



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of the Get Ahead Schools termly newsletter, where we share with you the exciting events and achievements of the first term of the academic year.

From the addition of new staff members to academic successes, extracurricular activities, and community outreach initiatives, our school community has made great strides in advancing our Vision for Excellence.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We hope you enjoy reading about the highlights of our first term.

JANUARY 2023

Get Ahead Schools had an exciting start to the new school year as it welcomed seven new staff members who brought with them a special set of skills to help achieve the schools' goals, as set out in the Vision for Excellence. Among the staff was Margaret Whewall, a dear friend and trusted volunteer from Canada, who joined the QGAP staff for the first term.

The school community was saddened by the untimely passing of Aunty Zwaki Gili from WGAP. Aunty Zwaki was a mom to many students and always ready with an encouraging word and warm smile.

The Class of 2022 achieved an impressive 91% matric pass rate, with 55% bachelor pass and 41% diploma pass rates, of which the school was especially proud.

Senior students also successfully donated 28 pints of blood at the blood drive held at the beginning of the term. The school encourages students and staff to become regular donors to "give the gift of life" to those in need.

In other news, Else Steyn and Mandla Ngo travelled to Gqebera to attend the GMMDC STEAM workshop. The workshop was worthwhile, with international facilitators and presenters keeping the staff abreast of the latest educational trends.

QGAP received two sets of Chromebooks with two charging trolleys, which are currently being piloted using the free version of IXL Maths and English. The computer lab also had a mini-makeover, complete with a glitter floor and LED lighting. It has proved to be a cool space for interdisciplinary teaching, namely computers, makerspace, and remedial.



The College was delighted to announce Athenkosi Kiti and Liyema Lucando's inclusion in the South African team for WIDPSC in Durban. The school community is eternally grateful to Branksome Hall, The Leacock Foundation, and the Cohen family for making it financially possible for the girls to attend. The school was also delighted to have Grace Nolan, master debate coach from Branksome, mentor, guide, and prepare the girls for WIDPSC.

GET AHEAD SCHOOLS

Where every child feels worthy and validated.



FEBRUARY

Our schools are committed to creating a kind and bully-free environment. Ms. Xashimba facilitated an anti-bullying campaign at the primary schools, highlighting that our differences make us unique and that we should be celebrating these differences.



The art programme at QGAP is in full swing and the students' displayed artwork brings warmth and brightness to the corridors and classrooms.



Our primary school students participated in World Read Aloud Day, with students reading books in English, Afrikaans, and isiXhosa. The school continually works to improve its libraries across the three campuses. The WGAP library makeover commenced and will take a few months to complete. The school is grateful to the Peskin family from Toronto for their generous financial contribution towards the makeover.



Our public speaking and debating students participated in the Re:Solved online public speaking competition hosted by Branksome. Athenkosi Kiti and her partner, Luke Zhang, made it through to the quarter final which takes place on Tuesday, 11 April 2023.



On the sporting field, WGAP played soccer against Southbourne Primary School. Our u/11 team went down 1-4, while our u/13 team won 3-0.



The wellness retreat garden has also beautified the College grounds and is a place where students can sit quietly and reflect away from the busyness of the day.



College have started with IEB training. Staff have visited Merrifield and Umtata Christian School and plan to visit Kingswood College and Advanced for Life. These visits allow our teachers to learn more about the IEB from colleagues and build a professional network for support and advice.

MARCH

Get Ahead Schools successfully hosted the ISASA regional meeting and a fundraising workshop for ISASA school delegates. It was a wonderful opportunity for the school to showcase what it is doing.



March was also a busy month in the extra-mural calendar. WGAP Grade 3's participated in the KFC mini cricket festival.



The u/12 netball and soccer teams hosted Rehoboth School, where the netball girls won 27-1 and the soccer boys won 5-4.

College took on Hexagon High School in soccer, with both the junior and senior teams taking the win.



The chess club hosted a chess tournament, with Girls' High School, Queen's College, Fresh Minds, and Lamp Lighters participating. Our senior netball girls played against Hangklip High School. They played with grit and determination and we look forward to watching this young team grow and develop.



College staff attend an IEB assessors course in the last week of term. This is an exciting and informative professional development course. This five-day course aims to develop educators holistically, developing their cognitive, practical and affective competencies so that they can function effectively in their workplace.

Finally, the school is incredibly proud of Herman Venter, who is preparing for the 1965 Ride for Education. This is an 850km cycle from Johannesburg to Queenstown over nine gruelling days. We are excited to welcome Herman into town on Thursday, 20 April 2023.



CONCLUSION

As we conclude the first term of the academic year, we reflect on the achievements and progress made by our school community. We are proud of the academic successes of our students and the dedication of our staff to continuously improve our educational programmes.

We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for all our students, where they can thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. We will continue to focus on improving our facilities, programs, and resources to ensure that our students receive a well-rounded education.

We look forward to the second term with enthusiasm and optimism, and we thank our school community for their continued support and involvement in our educational journey.