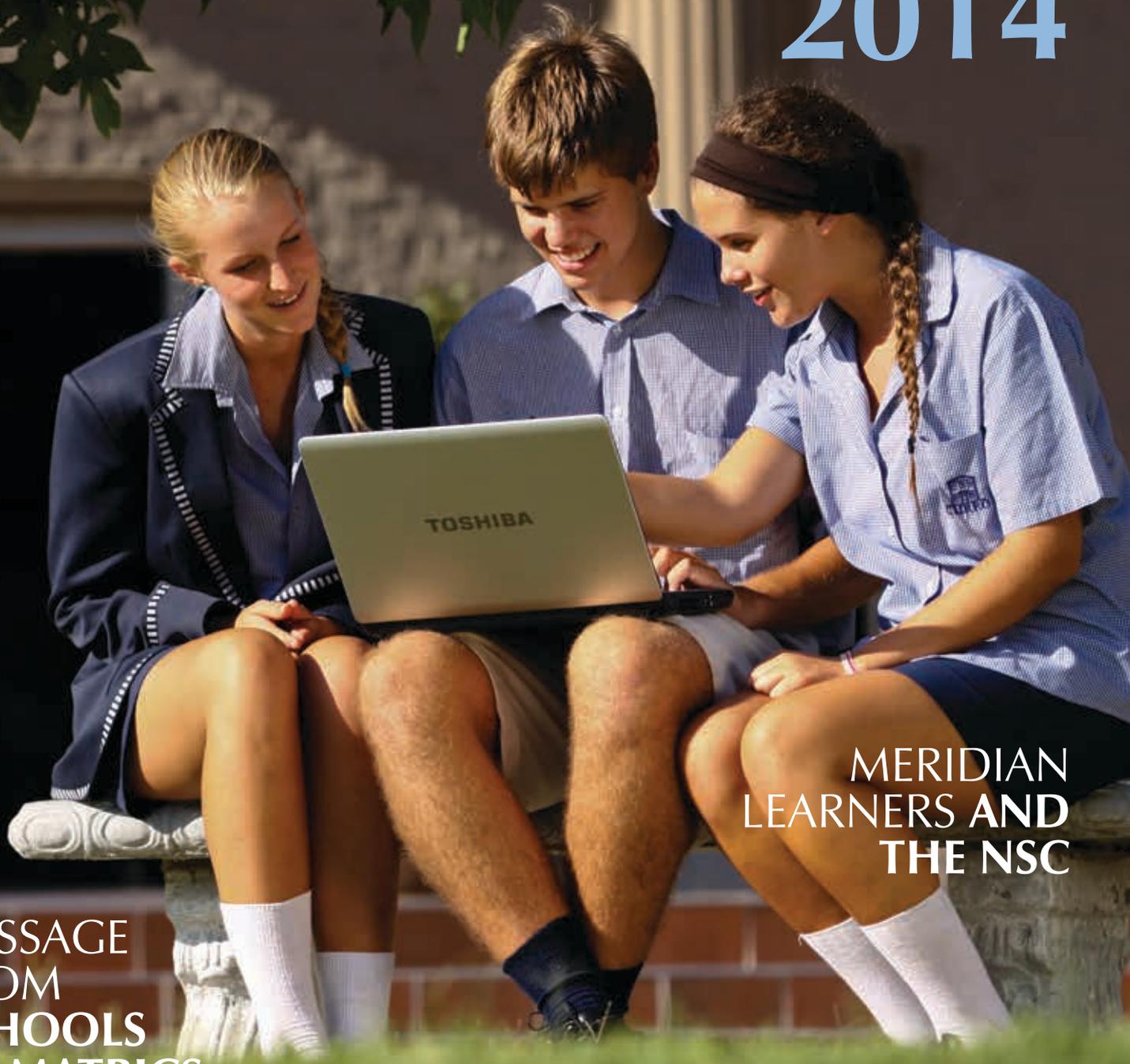


MATRIC RESULTS 2014



MERIDIAN
LEARNERS AND
THE NSC

MESSAGE
FROM
SCHOOLS
TO MATRICS

CURRO IEB
RESULTS 2014



CURRO





MESSAGE FROM DR CHRIS

Dr Chris van
der Merwe:
CEO of Curro
Holdings Ltd

Dear Matrics,

A lot of people have probably told you about “life after school”. Their words may have been a chatter of clichés, but heart felt nevertheless; they may have been profound, confusing you by the seeming intractable complexity that awaits out there; or they may have been simply wishing you well, leaving you to figure it out for yourself.

