourself as a success from High school.

Walk proudly in your green, your white, your blue

Veritas, truth in carrying our name in you we place our trust

**Ora et labora**

You will always be part of us.



### FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF PASTORAL CARE

(Mr. M. Moscs)

The SCO and ERS organizations held the elections for their **new executive** office bearers:

**Student Christian Organisation (SCO) 13/10/2008**



<b>Student Christian Organisation 2008/2009 EXECUTIVE 16/10/2008</b>	
<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Election Candidates</u>
1. President:	<b>Charles Baloyi</b>
2. Deputy-President:	<b>Phathiswa Magangane</b>
3. Secretary:	<b>Koketso Madonsela</b>
4. Treasurer:	<b>Lotang Mokoena</b>
5. P.R.O. :	<b>Mbalenhle Khumalo</b>

<b>Edmund Rice Society 2008/2009 EXECUTIVE 16/10/2008</b>	
<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Election Candidates</u>
1. President:	Lumka Jonga
2. Deputy-President:	Nelisile Mahlangu
3. Deputy-President:	Cwayita Mfunda
4. P.R.O./Treasurer:	Charles Baloyi

### **Outreach**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> October, the ERS and SCO spent money and quality time with under-privileged children at the Kwasa Centre in Daggafontein, in Springs. They held a braai, and interacted with the children playing games and giving them treats and fruit. It was an enjoyable day and everybody involved came away rich for having given of their time. The learners expressed the desire to do this more often. The ERS is still busy with their Christmas Drive to collect, toys, food, clothing for the underprivileged. Please make a donation by buying a gift for a child; whether it be a T shirt or a toy. Then wrap it in beautiful gift wrap and indicate for which profile e.g. 5 year old girl. The range is up to sixteen years old. We would like to have these ready by the 21st when the Prep School will be hosting Christmas concert at our Trinity Hall. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Confirmation**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008, a number of Veritas learners received the Sacrament of Confirmation, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church which was a very joyous occasion. His grace, Archbishop Buti, Thlagale, of the Johannesburg Diocese was present to give the sacrament. Father Lewis prepared the Veritas candidates for confirmation. Congratulations to the confirmandees who were: Ricardo Ascencio, Andrea Roberts, Brooklyn Gunning, Logan Gunning, David Chappel, Gabriel Borrageiro, Abigail Penman, Koketso Madonsela, Mbalenhle Khumalo and Nomaswazi Maduwane,

### **Year end Mass**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> November, we will be having our last Mass for the year to give thanks and pray for God's blessing on us all for the coming exams and the holiday period.

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF DISCIPLINE**

(Mr W Swart)

The following people were appointed to the 2009 Leadership council:

### **Executive**

Presidents – Sibahle Mnisi and Kesan Pentia

Vice Presidents/Heads of Houses:

Meghan Hamman - Dominic

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Lester Maseko – Catherine  
Ashleigh Setter – Edmund  
Religion – Brandon Landman

Technical Portfolio – Alexandros Spyridis  
Marketing Portfolio – Natascha De Andrade and Ryan Shead  
Environment Portfolio – Lezane Swanepoel and Kavishka Moodley  
Discipline Portfolio – Christina Di Bartolomeo and Lethu Magagula  
Spirit & Ethos Portfolio – Sade Moodley and Nandi Kunene  
Cultural Portfolio – Kedan Pentia and Christopher Panayi  
Sport Portfolio – Phonthip Thawisap and Ruan Greeff

### **LEADERSHIP CAMP – DON BOSCO**

Overview of camp activities:

Day 1

We arrived bright and early on Friday morning at “Don Bosco Youth and Pastoral centre” for our 2 night leadership camp. We started the day off being divided into our various portfolios and got the chance to discuss what our plans will be as leaders next year. Our common aim is to accomplish small tasks that will better the school, rather than setting huge goals that are not attainable. After a delicious lunch, we gathered in the hall, met our guide Jerry and commenced with our afternoons activities. The lecture was on how to be a good leader and the qualities a leader should possess. Our night was cut short by ‘trustworthy’ Eskom who left us sitting in the dark.

Day 2

We began the day with a Morning Prayer and reflection on how we need spiritual guidance in order to become a good leader. We headed off to a much needed breakfast and started with our first activity: Teamwork exercises. Here we formed closer bonds with the other members in the council, built up trust and relied on one another. After Lunch we had a few hours to swim and soak up the sun. The rest of the day consisted of more leadership exercises and activities. After a satisfying supper we had an eye-opening lecture on conflict resolution and then enjoyed a quiz (which tested our intellectual abilities) and a movie.

Day 3

We all got up early to pack our bags and sort out our dorms and then headed into the hall for our last talk and also watched a motivational movie. We were all sad to leave once we had packed the bus to head back to Springs.

