



# FEEL THE PRIDE

Volume 1 No 29  
2016

## Notice from the Advancement Office to the entire Parktown Community

We would like to say thank you for the incredible support we have received this year. From the start of the new boarding house to the launch of the Parent's Association, it has truly been an exciting year! To all the Parents, Staff and Old Boys who have gone the extra mile to ensure that our boys receive the best education while being surrounded by the best facilities, you are the unsung heroes of 2016!

This is the final publication for the year (besides the Headmaster's Newsletter at the end of the year).

A special word of congratulations to Mrs Caroline Williams (Editor) and her husband on the arrival of their baby boy, Caleb Luke Williams (born on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016).

Thank you also to Mr André de Wilzem for his studious work in proof-reading all the newsletters during the year and to Mr Darren Saunders and Mr Alex Meintjes for the distribution of the final copies.

The Parktown community is a single team working together towards a common goal and we need to promote cohesion across all the bodies that operate at the school to ensure that we move from strength to strength.

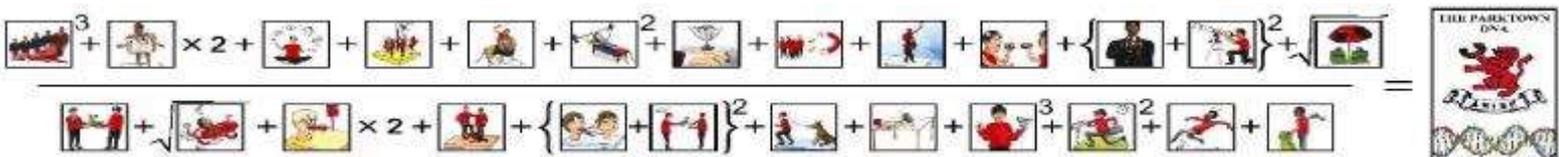
Good luck to the Grade 12's as they conclude their exams and head off towards bigger and greater things. Remember this will always be your home and we look forward to inviting you back in the future.

To everyone else, please have a safe holiday and get rested for what promises to be a very busy but successful 2017!

## MR KEVIN STIPPEL

### ROWING

Good luck to the 1<sup>st</sup> VIII crew that will be competing at the Boat Race in Port Alfred from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of December. The race is structured on the Cambridge/Oxford Boat Race which will see the boys race 6.4km down the Kowie River against the top rowing schools in the country.





Henri van der Grijp will proudly be representing Parktown Boys' High school at the British Rowing Indoor Championship to be held in London on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The venue is the Velo Park at the Olympic Stadium, Lee Valley.

Henri is one of our senior rowers at the school, having competed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quad this season, and we wish him all the best and look forward to hearing about his experience in the New Year.



*Henri pictured on the left with Callan Barrell*



BRITISH ROWING

**EISTEDDFORD AWARD**

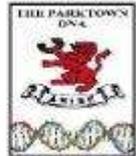
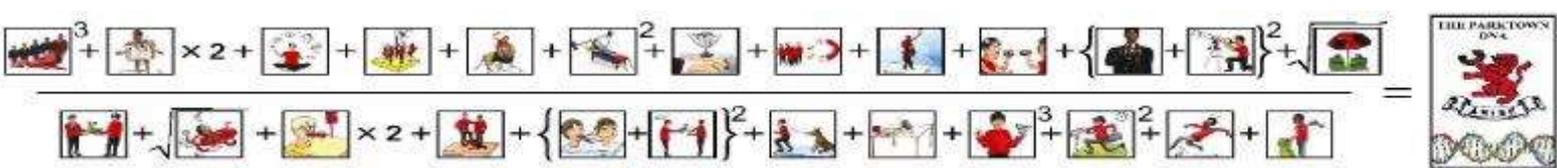
Jason Britz in Grade 9P was the item winner for English Public Speaking in the Johannesburg North district. He received his award at the annual showcase in October. Congratulations Jason!



**SCHOOL HERITAGE**

A very interesting item of correspondence was recently received from the artist, Wendy Gey van Pittius, relating to the six of the original eight Batik panels (based on Shakespearean characters) which she created on a private commission in 1964.

As a result of the artist's historical input, Mr A de Wilzem (our resident archivist and Director of Heritage) was able to do some research and came up with the following important information. Of the eight original panels made by the artist, six made their way to Parktown Boys' High School via the efforts of two very interesting benefactors.





The first acquisition was as a result of a very generous financial donation to Parktown made by an Old Boy, Sir Henry Benson (son of Mr AS Benson, the first Chairman of the School Governing Body), which allowed five of these exquisite Batik panels to be presented to the school in 1966.

The sixth panel was purchased by the Prefects of 1966 (although some verification of the exact dates needs to be ratified by Mr de Wilzem as a matter of historical accuracy) as a parting gift to the school on behalf of the Matric class of that year. The six original panels were displayed in the HH Paine Media Centre (or the library, as most of our boys know it!) for many years until they were removed when the Media Centre underwent refurbishment a few years ago.

The panels were discovered by Mr de Wilzem and Mrs Laura Geretto not even 10 minutes after Ms Gey van Pittius had contacted the school to enquire about the history of her 1964 masterpieces. It is planned to display the Batik panels in a very prominent area of the school during the course of next year, and any suggestions by our Boys, Parents, Staff and Old Boys concerning a suitable area where these art works might be put on display would be greatly appreciated.

According to an article which appeared in one of Johannesburg's newspapers on 3 February 1966, Parktown Boys' High School already had an impressive art collection in existence ("*a school with probably the greatest art interest in art on the Rand*") and it would be very rewarding to do research into the art works, the existence of which Mr de Wilzem is aware. Many art pieces are safely stored in the archives section of the Media Centre and in one or two other areas within the school. If any art-related individuals in the Parktown community can shed further light on Parktown Boys' art collection, please contact the Director of Heritage on [dewilzema@parktownboys.com](mailto:dewilzema@parktownboys.com) or at 011 642 4531 (school telephone number).

**MR A DE WILZEM**  
**DIRECTOR OF CULTURE & HERITAGE**

**PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY 2017!**

**Academic reports will be issued from 8h30 to 10h30 on Wednesday 7 December. Learners are to be in full school uniform.**



**Interested in advertising in our weekly newsletter which reaches over 700 families?  
Email: [williamsc@parktownboys.com](mailto:williamsc@parktownboys.com)**

