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PIETERMARITZBURG GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



# DEAR FRIENDS OF GHS



she now proudly assumes her place as one of the oldest and most established schools. One of our plans was to have this supplement and today we thank all of you for your support and affirmation.

You will see that this supplement far exceeds our expectations and we thank everyone concerned for their contribution. For 100 years, GHS has provided generations of young women with a fine education – many going on to achieve great things.

The list is endless. From top leadership positions in the world of business to national sporting representation, our alumni continue to do us proud.

Today we share with you some of the many aspects that we believe makes GHS a special place.

For 100 years, countless young women have walked her corridors in pursuit of an education. A school remains but bricks and mortar until humans inhabit the buildings and breathe life into them. Schools are, and must remain, about people.

The school has hopefully offered each girl a chance to realise her true potential in a wonderful environment. As our world has changed, we like to believe GHS has changed with it. Transformation remains a vital part of our core vision.

We have to ensure that GHS becomes a school where everyone belongs. A school should warmly embrace every one of its learners irrespective of race, creed or background. It must serve all layers of society if it is to be truly representative.

**CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE**

From one family to another...

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We had many plans for our Centenary Year, many of which will have to be carried over to a time when our entire community can celebrate properly. Turning 100 is a milestone that must be celebrated with due fanfare and pride. When we made our plans last year, no-one could foresee the dramatic events of 2020.

While it has been disappointing not being able to celebrate, it has in some ways, reminded us all of community and the special role our school plays in the Capital City where



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**Deputy Principal  
Mogie Achary.**



**Deputy Principal  
Therusha Naicker**



**Deputy Principal  
Esmé Weigelt.**

Given the complexity of the socio-political landscape of our country, we continue to ensure that the needs of the individual are met. We tried this year to open dialogue with alumni, parents and, of course, the learners in our 10 days of Listening campaign. We remain open to constructive suggestions and criticism. We have also modernised the physical amenities in order to maintain optimal facilities in

which to learn and play.

The balanced education of young women has taken place in classrooms and on sports fields, on stages and in various other platforms. A vast array of educators have nurtured the girls entrusted to them. There have been some interesting and colourful characters, superb educators and leaders who have left lasting impressions on the girls and school and earned themselves a place in the

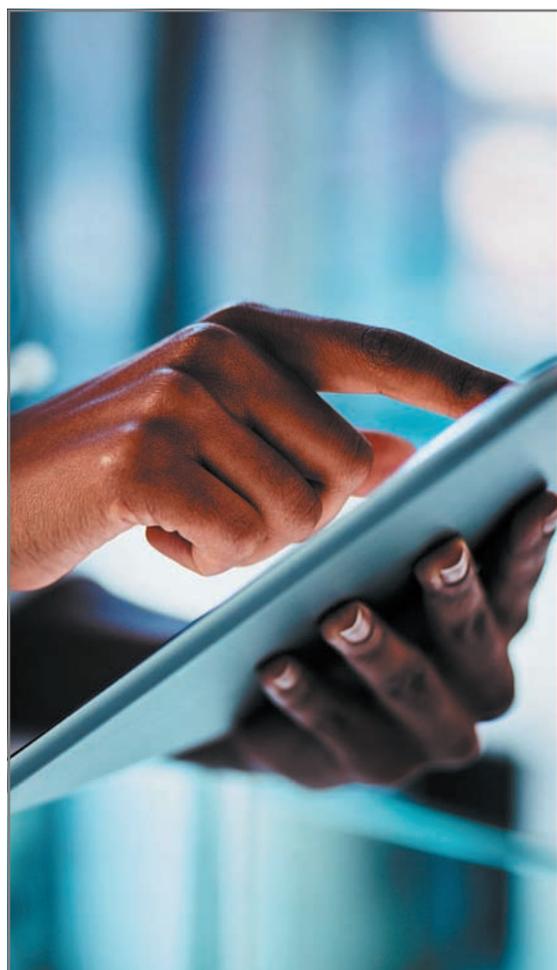
'human tapestry' that forms the living history of our school. Hopefully, there are many people in the city who have at some time forged a bond with the school.

A school is its own small community which operates within the wider community and we hope that GHS has done the city proud. A newspaper is a wonderful place to share the achievements of a school and a newspaper based

in the city has to be the best place to do this. We are delighted to get to do this in a newspaper, The Witness, that is also a historic institution in our city.

We remain true to our motto: 'Cheerfulness with Industry'. Look out for our Centenary 2021 celebrations. We warmly welcome the community at large to celebrate with us.

