

# Northwood News

Friday 29 January 2021—Volume 1

## *From the Headmaster's Desk*

### Quote of the Week

And now we welcome the new year,  
full of things that have never been.

~ Rilke

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to the 2021 schooling year. After the challenges that 2020 brought, I for one, was looking forward to a fairly normal start to the new year. This has turned out not to be the case, but that certainly does not distract from the excitement we as a teachers have for this new year.

The opportunity to start interacting with our boys, albeit in different formats, is much anticipated and we can especially not wait to meet our new Squires and boys joining us for the first time in our grade 9-11 years.

During the summer holidays Northwood operated as a DOE marking centre. I want to express my sincere gratitude towards Mr. Govender and his team for running an excellent and safe session.

The holidays were filled with numerous infrastructure projects, all that will add value to our already beautiful school. These include:

The painting of all the classrooms on Lower Campus;

The painting of 15 classrooms at Upper Campus;

The refurbishment of all the dorms on the first floor of John Bruyns House;

The upgrade and improvement of the staff accommodation at Beachwood House;

Installation of 13 additional audio visual structures in various classrooms;

Upgrade of the admin block entrance;

The installation of biometric software for both boarding establishments; and

Renovations to the upper campus walkways, passages and stairways.

We are incredibly grateful, that in spite of an extremely difficult financial year in 2020, we were still able to do things around the school that will improve the teaching and learning space for our staff and boys.

These projects were completed only due to the diligence shown by our parents in terms of school fee payments. As a school we receive only R188 per boy per year from the Department and as such we are almost wholly reliant on your financial support if we want to continue to offer our boys the best possible learning environment. Please continue to meet your financial obligation to the school in 2021. Thanks especially to those parents who have already met their January contributions.

As you would have seen, the online lesson programs and schedules were published yesterday. This program will represent the official start to our academic year, and as such it is crucial that our boys attend these lessons – if you are unsure about the process, or face challenges in connecting, please contact Mrs. Stievenart, [lcadmin@nwood.co.za](mailto:lcadmin@nwood.co.za), and she will assist or redirect you to someone who can. Please note that the staff are currently setting up the invitations to these lessons, a process that will conclude before the first lessons on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February.

Various revised school calendars are currently in circulation, please ignore all of these as no official amendment has been released. As soon as I receive the revised calendar I will immediately circulate to all our parents, so you can plan ahead.

As a school we always look to improve on what we offer our boys in terms of subjects. We have a well-balanced and extremely wide subject offering, and as such boys are in a position to choose subjects that really stimulate their interest. This morning I am happy to confirm that we have received approval from the DOE to expand

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[www.northwoodschool.co.za](http://www.northwoodschool.co.za)



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## From the Headmaster's Desk Continued...

On this offering by including Dramatic Arts (Drama) as an elective subject, in grade 10, from the start of term. The subject comprises a theory part which contributes 50% to the final mark in grade 10 - 12 and a practical mark which contributes 50% to the final mark in grade 10 - 12. The subject will be offered only in line 6, and will have space for 20 boys. If your son wants to replace a subject in Line 6, with Drama, please contact Mr. Barry, [tbarry@nwood.co.za](mailto:tbarry@nwood.co.za), to request the change by 5 February. We are fortunate to have an expert teacher teaching the subject and as such, your son will be in excellent hands.

In terms of the physical return to school and the management of this process, I will confirm these details by the 5<sup>th</sup> of February as promised and will also then provide an update on the assessment, sport and cultural calendar for the year.

The design process for the Victor Diatz Centre for Innovation is now also complete, with construction starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. This is an incredible blessing and will add so much to our boys' lives and we simply cannot wait to open the centre in early April. It does mean that the current library block will be out of commission for a while, but it is certainly going to be worth the inconvenience.

Please know that as a principal and school team we are ready to assist, support, guide or help our boys or parents in whatever way they may need. We love our parents and our boys dearly, so please call or connect with us so we can help. Also please continue to pray with us for those staff, families, boys or friends who are suffering or have suffered great pain during this terrible time.

I look forward to seeing our boys and parents soon.

May you all have a peaceful and enjoyable weekend and week.



**Northwood Gear**

"Back to School" Adjusted Business Hours

Open Monday to Friday from 28th Jan to 12th Feb

9:30am to 3pm

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Please contact Yvonne on: 083 691 0135

[northwoodgear@gerans.co.za](mailto:northwoodgear@gerans.co.za)

### SPORTS MEDICINE CENTRE

**Northwood**

**Phone Number:** 031 564 7675

**Address:** 47 Mackeurtan Avenue, Durban North

**Email:** [medicalcentrenorthwood@gmail.com](mailto:medicalcentrenorthwood@gmail.com)

**Open Hours:** 8am – 5pm

**Practitioners:**

**Ace Hendricks** – A&H Elite Professional Sports  
Recovery

**Nicole Redman** – Physiotherapist

**Dr Kevin Worth** – Chiropractor

**Ashleigh Reynolds** – Counsellor

**Naina Bhikha** – Counsellor

**The Medical Centre is open for business with  
strict Covid-19 protocols in place.**

### 2nd Hand Uniform Shop

Situated on Lower Campus next to Northwood Gear.

