

Hermannsburg Quarterly

Thinking independently since 1856



From the Principal's Desk...

Since the last edition of the *Quarterly* our school has continued to engage in a wide variety of educational, cultural and sporting activities. We continue to grow and develop as a school, as the world around us continues to change and move towards an even more digital future.

As we were recently reminded by our former English teacher, now Trustee on our Board, Brigitte du Preez, the face of education is changing. Quoting from an article in the *Financial Mail* of 12 October 2017, she points out: "the World Economic Forum estimates that 65% of children in primary school today will one day do jobs that do not yet exist, while the core skills required across existing occupations will be wholly different by 2020 ... It is likely that future jobs will place less of a premium on specific degrees, such as engineering or mathematics than they will on the skills taught within those degrees, such as problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity ... flexibility and adaptability will be essential to success."

As a school we have long recognised the need for 'thinking independently' – critical thinking – and this is very well supported by the philosophy of the Independent Examinations Board (the IEB), who have indicated that, although their current Subject Assessment Guidelines already emphasise critical thinking, they will in future focus even more on developing and assessing thinking skills. Our involvement in the IEB's Primary School's Initiative (PSI) to benchmark our Primary School scholars, who have been writing the IEB's *Measuring Abilities & Thinking Competencies for High School* (MATCH) tests as well as the *International Benchmarking Tests* (IBT) is part of our commitment to "meet the challenges of a changing world."

In the High School we are looking carefully at the subjects we offer, and could perhaps offer in the very near future, for example Advanced Programme Mathematics.

We are fortunate to have Mr Trevor Harbottle joining our school as Principal in January 2018 – through several visits to Hermannsburg he has already familiarised himself with our school and its goals; he is and will be bringing a wealth of experience and fresh ideas to Hermannsburg. We look forward to his arrival with his wife, son and daughter in January.

New Appointments

We are very pleased that Mr Siegfried 'Sigg' Prigge joined our staff in the third term, taking up the duties of estate manager – we have already seen the positive differences his energy and commitment to the position have made in the school. His wife, Romy, is tackling the school gardens, which have been blossoming (pun intended). Mr Prigge is also standing in as Hostel Superintendent this term.

Mrs Wendy Schwikkard started in the fourth term, teaching English in the High School. She is a most welcome addition to our teaching team.

We owe our sincere thanks to

Mrs Kirsty Pope, Mrs Brigitte du Preez and Ms Dorothy Newlands (Principal of Domino Servite School) for ensuring that our scholars continued to be taught English in the third term, especially our Grade 12 class who were fully prepared for the trial and final examinations through their efforts. We are truly blessed to have such support from our community.

We are very pleased to announce that Hermannsburg will have a resident occupational therapist in 2018 – Ms Katja Pfafferott will be joining us from January – and our High School isiZulu teaching will be taken up by Mrs Jabu Mabuyakhulu, a language teacher with many years' experience.

Our Mission

To provide educational excellence in a Christian context, in various languages, especially German. To ensure the holistic enrichment of each individual in order to meet the challenges of a changing world confidently.

Our Values

The pursuit of excellence in all endeavours. The conduct of all interactions with integrity, respect, trust and compassion. The fostering of an attitude of commitment, responsibility and pride.

DIARY

NOVEMBER 2017

- 18 Kindergarten Graduation
ABC Schützenfest
- 25 Birding Big Day
- 26 Church service with choirs
- 30 Primary School Awards

DECEMBER 2017

- 1 High School Awards

JANUARY 2018

- 14 Compulsory School Day
Hostels open – 09:00
Church Service – 11:00
Parents' AGM – 13:30
Grade meetings

FEBRUARY 2018

- 3 HMB Mudman
- 9 Inter-house Gala
- 12 Karneval
- 13 Valentine's Dance
- 14 Ash Wednesday – 10:00



School Evaluation – IQAA

As reported in the previous *Quarterly*, our school was undergoing an evaluation by the Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA). This evaluation is now complete and we are proud to announce that Hermannsburg has received its Certificate of Quality Assurance.



Vernon Wood, Executive Director of IQAA, writes: “I have read all the relevant documents and reports pertaining to the evaluation of Deutsche Schule Hermannsburg. Congratulations on choosing to add both a Boarding and a Governance & Management evaluation to your core evaluation. The details contained in all three reports are significant and will, I am sure, prove to be of inestimable value to the school in the future. Having been through a period of significant change and disruption in recent years, particularly the changes in leadership at the school and a change in the schools funding and provisioning from Germany, DSH can be proud of its many achievements and the detailed list of strengths that appear in the reports. While modern education insists upon a broad-based education that goes beyond the basic curriculum and the classroom, you can be exceptionally proud of the matric results you have achieved over the past 20 years. Excellent matric results are not the only sign of a healthy school, but they are certainly a significant indicator that cannot be ignored, especially as your school caters for all ability levels.

The list of findings in each report collectively make for interesting reading and rightfully identify a myriad of strengths about which you can be extremely proud. A few worth highlighting: the fact that academic performances are benchmarked against highly regarded agencies, that the staff are hardworking and committed, all learners have access to academic support and that the behaviour and manners of staff and learners towards each other is good.”

A copy of the report is available in the admin office.

Umalusi Accreditation

At the start of the fourth term, the school completed the final step in another whole school evaluation, this time by Umalusi – the official and legal ‘shepherd’ of education in South Africa. Umalusi accreditation allows our school to be an examination centre for the National Senior Certificate (NSC – the matric exams), which allows us to offer Grade 12 at our school, as well as providing legitimacy for our presence as a private school.