You have spent your years here at school learning how to use maths; how to understand the shaping forces of history; unravelling the intricate molecules of chemistry and the mystery of biology. You have learnt how to use language, how to ask questions, and most importantly how to think.

Now what?

Well, school is a community, and you have learnt how to work and play together. How to know when boldly to take the lead and when to willingly be led. You have learnt the importance of always giving of your best and the value of never being afraid to fail.

This is the minimum that we, as educators, can wish for from our learners.

But the most that we can - and do - wish for when you journey into this metaphorical place we’ve taken to calling “life after school”, the most we wish for is that you become good citizens. That the formal knowledge you have acquired through hard study and the informal social graces of empathy and kindness you have gleaned from your school community will have prepared you for this: to become a good citizen.

Every great nation is measured by its willingness to fashion a civil society, the benchmarks of which are such matters as its respect for the rule of law, its willingness to care for those who are, for reasons beyond their control, left destitute, who are unwittingly damaged, and those who are by their very nature occupy a fragile place—our children and the elderly.

And this is why, as you walk out into ‘life after school’, it may help to keep in mind the wise words of a young news photographer Dan Eldon - tragically killed while on an assignment when he was not much older than you. His motto - and which became the title of his posthumously published journal - was that “the journey is the destination”.

You are not automatically destined to become good citizens. But you have a commitment to your colleagues and more importantly to your self to continue that journey towards becoming a good - if not great - citizen.

Your journey started here. We wish that you travel in peace, with hope in your heart, passion in your soul, and wisdom in your being.

Dr Chris van der Merwe
CEO
CURRO HOLDINGS LTD



FOCUS ON THE IEB

we
demystify
the
examinations

At Curro, learners attending Curro schools and Curro Select schools write the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) examination at the end of Grade 12, while learners attending the Curro Academy schools and Meridian schools write the National Senior Certificate (NSC), also known as the government examination or 'matric'. The certificate awarded on the basis of both these examinations is the same: the formal National Senior Certificate.

It is important to note that, even though our learners in the various Curro schools write different examinations, it does not affect our approach to learning and teaching – the difference lies in the assessment. Curro continues to strive towards excellence in our classrooms by including the teaching of 21st century skills as they are advocated internationally.

Anne Oberholzer from the IEB, via Alta Greeff, Head of CCEE at Curro, provided some insights for us.

The IEB is the Independent Examinations Board, an assessment body accredited by Umalusi, the South African statutory body responsible for quality assurance for school and adult assessments. The IEB offers external assessments for Grade 9 and Grade 12 in accordance with legislation and Umalusi directives. Learners who pass Grade 12 are awarded the National Senior Certificate.

The IEB believes that assessment has a direct impact on teaching and learning. The way a question is asked matters, because it will either open up the mind of a learner or close a learner's mind to focus on the 'right' answer.

External examinations are often criticised because it is felt that they encourage rote learning by the learner and the provision of 'drill and practise' exercises by the educator, but universities complain that learners reach them with very good school results, but without a real understanding of the meaning or significance of particular concepts.

If a learner intends to succeed in their chosen career following school they need to understand the origins of the information, its implications and applications in real-life contexts. They need to think about issues, apply learnt knowledge in new situations and discuss options in solving problems.

Problem-solving is a crucial life skill, and practice in problem-solving is a critical teaching strategy. The skill is developed when educators pose problems that encourage learners to discuss options of what to do, or how to approach the problem, when there is no obvious indication of what one ought to do. Through discussion, learners are faced with multiple options from which they need to choose a strategy and they need to be encouraged to form opinions about issues relevant to different types of subject material and the discipline itself.

A quality education demands that learners learn important knowledge and content, but also understand the concepts and apply them in unfamiliar contexts. A good assessment instrument provides a balance across both aspects of learning.