**Andrew Graaf  
Principal**



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Manor Naidoo, doing what she loves doing the most in teaching and putting a smile on learners faces. PHOTO: JONATHAN BURTON

# Longest serving member of GHS, Manor Naidoo celebrates 43-years of service

"I was very young when I came to this school and it feels like such a long time ago, but starting here as one of only two people of colour back in the 1970s, looking back at it all and realising I am still here, makes me feel like I've been here forever," remarked the longest-

serving staff member at Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School, Manor Naidoo, as she reflected on being at the school for 43 years this year.

Beginning her career as a lab technician, Naidoo reminisced on the picture of the school that existed prior to democracy, what

the school is now and what she hoped the future holds for the institution.

"Walking into the school under an apartheid regime, whose policies the school had to follow, was quite different to what we see now. Back then, the entire staff and children at the school were white and I was one of a tiny minority."

"At first, it was difficult getting into the swing of things and the experience was totally new to me. I tried to fit in as much as possible in the beginning and the staff were accommodating of me and I did get along with my colleagues," said Naidoo. Working with the physics and biology departments, Naidoo has familiarized herself with the syllabus from Grade 8 to 12 and has seen various changes over the years. She maintains that, no matter the changes in the syllabus, she is always happy to see that the

girls are intrigued by the sciences and are eager to learn.

"One of my favourite parts of this job are the faces of the girls when we do our various demonstrations in class. I enjoy it when I see the girls' faces light up during our demonstrative practicals and always maintain that, when it goes wrong, it is the girls' fault!" joked Naidoo.

Naidoo acknowledged that being the bread winner in her family in the beginning of her career, rooted her to the school and, as such, she had a front-row ticket to the school's evolution which has allowed her to bear witness to the quality of the school, the staff and the learners. "To be at this awesome school and to be surrounded by the smiles and happiness of the girls every day, keeps me enthusiastic and keen to see yet another day at the school."

**CONTINUE TO PAGE 6**

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

“GHS is a school where people work hard. We have had, and continue to foster, good leadership and quality education to those who attend this institution. We value and emphasise good qualities here and are supported in every avenue,” said Naidoo.

Reflecting on the change the school went through as Apartheid slowly began to be eradicated in the country, Naidoo said that she was happy when girls and staff of colour were allowed to join the GHS community. “I was very happy when girls of colour began coming to the school. Having various cultures around is so important and I was happy to introduce some of the staff and girls of other backgrounds to the school,” said Naidoo.

One memory that she will forever cherish is when she recalled how the school took a day off and marched in a sea of green uniforms down Jesmond Road and stood at King Edward Avenue to wait for Nelson Mandela’s limo to pass

by so they could catch a glimpse of him and wave him on his way. “It was such an experience of awe and I know the girls will tell their grandchildren about this memory someday,” said Naidoo.

Naidoo also noted the joy it brought her the first time the school celebrated Diwali at assembly, stating that she was overcome with emotions at seeing her culture being displayed in the school that she loves.

“I am coming towards the end of my GHS career and I feel so blessed to have worked at such a beautiful place. I feel so lucky and feel that the girls who get to learn here are so lucky, that I wish I had an opportunity to have been a learner here.”

“I want to wish GHS all the best and a happy centenary,” said an emotional Naidoo.

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**English Educator**



**Joseph Ntuli (38 Years)**  
**Support Staff Member**



**Alfred Ndlovu (29 years)**  
**Support Staff Member**



**Linda Dellar (29 years)**  
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**Diane Merryweather (28 years)**  
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**THE SCHOOLWEAR SPECIALISTS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6



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**Afrikaans Educator**



Phillip Vilakazi (26 years)  
**Support Staff Member**



Elizabeth Cronje (25 years)  
**Afrikaans Educator**



Debbie de Bruin (24 years)  
**Boarding Establishment Staff Member**



Shelagh Goddard (22 years)  
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*Congratulations GHS!*

# What it means to be a GHS leader in 2020



**PAIGE RAW (Head Prefect)**

Being a Girls' High girl in our 100th year has been anything but normal. While we are experiencing a global pandemic, we are also writing a new chapter of our school's journey. Through this lengthy journey, Girls' High has taught us that striving to be perfect is incorrect. It is not in our curriculum, and we learn what it is to be great (not perfect) when we walk the distance from grade 8 to matric. It is in the size of our school and, therefore, the diversity of opinions. It is learnt rather in our moments of defeat than in our moments of triumph. Over the years, I have come to understand and look forward to the distance between our failures and successes - it is usually messy BUT it is in this area in between the two where we grow the most. Girls' High encourages us to be the best version of ourselves...and not to fear being imperfect.



**KERYN THOMPSON (Deputy Head Prefect)**

2020: the year of drastic change and growth. The year I was reminded that change is good and necessary and must be embraced.

