

# GLEN AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter: March 2018



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## *From the Vice Principal's Desk*

### Staffing Issues

Glen Austin High School is pleased to announce the appointment of two well qualified and experienced staff members namely Mr Felix Moyo (teaching English Home Language and Economics) and Ms Lungile Sigqwagqwa (teaching Afrikaans and Life Orientation). The school is finalizing an appointment of an additional Maths and Math Literacy teacher to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2018.



Mr. B. Moyo

These new staff members fulfill the promise that we made to the parents in terms of adding manpower and to keeping our class sizes between 15 and 20 learners. As we endeavour to seek quality and excellence, we thank the parents for their inputs and suggestions that led us to follow this pathway.

### Cycle Tests

Term 1 cycle tests have started in earnest. The school will release the learners at 14:30 during this period to allow them to prepare for the paper that would be written the following day. We wish our learners all the success during this period.

### Looking ahead

The school will be closing on Wednesday 28 March 2018. Report cards will be issued on the closing day. Holiday classes for the Matrics will be scheduled. These classes will be full-blown learning blocks, that will be starting at 08:00 till 16:00, in all subject areas.

We look forward to a leadership camp that will be attended by the LRC members and prefects, together with the Grade 8 classes. This is synonymous with our tradition of empowering and developing our learners.

**Mr Moyo**

**Vice Principal: Glen Austin High School**



# UPDATE CENTRE



## *Learner Conduct Column - Mr Satuku*

### Tips for Achieving and Maintaining Discipline

Discipline is not about getting kids to do what you want them to do. That's what dictators do, and you're not a dictator—you're an educator. Discipline is providing an environment in which positive teaching and positive learning can occur simultaneously. Discipline is not control from the outside; it's order from within.

In conversations with teachers, I've discovered some practical and universal ideas that will help you achieve discipline in your classroom. Tap into the experience of these pros, and turn your classroom into a place where students learn and enjoy the process.

- **Get students focused before you begin any lesson.** Be sure you have their attention before you begin. Don't try to talk over students; you'll be initiating a competition to see who can speak louder and also let them know it's okay to talk while you are talking.
- **Use positive presence.** Don't park yourself in the front of the classroom. Move around the room continuously, and get in and around your students. Make frequent eye contact, and smile with students. Monitor students with your physical presence.
- **Model the behaviour you want students to produce.** If you **exhibit respectfulness**, trust, enthusiasm, interest, and courtesy in your everyday dealings with students, they will return the favour in kind. Remember the saying, 'Values are caught, not taught.'
- **Use low-profile intervention.** When you see a student who is misbehaving, be sure your intervention is quiet, calm, and inconspicuous.
- **Verbal reprimands should be private, brief, and as immediate as possible.** The more private a reprimand, the less likely you will be challenged. The more immediate the reprimand, the less likely the student will feel you condone her or his behavior. And keep reprimands brief. The more you talk, the more you distract from the lesson and the more you 'reward' a student for inappropriate behaviour.
- **Provide lots of positive feedback.** Many veteran teachers will tell you, '10 percent of the students will give you 90 percent of your headaches!' But what about the 90 percent of those other students in your classroom? Don't forget them; recognize their contributions and behaviour:
  - Acknowledge positive student-behaviour when it is not expected.
  - Acknowledge compliance with requests.
  - Acknowledge hard work, kindness, and dependability.
  - If you have a **rule**, enforce that rule: don't hand out lots of warnings without following through on consequences. Lots of warnings tell students that you won't enforce a rule.

# A WARM WELCOME



*Ms L. Siggwagwa*

## AFRIKAANS & LO TEACHER

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- BED (4<sup>th</sup> year undergrad, 3 years teaching experience)
- Studying Psychology (UNISA currently)
- Afrikaans Educator (Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12)
- Life Orientation Educator (Grade 9 and 11)

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS SCHOOLS:

- Obtained 100% pass in Afrikaans 2017 (NSS)
- Awards for best Afrikaans Public Speaking 2016 & 2017
- Awards for Best Netball Coach 2016 & 2017
- Sports Co-ordinator (NSS)