Meridian learners and the NSC ▼

Meridian learners write the National Senior Certificate examination, or NSC. While our academic specialists constantly review quality, the national examinations of all Meridian schools have to date stood firmly in the NSC corner in a conscious choice to align our schools with the growth of education in South Africa as a whole.

Assessment is a process of using clearly defined criteria on an ongoing basis to gather valid and reliable information about the performance of the learner. We use a variety of methods, tools, techniques and contexts to record the findings and reflect and report by giving positive, supportive and motivational feedback to learners and parents.

The general aim of assessing learners is for growth, development and support. The purpose of assessment is to monitor a learner's progress so that decisions can be made about the best way to facilitate further learning in terms of expected knowledge, skills, attitudes and values. The purpose of assessment is progression as well as promotion.

Various tools are used for assessment. They include self-assessment, interviews, group assessment, observation and portfolio work. Examinations are one of the methods used to assess a learner's progress, allowing also for national and international benchmarking of Meridian learners. While learners are taught study methods for such formal assessments, they are also taught to work cooperatively in a range of less formal areas, such as shared research, observation and reporting.



MESSAGE FROM SCHOOLS TO MATRICS

As we say farewell to our 2014 Grade 12s, we asked our schools for messages and photographs of these remarkable learners ... we got these profound messages and sparkling impressions

CURRO AURORA ▶

'Never has so much been expected from so few' it has been said! In twenty years of teaching, I have never seen a grade endure as many challenges, trials and tribulations as this group has done.

In his message during this year's valedictory speech, Dave Wigget, operational head of Curro Aurora high school, offered this moving tribute to this year's Curro Aurora Grade 12s: Perhaps it is this very essence collectively that will remain indelibly watermarked on the Curro tapestry and, indeed, on their educators' hearts. These learners irrevocably redefined solidarity in the Curro family. Many of them shared and manifested tremendous courage, strength, brutal honesty and a sincere care for the entire school family during visits to my office. The manner in which the Grade 12s have supported one another is nothing short of inspirational. Their leadership was never about grandstanding, but about sincere care for the school. Our Grade 12s, in the most quirky, unique and relentlessly individual way, embodied leadership, reflecting just how unassumingly and quietly they took our school to a place where integrity, courage, accountability, respect and empathy have become a habit.

Amber Dry, the head girl for 2014, was the first recipient of a full honours blazer at Curro Aurora for academics, athletics, hockey and swimming. We are so very proud of her!



Curro Aurora Grade 12s signing a banner at their valedictory ceremony



Curro Aurora staff looking very academic for the valedictory ceremony

CURRO BANKENVELD

Willem Brümmer, executive head, says of his Grade 12s: After twelve years at school, every learner should be equipped with the skills to take the next step in life. We at Curro Bankenveld believe that we have given these learners an advantage through excellent education, teaching and learning opportunities. They are sailing on the ocean of life and can, with confidence, believe in themselves and their abilities.

Success will be achieved by those who set goals for themselves and work diligently to achieve them. I wish for them to live their lives to the best of their abilities and fulfil their potential with joy.

Always to put God in the centre of their lives and they will never stand alone.

God bless.

On numerous occasions during this year the Grade12s asked me if I would miss them and the answer to this question

was a definite yes! The Grade12s of 2014 were truly the heart of the school. They participated in everything with zest and eagerness. Assemblies have been especially memorable, with the Matrics dancing and singing and having such a good time. They constituted just about the whole school band and their spirited nature will remain with us. Our Grade 12s were the stars of the drama, Footloose, and every single one of these learners' participation in the musical

was appreciated. In the classroom these learners always saw the funny, light side of life. My wish for them is that they will become strong, successful individuals who excel at everything they do in life. Keep smiling, Grade 12s.

Live a life without regret, grab every opportunity. May God bless you and keep you safe. And remember hard work will get you everything you want.

Barinda Henning



CURRO DURBANVILLE

Grade head Carl Zimmermann tells our Grade 12s: You may not realise this now, but one day, when you think back about your life, you will remember this time as a turning point.

Goodbye childhood, hallo adulthood! That may be overstating things a little, as you are still going to learn and grow a lot over the next few years. However, things will never be the same again. You are never going to go back to being a child. Those days are over.

