

NEWSLETTER

Date: 27 August 2018
From the Office of the Executive Head

MERIDIAN
Pinehurst

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Book Week



If you have been at Meridian Pinehurst, you will have noticed that we dedicate an entire week to **books** in August, calling it (unsurprisingly and probably somewhat obviously) *Book Week*. As educators, we are passionate about helping you raise youngsters who are able to immerse themselves in the fantasy and fun of escaping to another place through the words and ideas of other people.

In an age where film and video are the dominant sources of knowledge, it is important to remember that they are *directed* media where the viewer is a *passive absorber* of a powerfully *controlled* message. Books, on the other hand, allow the reader to enter the world as participant, imagining characters for themselves and able far more to exercise their own judgement on what they are encountering.

Reading helps us develop imagination, empathy, compassion, cultural understanding, vocabulary (and spelling!) analytical and problem-solving skills, how to overcome failure....essentially books make you smarter!

Please read this brilliant piece on how reading teaches **empathy** in a world in which this quality is so desperately needed. Books make us kinder.

<https://lithub.com/what-does-immersing-yourself-in-a-book-do-to-your-brain/>

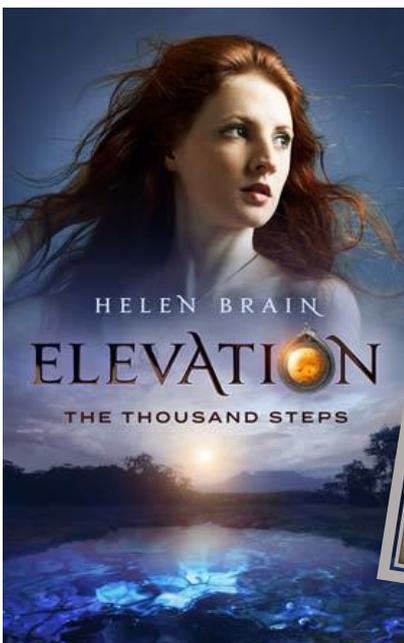
Bargain Books Expo

There will be a Bargain books exhibition in the Library (upstairs in B block) from Tuesday, 28 August to Thursday, 30 August 2018.

All parents are welcome to visit from 14:30 till 15:15. Learners will visit over the three days with their class during school hours. (Feel free to donate something to the library as well as purchasing something to read with/ buy for your youngster.)



Official Library Opening



There will be a formal opening of the library and Cape Town author **Helen Brain's** first two novels from the teen trilogy, *Elevation*, set in a post-apocalyptic Cape Town will be on display. Ms Brain has just had the international rights bought by US publishers, Catalyst Press and has kindly donated the books to our library. In case you want to understand why teenagers enjoy dystopian literature, read this interesting article:



https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2018/07/05/623292216/for-teens-dystopian-fiction-seems-pretty-real-and-thats-why-they-like-it?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_content=20180705

Buck Up Books

Buck Up Books (especially for reluctant readers) will also give a presentation at the InterSen Phase assembly this week. <http://www.buckupbooks.co.za/>

Character Parade

[The annual character parade will of course take place on Friday in the school hall. Help your children find/make costumes – be creative. Watch out for staff costumes...](#)

Women's Day

Meridian Pinehurst celebrated **National Women's Day** on the 14 August in our school hall.

What is Woman's Day?

National Women's Day is a [South African public holiday](#) celebrated annually on 9 August. The day commemorates the 1956 march of approximately 20,000 women to the [Union Buildings](#) in [Pretoria](#) to

petition against the required South "black" under [The Act](#) to carry an as a pass, that served segregation, manage migrant labour. The first National celebrated on 9 August the march was staged for its 50th march veterans...



country's [pass laws](#) that Africans defined as [Population Registration](#) internal passport, known to maintain population control [urbanisation](#), and during the [apartheid era](#).

Women's Day was 1994. In 2006, a re-enactment of anniversary, with many of the 1956

Mrs. Patricia Almano organized the assembly and the guest speaker was one of our parents' **Mr E. Ragasamy**. One of our very own Grade 12 learners, **Allison Adams**, also gave a stirring Women's Day's speech.



Here **Jenna Kiviets, Jaydon Thomas and Sasha-Leigh Draai** was singing their hearts out on Woman's Day...What angelical voices!



Congratulations

We are very proud of these learners who have stepped up to the challenge of being learner voices in Transformation: We announced their names earlier in the month, but now are prouder still to say that they have elected the learners below as their office bearers and the chairperson and vice-chairperson will represent the learners on the full Transformation Committee on the campus which makes representation to the management via the MERC committee on transformational matters.

