

THE ECHO

Editorial

*“With great power comes great responsibility”
– Muazz Dockrat Senior Headboy 2018 (12B)*

The first day of the rest of our lives is fast approaching. These words may sound familiar because we've heard them for a good 14 years. However, this year I can't help but feel a bit nostalgic as my matric year draws to a close.

The first day of school is still fresh in my mind and it feels as though it just happened yesterday. I remember the sun shining brightly while I daydreamed about the days still far ahead of me when I'd be all grown up. Now here I stand at the end of an era and I feel overwhelmed by an assortment of emotions. It's been an amazing 14 years and for the most part I am happy to have met the people I've met along the way. I am ecstatic to be at the end of my journey yet it still saddens me to leave what has become so very familiar to me, behind.

These past 14 years have taught me a lot and made me the person I am today. It has taught me that life will throw things at you that you have never seen before. As we all know school is no easy place to be in as it too, comes with both highs and lows. The people around us create these expectations regarding life; which they expect us to live up to and sometimes as we thread on this path of learning, we falter and often second guess ourselves. However, this is something that we as individuals should never do.

The truth is that society will always be a difficult, "Person" to please and there will always, no matter how hard you try, be someone who may feel disadvantaged by the outcome. We may feel despondent especially in this ever-changing world but we need to always remember that we have done the best that we can do and that should be enough. Always remember that in the end, you have put your all into it and given everyone the best version of yourself.

We should also always remember that in order to reach our dreams there is always going to be challenges that we have to face and sometimes each one may be worse than the next. No one said that reaching your dreams would be quick and easy but that's what makes those dreams so special and allows your dreams to blossom into realities.

As my final days of school are coming to a close I have learnt that with every end there is a new beginning. For every dream that we live, a new one is being formed and that every new dream is a chance for me to reach my ultimate goal.

The day I have to leave this school will bring back the same emotions I felt on the first day 14 years ago, only this time I know that this new beginning will mean that another dream is simply being turned into a reality.

G11 Social Outreach

Hannaa Hoosen (11 A)

WATER COLLECTION

“We never know the worth of water until the well is dry” – unknown

Only by giving, are you able to receive more than you already have. The city of Cape Town has been experiencing a major drought and the Learner Council, together with the Grade 11 class of Tshwane Muslim School, decided to assist and carry out a collection drive in order to collect money for the existing water crises. The money was used to purchase water bottles, which were then sent to the people of the Cape. This project was a huge success and we would like to thank all those who have donated towards this worthy cause.

NAPPY DRIVE

“Doing a little for one man, can't change the world- but it may change his world.”

Our next task was to assist individuals suffering from the challenging disease, Cerebral Palsy, which is a developmental disability that affects movement, posture and co-ordination. Some of these people are confined to their beds and some have lost the use of their limbs. As a result, an urgent appeal for both adult and infant diapers was made. Following the appeal, a significant number of nappies were collected and once again we would like to thank those who were generous enough to donate towards this initiative. As Anne Frank once said, “No one has ever become poor by giving.”

CRAZY SHOE DAY

The expression of creativity can be shown through even mundane actions, actions like putting on a pair of whacko shoes and strutting about while donning the colours of artistry. Crazy Shoe Day was a day in which we were allowed to show who we really are or who our imaginations allow us to be through our sneakers. This day was held in order to collect money for the Madrasahs in Malawi; Madrasahs in need of extra funds to survive. Overall, it was insanely successful and we hope that events like these could happen more often, where our individuality is embraced and portrayed for a worthwhile cause.

2018 Literary Festival - Aliyah Fakir (11A)

Dr. Seuss is famous for having said,
"The more you read the more things
you will know, the more you learn the
more places you'll go."

The learners of the Tshwane Muslim School were given an incredible opportunity on Thursday, the 1st of March 2018, when our school was visited by an array of marvellous authors and novelists. The Annual Literary Extravaganza consisted of a series of workshops, talks and activities offered to students of all ages. These were held in the school's hall, the Foundation Phase hall and the school's library.

Guests included: Mandla Mona, Fatima Moolla, Ashraf Sayed, Shafinaaz Hassim, Yusuf Garda, Azhar Vadi, Jann Weeratunga, Amira Kara, Soraya Hendricks, Zakira Bhika (Lab Productions), Shaheen Moolla and the artist, Gulshan Hoosen. Learners were shown how to develop story characters, how to publish books, as well as how to create their own blogs. The art of monologues was taught in a scintillating and interactive workshop and Kruger National Park Guides addressed our learners as well.