I was reminded of the unexpected twists and turns that life has in store for me. In my final year, seeing how the GHS community adapted to COVID-19, along with the support and co-operation received, was an eye-opener. We are all a part of this historic change. These necessary changes were what was best for us, ensuring that GHS remained our safe place, our home. This sudden change pushed me out of my comfort zone into the unknown. It was this moment of overwhelming uncertainty that highlighted the sisterhood at Girls' High. Despite the bumpy road, we moved forward as one. The love and support never faltered and the strong bonds we formed over the years proved to be unbreakable.



**SAMUKELO MBATHA (Head Boarder Prefect)**

I firmly believe that being a GHS learner has set a solid foundation for the rest of my life. Stepping into GHS is like stepping into an endless world of possibilities where I am equipped for whatever obstacles may come my way. I am proud to say that my blood runs green.

I take pride in the sisterhood at GHS, where we build each other up and encourage each other to dream big and dare to do the impossible. Walking through the corridors of GHS, it is easy to be captivated by the radiant smiles and laughter of the learners. I believe that the one thing that separates GHS from other schools is the level of love and school spirit that the learners have. It is a very contagious love and energy that is palpable throughout the school. Being a GHS learner has challenged me never to be content with living in my comfort zone; instead I have been motivated to live every day to its fullest.



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**GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL**  
on their Centenary!

# What it means to be a GHS leader in 2020



## **REBECCA ODELL** (Deputy Head Boarder Prefect)

What does it mean to be a GHS girl? This question causes 5 years of remarkable memories made with good friends to flood my mind but, most importantly, it fills me with a sense of belonging and purpose like no other. Being a GHS girl means being part of a life-long family. It means forming connections that will last a lifetime. This sense of belonging has fortunately not been taken away by the adversity brought about by the pandemic. It has instead caused the strength and adaptability of GHS girls to come into sharp focus. It has made clear what being a GHS girl truly means. 2020 has shown each individual what she is capable of and what her school is willing to do for her to ensure she reaches her goals. A quote taken from the movie Epic sums up what it means to be a GHS girl - "One tree, many leaves". That's us.

## **PHIWOKHULE MZOBE** (Deputy Head Peer Counsellor)

To be a GHS girl in 2020 means to be a young woman who is not afraid to experience her highest sense of awakening and awareness in all spectrums of life. It means a young woman who might feel uncomfortable when certain things are spoken about, but has those difficult conversations anyway, because she knows that they are teaching her, grooming her and most of all, helping her to grow into the holistic, empathetic woman she knows she can become. I have learnt that being gentle does not equate with weakness and perhaps, in view of the many crises that our world is facing, gentleness (that rare and beautiful gift that you can offer to others) is much needed. Although it is a cruel truth that COVID-19 is accompanied by many hardships and anxieties, being a GHS girl allowed me to experience the blessing of having a genuine, unwavering support system. To know that there are people who believe so intensely in my success and are willing to help me in any way possible to thrive, is overwhelmingly heart-warming and a genuine gift.



## **ALIZWA MAKABANE** (Head Peer Counsellor)

As I approach the end of my high school career, I have had the opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate what an honour it has been to be part of such a phenomenal school.

To be a Girls' High girl has always meant a lot to me but, most importantly, it has meant to be different and to stand out. It has shown me how successful and powerful women can be when given the opportunity. The love and support I have received from GHS has been like no other and it has helped me to pave my own unique road to life.

If I could say one thing to my school, it would be 'Thank you'. I am so thankful for the past few years of my life that have been filled with nothing but love, support and unforgettable memories. Most importantly though, I am thankful to GHS for teaching me to be bold, to be courageous and to stand out from the crowd.



## SHORT TERM INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

*We at Perez would like to congratulate Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School on their 100th Year Anniversary. May you continue to influence and inspire many more generations. May the "Green Machine" continue to be a leader in education...*

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# What it means to be a GHS leader in 2020



**SUMAYYA ESSACK**  
(Head Peer Tutor)

The year 2020 marks Pietermaritzburg Girls' High's centenary and, for me, my final year of high school at this prestigious institution.

As I look back on the past five years, I vividly recall the trepidation and uncertainty that surrounded my first few weeks at GHS and I am amazed by the sheer number of memories, experiences and life skills I have acquired from this school.

Although I believe that Pietermaritzburg Girls' High is already a fantastic institution, I certainly believe that the coming years will take it from strength to strength, as we learn to embrace modern challenges and methods. One day, I hope to be able to return to a school that, like a tree, is anchored by its core values but allows its branches to extend into the vast and ever-changing world.

GHS will continue to be a pioneer in female education, being the launch pad for many successful, enterprising women and I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for us as the #greenmachine.



