



Veritas College Springs

(Formerly Convent & CBC, Springs)

Pre-Preparatory & Preparatory

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17th June 2015

Dear Parents

The second term has continued as successfully as the first did and every day I feel privileged to work with your sons and daughters as well as with the staff body. I am continually struck by the success of Veritas College's ability to balance academic, sporting and cultural rigour with a family feel and a buoyant spirit.

The pace of activities has been a blur. We began the term with a commitment to hard work which was somewhat disrupted for the Matrics in the first week by the Matric Dance which was held on 8th May - it was another spectacular success which the Matrics thoroughly enjoyed. They are a close-knit group and the mutual respect between peers, as well as between teachers and Matrics makes this a very special group. They looked elegant and sophisticated; the hall was magnificent; and we as staff members are very proud of the way in which our students conducted themselves. The stunning evening can be attributed to the hard work of Mrs Olivier, Mr Jacobs, Mrs Duncan, Ms Shange and the Grade 11 group whose sense of camaraderie and team work resulted in a very successful evening. However, the Matrics have since moved on to commit to hard work in preparation for the Preliminary examinations that will be written in September.

Some of the other successful events that our Veritas family have enjoyed during Term 2 have included:

1. Ladies' Tea:

The Ladies' Tea, held in the hall, was very well-attended. Mrs van Wyk, Ms Penman and Ms Gillespie did a fantastic job and the hostesses' tables were exquisitely decorated. The ladies felt very spoilt and enjoyed a classy, sociable and thoroughly enjoyable morning.

2. Patrick Flanery:

The Gr 11 and 12 learners were privileged to hear, first-hand, the thoughts and views that shaped the writings of Patrick Flanery, author of the IEB prescribed Matric novel, "Absolution". The value of extending education beyond the classroom is that learners' understanding of a text is contextualised, offering a more wholistic insight into the novel. Thanks to Mrs Pellizzon for organising this wonderful outing.

3. Distinction Passes:

The following learners achieved an average of 80% and higher for the March examinations and are to be congratulated for their focus and hard work.



Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Nkateko Masinga Kian Crafford Claudia Katsapas Rogan Uys Leonah Marewangepo Thato Hlanyane Sadiyah Rajool Saurav Bantha	Zakithi Khumalo Luna Asefaw Amy Brits Nondumiso Mnguni Diane Bada Michael Venter Lanessa Van Der Westhuizen Daniela Venturi Haneef Mahomed Graeme Selkon Fabio Pellizzon Emily Taylor	Nkateko Shilaluke Ipeleng Lentsoe Hannah Mitchell Courtney Human	Maxine Watt Micaela Colaco	Iandro Van Der Linde Damian Borien Steven Selkon Chloe Mitchell Nonduduzo Simelane

4. IEBT results:

The following learners are congratulated for their awards of IBET Certificates:

Kian Crafford – Certificate of Distinction for Maths

Nkateko Masinga – Certificate of Distinction for English

5. YFM:

Much to the delight of all the learners, the radio station YFM broadcast their 3 hour breakfast show from their mobile studio on the VC Senior premises on 5th June. Thanks to Ms Bent, our marketer, who organised the broadcast, the College was afforded some interesting exposure to the 1.3 million strong listener base. Our Gr 12s, Whitney Howell, Iandro van der Linde, Chloe Mitchell, Dylan van Biljon and Ronaldo Ruiters, did a wonderful job of promoting their school in their eloquent and vibrant interviews. Our acapella choir did a rendition of “Lift Me Up”; winner of the Poetry Slam competition, Gcina Zulu joined Malebo Rathokolo to demonstrate their prowess at impromptu poetry; and the entire school sang the school song to conclude a very exciting broadcast. All our learners developed an understanding of how radio broadcasts are conducted by watching the DJs and talk-show hosts in action.