On behalf of the Leadership Council we would like to say a sincere thank you to Mr Swart for guiding us in our portfolios and having the patience and time to listen to all our ideas and plans for next year. Also a special thank you to Mrs Pullinger who paid us a visit while we were at Don Bosco

### **ART**

T.M.Drazek



The lord blesses us all with various talents. Some of us have are better than others in sports, many of us may find Maths easier than English, or some of us cope well with Business Economics as opposed to the human anatomy and its functions. What I've noticed is that many of our grade 8 learners are extremely talented in the arts. I constantly monitor their progress, and have

found that with extra training we could be in the presence of future Ketrtridge's and Picasso's.

With this I mind, Veritas College afforded some of the learners an opportunity to enter a design competition offered by Roedean in Johannesburg. Three of our girls, Amohetse Mashigo, Claudia Kalambo and Brittany Passanah dedicated over 12 hours to their art works, which was expected to be at a level of a grade 12 learner. Twenty preparatory drawings, a rationale and two full-colour artworks were completed by these learners in a very short period of time. I am personally very proud of them, and enjoyed every hour of getting to know the limitations of the learners. Congratulations to these learner1s on their hard work!

I would also like to encourage the learners to attend the Ekurhuleni Fine Art Awards, where they will be exposed to the art-world around us. Two of my own artworks are in the exhibition and would like the learners who are interested in art to slowly see what it is like to be an artist. The learners will notice that there are several fields of art that they may go into after matric. I'm proud to be in the position to help nurture and enrich the lives of your enthusiastic and bright children.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

(Mr Jordaan is away writing examinations. This month's report is by Mr Peterson)



### GOLF

Wayne Stroebel was awarded u18 player of the year for 2008 by the Eastern Gauteng Golf Foundation. He has also been selected as Vice Captain of the under 19 Inter Provincial Golf team. Well done, Wayne! – A Tiger Woods in the making!



### Cricket Results

U/14	07 October	Veritas lost to St Dunstans by 4 Wickets
	14 October	Veritas won, Sunward Park HS by 8 Wickets
	21 October	Veritas lost to Springs Boys' HS – No Team
U/15	08 October	Veritas lost to Boksburg HS by 1 run
1 <sup>st</sup> Team runs	11 October	Veritas beat, Boksburg HS by 57 runs
	17 October	Veritas beat, St Dunstan's by 3 Wickets
	25 October	Veritas lost to Die Anker by 3 Wickets – <b>Semi-finals</b>



Well done to the boys 1<sup>st</sup> Team cricket for making it to the League Semi-Finals.

## Six-a-Side Cricket Tournament

On 12 October 2008 Veritas College hosted the annual Six-a-side Cricket Tournament which, once again, proved to be very successful and fun for everyone involved. Sixteen schools took part in the tournament with six of them being from Springs. The winner in the main event was St Benedicts A, winning it for the third time running, with Alberton High as the runner up. CBC Boksburg won the plate final.



### Girls Soccer

#### Results

10 October	Veritas lost to Edenvale	8-0
11 October	Veritas lost to St Catherine's	5-0
24 October	Veritas vs Mandorin – postponed	

#### Remaining Fixtures

01 November	Veritas vs St Dominics	at Mandorin HS (Avian Park)
10h30		

### Indoor Hockey

#### Results

##### **Girls**

1 <sup>st</sup>	03 October	Veritas drew, vs Jeugland	0-0
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##### **Boys**

U/14	03 October	Veritas won, Woodlands	3-2
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U/16	03 October	Veritas lost to Woodlands	4-2
	09 October	Veritas won, Jeugland	4-3
	16 October	Veritas lost to Springs Boys	6-4
	23 October	Veritas lost to Boksburg HS	7-6

1 <sup>st</sup>	03 October	Veritas lost to Woodlands	4-1
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Veritas lost to St Benedict's 8-3



Remember to swipe your My School card often and to visit the website for all updated information.

**HIGH SCHOOL VERITAS COLLEGE  
CALENDAR TERM THREE  
November 2008 – January 2009**

3 November	Mid Term reports issued
5 November	School closes at 14:00
7 November	School closes at 12:00
10 November	Gr 8 – 11 Exams start
28 November	Gr 11 Career Assessment
2 December	Prizegiving
3 December	<b>SCHOOL CLOSSES</b> – Collect reports
<b>2009</b>	
12 January	Staff on duty
13 January	<b>Grade 8 – orientation</b>
14 January	School re-opens
16 January	<b>Academic mass</b>
20 January	PTSA AGM
21 January	Inter house -Swimming Gala Grade 8 Camp Magaliesburg
22 January	Grade 8 Camp Magaliesburg
23 January	Grade 8 Camp Magaliesburg
26 January	St Thomas Aquinas Day
28 January	Grade 8 Induction Evening