**NONSIKELELO DLAMINI**  
(Chairperson – Representative Council of Learners)

The past five years as a GHS girl have been pure bliss. From waking up every morning to putting on my green uniform that I had always seen myself in since primary school; to playing the school song with the band and hearing the joyous singing of all the girls at awards ceremonies.

One thing I have always looked at in awe was the diversity at GHS - how everyone, from staff to girls and non-teaching staff, treated each other with the utmost respect. It has taught me how to accept and treat people who are different whether it is by race, culture or even personality. I am so grateful to GHS for laying such a solid foundation for me as a young woman who is now going out into the world. I will forever be thankful. I am glad to have found a school that I did not wake up dreading to go to, but rather smiled as soon as I entered the gate while being greeted by warm and happy faces along the way.

To all the new ladies who will join GHS, I would like all of you to know that GHS is the best high school for you and you must embrace it. Be kind to GHS because it will also always be kind to you. Always give of your best and always try because you do not want to spend your years regretting your high school life, but rather, you want to be proud of yourself for having the courage to have tried.

## Bisley Park Primary School



**Congratulations to PMB Girls' High on their 100th anniversary. From the Principal, SGB and Staff.**

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**JULIE MORENO MANCILLA**  
(Vice Chairperson – Representative Council of Learners)

The words I would use to describe my experience as a Girls' High girl in 2020 would be demanding, challenging, and trying but also extremely rewarding, refining and edifying.

The year 2020 was unlike any other year of my life and in the history of the world - it was definitely a roller coaster of emotions. But, in my heart, I know that I will look back on this year as a year where a strong foundation was laid. I attribute this to the countless hours that my educators sacrificed for us learners, the never-ending support from my friends and family and, most importantly, the grace of God that I live in every single day.

In architecture, the keystone is a wedge-shaped stone placed at the apex of an arch and its purpose is to lock all the other stones into position, allowing the arch to bear weight. My time at GHS, including my matric year, has formed a keystone in the arch of my life and for that, I will be eternally grateful. Being a GHS girl has taught me to be resilient, to have grit and, above all, to abide in Cheerfulness with Industry. GHS, you will forever be part of my big, green heart.



## Thoughts on a covid-19 school year

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the face of teaching; the 2020 academic year will be remembered for the sheer resilience and perseverance of both educators and learners.

"As an educator, the impact of COVID-19 has been overwhelming. The number of planning meetings, discussions, strategising, arrangements, revisions to those arrangements and implementations thereof, have been unbelievable," said Therusha Naicker, Deputy Principal at Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School who oversees Health and Safety.

The actual implementation of the COVID-19 screening duties meant that staff needed to be at school about an hour earlier than they ordinarily would have been. For GHS COVID-19 screeners, the days began at 6:40am. Furthermore, in order to accommodate the sanitization of the school grounds, which takes

place daily, staff were expected to be off the property far earlier than before. This often led to more work being taken home than usual.

GHS's COVID-19 timetable meant that grades were at school bi-weekly - the Grade 8s and 10s would be at school for one week; the next, it would be the Grade 9s and 11s, with the Grade 12s taking priority and coming to school every week in order to prepare them for the NSC Examination. "The impact on learners being on one week and off the next meant that catching up on problems and addressing them became very patchy.

Educators were expected to prepare work for learners to complete during their off-weeks and made themselves available via email and Google Meets when the learners had questions for them or as a supplementary teaching/learning tool to the (mandatory) truncated

timetable. All this meant that the teaching day extended well into the evenings and into weekends," said Naicker.

She added that the biggest change was adapting to social distancing and sanitising all surfaces before and after every lesson. "We are fortunate enough to have a superb Estates Team, headed by the ultra-efficient Mr Johan Marx, who worked together to ensure that our school was fully sanitised daily and they kept the level of safety for our charges, and ourselves, commendably high.

This was time consuming and had to be incorporated into already-tight schedules."

The new norm of social distancing became something that needed to be reinforced constantly. The adjustments to masks, face shields and constant sanitising took some weeks to get used to; however, with daily

reminders, the school body found its new equilibrium.

Over the course of the year, one of the things educators missed the most about the "normal" academic school year was watching learners grow and develop over the course of a usually consistent school term.

"The bi-weekly approach did impact on the learners' development and the catch-up/revision process will be with us for some time to come as we take up the slack for the lost time across the schooling spectrum. This year has been very tiring, however, we are fortunate not to have had severely restricted lesson time as our school went online during the hard lockdown with timetabled lessons and staff meetings. We are however, looking forward to school life returning to what we are used to," said Naicker.

