



NEWSLETTER

15 December 2022

ISSUE NO. 15

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

In spite of a sometimes dispirited prognosis, the potential for our country to become a world-class nation remains. What we need is a few generations of well-educated, energetic, value-driven and extremely positive young, bright people to assist in turning the tide. We, at Edenvale High, are perfectly placed to produce the type of young minds that will make this country work.

In order to do this, we need YOU - the young men and women - to hang around. The emigration trend in the country at the moment is understandable.



The lack of faith in the government, the corruption and instability, the high unemployment rate and anxiety about the future are all realistic and valid concerns.

We live in a country with tremendous adversity. It is impossible to leave your home without confronting the reality of poverty and unemployment. By simply attending school every day, you have been exposed to this. And although it would be wonderful if it weren't the case, I believe South Africans are kinder and more caring because of it. We learn to accommodate and we learn to give. We develop the willingness to help where we can. That makes you a better person and our country a better place.

One reason South Africans do so well is that we are a resilient bunch. We live in a country where load shedding is the norm. Good service delivery is a luxury.

Improvisation is the order of the day. We have to think on our feet to survive. We have to fight to survive. This makes us tough. Any other nation would not survive a month in our unruly society with its pot-holed roads.

Watching TV, seeing news flashes, looking at social media or reading our daily paper, one forgets we live in a largely self-sufficient country that can feed itself. We have an embarrassment of natural riches and thanks to a large, young population and tens of millions of people who must still move into the middle class, we have what rich countries can only dream of: huge growth potential -provided we do the right thing.

I encourage you, the youth, to go and study overseas if you are able. Absolutely! The education you will receive while travelling will be invaluable, however, I urge you then to come home to make our country work. The opportunities in South Africa remain tremendous. Our lifestyle is second to none. We are a robust and tough nation and our people are, arguably, the most wonderful in the world. By choosing to live in this country we are choosing to live with imperfection. We are choosing to tolerate but we are choosing to be part of something that can be so much greater than ourselves. That is what it means to be South African.

After nearly 37 years at Edenvale High, it is difficult to say goodbye. The school has been so much a part of my life, that it is difficult to contemplate an existence that does not feature the school.

I wish to pay tribute to all the people who have made my job such a rich and rewarding one - the learners, all the staff and District staff, governing body members, past and present, and parents. This is an amazing school that will continue to grow and develop.

I am sure that, with the human and physical resources at its disposal, it will continue to on its path from GOOD TO GREAT.

As the year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the contributions made by those with whom I am privileged to work. Words could never truly express how sincerely I appreciate the work that is done by my deputies- Mr van Zyl, Ms McGrath and Mrs Lunt on a daily basis. Thank you to the three of you for your ongoing support and your extraordinary commitment both to me and to our school. To the SMT - thank you for a tremendous job done throughout the year. And to my staff - you are the team every Principal dreams of - thank you. To the Board of Governors - what a merry bunch we are. It is an absolute pleasure to work with the Chairman, Mr Naidoo, and his board. The school is on a very stable financial footing and I look forward to seeing what project is to be developed.

To the ladies in the front office and admin offices, thank you for holding it all together. You make a Principal's job so much easier.

To Mr License and his assistants, a very big thank you for all the hard work on the grounds and buildings. Your efforts and commitment are evident wherever I look.

All in all, my thanks go to all those who are associated with Edenvale High School.

May we ASPIRE to greater heights as the school continues on its road to excellence.



Principal

FAREWELL TO DR HARMER

I have had the fortune to work with Dr Harmer for 36 years. When I started at Edenvale High School, Dr Harmer was Mr Harmer and the Guidance and Physical Education teacher, and Guidance Counsellor. My most vivid memory of this time is of the shenanigans that happened regularly. I clearly remember the many occasions that gym equipment was sent on journeys around the school to various teachers' classrooms for no reason, the teacups stuck with Prestick to the saucers in the staffroom, and many other mischievous happenings. I wonder how many memos and warnings the Dr Harmer of today would have given the Mr Harmer of then?

