

Collegiate Girls' High School

150
Years of Excellence
1874 - 2024



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18 January 2024

Dear Parents and Learners

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

Much excitement filled the corridors and classrooms yesterday. With the return of all girls and the arrival of the new Grade Eights, the school came alive once more, friendships were rekindled, and an air of anticipation of what is to come abounded. The sesquicentennial year of the Collegiate Schools – the year in which Collegiate turns 150 – has arrived and it will be a year to remember.

In the opening assembly we dedicated 2024 to be a year of celebration:

- of all that Collegiate is
- of all who have been through the school
- of all its achievements
- of friendships and connections.

After the assembly, the entire school gathered in the front garden for the 150 Flag-raising Ceremony. As 2024 is the sesquicentenary of the school, a flag signifying the 150th anniversary of the school had been designed and it was unveiled and raised for the first time yesterday by the Head and Deputy Head Girls, Blessing Melariri and Mignonne Coley. The flag symbolizes Collegiate, unifies and reminds us of our identity as a school. The 150-flag will be flown every school day this year.





To mark this historic year, a special 150 commemorative badge was presented as a gift to every Collegiate girl in both Collegiate Schools, as well as to the staff members. The learners may wear it with pride on their blazers for the rest of their school career.

What a privilege it is for each one of us to be part of this historic year in the life of the Collegiate Schools, and I and my staff are honoured to be leading you through this year of celebration.

We are privileged to start our academic year with our dedicated staff body and we are thrilled to welcome new staff members to our team. Introducing from the left: Mrs Desireé Scholtz, Mrs Melissa Kelly, Mr Seko Zondani and Mrs Melissa Gillies.



Mrs Desireé Scholtz has joined the Mathematics Department. Last year she taught at Pearson High School, and previously at Pretoria Boys' High School, Pretoria Girls' High School and Grey High School, in addition to running Master Maths for many years.

To the Sports Department we welcome **Mr Seko Zondani** who joins the staff in the position of Head of Water Polo and Sports Administrator. Mr Zondani is a familiar face at the side of the water polo pool. He has coached at national level as well as our first team for the past few years.

Mrs Melissa Gillies has also joined the Sports Department as the Head of Hockey and Specialist Coach. Mrs Gillies has relocated from Namibia where she coached on a national level.

Mrs Melissa Kelly joins the Wellbeing Department in the role of School Psychologist. Mrs Kelly has previously taught English at Alexander Road High School, prior to qualifying and registering as a Psychologist. Her experience in the classroom environment will certainly enhance her counselling and the expertise that she brings.

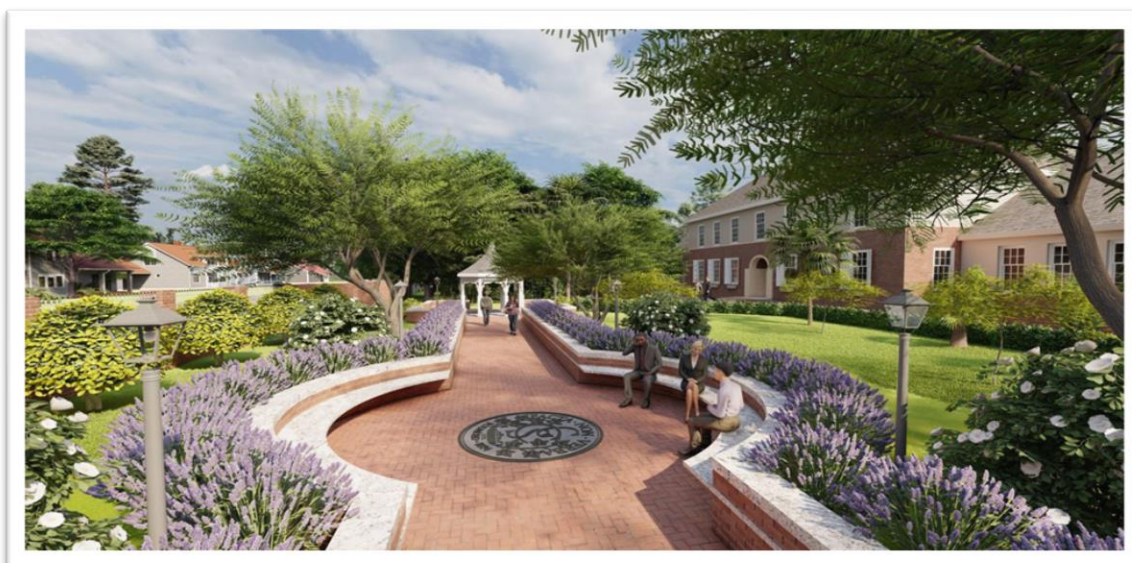
In addition to the new staff members, we have three teachers with us for the term: **Mrs Michelle Stark** will be teaching the Grade Ten to Twelve Practical Needlework lessons in Mrs Taylor's absence and **Mr Anton Scholtz** has returned to continue teaching Technology whilst Mrs Taylor is on leave. **Mrs Hedwig van Rooyen** has also returned and will be teaching Afrikaans and Life Orientation for this term.