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2020 GHS Dux of the school, Prayasta Haridass. PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Prayasta Haridass ended her high school career by being crowned Dux 2020 of Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School. She has been in the top three in her grade every year and has consistently had an outstanding academic record.

She is a hard-working, self-motivated learner and continued to remain focused despite the changes that the COVID-19 pandemic brought. She adapted, as she is known to do, and adjusted her academic programme even though this was definitely not how she had planned to spend the last year of her high school life.

"Through online classes, and very helpful educators, we somehow found a new normal this year, being away from school, physically. When we got back to school, it felt somewhat normal, however under very much a different set of rules," she said.

Not only is Prayasta a strong

academic, but she was an active member of various extra-mural activities including the Entrepreneurship Society, Maths and Science Club, a dedicated Library Monitor and part of the badminton team.

"Many changes this year have impacted on my final year at GHS. We have not been able to participate in the various societies that we have at our school. We had numerous plans to share our ideas via the various societies that we are a part of but, unfortunately, these plans have not come to pass. I hope that soon we reach a stage where we no longer have to live in fear of contracting this virus so that we can socialize normally again."

She has been awarded a full scholarship to study Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Stellenbosch next year.

Prayasta added that GHS will always hold a special place in her heart.

"Being a GHS learner has been a wonderful experience that has helped me grow and realise my full potential. The memories made here will stay with me forever."

## Congratulations Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School on your Centenary Anniversary

May you enjoy many more years providing an education of an exemplary standard.



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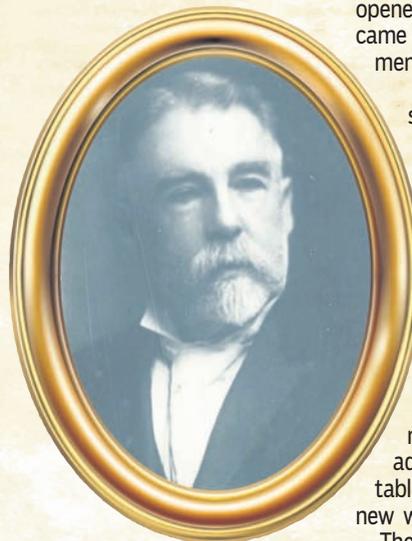
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## THE HISTORY OF GHS

IN the early years of the twentieth century, there was no government high school in Pietermaritzburg for girls who required boarding facilities. Thanks to the endeavours of Mr P.H. Taylor (city councillor and sometime Mayor of Pietermaritzburg), the Natal Education Department was able to purchase the Morningside property in 1920. This lovely, large home in Alexandra Road had been the residence of Peter and Mary Davis, owners of The Natal Witness. The first step had now been taken towards providing a senior boarding school for girls in Pietermaritzburg. On 4 August 1920, with Miss Norma Burns as the first principal, Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School opened its doors.



Right, Mrs Mary Davis and left, Peter Davis, previous owner of the Natal Witness and owner of the Morningside property on which GHS first started.

The school had 71 learners, 17 of whom were boarders, and six subject educators.

While Morningside had been a spacious private residence, as a school and boarding es-

tablishment combined, it soon proved to be rather cramped. In 1925, plans were drawn up for a new school building. Construction commenced and, on 5 August 1925, the new

day-school buildings were opened and Morningside became The Boarding Establishment.

Further additions to the school over the next few years included a science laboratory, two music rooms, a library, a hockey field and a tennis court. Between 1933 and 1944, the Guy Hall, an art studio, a new Geography classroom, a Domestic Science kitchen, a swimming pool and two new tennis courts were added. The Boarding Establishment also gained two new wings.

The original day-school building was declared a National Monument on 3 August 1984. This meant that the façade of the building, in the Palladian architectural style, may not be altered in any structural manner without the prior approval of the National Monuments Commission.

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**CONGRATULATIONS GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL ON YOUR CENTENARY. WELL DONE ON ACHIEVING THIS MAJOR MILESTONE. WITH LOVE FROM ST NICHOLAS DIOCESAN SCHOOL. ♥**

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# Defining moments for GHS



What GHS looked like in 1920.

**PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

From 1950 to 1974, the learner numbers increased from 240 to 1030, necessitating further building projects to provide the classrooms and facilities required. In the late 1950s, six new classrooms were built, as well as another Domestic Science kitchen, a new music room and a sewing room. However, this was still not enough and, by 1960, four



temporary classrooms (prefabs) were in use. In that same year, plans were

had to take on much of the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the grounds, buildings and facilities. This necessitated greater parental involvement in the financial affairs of the school. The job of the Principal took on a whole new dimension, as managing a state school became more and more like running a business.

Nonetheless, these challenges were met and the school continued to make excellent progress. Numerous innovations which improved the quality of the education offered at GHS ensured that it remained a top-ranking government girls' high school.