My lasting impression of these learners is the way they showed initiative and then worked independently. This is a great characteristic of this group and something I have massive respect for. You guys and girls will be fine. You are going to love your life after school. Work hard, be responsible, and always remember to ask the Lord for guidance, especially when it comes to making the big decisions in your life. He will not disappoint you.

Theodore Roosevelt said this in 1910 in a famous speech he delivered in France:

‘It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.’

Good luck for the future and may God bless you all.

Another year ended with a magical Matric Dance, where the theme was Cirque du Curro and the evening kicked off with fire dancers and cocktails with the parents.



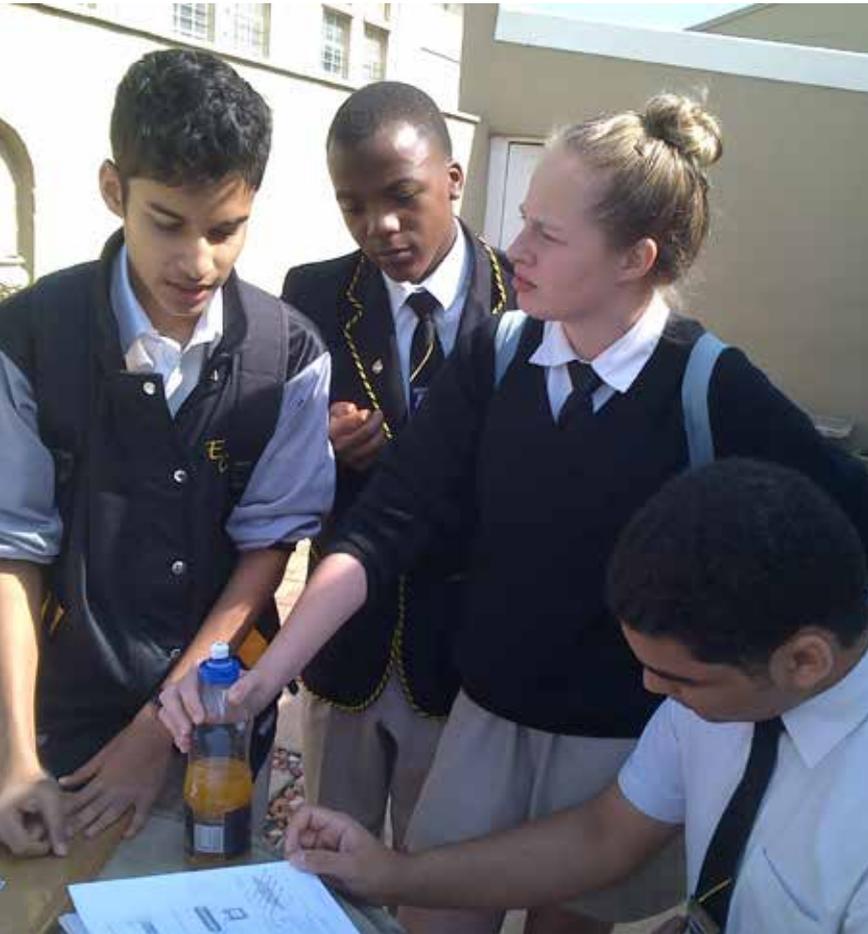
CURRO EMBURY

This year Curro Embury celebrated their biggest matric class so far – 44 lively learners who certainly kept us on our toes. They worked and played hard and there was never a dull moment.

The Curro Embury educators write: We wish our matrics success and happiness as they leave the 'nest' to venture into new territories. We know they will do us proud!



The long-awaited matric jackets.



A quick bit of help before Physics.



The last day of school.

GRANTLEIGH



The Grade 12 Academic Awards Ceremony marked the end of the Grade 12s' school career and a celebration of their academic achievements. The Grade12s of 2014 were an exceptionally talented group and of the 60 learners, 30 received half colours, full colours and honours. Grantleigh is very proud of this outstanding achievement.

Special mention must be made of the Dux learner for 2014, Kristien van der Walt, who achieved an aggregate of 92% with As in all her subjects.



CURRO HELDERWYK

I hope that none of our learners ever forget the lessons they learnt as children, entrenched within the pages of some favourite fairy tales, because often it is these cherished insights that serve as the best guiding lights along the dark tunnel of life. Never stop wishing, never stop reaching and never stop dreaming, says executive head Stephanie Olivier, and she goes on to say ...