I watched the development of Dr Harmer from teacher, to Head of Department Guidance, to Deputy Principal and Principal in 2005. At each level, I was in awe at how seamlessly he moved into each role and grew with such confidence. In all that has happened, I have noted how Dr Harmer has always had the interest of Edenvale High School as his first priority. Nothing has ever been done if it was not for the good of the school. On many occasions when we have been discussing and making decisions, he has always asked "What is best for Edenvale High School?"

One facet that I feel Dr Harmer has always focused on has been discipline. I still have images of the then Mr Harmer chasing learners around the old gym (now D block) and T block classrooms in order to catch smokers. Maybe some of you sitting here tonight were the ones being chased! There were times when Dr Harmer as HOD and Deputy Principal was single-handedly running the discipline, as he did not have the support from other staff at that time. But he never gave up and today I believe that is one of our single greatest strengths. He still feels as strongly today as he did then that discipline is of utmost importance. I believe that if we can take this lesson and continue, we will be just fine.

Dr Harmer has always found importance in the extra-curricular programme of the school. I have watched him coach rugby, waterpolo and athletics. No matter what he was doing, the activities excelled under his coaching and guidance. Teams won; the waterpolo players were selected for Gauteng teams, and he got us to the A league athletics at a time when the competition was at its highest against the top schools. His most recent sporting involvement was always to coach the U 14 girls relay side, which always medaled at the Prestige athletic meeting. He has always supported the cultural activities and even participated in few Major Productions!

When Dr Harmer took over the Principal post from Mr Gunther, he referred to it as a relay race and that he was picking up the baton and entering the next phase of the race. For Dr Harmer, this has been a sprint, with him always full of energy and enthusiasm and keeping his staff and the Governing Body on their toes for the next new idea. And as we all know, Dr Harmer wanted any new idea done yesterday. This enthusiasm has seen much development take place at Edenvale High School, starting with the purchase of the VW combi as the first school vehicle. We now have a fleet of vehicles, having saved much in bus costs. Then came the pavilion, the astro, the Lifestyle and Crossfit Centre and, most recently, the indoor swimming pool. Once again, all this has been done with the best interest of the school at heart.

Dr Harmer has always loved his sport. When I first knew him, he was involved in biathlon, triathlon and road running, and he completed his 10th Comrades marathon in 2008. Then, all of sudden, he hit on the idea of a mountain bike and was taking on adventure races of 60, 120 and 250 kms, and we know how more recently his love of crossfit has developed. Dr Harmer- you keep us amazed; what will it be next?

My late fiancé and I developed a friendship with the Harmer family, spending many holidays and time together. It was on these holidays that I saw another side to Dr Harmer: he absolutely loves sea fishing. From having seen a busy man at school who never stops, I was amazed that he could stand for hours on end fishing. The two facets just seemed so contradictory to me; however, it is Dr Harmer's ultimate way of rest and relaxation. He was there again recently in April and July and still catching many fish.

It was also through this friendship that I had the privilege to watch Devin grow up into the remarkable, kind gentle man that he is today. I was able to witness this at close quarters during his years at Edenvale High School. Devin was a phenomenal academic, athlete, swimmer, waterpolo player and rugby player, until an injury put a stop to that. His school career culminated in him leading the school as Head Boy in 2007 and being awarded a white blazer for his achievements, all this time with the continued support of Julia.



Dr Harmer apparently spent more than the normal four years obtaining his teaching diploma, probably only finishing it with the help of Julia. I am not sure if it was this or something else that suddenly drove him to continue with his studies in 1988, and he went on to complete his B.Ed., Masters and Doctorate degrees. Maybe he just wanted to use his long leave, which is no longer a privilege, but I remember him taking time off to write his Masters. Once again, this just showed me his ability to drive himself and achieve the best that he can.

Dr Harmer has a subtle sense of humour, and some staff still do not know if he is serious or joking. This sense of humour has started our mornings on a lighthearted note and given us motivation for the day. Many feared the red hat! There is one situation that I can think of when I could have awarded the red hat to Dr Harmer. We were at an outside assembly – where the astro is now – and there was a boy misbehaving and Dr Harmer yelled “Come here, you with the white shirt!”

