

BERGVLIET HIGH SCHOOL



THE BUZZ

DECEMBER 2023 EDITION





THE PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

Thursday, 14th December marked the end of the Academic school year for learners and staff. A well-deserved break awaits both staff and learners and thanks to our Springboks winning the Rugby World Cup an extra day was gained.

We also officially bid farewell to Mrs Earl, a Life Sciences teacher and so much more for the past 36 years. She starts a new journey at Wynberg Boys High School in January 2024.

Mrs Earl arrived at Bergvliet High School in 1987 at the age of 21 and during that time had been involved in various areas of the school, most notably the Drum Majorettes, school tours, Register teacher, Smile Campaign, Grade Head to various age groups and in more recent years House Head for Vega.

For her commitment and dedication to Bergvliet High School over such an extended period, the school has bestowed an Astris Award upon Mrs Earl, this award is on page 2.

We also congratulate one of our senior Housekeeping staff – Mrs Abels - for 10 years of loyal service to the school.

We say goodbye to another group of exchange students who spent several months with us from various countries such as Spain, Italy, France and Germany. We wish them a safe journey back home and trust that their time spent at Bergvliet High School, in our beautiful city and country has enriched their lives. They have been a welcome addition to our school as they fully embraced school life by participating in various sports or cultural activities, in addition to excelling academically.

To our own Seth Peers in Grade 10 who currently resides in a small village in Spain. We trust that he is having fun and staying warm during the winter months.

We also say goodbye to a few of our interns as they embark on the next phase of their teaching journey – Mr Mavhungu, Miss Mathebula and Miss Schippers, as well as the Consumers and Hospitality Studies assistant Mrs Kanjedza.

To our SGB parents, staff representatives and learners who served over the past three years, my sincere appreciation goes out to each of you for your contribution to the success of BHS during that period. Mr Barberton our Treasurer and Mrs Lee-Shong have completed their final stint as their children matriculate this year and I therefore encourage all parents to consider serving on the SGB in the new year.

To our matriculants who embark on their new adventure, our best wishes accompany you, whether studying further, taking a gap year or just finding yourself. I look forward to seeing many of you at school on Friday, 19 January when the results will be announced at 11am in the music amphitheatre. To the staff of Bergvliet High School, I extend my sincere gratitude for their patience and assistance as I stepped into the role of principal. Without them, I might not have survived the year. I look forward to the years ahead as we work together for the greater good of the BHS community.

To every one of you, I wish a wonderful holiday season and pray that whether staying at home, travelling near or far, that your journey may at all times be safe and trouble-free. To those celebrating Christmas may you fully embrace the true meaning of this important day in the Christian calendar and spread peace and joy amongst all those you meet along the way.

Until next year, best wishes for a prosperous and Happy New Year!



The Astris Award

This medal and certificate is presented to Fiona Grace Earl

Fiona Earl, it is with great pride that Bergvliet High School presents you with the Astris Award in recognition of your outstanding contribution to the school. Fiona has been associated with Bergvliet High for 36 years. She first arrived at the school in 1987 having completed her studies at the University of Cape Town.

She recalls her classroom being in the prefabs, an area often assigned to first-year teachers. Fortunately, those prefabs are now but a distant memory. Besides having to teach Life Sciences and Biology, she was tasked to coach an accomplished squad of 49 Drum Majorette girls who were taking the Western Cape arenas by storm. What followed was eight years of intense training, winning Western Province Championships and becoming one of the 3 top squads in the country.

The highlight of this experience for her and the girls was undoubtedly their trip to Nice in France where they marched in the annual flower festival along with bands and squads from all over the world. The friendships made with both the girls and their families still exist today and she is very grateful for those hugely rewarding years.

Over the years she married and had two beautiful daughters, Hannah and Gemma. She spent time as Head of Media as well as the Prefects and also found time to serve on the Staff Association. During those 36 years at Bergvliet High School, she had the opportunity to be mentored by 4 other principals in addition to Mr AJ Smith who first appointed her – Mr P Robertson, Mr VK Wood, Mr SD Price and Mrs P Demas (for the last 9 months of 2023). The school has benefitted immensely from her insightful teaching and passion for her subject Life Sciences.