There were talks to inspire, specifically, about reading and writing, cricket, philanthropy and the plight of the Rohingyans, wherein art and poetry were united and also found a voice. Additionally learners were shown how poetry can be created through art. In an attempt not to leave out the little ones, the Foundation Phase was entertained by the likes of comical puppets, were involved in an exciting story walk and were also told an informative story about heroes and villains. Signed copies of books were available for sale as well.

We are grateful to the guests for their efforts while visiting our school and for educating us with their talents and we look forward to the next Literary Festival.

Authors' Shout Outs

Unfortunately, because of the lack of time available on the day, students weren't able to meet with all the authors present. However, the authors were kind enough to leave a "Shout Out" to the learners of TMS. Here are just a few of the thoughts the authors left behind:

"Don't talk to or trust nice strangers."

Soraya Hendricks

"Take time to smell the roses!"

Sabine Lehmacher

"Disability doesn't mean inability!" and
"If you see someone without a smile, give them yours."

Jann Weeratunga

"Writers are rare to find but this opportunity
(Literary Festival) encourages future writers"

Mandla Mona

"Success lies in believing in yourself, don't be afraid to be who you are."

Fatima Moolla

"The power of a story and spirit join us as humans in a continuous conversation. May Allah continue to bless us with unity."

Shafinaaz Hassim

"Thank you for the opportunity.
My simple message is that nothing is impossible.
Go out and be the person you were meant to be."

Ashraf Sayed

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

Yusuf Garda

"It was an honour to be part of such an enlightening
and empowering experience. Great workshop."

Gulshan Hoosen

"Jazak Allah for the invite. The love for books, writing and reading must
be pushed forward. I hope to see our future leaders coming from TMS.
All the best!"

Azhar Vadi

"Jazak Allah for the incredible opportunity and experience.
I loved it!"

Shaheen Moolla

Spellathon

On Thursday, the 15th of March, the Grade 8-12 learners participated in their annual Spellathon. Learners were given a series of words to learn along with a Sponsorship Form prior to the event. Once the words were learnt and the sponsors collected, the Spellathon took place in the individual classes. Alhamdulillah, new words were learnt and hopefully they

will be practiced daily amongst our learners. In addition to the new words and vocabulary learnt, an impressive amount of R5000 was raised which was, Alhamdulillah, donated to the Madrasahs in Malawi. Maseeha Dockrat (Grade 9A) raised the most amount of money and was the winner of this year's book voucher.

Learner Profiles

Sometimes we get so caught up with only the academics that we often neglect to take note of the amazing students we have right here in our midst. In an effort to acknowledge the remarkable lives and challenging circumstances many of our learners have outside of these four walls, we have decided to include learner profiles in an attempt to showcase our learners' achievements and war stories. Our profiles this term will be based on Hammad Khan in grade 11 and Liyah Motani in Grade 12

HAMMAD KHAN – SOCCER PLAYER FOR MAMELODI SUNDOWNS (11B)

1. What is the name of the club that you play for and when did you first begin playing for them? *Mamelodi Sundowns Satellite (Gunners). Last year, April 2017.*

2. What position do you play in this club? *I play Centre Back.*

3. Was this position chosen for you or was it a personal preference? *It was chosen for me. The club needed a centre back and saw that I had the potential to fill this position.*

4. Briefly mention to us how your love for soccer began.

My love for football began while playing with my two elder brothers at home in the garden. My father and brothers watched football and spoke about the game all the time.

5. How do you manage to juggle the demands of school and training? *I try to fit in as much school work during my free time especially when I am not training or playing any league games and over the weekends.*

6. What is your advice for someone aiming to follow in your footsteps? *You need to dedicate a lot of time to training and keeping yourself fit. It is hard work, perseverance, sacrifice and most of all; you have to love what you do.*

7. Is soccer a physically challenging sport? *Yes, it is very physical. To keep playing at a high level you must train, train and train. Training can be very tiring and during games your coach and team require you to play at your best. At the U19 level, the opposite team players are very physical and if you are not fit, you will not be able to keep up with the game.*

8. Do you intend on pursuing this path as a future career?

I am trying to make football my career and hope to turn professional after leaving school but I will keep on studying towards a degree in Sports Science, In Sha Allah.

LIYAH MOTANI – DIAGNOSED WITH DIABETES – GRADE 12A

1. Briefly tell us what you have been diagnosed with, the implications of such an ailment and if there is anything in particular that you would like your peers and teachers to know regarding this illness? *Diabetes is just a prick to the healthy but it has been just over a year that I've been diagnosed with diabetes and the immediate reaction of any stranger is, "How old are you?" Yes, we are all aware this is most common amongst elderly people but genetics and stress have proven otherwise.*

The first thing that comes to mind is how do I cope? I was told that this illness controls you for 3 months and only afterward will you have control over the illness if you keep healthy. I managed to get along with my life normally but it's the nitty gritty that really affects you. Like that first prick, I wasn't able to do it on the first try until I gained the confidence and strength to do it.