6. Gr 11 Spirit of Adventure Camp

Gr 11 learners, who attended the leadership camp in Magaliesburg, thoroughly enjoyed their 3 days of adventure in the mountains when they tackled rock-climbing, abseiling, rafting, go-carting and jumping from the ‘Flying Fox’ structure. Participation in the various challenges forced each Gr 11 to face his or her own limitations, strengths and weaknesses, especially when having to brave the freezing temperatures at night. Mr Swart always does a sterling job organizing these camps and we thank him for his hard work and expertise. Thanks, too, to Mrs Bester for taking such good care of the group.

7. Australian and New York visitors:

Visitors from Edmund Rice Education of Australia spent a day at the College and commented that they were extremely impressed with the manner in which our students conducted themselves in a social situation - they mentioned that no teens in any of the places they had visited (New York, India, Hawaii, Peru, Australia and so on) were as confident, as self-contained or as adept as our learners are at engaging with visitors. The New York visitors were equally impressed with the friendliness and the welcoming manner in which they were greeted by our students. We are very proud of the way in which our teenagers connect so confidently with people from anywhere in the world. It has been an issue which we have focused on since January of this year and it has yielded pleasing results.

8. Matric Exam Venue

The Matric group traditionally writes in the pavilion but this year we are compelled to renovate the pavilion in order to comply with IEB examination space requirements. Thanks to the Special Projects Fund to which every parent contributes monthly, renovations are able to begin in June and we look forward to a larger interior with a differently configured kitchen.

9. Extra classes

Compulsory Saturday classes, extra classes and some evening classes have been held and all have been well-attended. Extra lessons are on offer each day of the week for different subjects. The Matrics will attend Winter School classes during the August holidays that will be taught by teachers from other IEB schools, affording learners a diversity of teaching approaches.

10. Prep School

Gr 5, 6 and 7 learners have visited the Hotel School at the Senior School, to bake cupcakes under the able guidance of Ms Gillespie. This is a popular activity much enjoyed by the Prep learners.

11. Communicator

The Communicator is used extensively to inform parents about activities at the school. Please download the Communicator: www.school-communicator.com/downloads. While downloading, click "Save" and thereafter, "Run". Teachers' e-mail addresses can be found on the Communicator and the Calendar of upcoming events is also attached.

12. Super Hero Day

Mrs Maris' Superhero Day will be held on 10th July. All learners will dress up as Superheroes and the theme is connected to the Matric IEB-prescribed Common Assessment Task. Some fathers will also speak to the students about what it means to be a superhero in everyday life, in the community, in the family and in business, highlighting how we can all be superheroes in everyday life.

13. Leadership Voting

Voting for the next Leadership Council takes place on 10th July – the entire school will vote for the Gr 11s whom they believe to represent the school effectively.

14. Thank you

I would like to thank those parents who approach me (or staff members) with queries, compliments or criticisms in an open and honest manner. I encourage any comment from parents to be directed to me or Mr Connors so that we can solve issues, address rumours or discuss concerns professionally and with a view to constructive resolution. So-called "Car-park Talk" and rumour is not constructive and I can assure parents that their children will not be targeted or victimized if issues are brought to our attention. The College is far stronger when we act as a team and staff members and parents can work together most effectively for the good of our children.

I would also like to thank those parents who offer their time and/or donations to the school with a view to improving the services we offer. You are invaluable assets to the College – we receive no Government subsidy and are reliant on our parents' support in any form. I would also like to say thank you to the parents who guard the image of the College by ensuring that their children wear the uniform correctly and with pride.

15. Mr Jacobs

Mr Jacobs is in hospital where he is undergoing tests. We wish him a speedy recovery. All his classes are being monitored and taught by other staff members. Special thanks to Mrs Bester and Mrs Oliver who are picking up his classes.

RE Functions – from the desk of Mrs C-L Barbosa, Head: RE

Whole School Masses: The Preparatory and High school celebrated the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice on 7th May 2015 and Ascension Thursday on the 14th May at the Parish Church. The food items collected from the Offertory collection were sent to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), an organisation run by the Parish which serves meals and hands out food parcels to local families in need. Youth Day Mass was celebrated in the High School Hall on Friday 12th June.

