

Issue 29 of 2024

RHENISH NEWS

Excellence ● Compassion ● Accountability
Integrity ● Diversity ● Respect

LOOKING TOWARDS



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Photographs: Mr Van der Hoven, Ivan Swart, Dominique Golder, Monica le Roux, Rhenish Media Services Team,



Upcoming Events and Dates



- Maths Workshop (07:40-12:00) - Grade 8A, 8B, 8C
- Maths Workshop (07:40-12:00) - Grade 9B, 9D, 9E



- Maths Workshop (07:40-12:00) - Grade 8D, 8E
- Maths Workshop (07:40-12:00) - Grade 9A, 9C



- Class of 2004 - 20 year reunion



- Final Examinations: Start
(Grade 8 & 9)



- Final Examinations: End

Celebrate

165 Years

with us

It is with immense pride and great anticipation that we announce the launch of the 165 Birthday Celebration; a year-long celebration commemorating an extraordinary milestone in the history of Rhenish Girls' High School - the oldest public girls' school in South Africa. As we approach 2025, we embark on a journey that not only reflects on 165 years of rich tradition and excellence but also paves the way for a bright and inspiring future for generations to come.

“Celebrating 165 years of empowering future leaders”

The celebrations planned for our 165th birthday celebration will be a true reflection of the spirit of Rhenish, engaging learners, alumnae, parents, staff, and the entire Rhenish community. We are thrilled to share some of the key highlights of this historic year-long celebration, designed to reflect on our past and look forward to an exciting future:

January: The celebrations will begin with an iconic aerial photograph on the astroturf, marking the start of a remarkable year of festivities.

March: We will host the prestigious 165th Anniversary Gala, a formal evening that promises to be an unforgettable event, with a keynote address, a historical presentation, and a silent auction to raise funds for the school's strategic initiatives.

April: Our commitment to the community will shine through with outreach programmes, including partnerships with old age homes and local youth projects, ensuring that our celebration extends beyond the school gates.

May: The official birthday of Rhenish will be celebrated with grandeur, including the annual Old Girls' lunch and a live-streamed event that invites alumnae and supporters from across the globe to join us.

June-July: The creativity of our learners will take centre stage in a learner art exhibition and public auction, with proceeds supporting the school's development projects.

September: The celebration will include a golf day and networking events, providing an opportunity for corporate sponsors and supporters to engage with the school's vision.

October-November: We will honour our rich heritage with the screening of a documentary chronicling the extraordinary history of Rhenish Girls' High School, featuring stories and memories from alumnae, staff, and current learners.

Each of these events will form part of an unforgettable year, designed to celebrate our enduring legacy while looking forward to the future with confidence, hope and enthusiasm.

Join the 165 Club

As part of our anniversary celebrations, we are delighted to introduce the 165 Club. This exclusive club will allow members to contribute directly to the long-term preservation of the school's historic infrastructure, support scholarship programmes, and participate in unique events that will shape the future of Rhenish. Membership in the 165 Club is an opportunity to ensure that our school continues to flourish for future generations.

How You Can Be a Part of the Celebration:

Volunteer: Assist with the planning and execution of our events, or take part in community projects.

Spread the Word: Share our exciting plans with fellow alumnae, friends, and family members.

Attend Events: We warmly invite you to join us at any of the events throughout the year.

Support: Whether through donations or sponsorship, your support will help ensure the success of our celebrations and contribute to the future growth of our beloved school.

This is a momentous occasion for everyone connected with Rhenish Girls' High School. Together, we will commemorate 165 years of excellence, resilience, and leadership, while ensuring that the values and traditions that have defined our school continue to inspire generations to come.

We invite you to follow our newsletters, website, and social media platforms for further updates as we draw closer to this birthday milestone.

Let us come together in 2025 to celebrate Rhenish's past and work towards an even brighter future.

JUNIOR HISTORY OLYMPIAD

Mr Van der Hoven



Keira Campbell, Jessica Hodsdon,
Megan Bennie, Kathryn Hodsdon, Annabella Savage.

Twelve of our grade 8 and grade 9 learners recently participated in the Junior History Olympiad of South Africa - an online competition open to all grade 8 and grade 9 learners nationwide. With 47 schools taking part, a total of 908 learners entered the Olympiad.