Over the years Fiona got involved in numerous activities. In more recent years managing a squash team and supporting the work of Operation Smile. She successfully encouraged the learners to get involved in organizing toiletry bags for the young patients, in addition to fundraising on 1st Thursdays and donating the funds raised to the organization.

Whilst she might be leaving us at Bergvliet High School for a new adventure at Wynberg Boys High School, we trust that she will reflect fondly on the years that she spent here.

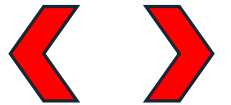
Through her teaching and management of her subject team, she has influenced the lives of generations of learners and colleagues and left a lasting impression on many. I do not doubt that her learners will miss her. They might even be quite devastated to hear that she will not be returning next year. Most certainly the learners will miss out on some of the wonderful cupcakes brought to the matric class each year or for some other special occasion.

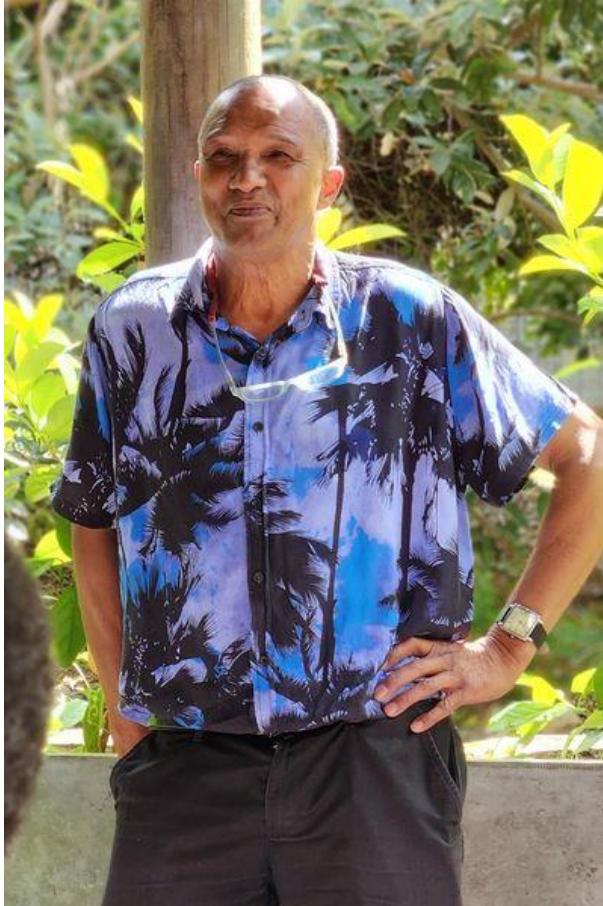
As Grade Head and later House Head, she led her team well, nurturing them but also providing the necessary discipline to the learners in her care. In terms of personal development, she enrolled in numerous courses to upskill herself. She was instrumental in making the new staff at BHS feel welcome and fully prepared to take on the challenges that they could potentially encounter at a new school. Staff socials at the start of the year were successfully hosted by Mrs Earl where the new staff and their families could meet their colleagues in an informal environment.

Bergvliet High is proud of you for what you have achieved in your career and life and especially the contribution you have made to the school where you have spent a significant number of years.

We confer upon you, Fiona Grace Earl, the Astris Award. You are a true star of Bergvliet High and a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

Mrs P Demas
DATE: 14 December 2023
PRINCIPAL





A FOND FAREWELL

On 22 November the staff gathered for the end of year function to bid farewell to Mr. Fortune, Business Studies teacher for the past 23 years, Mrs. Avenant, Afrikaans teacher for 14 years and Mrs. Storey, Mathematics teacher for 17 years.

These educators made a huge contribution to the lives of the learners of Bergvliet High School over the years, by being involved in rugby, soccer, tennis, school tours, cascades, chess, sewing club, table tennis and so much more.

Bergvliet High's staff & learners wish you all a fond farewell and a happy and healthy retirement.





Grade 9 learners Miyolo Radebe and Njabulo Nxele have joined Sea Cadet T. S Woltemade school.