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) commenced on 17th May (Catholic Schools Sunday) until Friday the 22nd of May. The theme of this year was dedicated to those in Consecrated Life by answering the call of our Founders to serve our schools in building communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service. A unique CSW Bookmark was designed to emphasise both our Christian Brothers and Dominican heritage. These were

handed out to parents, pupils and staff. The central theme of the bookmark was that on 'charity and prayer' as both Blessed Edmund Rice and St. Dominic spoke about how central these two themes were in their lives and their legacy. During this week, both learners and staff were asked to bring blankets, scarves, gloves and cup of soup as part of our Winter Drive. These items are to be delivered by the Edmund Rice Society to various charities. CSW ended with everyone receiving and enjoying a warm cup of hot chocolate with a biscuit courtesy of the RE Department.

Grade 11 Mass: As part of the Grade 11 Pilgrimage Cross experience, the Grade 11s attended the Grade 11 Mass Outing to the Cathedral 'Christ the King' on 21st May. This Mass offered our Grade 11s the opportunity to come into contact with other fellow students and help them realise that they are part of a community that goes beyond their school's borders.

Inter-Catholic Bible Quiz: Took place on 30th May at Assumption Convent in Malvern. This quiz centred on a study of the Gospel of John 1-21. The competition was tough and the points were tight; our team was placed in 5th position.

Sports Report – from the desk of Mr D Murphy

The last few weeks have seen all our teams in action with VC achieving some favourable results.

Our boys' and girls' hockey squads have been extremely busy with on-going league fixtures as well as participation in numerous weekend festivals. The 1st team boys have had a rather indifferent season as they beat a few of the stronger teams while losing out to some of the weaker teams. In the end they finished the season 5th out of 10 teams, just missing out on a semi-final spot. The prestigious Aitken Festival grew to another level this year as they expanded from 3 sections of 16 teams each to 4 sections. Veritas came up against some stern competition in the B section and ended the tournament in 14th place. The result was still good enough to keep our school in the 2nd highest tier of Gauteng hockey schools. At the Catholic Schools Festival, the 1st team boys were exceptional and if it were not for St Benedict's scoring a goal in the final 5 seconds of their game against us to level the score at 1-1, we would have won the tournament overall. Instead we had to settle for 2nd place.

The 1st team girls' hockey team has shown vast improvement this year and even our juniors have shown great promise. At the Catholic Schools Festival our girls took 8th place - a fair result considering we were up against Brescia House and Holy Rosary, 2 of the best girls' hockey schools in the country. The 1st team also took part in the inaugural EHS hockey festival which consisted of 8 teams from Eastern Gauteng and our girls made it to the semi-final where they eventually went down 1-0 to the home team, Edenvale. In the league we have only played 3 of our 6 games and our first team girls beat Woodlands 2-0 while the juniors drew 1-1. Our 1st's lost 4-0 against Reddam House but our juniors won 4-1 and when we went up against Leeuwenhof our juniors won 3-0 while our 1st team lost 2-0.

The final provincial selections have also already taken place and we are extremely happy to have 4 of our players selected for their respective provincial age group teams. Claudio Jardim, Thomas Perikli, Courtney Human and Owami Vundla have all earned their provincial colours.

On the soccer front our girls' league has got underway with the first team winning two and losing two games so far while our juniors have won 2 and lost 1 game. We still have a long season ahead of us though and we certainly have our sights set on making it to the finals again, where we hope to meet Saints again to get our revenge. The girls will take a lot of confidence with them into the season, particularly after they finished 3rd at the Catholic Schools Festival.

Our boys' soccer programme is growing nicely as we registered 4 teams in the league this year; this is more teams than we have had in the last 7 years. The depth we now have has also yielded some positive results with

all our teams hitting the back of the net on numerous occasions. For the first time in recent history our 1st team made it through to the league finals; unfortunately, they came unstuck against Woodlands in the big game. Our u17s had a tough time of it this year but it was great to have this extra team in the league. We believe the experience will hold a number of players in good stead for next year. Our u14s have not lost a game yet this year with their most notable result coming when they trumped Willowmore 7-1, until they came up against Boksburg in the final where they stumbled to a 4-1 loss. Our u15s also battled somewhat through their season but the team showed some good growth this year and we would like to thank Mrs Santos for the kit sponsorship she provided to the u15s this season.