Rhenish performed exceptionally well, with five learners placing among the top 90 in the country. Our top achievers were:

- Keira Campbell (Grade 9) – Silver – Top 90 position
- Jessica Hodsdon (Grade 8) – Silver – Top 90 position
- Annabella Savage (Grade 9) – Gold – Top 49 position
- Kathryn Hodsdon (Grade 8) – Gold – Top 49 position
- Megan Bennie (Grade 8) – Platinum – 7th position in South Africa and 2nd among Grade 8 learners nationally

Thanks to these outstanding performances, our school achieved 2nd position among all Quintile 4/5 schools in South Africa.

Well done to all participants!



SANTA SHOEBOX PROJECT

The Santa Shoebox season began in August and concluded on Monday, 28 October. Rhenish Girls' High School served as a drop-off point for Stellenbosch and the surrounding areas, resulting in nearly a thousand boxes being collected, stored at the school, and then transported to Stellcare, the designated collection point for our area.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to this project. This includes all those who pledged boxes, the helpers who collected and stored boxes each morning and during breaks, as well as Mrs Nel at reception, who managed the influx of boxes during the final week.





Bless a Baby Donations - 2024

The second annual Bless A Baby Donation Drive, organised by GLU, took place from 21-28 October and brought in an impressive collection of over 1,500 essential items for mothers in need. These donations will go towards creating support bags filled with baby necessities for mothers facing difficult circumstances. Though these contributions may seem modest, they are sure to make a significant impact, offering support and care to both mothers and their babies.

Total items collected by grade:

- Grade 8: 702 items
- Grade 9: 147 items
- Grade 10: 328 items
- Grade 11: 369 items

Top contributing classes:

- 1st Place: 11C
- 2nd Place: 8D
- 3rd Place: 8E

We're excited for more events like this in 2025, starting with the Lip-Sync Battle in the first term!



Annual Business Networking Event - Hosted By ROGU

Dominique Golder

Last Friday (1 November), the Rhenish Old Girls' Union (ROGU) hosted their second Business Networking Event at De Volkskombuis.

This year's speaker was Nikki Loots, a 2007 Rhenish alumna, self-love expert, mindset mentor, and Psych-K facilitator. It was a truly insightful morning, bringing together Old Girls from diverse backgrounds and ages to connect and learn from one another.



SPORT NEWS & RESULTS



PAARL GIRLS' HIGH INVITATIONAL

Isla Rodrigues

On Wednesday, 30 October, the Rhenish Athletics Track & Field team competed at the Paarl Girls' High Invitational.

The girls had a wonderful opportunity to showcase their talent and hard work—and they certainly delivered! Six Rhenishers earned a place in the top three for their events:

- Ashley Thomas (U14) – 1st in Triple Jump, 10.10m on 7m plank
- Katherine Sickle (U17) – 1st in 100m and 2nd in 150m
- Harriet Smit (U17) – 3rd in 600m
- Zetah September (U17) – 2nd in 100m
- Kristin Williamson (U17) – 3rd in Triple Jump
- Sienna Wilk (U17) – 2nd in Triple Jump

Everyone who participated gave their all, with some even setting new personal bests. We are incredibly proud of how Rhenish is making its mark in the athletics community, and we look forward to the bright future of Rhenish Athletics!



Sports Results



BOLAND SCHOOLS SWIM LEAGUE 1 GALA

FINAL STANDINGS:

Rhenish Girls' High School - 454 points

HMS Bloemhof - 402 points

Paarl Girls' High School - 285 points

Paarl Gimnasium - 200 points



Gisele le Roux (grade 8) achieved the 3rd overall position for the Junior age group in the SAPRF (South African Precision Rifle Federation) PR22 Western Cape Provincial Series 2024.

Thank you to all our sponsors for supporting us during this year!



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**GAP INFRASTRUCTURE
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An aerial photograph of a large-scale residential development, showing rows of small, single-story houses with reddish-brown roofs. The houses are arranged in a grid-like pattern with dirt roads. The surrounding landscape is arid and dry.

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