Girls, in the words of Francesca Lia Block, 'Wish on everything. Pink cars are good, especially old ones. And stars of course... first stars and shooting stars... go ahead and wish in tunnels, holding your breath and lifting your feet off the ground as your wish leaves your heart. Wish always... because if you wish it, and if you believe it, it will be so.'

In keeping with that sentiment I would like to convey my final wish for each of you... In the words of D Simone:

- 'May Light always surround you;
- Hope kindle and rebound you.
- May your hurts turn to healing;
- Your heart embrace feeling
- May words become wisdom;
- Every kindness a prism;
- May laughter infect you;
- Your passion, resurrect you.
- May goodness inspire,

Your deepest desires.

And for all that you reach for,

May your arms never tire.'

Remember girls, that even if you do shoot for the moon and miss, take comfort in landing brilliantly, amongst a sky full of stars...

I have no doubt that each and every one of you will find your 'Happy ever after', but more than that, I know that the journey you take in getting there, will be a truly magical one as long as you keep feeding the light that burns within you. Shine bright, class of 2014! Curro Helderwyk educators wished their Grade 12s the following: It was the pop icon Beyoncé Knowles who asked the following, truly perplexing question, 'Who runs the world?'

And In true 'girl power' style, it was also Beyoncé who answered this same question; very simply, 'Girls.'

The 2014 matriculants at Curro Helderwyk worked tirelessly throughout this year to prove that the above sentiment could not be more apt. This year's group will always be fondly remembered as our 'girls only' group. We watch with great anticipation as they spread their wings in the big wide world that awaits them! We are confident that these girls will proudly echo our school's vision, 'A school with heart', in all their future endeavours.

Good luck , Helderwyk class of 2014!



CURRO SERENGETI

Curro Serengeti educators had this to say: What an unbelievable year we had with our 2014 Grade 12s, and now we are in the final stretch. Finals. Thank you for the excellent ambassadorial role you played during your short stay at Curro Serengeti. You set a fine example, which has been observed by and has moulded many a junior for the future. We thank you.

I wish you the best of luck in your preparations for the examinations, and may you reap the successes of the sacrifices made and hard work you have put into your preparations.

Always remember, 'Your attitudes determine your altitude'.

Good luck and God Bless.



Grade head Wanda Jardim's goodbye to her charges for this year: The class of 2014 launched some amazing new traditions this year, firstly by having a pyjama dress-up for their 40 days, and then they did an excellent job with final assembly by thanking staff and giving rewards.

What makes them different is their unique approach to school, and the class of 2014 will always be remembered as the group that made sure they were noticed and left a legacy!

WOODHILL COLLEGE ▼



Woodhill College tells us they had the largest group of Grade 12 learners ever in 2014, when 90 enthusiastic learners started the year, little knowing how quickly their matric year would pass. Before they knew it, the preliminary examinations, Grade 12 dance and valedictory service were upon them with all the accompanying challenges and emotions.

The Woodhill College educators' wish for the Grade 12 class of 2014 is that they continue to write and live the story of their life in the best way they know. They have received a good, solid education and now it is their time to go out into the world and make good choices as they map their way through life.

May the University of Life treat them well!

THE SPIRIT OF AN EAGLE LIVES FOR EVER

You came to Woodhill as an eaglet
you flourished with our care
to become an eagle.
Soaring with pride
you are leaving the nest
with your Woodhill Family wishing you the best.
We will follow you with pride
and we ask that you not hide.
Keep in touch, your friends would like it very much.

Once a Woodhillian always a Woodhillian

CURRO ROODEPLAAT ▼

To Open up Some happiness  for the rest of 2014 and beyond, make sure that everything you do is The Best or Nothing

 . Just Do It  because Impossible is Nothing  . Luke 1:37 says that with God all things are possible. Challenge

Everything  to Expand Your Possibilities  and, most importantly, never forget to Keep Walking  in faith.

And as for your studying, make sure you always do that To the Power of 5  . Don't be scared to ask God for help, wisdom

and guidance, because I am sure where He is, He is always asking How Can We Help You?  .

One last thing, make sure your results are always the best because these results will follow you and be with you Today, Tomorrow,

Together .

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