In 1987, South Africa stood on the

culmination of great changes as the Apartheid system experienced its death throes. On 1 February 1990, when President F.W. de Klerk announced the government's intention to negotiate a new political dispensation, he set South Africa on a path quite different from that which had been travelled for so many years.

For GHS, this meant a number of significant changes as the government started to dismantle Apartheid education. These started with having to take on full responsibility for The Boarding Establishment from July 1990, as the Education Department would no longer be contributing towards its costs. In September 1990 it was announced that current parents would be allowed to decide on the admissions policies of their children's schools, by voting.

This vote was held at GHS on 7 February 1991 and the parents voted overwhelmingly for an open admissions policy, allowing the school to admit whomever it chose, regardless of race or creed. It was, therefore, an historic day when, on 16 April 1991, GHS admitted its first learners of colour.

approved for a new classroom wing and a new hall. Further additions to The Boarding Establishment were also necessary by this stage.

The new Norma Burns Hall was completed in 1961 and, by 1974, a further 17 prefabs had been erected to accommodate all the classes. Two new classroom blocks were built in the early 1970s; one of them included an Art room and a team-teaching room.

The first half-century of Pietermaritzburg Girls' High school's existence was characterised by growth and almost non-stop building projects. The second half-century was to be a period of consolidation and transformation, establishing the reputation of GHS as one of the leading girls' high schools in South Africa.

There were, however, still some building projects undertaken to improve and extend the facilities of the school. In 1973, the McDowall Centre was built to house the music centre and the new library, and, in 1978, work commenced on the squash courts. By the 1980s, as government funding diminished, so the financial burden began to fall on the parent body. The school itself



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## Turn of the century changes

The 1990s were strongly characterised by the necessity of having to deal with almost constant changes on every front - social, political and economic. GHS viewed this period as one presenting both challenges and opportunities and the school continued to grow and thrive, so much so that, during this period, the school was able to raise the money to build an indoor sports centre catering for a number of different sporting codes. By the turn of the century, the earlier challenges faced by the school had largely been addressed.

The 21 st century brought with it further adjustments to the technological revolution and ensuring that, despite the rising costs of education, GHS remains a prestigious but affordable school, providing an excellent and relevant education for girls in a culturally diverse society.



– SUPPLIED

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**It is with great joy that we congratulate PMB Girls' High School on your amazing accomplishment of 100 years serving the people of Pietermaritzburg, and many more who have come from outside of the city. We are honoured to work with you and to be a part of your assignment.**

**We wish you well in your continued endeavours to deliver quality schooling and education, and may your efforts be strengthened into the future.**

**Long live PMB Girls' High School.**

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# ACADEMICS AT GHS

THE young women of the 1920s and 30s would be filled with envy at the opportunities open to girls in the late 20th century and beyond. In the early years of Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School's history, the majority of girls left school after completing their Junior Certificate year (equivalent to Grade 10). By the 1950s, the emphasis had shifted and the aim was for girls to complete all 12 years of schooling. Similarly, when the interests and needs of young women changed, as they became more career-orientated, the curriculum developed and expanded and a much more diverse range of subjects was offered.

Regardless of the era, academic excellence has always been a cornerstone of GHS's vision. It is interesting to note, however, that the expectation of a 100% pass rate in the National Senior Certificate Examination was not the norm until 1981. Since then, the record has been almost perfect.

Added to this is the school's regular 95+% Bachelor's pass rate. This is a wonderful reflection of both the aspirations and hard work of all young women at GHS and the quality of teaching.

The modern classroom is set up for teaching with full digital support. Gone are the days of chalkboards: white boards, data projectors and SMART boards have gradually changed the way in which knowledge is imparted.



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# TOP CLASS DIGITAL EDUCATION



international awards and scholarships. Noteworthy recognition goes to our Rhodes Scholars and those awarded Fulbright Scholarships. GHS top achievers in the de Beers National English Olympiad have won scholarships to study at Rhodes University. Many of the GHS alumnae have excelled at post-graduate level and have been awarded Masters' Degrees and Doctorates from top universities in South Africa and abroad.

For the past 20 years, GHS has been acknowledged as a top institution in South Africa, as a recipient of both Anglo American's Top 10 Award for Excellence in Mathematics, and the National Science and Technology Forum Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science.

A regular ranking as one of the Top 25 State Schools in the country and further accolades as a top school, from both the state and independent structures, have been widely publicised.

**CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE**

Thanks to Google Classroom, educators were able to remain in contact with their class groups throughout the COVID-19 hard lockdown. As such, online learning at GHS was

born and proved to be a lifesaver in those times of adversity. It will never replace the personal touch though, and learners were very happy to get back to school after

the lockdown, to be able to interact with their educators and peers on a personal level.