No:	GRADE	NAME + SURNAME
1	8E1	REECE ROELOFSE
2	8E2	CHUMANI MTSAGI
3	8E3	TYLER DOYLE
4	9E1	JOSHUA SNYMAN
5	9E2	YAEESH FORTUNE
6	9E3	TSAKANE MASHELE
7	10E1	TRAVON OLYN [CHAIRPERSON]
8	10E2	MATTHEW GEORGE [VICE CHAIRPERSON]
9	11E1	SOMILA DYANI
10	11E2	TAMSYN HAYWOOD [SECRETARY]
11	11E3	JESSICA MARTCH



Learner Poetry

Our learners are finding their voices in many spheres. Below is a poem composed by **Christian Dunsby** in Grade 8, entitled Dreams of Divinity, a powerful reflection on adolescence:

*To fight or flee, my decision shall there never be, fore I am observing, my energy conserving,
the fiercest flames that I am burning.*

Moving, flowing, flying, the destination does not matter, For the journey through, I am dying.

Pieces of an angel's soul, can be broken many a time, yet still appear divine, unlike mine.

*I am transparent, my emotions thou shall see, never apparent. My conscience is clear, I am
my greatest fear.*

Our lives are high in the sky, Its do or die, flight or fight, friend or foe, black and white.

I am sometimes silence, sometimes fire.

Sometimes both, sometimes neither.

Fan the flames, vanish in vain, fight in fear. Neither here nor there, split in two, one is me and one is you.

*Nothing comes between Thyne and Thou.
No oath and no vow.*

To thy queen, thou shall bow.

To douse the flames of fire, pick yourself up and climb the spire.

Although conditions and obstacles we face may be dire, we will push past, for we are made of Iron.

Flesh and bone, the bricks we place, shall become our home.

The fears we face, the tears we shed, the blood we drop, the battles we fight.

Hear them talk behind your back, brush it off, cut yourself some slack.

Let them watch you leave your tracks, deep in the mud, forged by tears, sweat and blood.

You are a king, for you have faced your fears.

For when the phoenix rises, its wings shall sear.

Your sight, the dirt that haters throw in your eyes, shall no longer smear.

*Use your voice, make them hear!
Show them!
You have no fear!*

We are Kings!

Mathematics Team



Grade 8s are flying in the STEM subjects too: Congratulations to **Claudia Greyling** (Grade 8) who has been selected for the Western Province Mathematics Team trials to participate in the annual South African Mathematics Team Competition (SAMTC) which will take place on Saturday 8 September at the University of Stellenbosch.

High School Tygerberg International Eisteddfod Results

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Result</u>
Jotham Goliath	10.1	Unprepared Reading	73%
Tamsyn Haywood	11.2	Unprepared Reading	85%
Tamsyn Haywood	11.2	Onvoorbereide Lees	79%
Jordan Panduva	10.2	Poetry: Prescribed	92%
Jordan Panduva	10.2	Poetry: Own Choice	82%
Lathitha France	11.3	Poetry: Own Choice	75%
Chloë Fourie	11.2	Poetry: Own Choice	79%
Tamsyn Haywood	11.2	Poetry: Own Choice	79%



Sadly many of our high school learners were unable to participate in the TIE because of the clash with the high school Shakespeare productions, but we are enormously proud of these candidates.

From left to right – **Lathitha France, Tamsyn Haywood, Jordan Panduva and Jotham Goliath.** Chloe Fourie (absent)



Grade 4 Natural Sciences and Technology Project

It was an exciting week for Mrs Stevens' Grade 4 NS and Technology learners had to build a balloon car out of recycled materials. It was a group task which was an important part of the challenge, however the main criteria involved in the technological process were: Planning and Designing, Construction, Evaluation and Communication ... and to have fun!

Some of the comments from the Grade 4 learners:

'It was hard work but we achieved our goal.'

'We disagreed in our groups but eventually we realised that we had to work together.'

'Although our car did not go, we had lots of fun doing it!'

'We found it a bit hard working in a group because we all had different ideas but eventually we realised that we needed to co-operate with each other.'

'Fun and arguments but we had fun.'



Well
done,
Grade
4s!

Matric Council Nominees and their Vision for 2018/2019

It's election time at Meridian Pinehurst. Candidates for election had to write their goals / visions for the next MC as part of their nomination form. The next step will be that each nominee will receive a list of questions that they need to prepare for. They will be asked any two/three of these questions at the "stand for office" speech taking place on Monday 17 September. Voting takes place on Tuesday 18 September (Grade 9 – 11 learners and educators).