*Mr F. Moyo*

## ENGLISH, ECONOMICS & LO TEACHER

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Diploma in Education (UZ)
- BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (UFS currently)

### SKILLS

- Public speaking expert
- Counselling
- Motivational speaker

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Obtained 100% pass rate in English 2006-2017
- Best Economics results 2013



# OPEN ASSEMBLY



## *GATHS's Open Assembly Mr L. Mukhabele*

Open Assembly was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2018. I guess it's safe to say we have 'bagged' another successful event this year, which is the open assembly. Thanks to all the parents who attended, but mostly thanks to our special guest The Legend himself, Mr Don Laka. It's always a pleasure to have him play the school song, and thanks to the choir as well for doing a wonderful job.

Let's not forget the presence of the Board members, as well as the CEO's speech. And of course, the highlight of the day which was the Head Girl's speech in which she mentioned that parents have to play active roles in their children's lives.





# OPEN ASSEMBLY PICTURES



# HOD LANGUAGE



## *Effort and Discipline - Ms R. Gill*

I wish to address you in my two main capacities at Glen Austin High: Senior English Teacher and Discipline Committee Leader.

Firstly as teacher ...

Teaching can be tough, but the rewards of seeing learners develop academically, and grow in confidence, makes the profession all worthwhile. As educators, we don't have magical wands tucked up our sleeves (although I'm sure many parents wished it so), but we do have the determination and fortitude to help learners achieve their optimal potential – especially those learners who have the same goal in mind.

Cases in point, are two of my Grade 12 students - Nolwazi Bila and Onke Makhawu—who may not be the 'top of the class' but have always shown a happy disposition, impeccable manners, but mostly – a willingness to learn and excel: Nolwazi completing a Cambridge English self-study book (recommended to her for grammar improvement, and Onke, improving with each writing task presented.

And this is why we teach!

... and now as ethics leader ...

We at Glen Austin take our responsibility as custodians of your children, very seriously, and this year, have raised the standard of school discipline and safety regulations, significantly. As parents, we thank you for joining us in this common quest, by signing acceptance of the school policies recently distributed, and because of this, we are able to 'crack down' on any form of narcotics or habit-forming substances (either in possession or under the influence) in our school - by random/suspicion testing.

Faintest suspicions or reported indications have resulted in IMMEDIATE and thorough investigation, and our disciplinary investigative officer – Mr Satuka – would make any police force proud! Impressive too, is the assistance Mr Satuka gets from student witnesses – we are ALL fighting this scourge!

Positive testing has resulted in mixed reactions from parents - when notified and called in for their children's disciplinary hearings - but noteworthy and heart-warming are the parents' gratitude that the Discipline Committee sometimes receives, in exposing their child's 'usage' – before it becomes too late!

We are ALL working towards the greater good of our youth, and we thank you for your support.

(Drug-testing kits are available at Dis-Chem, for private testing at home.)



# HOD MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE



## *Farewell to a Pioneer – MR V. SIBANDA*

### Stephen Hawking Biography

Scientist, Physicist (1942–2018)

Scientist Stephen Hawking is known for his ground-breaking work with black holes and relativity, and is the author of several popular science books including 'A Brief History of Time.'



### Who Is Stephen Hawking?

Stephen Hawking (born January 8, 1942) is a British scientist, professor and author who did ground-breaking work in physics and cosmology, and whose books have helped to make science accessible to everyone. At age 21, while studying cosmology at the University of Cambridge, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Part of his life story was depicted in the 2014 film *The Theory of Everything*.

### Research on the Universe and Black Holes

In 1974, Hawking's research turned him into a celebrity within the scientific world when he showed that black holes aren't the information vacuums that scientists had thought they were. In simple terms, Hawking demonstrated that matter, in the form of radiation, can escape the gravitational force of a collapsed star. Another young cosmologist, Roger Penrose, had earlier discovered ground-breaking findings about the fate of stars and the creation of black holes, which tapped into Hawking's own fascination with how the universe began. The pair then began working together to expand upon Penrose's earlier work, setting Hawking on a career course marked by awards, notoriety and distinguished titles that reshaped the way the world thinks about black holes and the universe.