The Honours Board is a record of those who have won prestigious national and

# CONGRATULATIONS

Pietermaritzburg Girls' High on 100 years of excellence in education and the development of female leaders.

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We salute you, GHS, as you **Reset. Rebuild. Reconnect.**

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**TAKING ACTION TO EARN YOUR TRUST**





## Unyielding standards of excellence

Locally, GHS has swept the board, having achieved the best results in many of the subjects offered in the NSC examination.

Our sound and challenging academic programme continues to be one of the pillars that GHS is built on, offering its learners a stepping stone to a successful life. GHS alumnae have been fine products of this philosophy. Regular news that filters back to the school reinforces the belief in the importance of quality education as a basis for success.

In the early years of the school's history, careers for women were fairly limited, with nursing, teaching and administrative positions being the sought-after options. In our rapidly changing world, women have greater control over their destinies.

Many choose to be homemakers, putting the needs of their families first, often curtain-

ing their own careers outside of the home. Others are career women, putting family life on hold. The third group is career women/mothers who balance numerous responsibilities previously thought to be impossible.

GHS alumnae hold a multitude of supportive or leadership positions in all aspects of society: as academics, accountants, astrophysicists, CEOs, CFOs, entrepreneurs, lawyers, doctors and medical specialists, in media and communication, the performing arts, human resources, sport, science, industry and many more.

Surely this speaks to the quality education that GHS offers. Credit must go to the dedicated educators who have guided and motivated GHS girls over the past 100 years and maintained those immutable standards of excellence.

—Supplied.

**Congratulations on a magnificent milestone!**

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# SOCIETIES

The activities range from dancing to debating, from poetry appreciation to photography, from chess to mlabalaba, from Maths and Science Club to Robotics, from gardening to producing a school newspaper, and from singing to playing a musical instrument. In addition, there are faith-based societies, as well as societies that focus on service to the community and to environmental issues. Learners are strongly encouraged to join at least one society per term and, with such an array to choose from, it is not difficult for every girl to find her niche.

Committees and office bearers for the respective societies are elected by the learners and they are fully responsible for running their societies: educators are merely facilitators. In this way, learners acquire important life skills such as organisational skills, responsibility, leadership and inter-personal skills.

While academics will always remain a priority at Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School, we believe that our societies offer valuable opportunities for our learners to grow and to learn outside of the classroom, to develop an awareness of the needs of others and to have a sense of belonging to a community.



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# GHS SPORT

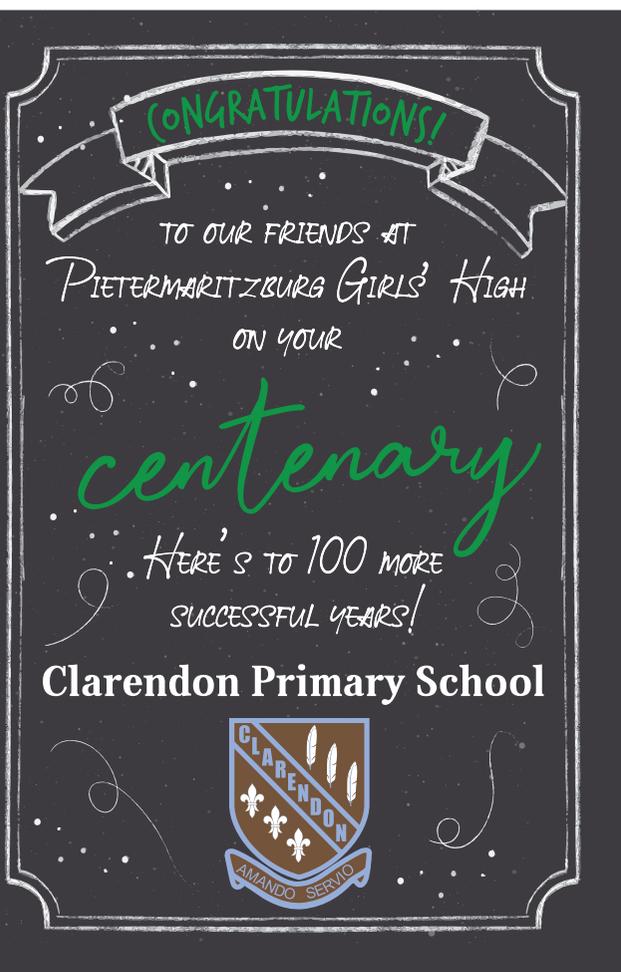
Historically, Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School has been known for its strength on the sports field. Not only are there 20 sport codes, but the impressive facilities and high standard of sport coaches and co-ordinators have given GHS a lead in this area.