Starting a few years ago, the school began the journey towards the site visit by Umalusi. Teachers submitted journals, work schemes, tests, worksheets, and many other admin documents, while the admin office and Board of Trustees submitted reams of policy documents, certificates, and other records in 2016, in anticipation of the site visit.

The team of five inspectors spent a day at the school, sitting in on lessons and interviewing teachers, scholars, management members and the admin staff, as well as reviewing all the documentation submitted previously.

We await the outcome of the inspection.

Events

In recent months, our school has hosted the Circuit Brass Band Festival of our church, as well as its annual Synod, with participants and delegates from far and wide.

The Synod, especially, saw the almost 100 delegates getting to know our school much better as our scholars delivered presentations, attended some of the sessions and our choirs and musicians showed off their talent. In co-operation with the congregation, the school hosted many of the delegates.

There have also been Old Scholar reunions, the most recent being that of the Class of ’77. We so enjoy the reunions taking place at Hermannsburg, and would love to hear more from our Old Scholars – what they’ve experienced, what they’ve achieved, or even just where they’re at right now. If you are an Old Scholar, we’d love to hear from you! Messages can be emailed to pro@hmb.school.co.za.



Synod delegates at Hermannsburg from as far afield as Namibia.

We also celebrated *Karneval* for the first time this year, and the German Department designed a *Deutsche Tag* with an 'Amazing Race' flavour as well as puzzles to be solved before the day. Teams of scholars competed against each other to win some tasty prizes.

Of course, the Pietermaritzburg Eisteddfod and our own HMB Eisteddfod saw our choristers achieving excellent results,



Our scholars and teachers all joined in the fun on the German Day.

but the *pièce de résistance* was 'A Pig's Tale', produced and directed by our Director of Music, Ms Chelsea Simmonds. Once again our scholars showcased their many talents, as the whole High School got involved in this modern, musical twist on the classic fairy tale.



The three little pigs search for 'their story' in A Pig's Tale.

Still on a musical note, our *Viva Voce* girls' choir was invited to sing at the Greytown Garden Club's 121st Anniversary celebration in the Greytown NG Church. Jen Cowie, chairlady, writes: "What can one say but a huge, heartfelt 'Thank You' to you and your delightfully talented group of choristers and musicians for adding such a finishing touch of class to Greytown Garden Club's 121st Anniversary celebration. The lovely music, delightful voices and vibrant pieces performed were a perfect complement to the historic setting and diversity of floral art on display ... Not only did your students bring the joy

of song and music to the occasion but they were, without exception, exemplary ambassadors for their school."

And so they are, with five of our scholars in the KZN Midlands Youth Choir and nine in the KZN Youth Choir. While the former competed in Wales this July, the latter competed in Spain.



The KZN Midlands Youth Choir in Wales during July.



The KZN Youth Choir in Spain with their certificates.

Of course, what year is complete without the Grade 10 Germany Exchange Programme? Our scholars' turn came in May/June, went they spent four memorable weeks in Germany, hosted by their German partners. This exchange is the highlight of many a scholar's time at Hermannsburg, and creates lasting, mutually beneficial friendships that can last many years.



Some of the Grade 10s in Germany during June this year.

Achievements

The trophy is back! Our enviroquiz team, representing the Umvoti District, alongside Domino Servite School, took part in the national finals of the WESSA Enviroquiz, where our team took the lead early on and maintained it to the end to achieve first place in the quiz for the 13th time (there



Mrs Cynthia Dibben of Epworth with our victorious Enviroquiz team.

Awande Mbuli represented the U15 Inland School's Tennis team, while Joel Pope, Owen Gumede, Sven Klar, Luke Hayward, Jordan Pope and Sphosethu Mabaso were selected to participate in the Umzinyathi hockey trials.

Erich Ortmann did very well in quad-biking contests, but rose to new heights when he was selected for the U16 Duikers rugby team, which came second in the national contest.

And our scholars did not hold back on the academic front either – Zenande Magubane placed 1st nationally in Grade 9 in the isiZulu Olympiad, as did Saneliso Dlomo in Grade 8, with Anele Dlamini placing 3rd in Grade 8.

In the ACER International Bench-marking Tests, certificates for distinctions obtained in 2016 were received for Clara Kohrs, Anna Kremnitzer, Sinqobile Mngoma, Ivan Mohlala, Greg Kassier, Mishka Khan and Jessica Vroegop.

Charlize Vermeulen, Nonjabulo Khoza and Ntokozo Zondi distinguished themselves in the German Olympiad, offered by the Goethe Institute.



Hermannsburg's Umzinyathi achievers in various sport disciplines.



The Class of 2017 were the shining stars at this year's 'In Outer Space' matric dance.

have been 24 enviroquizzes).

On the sports front, some of our scholars have achieved up to provincial representation. Julian Königkrämer competed in the KZN Athletics Championships, representing the Umzinyathi team, as well as playing some sterling cricket and hockey, where he was selected for the U12 KZN Inland Schools' Hockey team. Julian also captained the U12 Umzinyathi hockey team – Liam Uys and Cebo Mzila also being selected. Other Umzinyathi hockey stars were Siena Kimble (U13), Awande Mbuli (U14 captain), Nqobile Sithole (U14) and Angelika Meyer (U16 vice-captain).



Julian Königkrämer and Awande Mbuli with Mrs Debbie Walton, head of sport.

Keeping in Touch

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Nachteule Entwurf