Our voting process also embraces the 21st century experience as Ms Elize Crouse (CAT Educator) has created a voting site. On this page the learners receive a password to log in; they will see the list of names, together with the school photo and the motto for the voters to see. These votes are automatically tallied and the weightings calculated according to learners' grades.

The newly elected council will be announced on Friday 21 September and have their first *training day* with Ms Tanya Hampton and Ms Ansa Cronje on Monday 8 October.

MATRIC COUNCIL (MC) NOMINEES 2018/19

Name & Surname	Vision for Matric Council
1 Michael Bosman	I wish to be a positive role model to others and motivate the people around me. I want to learn and demonstrate leadership qualities, work as part of a team including fellow students and teachers and form part of something great. I want to help others by putting their needs before my own.
2 Jamie Chetty	My goals are to help the students of Meridian Pinehurst because happy students means a happy school. My other goal is to show students you don't have to be a favourite to get things done.
3 Somila (Soso) Dyani	My goal is simple, I want learners to feel that they have an environment where they can express themselves freely and also improve the pride that our learners have towards our school.
4 C-Jay Jacks Chad	To become a group of students working together to improve the schooling experience at MPH as well as the school as a whole.
5 Mckenzie Matthew	I wish to encourage all sport activities and get more of our learners involved at our school.
6 Kruger Lukau	My goal as a MC member is to make the school a better environment for the learners, and making myself a better person in the process.
7 Makami-Mansomi Ziyaad	My goal and vision for the MC is to be unified by it's individual differences and to be responsive to the needs of the school. I wish to lead by example in an unbiased way.
8 Nickel Olujare	In our school, a majority of the students are friends. I want to form a community within the school so that everyone is comfortable and feels welcome.
9 Oguntibeju Mbasa	I wish to make the school a more comfortable environment for all students and have them enjoy their years at school.
10 Tetiwe Janine	I only wish to make Meridian Pinehurst a even better school than it already is. Seniors and MC members of the past made MPH a school to be proud of, and I can only strive to do the same.
11 Adams	I strive to work together with my fellow MC members to make communication a key aspect of how we build each other and the school. Hopefully better communication will help reduce and stop bullying, sexism, racism and any other unfortunate issues affecting the learners and teachers.

- 12 **Shannon Cairns** I would like to find ways to improve communication and bridge the gap between educators and learners (and visa versa). I would also like to find ways to grow school spirit and pride. My vision for the MC will be to insure a safe and friendly environment. A place where everyone is able to be themselves with no negativity. I will strive to help the younger grades and be there for them in times of need.
- 13 **Claire Campher** I plan on being a council member that is responsible and reliable. I shall partake in all activities I need to be involved in. I believe the MC should be a platform that can voice the problems and suggestions of the school therefor it should be a trustworthy and responsible environment.
- 14 **Zothando Diamond** My vision for the MC of 2018/19 is to be the council that every matric council strives to be. My goals are to have more cultural events, encourage individuality and involve the students more.
- 15 **Chloë Fourie Lathitha** I want the MC to be better than it ever was and better than it could ever be. I want this MC to set the standard for the future of our school.
- 16 **France** To lead by example by promoting the values of Meridian Pinehurst, being respectful and responsible. Being a support structure to the learners, helping to build responsible leaders within our school community.
- 17 **Kendra Goliath** One of my goals for the MC is that we should connect as a family and create events that would build the spirit of our school.
- 18 **Meaghan Gulston** I want to educate learners about equality, diversity and racism. Since many people don't completely understand the effect that biased opinions have on other people around campus, this is my main goal.
- 19 **Haywood Maziko** Encourage innovation in the school as well as cultivate a culture for academic excellence as well as a safe space for all learners.
- 20 **Kagoli** My vision as a MC member is to develop a harmonious spirit in Meridian Pinehurst across races and different cultures we have, and also to embrace it. I want a school with young people who will be fully equipped in character by matric.
- 21 **Yewon Kim** My main goal is for the MC to be successful in all activities planned. I will work hard, sacrifice and dedicate my best for the MC. My goal is to awaken the entire high school because I feel our school could do with more spirit and culture. I believe that I am capable of encouraging the school to perform at our best in ALL categories because I believe in Meridian.
- 22 **Mihlali Koyana** My goal for the MC will be to help with the improvement of uniform neatness as well as to help students feel that school is a safe environment.
- 23 **Jessica Martch** I have an open-door policy and am quite receptive in the issues faced amongst other grades. It is important to me that issues are solved amicably. Being on the MC, I plan to continue this with greater support. I would also assist in facilitating events, supporting teachers and carrying out requested tasks.
- 24 **Elvira Narasimulu** My goal for the MC is to get the learners of MPH more involved in the activities and character building of our school, such as inter-schools, school dances, etc. and overall just try and improve ones school experience.
- 25 **Kim Nielsen** I wish to bring about change to the student's lives. I would like to inspire our students to set higher goals for themselves - goals that will truly elevate them to show the immense talent our school has. I would also like to involve more students in our school, currently lacking cultural life. I would like our students to feel what it is like to be a Meridian Pinehurst student, while building a culture of involving students in decisions and making them feel special, loved and most importantly, loved.
- 26 **Natalie Nyoni** My vision for the MC and its members is to be the best role models and guidance for the rest of Meridian Pinehurst. My goal for the MC is to be a good form of communication between teachers and students.
- 27 **Insaaf Otto** My goal for the MC is to get students to have a more enjoyable school experience by getting them more involved at school.
- 28 **Rethabile Setloboko**