After a rigorous selection process by the Department of Sport and Recreation a few years ago, GHS was named a Sport Focus School in the disciplines of hockey and basketball. Recently netball, soccer, athletics, swimming, volleyball, tennis and table tennis, chess and mlabalaba were added to the Sport Focus sporting codes. Only ten schools were awarded this prestigious title, with GHS being the only all-girls school selected in KwaZulu-Natal.

The GHS Indoor Centre, with its DYNApoinT flooring, accommodates various sporting codes. The AstroTurf hockey field often welcomes national and international hockey teams. There is also a vast array of sporting facilities available to learners, from two grass fields, seven tennis courts and two squash courts, to a gymnasium and two soccer fields. GHS has something for everyone, regardless of her fitness level and interests.

Over the years, GHS has been a strong contender on the sports field and, for many years, was unbeaten in the annual Inter-Schools Gala and the annual Valerie Fowler Basketball Tournament.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

TO OUR FRIENDS AT  
PIETERMARITZBURG GIRLS' HIGH  
ON YOUR

centenary

HERE'S TO 100 MORE  
SUCCESSFUL YEARS!

Clarendon Primary School





The school has produced many sport stars across a variety of codes with many women going on to represent the country.

The Sport Department's mission and vision at GHS is to create a sustainable training culture to assist athletes to achieve the highest level in their respective codes. The department aims to build life-long, disciplined, well-educated athletes in their sports/ specialised field and, together with well-equipped mentors, aims to create clear goals and celebrate all successes. "We are excited to see these goals come to fruition as well as ensure the high standards put in place by our esteemed predecessors are upheld. We remain positive and know that GHS is going to accomplish greatness in sport in the next century," said Anna-Marie Snyman, Acting Head of Sport.

– SUPPLIED



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# Congratulations

to our friends at  
**PIETERMARIZBURG GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL**  
 on the celebration of your centenary!

*Here's to the next 100 years!*

# CENTENARY



PHOTO: JONATHAN BURTON



PIETERMARITZBURG Girls' High School turned 100 years old on August 4, 2020. Looking back over the years, GHS, as it is fondly called by many, has always been at the forefront of change and transformation.

The school has excellent educators and exceptional alumnae who have gone out into the world, breaking boundaries and succeeding both nationally and internationally.

Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School is a dynamic environment, offering wonderful and diverse opportunities for the development of each individual. It is a proudly South African school, led by highly qualified and dedicated educators who guide learners to maintain a balance between their academic, sport and cultural endeavours. GHS believes that it is imperative to educate the future generation of female leaders in such a way that they can take their rightful places in society and be well-equipped trailblazers.

There is a strong sense of a

'New Day' at the school, of a community re-inspired, feeling pride and passion and a desire for excellence. As part of the Centenary celebrations, therefore, the school is committed to resetting its prominence on the educational landscape.

GHS remains committed to building and strengthening relationships with various stakeholders both internally and externally.

Both learners and staff are key players in rebuilding passion for and pride in the school. Another important goal is to reconnect with GHS alumnae. Over the years, GHS has relied solely on reunion days to catch up with them; however, through the platform, AlumNet, alumnae are able to register and keep in touch with school news. Together, the GHS community can play their part in keeping the 'Green Machine' running smoothly for the next 100 years.

All this culminates in our Centenary theme - Reset. Rebuild. Reconnect.

—Supplied



We wish our **SISTER SCHOOL** the best on their **CENTENARY CELEBRATION**, here's to another

# 100 YEARS

as partners in education!





PHOTO: DANI JENSEN

**OUR VISION**

To uphold the values of honesty, integrity and compassion.

To remain at the forefront of girls' education in South Africa by providing holistic education which promotes excellence and provides learners with skills to deal with the demands of an inclusive and democratic society.

To empower our girls to be productive global citizens who can positively serve and influence the future with courage.

**OUR MISSION**

Uphold human dignity;

Promote the maximum freedom of the individual within the context of maximum good for all;

Foster excellence according to the talents and interests of each person;

Instil a sound set of values including a respect for, and service to, the community and the environment;

Promote 'cheerfulness with industry' in the 21st century.

**VALUES**

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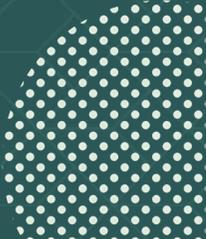
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# The Witness

## Congratulations to PMB Girls' High on this milestone

This supplement was compiled by **Byrone Athman** and **Karishma Naidoo**

For a supplement like this please call **Karishma** on **033 355 1110** or email **Karishma@witness.co.za**

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PIETERMARITZBURG GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