Please feel free to drop off your clean and good condition uniforms and kit.

Opening hours for the next two weeks are:

Tuesday 2 Feb and Thursday 4 Feb

Tuesday 9 Feb and Thursday 11 Feb

From 12 until 3:30pm

Times will resume to the usual Wednesday from  
1.30 to 3:30pm from 17 February .

Contact Lesley Sleeman on 073 202 4290.

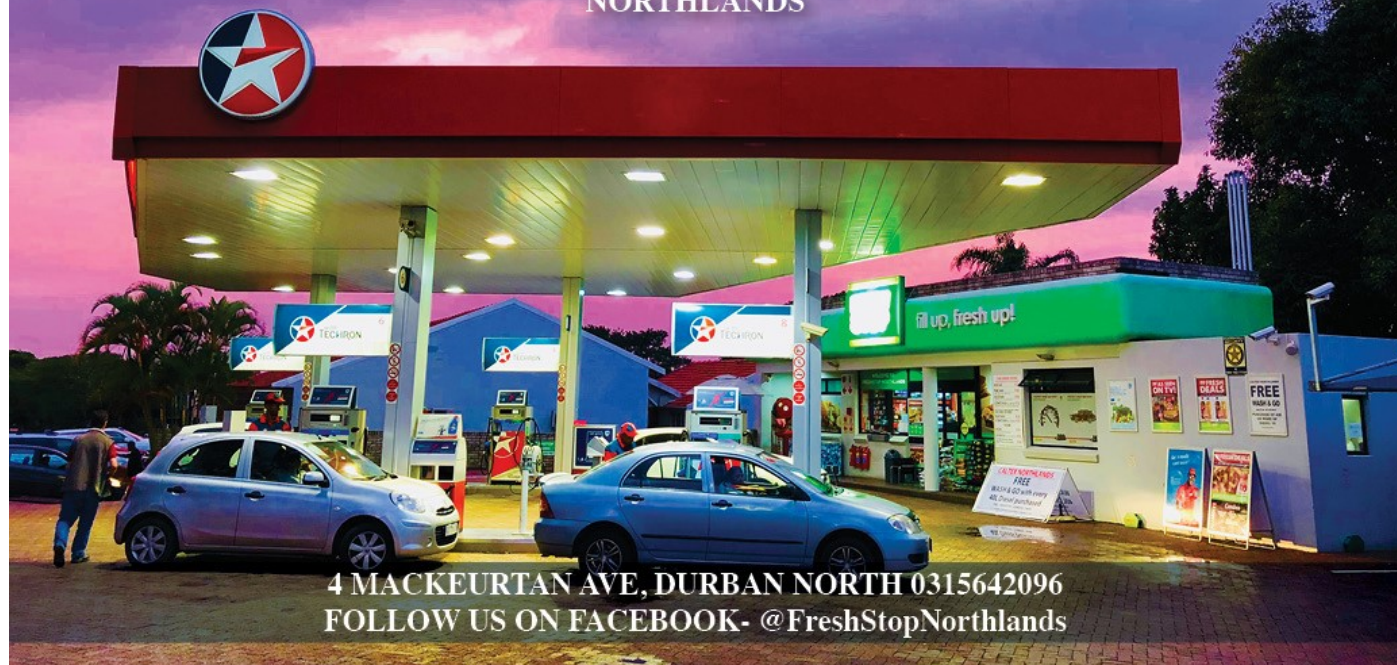


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## Northwood Prayer Group

All parents and supporters of Northwood School are invited to join the prayer group. If you would like more information please contact Sheena Carnie on 083 771 8886.



## Counselling

If your son, or you, needs someone to talk to, please email one of our counsellors to make an appointment:

Mrs D Butt  
Email: [dbutt@nwood.co.za](mailto:dbutt@nwood.co.za)  
Cell no.: 062 678 3246

Mrs J Hoyer  
Email: [jhoyer@nwood.co.za](mailto:jhoyer@nwood.co.za)

Mrs S Reddy  
Email: [sreddy@nwood.co.za](mailto:sreddy@nwood.co.za)

## Some General Information

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Friday 1 January	New Year's Day
Sunday 21 March	Human Rights Day
Monday 22 March	Public Holiday
Friday 2 April	Good Friday
Monday 5 April	Easter Monday
Monday 26 April	School Holiday
Tuesday 27 April	Freedom Day
Saturday 1 May	Workers' Day
Wednesday 16 June	Youth Day
Monday 9 August	Women's Day
Friday 24 September	Heritage Day
Thursday 16 December	Day of Reconciliation
Saturday 25 December	Christmas Day
Sunday 26 December	Day of Goodwill

### 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

These dates are obviously subject to change according to the DoE

Term	School Opens	School Closes
1	Staff 1 February Boys 14 February	31 March
2	13 April	25 June
3	13 July	23 September
4	05 October	Boys 8 December Staff 10 December