They joined in July 2023 and passed out in October; they are now promoted from new entry to Seamans. with the programme running until they get to Matric.

We wish Miyolo and Njabulo well as they embark on this exciting and educational programme.

You both look very smart and are a credit to your school.

We look forward to some updates to see how the programme is progressing but until then, all the very best!





Caitlyn Van Turha - achieves SHODAN

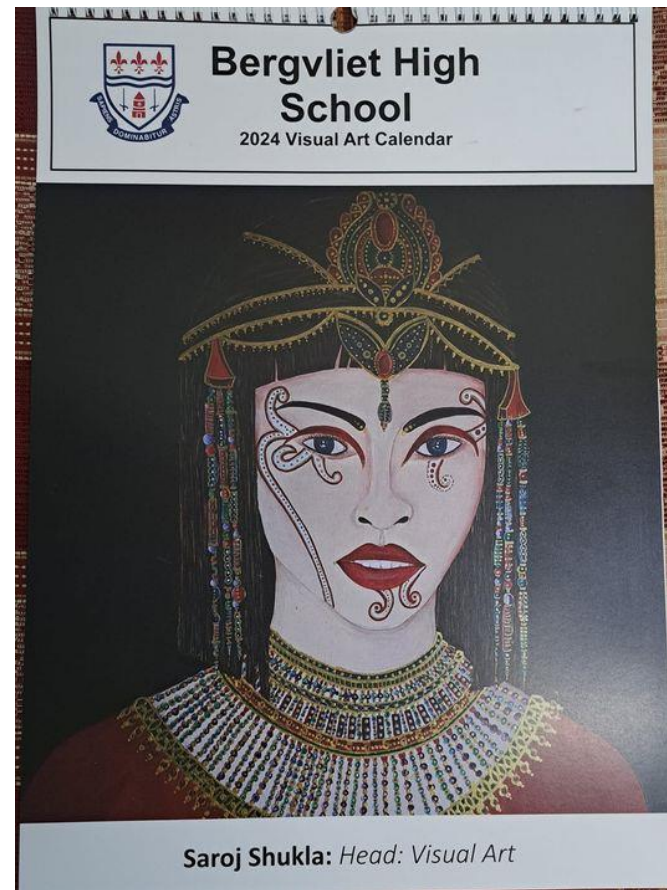
On Saturday, 2 December 2023, Caitlyn attempted her Black Belt grading in Kyokushin Karate and I am pleased to inform the school that she was successful and passed. She is now a Kyokushin Black Belt with the Title of Senpai Caitlyn. Senpai means "Senior".

Please do take a moment and congratulate her on this achievement as it was not easy. The grading started at 13H20 and we completed the process at 19H15. The final hurdle that had to be overcome, was the completion of the 20 "Man" Kumite. This is doing 20 x 1-minute full contact sparring rounds.

Today is her last day at school and I am sure it will mean the world to her if you could take a moment and let her know how proud you are of her achievement.

Submitted by Caitlyn's Karate Instructor, Shihan Trevor Rustin

Your school is very proud of you Caitlyn; this is truly an extraordinary achievement - all the best with both your Karate and your chosen career path.



2024 VISUAL ART CALENDER

This stunning Visual Art Calendar is only R100. Payment via Karri App or card, in the Finance Department.





HIGH PERFORMANCE SOCCER CAMP

There was no slowing down for the soccer boys and girls at BHS. In preparation for next year, we hosted a High Performance Soccer Camp.

We welcomed a Biokinetic team who measured the players speed, agility and their technical abilities & skills.

The purpose of this camp was to assess the physical and technical condition of the players. Based on the results the coaches will be drafting a pre-season program which will start in January 2024.

The third and last day of the High Performance Football Camp consisted of a mini tournament with 13 teams of 4 players per side.

Thanks to our coaches.
Soccer manager: Mr Brandon Siljeur
Photos: Mr Lekay





OPEN DAY

COME AND SEE HOW YOUR CHILD CAN EXCEL!

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024
15:00 - 19:00

YOU MAY ATTEND ONE OF
OUR INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS IN
THE SCHOOL HALL

NO BOOKING NECESSARY

CONTACT: 021 712 0284