In June 2015, the Harmer family were involved in an awful car accident. Dr Harmer suffered a severe neck injury and some further complications. It was a huge shock to the school community and he was booked off from school for a term. In true Dr Harmer style, he was determined to be back as soon as he could and returned in September. Many of you may not know that is why there is a recliner chair in his office – so that he can rest. Well, it was never used for that. What many of you may also not know is that he suffered neurological damage in that accident, and has been in pain every day since then, but has never shown this. He has been an amazing example of how to overcome an obstacle. Many at the time thought that this would lead to his early retirement. Thank you, Dr Harmer, for your fighting spirit and for continuing to lead us through all the years.

When Dr Harmer took over the baton from Mr Gunther, he embarked on the journey from “Good to Great”, to develop the school in accordance with the vision and mission statement, in order to take us literally on a journey to become the best that we can be. I truly believe that we all embarked on this journey with Dr Harmer and we have seen this development, and some remarkable achievements, over the years, in all aspects, over the years. As he has said: “We do not know how good we can be”.

On a personal note, I have much to thank you for, Dr Harmer. You have always seen the good in me and pushed me to achieve the best that I could. You have shown me tremendous support and guidance, and I have learnt a tremendous amount from you. Thank you for all your professional advice.

I know that many staff and pupils have gained immeasurably from the wealth of experience you possess and the direction that you have given them. You have left an incredible impression and impact on the lives of so many. Even the development of our learnership teachers, many of whom are past pupils, has been enormous.

Dr Harmer has dedicated an enormous amount of his time to Edenvale High School. We cannot thank him enough for his dedication, passion, drive and total commitment. Dr Harmer, we thank you and salute you.

I never thought that this time would come but as it has been said “Without change, there would be no butterflies”. Dr Harmer has always seen change as opportunity, and we need to look forward with positivity. Dr Harmer, you have left us in good hands

May you be blessed with good health, contentment and much happiness as you enter your retirement years. I am not going to say “slow down”, as this is not in your nature, but I am going to say that now you will have more time to do what you love.

Thank you for being “Good to Great”.

Ms D McGrath
Deputy Principal



ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2023

- Wednesday 11 January: pupils to be at school at 07h45. Register class lists will be posted onto the communicator on 10 January, to indicate your child's register class and venue.
- Times for 2023: Term 1 School will close at 14h00 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and at 13h20 on Thursday.
- Mathematics / Mathematical Literacy test for Grade 8 -12 will be written on 16 January 2023. This is compulsory for all learners. Learners who are absent must produce a doctor's note; otherwise they will receive zero.
- Block-testing period will be from 17 – 27 February.
- All learners will write a Mathematics / Mathematical Literacy assessment on 24 March 2023. This is compulsory for all learners. Learners who are absent must produce a doctor's note, otherwise they will receive zero.
- Please take note that it is the school's practice to schedule a Formal Assessment Task on the last day of every term. Do not make arrangements for an early departure for your holiday. This will not be accepted as a valid reason to miss the assessment and your child will be awarded zero, thus compromising his/her School-Based Assessment mark.
- Please note that all parents need to download the d6 communicator. This is the school's means of contact for all information. Note that the office will not print exam timetables and absentee note templates for learners.
- Please note, if you need to correct any information pertaining to change of address, contact number or email address, please send this information to Mrs Enell; jenell@edenvalehigh.co.za. The school works from one main central database. Any updates done to details linked to your d6 does not carry through to SMART. The school must be contacted directly.
- Parents may not drop off lunch, projects or items left at home at the front office. The admin staff are unable to collect and distribute these for learners. Learners must take responsibility for any item left at home.
- If a learner is feeling ill, he/she must see Mrs van der Ryst in G9 before contacting his/her parents – a detention will be given if this process is not followed.
- No learner is allowed to have a cell phone in his/her possession during school hours. If seen, the phone will be removed and will have to be collected by a parent.
- Note that learners caught with a vape in their possession will receive 5 demerits. Learners caught smoking the vape will receive 20 demerits and a two day suspension. In both cases the vape will be confiscated for three months and may only be collected by a parent.

ATTENTION PARENTS

One of the school's projects is to feed the sterilised feral cats that live on the school property. We would appreciate any donations of tinned or dry food. Donations may be handed in at the front office. All contributions are gratefully accepted.