The 1st team boys had a torrid time at the Catholic Schools festival with our boys finishing 9th. We still have another 3 weeks of football fixtures to go and all of our teams, apart from the u15s, are looking good for a semi-final place. Our season will conclude with the CBC Festival in August.

The netball season has all but run its course; with only 5 teams in our section of the league it has been a very brief season. The schools we have come up against (we are playing in the Johannesburg Schools league) have been of an extremely high calibre yet our girls have played bravely. The 1st team lost to both St Martins and Kings Linbro but beat Alma Mater while St Catherine's forfeited their game against us. The juniors beat Alma Mater and Kings Linbro but lost to St Martins. St Catherine's also forfeited their junior fixture to us. We then took part in Christchurch College's u15 Netball festival where our girls performed excellently to finish the tournament undefeated. It was a great day for our school to be such a dominant force against the Johannesburg schools that were present at the tournament. The Catholic Schools Festival, on the other hand, saw our girls battle on the day and it would be 12th place for us, a result we will improve on next year. We have our CBC tour to Bloemfontein in August still to come: we know it will be the highlight of our netball season.

Our tennis players have enjoyed some success in their league - our girls' A team have won 3 out of the 4 of their matches so far. The girls' B have won one fixture and lost the others. Both our boys' A and boys' B teams have won 2 games and lost 3 each. The boys' league is done for the year while the girls still have two remaining fixtures. We will still participate in the Catholic Schools tennis festival only in October this year.

The rugby 7s boys have been involved in two other tournament fixtures so far this term after their 4 fixtures last term. They played at the Summit College 7s festival with the u15s placing 3rd out of 8 teams. Our U16s were 2nd out of 4 teams and the 1st team were 7th out of 8 teams. At the Christchurch 7s festival our 1st team unfortunately suffered to a last place finish but our u16s held our flag high by winning the tournament. The u15 team just missed out making the finals: not a bad performance from a team of mostly u14 players.

In the upcoming weeks we will concentrate on our remaining league fixtures in the various sporting codes while we also start to prepare ourselves for the Athletics season which gets off the ground on 26th of June with our Inter House Athletics.

Mrs T A Holland
Head: Senior School

Mr D Connors
Principal

FOOD AND FUN FAIR

Dear Veritas Family

Good news! It's almost time for the Food Fair again.

To avoid delays on the day can parents and students please pre-book Veri- money and Fun Park bands.

Please complete the tear off slip at the bottom and return it to the school with your money.

Veri –money and bands will be issued during the week of 13th to 17th July. Gates open at 10:00am, R5 entry fee gets you in to experience some great entertainment, including fire jugglers, fashion show, marimba band, balloon sculpting, clowns on stilts, game van, photobooth; and the beer tent will be screening the rugby, Springboks vs Australia live! Plenty of different international food and drinks will be on sale to tease your taste buds, so bring your family and friends and enjoy this wonderful day.

Senior Fun Park-Bands are R120 - all day access to the following: Giant slide, Supa slide, Jumping Castles and slides, Gladiator Slide, Gladiator Obstacle, Basher, Boxing Ring and Inflatable Soccer Field.

Junior Fun Park-Bands are R60 - all day access to the following: Mini Giant Slide, Assorted jumping Castles, Gladiator slide, Large Castle and Roof, Mini Gladiator track and Inflatable Soccer Field.

Hope to see all our Veritas family and friends on this great day.

Mr M A Jardim
PTSA Chairperson

REPLY SLIP

I would like to purchase Veri-money to the value of _____ Packs of R50

I would like _____ Senior Fun-Park bands @ R120 = _____

I would like _____ Junior Fun-Park bands @ R60 = _____

Please find enclosed R _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____