- 29 **Caitlynn van Wyk** I would like to try and make Meridian a comfortable environment for students by trying to get people more involved in sports and events, and by helping the students voice their opinions to the teachers through the MC.
- 30 **Tameka Vollenhoven** My goal, or rather vision for the MC is to create a group of learners that the rest of the school feels they can go to, to raise issues, ideas and opinions they may have about our school.
- 31 **Teri Vollenhoven** I would like to create a teamwork culture in the MC and the whole school. I want to make a value chain which involves respect, hard work and fun and I want the MC to interact more with the learners.

It is heartening to see so many of our Grade 11s striving to make the school better for everyone. Thanks to the staff involved in this vital process in our school's heritage.

A message to those who are unsuccessful in this election:

You do not need a badge to lead.

And ... btw

*Studies show: It is Readers are successful
in life.*



Sport at Meridian Pinehurst

Photo: A specially made cake sponsored by our Captain's Mom.

On Saturday 25 August 2018, the under 19 Girls' Hockey team played their very last match of the season. The match was closely contested with Meridian scoring a fabulous first goal from the stick of **Caitlynn van Wyk** (Grade 11). Throughout the game, the player of the match, **Sesona Xela** (Grade 10) made her voice heard and was instrumental in keeping the pressure on our opposition. At the end of the game, Monument Park High had however claimed a 2 – 1 victory. The Meridian Pinehurst team, captained by **Martine Alexander** (Grade 12) and alternate vice-captain, **Cyan Turner** (Grade 12) showed wonderful sportsmanship throughout the match. The coaching staff would like to thank all the Hockey parents who supported their children on a very chilly Saturday morning.



Photo: The First Team with their Hockey Awards received at their closing function on Thursday 23 August 2018.

Karate

Our trailblazing Matric Class of 2018 keeps setting the bar high, this time with an individual achievement.

Liam Meyer (Grade 12E1) has once again been placed in the Top 6 in his division with the latest Karate South Africa ranking results.

He has thus been selected to compete in another National Karate League Championship as part of the Western Cape Karate Association team.

This National Tournament will be held in Johannesburg over the weekend of 21 September 2018.

We wish him all the best. Keep flying the Meridian Pinehurst flag high.



Soccer

The U/10 Soccer team had a great time at the FIVES Tournament at the Hellenic Football Club on Saturday. Although it was freezing cold and they lost 3 games and only won one, they played really well and had a lot of fun.



Dates to Diarise:

Monday, 27 August: Start of Book Week

Independent School Seminar at Bishops

Tuesday, 28 August: Bargain Books Expo: 14:30-15:15

PAC Meeting: 18:00 in High School Staffroom

– **WE NEED MORE COMMITTED PARENTS – PLEASE JOIN US.**

Wednesday, 29 August: Bargain Books Expo: 14:30-15:15

Thursday, 30 August: Bargain Books Expo: 14:30-15:15

Friday, 31 August: Character Parade



“The Bible is a book that every Christian should read, listen to, or have read to him or her throughout his or her lifetime; however, in the event that God has gifted a person with the characteristic for the utter joy that envelopes some during times of, what they would describe as, “pleasure reading” (an often times rare characteristic), it is only acceptable that he or she (particularly) reads His Holy Word at least once during his or her lifetime. At least, that’s what I think.”

– **Becky Watson**

Yours in education

Colleen Bentley
Executive Head

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