As we await the results of the Class of 2023 tomorrow, we are eager to start the academic journey of 2024. In order for us to ensure that every learner reaches her academic potential, we require all learners to have access to an iPad in Grade Eight to Eleven and a device of choice in Grade Twelve, whether E-books are used or not. We use Microsoft Teams to share resources, upload additional material and use the platform as a valuable communication tool. A cell phone is unfortunately not a suitable device or option because of the screen size which will display the data that is shared amongst learners and staff.

Academic excellence does not only pertain to technology: a learner who has all their stationery, textbooks and subject related requirements is well positioned for a good start to the year. Please ensure that your daughter has all the equipment and resources required for each of her subjects as a matter of urgency.

We would like to extend our congratulations to **Mrs Grobbelaar** on her appointment as the Grade Twelve Grade Head, **Mrs Dos Santos**, the Grade Ten Grade Head and **Mrs Vanderlinden**, the Grade Nine Grade Head. We wish them well as they lead their teams. Please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's class teacher or Grade Head should you have any queries or concerns.

Two 150 Jubilee projects are currently underway. A new walkway with a seated area in the centre is under construction in the front garden. Once this and the landscaping is complete, it will be a truly beautiful and peaceful haven.



The second project is the conversion of the building behind the Games Club into a Fitness Centre, and the extension of the Games Club deck towards the water polo arena. The Fitness Centre will be a valuable addition to our sporting programme, especially once an on-site biokineticist is appointed to provide high-performance training.

Lastly, we are pleased to welcome “Die Hoofmeisies” to the Ivy Leaf Tuckshop and to The Games Club. The Tuckshop now includes a coffee machine and barista, a wider menu and more substantial items. All payments can be made with debit cards, and we will soon implement the D6 wallet payment system.

I am aware that you have been inundated with paperwork in the last two days. At Collegiate we are always mindful of our paper usage, but in some instances, we have to rely on paper in order for us to update our administrative systems and keep record of all the important information. After the initial paperwork we will be using digital platforms to communicate with learners and parents alike. Therefore, we urge all our parents to ensure that the Data Verification forms are checked and meticulously completed with the correct information to make our contact and communication seamless.



The best way to stay connected this year is to get onto the **d6 Connect** app. The application may be downloaded from any app store. Please ensure you download the black d6 app to get connected. Being connected means you will receive all our communication, be able to keep track of your school finances as well as follow your daughter’s school progress.

We look forward to staying connected with you and to share our celebrations of 150 years of excellence as a Collegiate family. May we all unite and ignite the Collegiate of tomorrow.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Erasmus'.

MRS LOUISE ERASMUS
PRINCIPAL