Many people don't consider the emotional factors that come with the illness. There are days where you're irritable and you don't know why. Sometimes that anger gets the better of you and you snap at someone for something minor. Even your stress levels cause your sugar to spiral out of control. While other days you're at your happiest but don't have the physical capacity to be present in the moment. It's emotionally and physically draining. If there was something I wish people knew in the past year, it's that the small things make the bigger things in life possible.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

PALESTINE?

By Sauda Mohamed (11A)

On Wednesday, the 18th of April, the Grade 11 learners were afforded the opportunity to attend the Palestine Awareness Program. The presenter, Mr. Zaakir Ahmed Mayet, used powerful words to inspire each one of us to bring about a change not only in our society but most prominently in Palestine. During the training session, we were divided into groups and each group was asked to describe the different aspects relating to Palestine. This aided us in learning more about this blessed land. Through videos we were exposed to the gruesome brutality endured by the Palestinians, which was an eye-opening experience that left us all heavy-hearted and also knowing that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians.

There's a Palestinian that dwells inside all of us, a Palestinian that needs to be rescued, a free Palestinian where all people regardless of colour, religion or race co-exist. A Palestine where the word, "Occupation" does not imply death, destruction, pain, suffering, deprivation, isolation and restrictions.

Alhamdulillah, we were all so moved by this program that we will strive to make a difference in Palestine In Sha Allah.

Girls' Sports Day - BY NAFEESA WAQAR (11A)

Adrenaline was beating through veins, hearts were pumping wildly and the mixed sounds of the various war cries danced through the air. This is how one would describe the events taking place on the 20th of March during the Annual Athletics Day of 2018. We began the day with a dose of cheerleading from each team; Red Sox, Blue Jays and Green Lanterns. This is an annual ritual meant to showcase our enthusiasm in wanting to take the trophy home. This was closely followed by

the matrics of 2018 who marched onto the field already prepared for their futures ahead; all geared up in graduation gowns. Thereafter, various races took place such as the 100m, 200m, obstacle course and the three-legged races. Unfortunately, due to the rain, we were unable to complete the relay races. However we refused to allow that to literally and figuratively dampen our day. It was a day filled with fun and competition. We are still unaware of which team was the winner but I'm pretty sure it was Red Sox. Go Red Sox!

Boys' Sports Day- by Hammad Khan (11B)

The excitement was undeniable as students, teachers and parents joined in the anticipation of this long awaited day. From the enthusiastic Grade 4 learners to the determined Grade 12s, the competitive spirit was running high as the three teams, The Blue Bulls, The Cheetahs and The Lions battled it out for victory. Some of the races on the day included the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, relay and novelty races. The atmosphere was vibrant and the event gave way to many pleased athletes as they proudly donned their medals after each marvellous triumph. In the end the Cheetahs came out victorious and surpassed the other teams with their will power and determination. It's on days like these that we are reminded of the importance of healthy competition and brotherhood.

Table Tennis Tournament Zahraa Mall (Gr 11A)

First term meant it was time for the annual Tshwane Muslim School Table Tennis Grade Championships and as always it was a roaring success. The girls from Grades 8-12 gathered on a scorching Friday afternoon, the 23rd of March, for a well

organised tournament. It was an afternoon full of fun and entertainment yet still very challenging for the players. Mashallah to all the winners and a big thank you to Apa Khadija and all the councillors who assisted. Since I'm in Grade 11 this was my last table tennis tournament and it was definitely a bittersweet moment as I will truly miss my time at the board.

Soccer Festival Mohammed Majothi (12B)

TMS held its annual soccer tournament this past week, the 12th of February 2018, on the TMS soccer grounds. 5 grades participated in the tournament including the Matrics of 2018, the Grade 11s and Grade 8-10s. Throughout the games there was a great amount

of friendly competition and enthusiasm as teams battled it out to be the champions of the day. In the end, the victors of the tournament were the Matrics of 2018 as they managed a flawless victory against the Grade 9s in the final match.

Hifz Graduations

One of the greatest accomplishments one can achieve through the course of one's life is the memorisation and sealing of the Holy Quraan within one's heart. Alhamdulillah, through the grace of the Almighty, TMS has seen the graduation of many huffaz during the first half of this year. The huffaz for the first half of this year were:

Nuaim Ahmed (Gr. 9)
Sulaimaan Abram (Gr. 10)
Luqman Abram (Gr. 10)

Talhah Karodia (Gr. 9)
Safwaan Sujee (Gr. 8)
Nabeel Ayob (Gr. 9)