### Beginning of the Universe

In a March 2018 interview on [Neil deGrasse Tyson's Star Talk](#), Hawking addressed the topic of 'what was around before the Big Bang' by stating there was nothing around. He said by applying a Euclidean approach to quantum gravity, which replaces real time with imaginary time, the history of the universe becomes like a four-dimensional curved surface, with no boundary. He suggested picturing this reality by thinking of imaginary time and real time as beginning at the Earth's South Pole, a point of space-time where the normal laws of physics hold; as there is nothing 'south' of the South Pole, nor nothing before the Big Bang.

*The Science Community of earth has lost a great legend, however his theories and works live on!!*

*Rest in Peace Prof. Stephen Hawking!!!*

# MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE



## Listeriosis—Mrs Katsande

Listeriosis is a serious, but treatable and preventable disease caused by the bacterium, *Listeria monocytogenes*. The bacteria is widely distributed in nature and can be found in soil, water and vegetation. Animal products and fresh produce such as fruits and vegetables can be contaminated from these sources.

### Symptoms

- Flu like illness with diarrhoea including fever, general body pains, vomiting and weakness
- Infection of the blood stream which is called septicaemia
- Meningoencephalitis (infection of the brain)

## Listeria Facts:

**LISTERIA CAN BE LINKED TO:**

-  **Fruit & Vegetables**
-  **Raw Milk**
-  **Soft / Blue Cheeses**
-  **Processed Meats**

### PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK OF LISTERIOSIS



Food can be contaminated with *Listeria* at any stage in the supply chain



### LISTERIA IS A RESILIENT BACTERIUM

It can survive from 4°C up to 42°C

### 44 EU RECALL NOTIFICATIONS IN 2015

Although this seems relatively low, Listeriosis has an extremely high mortality rate of 30-40%



Sources: European Commission RASFF Annual Report 2015, EFSA Journal 2015, www.foodstandards.gov.scot



# CAMP



## *Fun and Leadership—Mr L. Mukhabele*

When someone hears the word 'camp', the first thing that comes to mind is probably dirt, mosquitos and the veld. But all of those changes the minute you go to a camp, you even forget about the thoughts associated with it. Grade 8s, LRCs and prefects had the opportunity to go on a leadership camp at Grootvlei and, as much as it was for the learners as the educator, I also learnt quite a few things.

I must say I'm proud of the way the learners carried themselves and worked as a team. One of the highlights was the mud obstacle course that had learners cringing and screaming, but at the end, they completed it bravely as a team.

They had a whole lot of activities that promoted teamwork, communication and trust. To work in a team, you must be able to communicate with each other. And to do that, you must trust each other and be a team. The seniors (leaders) had a



chant that went something like, leaders - lead, leaders - develop, leaders - empower. All their activities were centered around developing those skills, and they out-did themselves. I couldn't be more proud to see them their engaging and working together to achieve their common goals.

Another highlight was the talent show, which took place on Saturday night. We had singing groups, commercial ad breaks, performances and my favourite, teacher impersonations. It's so funny to watch yourself through the eyes of a learner, and I must say, they nailed it! So next time there's a camp, I urge you parents to make sure your child goes; it's a worthwhile learning experience.



# CAMP PICTURES





## *School Bus Information*

The school buses leave the school at 4pm every day. The D6 Communicator is used to keep in touch with parents and advise of any departure time changes. During exams, or if there are no afternoon activities, parents may be advised that the bus will leave earlier. Transport changes are communicated by means of the D6.

If there is an away sports game, parents are required to pick up their children from GAHS at the indicated time. This notification is included with the required indemnity letters.

Sports cell phone number: 074 851 4655

Drivers' Supervisor: Sam 062 961 0021



## *D6 Communicator*

All-important information regarding the school, such as important dates and homework will be uploaded onto the D6 Communicator.

Follow the link and keep in touch with us:

<http://www.school-communicator.com/download.php>. Ensure to set the application to allow notifications and alerts to pop up for on your pc or mobile device.



## *Facebook*

[www.facebook.com/Glen Austin High School/ Midrand](http://www.facebook.com/Glen-Austin-High-School/Midrand)



COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