Accolades Term 3 2022

Grade 8 – 60 Accolades

Rafael de Oliveira 8F

Grade 9 – 60 Accolades

Kayden Govender 9A

Jayden Lau 9A

Wyatt Minnaar 9A

Mamosadithebe Ramasike 9A

Kaemon Abrahams 9B

Daniella Atkins 9B

Wesley Dibia 9B

Luke Van Graan 9B

Kaylee Alexopoulos 9C

Ntando Ncube 9C

Veneshka Govender 9E

Amanda Lee 9E

Nokubonga Mpofo 9F

Jaydh Rahaman 9F

Latavia Mahabeer 9G

Kiara Plaska 9G

Joslyn Scott 9G

Caitlin Wainwright 9G

Kyle Pope 9H

Siyamthanda Mthembu 9I

Emma Swart 9I

Kristy Westhoff 9I

Shiloh Berardelli 9J

Grade 9 – 100 Accolades

Georgia Sing 9A

Kimaya Govender 9D

Ntsako Matshabana 9G

Grade 10 – 60 Accolades

Shaakira Jeewa 10B

Nickson He 10C

Gabriella Figueiredo 10D

Liam Van Schalkwyk 10E

Cristiano De Nobrega 10F

Kelly Maddocks 10F

Anethemba Mbawuli 10F

Hannah Shaw 10H

Nikita Lincoln 10I

Jade Chorley 10J

Innocentia Malahlela 10J



Grade 10 – 100 Accolades

Dohoon Pyeon	10A
Colby Maduray	10B
Alina Williams	10B
Glory Mpoyi	10C
Cathryn Davis	10D
Jasmine Jacobsen	10D
Keira Symes	10D
Bulelwa Gqoba	10E
Sanjay Prasanna	10E
Serena Joseph	10F
Aiden Ninaber	10F
Gracey Tait	10H
Allison Jahnke	10J

Grade 11 – 60 Accolades

Danyaal Adam	11A
Trista Ndetah	11A
Mia Spruijt	11A
Jaryd James	11B
Reece Jory	11B
Matthew Cells	11C
Faridah Guereou	11C
Nondumiso Kheswa	11D
Xoliswa Mkhwanazi	11D
Melissa Strydom	11D
Michelle De Mello Koch	11E
Aidan Driver	11E
Rogan Howroyd	11E
Sarah Terblanche	11E
Jessica Alves	11F
Luca Brandao	11F
Joy Emenike	11F
Jack Heron	11F
Connor Lewis	11F
Lindokuhle Sibisi	11F
Harold Mtawarira	11G
Jaydon Pillay	11G
Lefa Chidi	11H
Ziyanda Nkwanyana	11H
Neo Moahludi	11I
Svetoslava Pencheva	11I

Grade 11 – 100 Accolades

Matthew Finaughty	11A
Mia Spruijt	11A
Sizolwethu Nkutha	11B
Idalia Prokopiak	11D
Emmanuel Gitonga	11E
Daniele Loddo	11E
Alessia Pollard	11E
Mikaila Wiid	11E
Savannah Abkin	11F
Ciara Harrison	11F
Caitlin Sanders	11F
Ciara Hoffman	11G
Madikubu Matheba	11G
Nonhlanhla Mchunu	11G
Nqobile Ngwenya	11G
Aaron Sevitz	11G
Miqueia E Silva	11H
Jessica Fenton	11I
Kaylyn Wenman	11I

Grade 12 – 60 Accolades

Tamlyn Cruse	12A
Jodache Govendasamy	12A
Georgia Christedis	12D
Erin Curtis	12G
Zeta Chinner	12I

Grade 12 – 100 Accolades

Sonwabo Duna	12A
Nokutenda Madziwa	12A
Tanita Azevedo-Trocado	12B
Olivia Castle	12F
Daniella Pillay	12I
Joshua Mackeand	12J
Maree Pratt	12J
Claudia Van Den Heever	12J





MATHS TUITION

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For more information or to set up coaching, please contact me at alistairunterslak@live.com.



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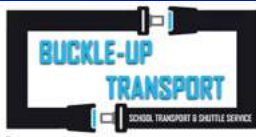


clarity counselling

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BHF PCNS Number 1048023

Kerry Anne Hartel
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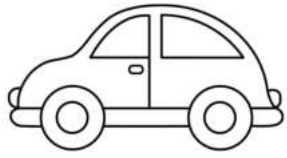
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