

WPPS embraces every aspect of today's educational requirements



Founded 1914

WPPS

WESTERN PROVINCE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



REMARKABLE: Western Province Preparatory School has been instrumental in developing many of South Africa's most remarkable men.

Western Province Preparatory School spokesperson

HOW does a school that was founded in 1914 as a British public preparatory school for boys remain relevant in today's challenging educational environment?

It does so by moving with the times. In this regard, Western Province Preparatory School is a sterling example of how combining the best of the English public school system with a progressive educational approach can produce a school geared toward the 21st century.

For, while steeped in the tradition of a Christian public school, with its emphasis on providing an excellent all-round education, spiritual development and good manners, Western Province Preparatory School (WPPS) is also proudly and in every way a thoroughly contemporary school.

From its eco-code to modern dance lessons in the senior boys' curriculum and its community outreach initiatives, WPPS wholeheartedly embraces every aspect of today's educational requirements. And, in fact, keeping up with the times is such an entrenched policy that the school has allocated part of its budget to the professional development of its staff, as it is believed by the headmaster, Michael Hosty, that teachers whose knowledge is continually updated and whose outlook is refreshed are better able to inspire learning in boys who will one day leave WPPS to make their mark in a wider and more challenging world.

Remarkable Old Boys

Since its establishment 97 years ago by Englishmen Christopher Stansbury and Raymond Hutchinson in the Anglican Parish of St John's, Wynberg, the school has been instrumental in developing many of South Africa's most remarkable men.

These Old Boys include men of the calibre of WPPS's first head boy, Sir Robert Mansergh, who became commander-in-chief of the NATO forces during World War II; Rhodes Scholar Sir Charles Cumings (1916 to 1918) who was a member of the Constitutional Court of Rhodesia at the time ofUDI; Professor Denis Melrose (1930 to 1935) who played a significant role in the design and development of the heart-lung machine, among other noteworthy medical achievements; and Professor Philip (Taffy) Lloyd (1946 to 1949), a UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) co-ordinating lead-author who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with American Former Vice-President Al Gore.

Over the years, WPPS's philosophy has remained "Every boy can do something and do it well. His interest must merely be stimulated and guided in the right direction, in a spirit of enjoyment and achievement. The rewards are self-expression, self-confidence and self-discovery, as well as leadership, camaraderie and respect for others". This philosophy has guided other WPPS students to go on to distinguish themselves as Rhodes Scholars, sportsmen and leaders in science, medicine, law, exploration, the arts and business, and many finding themselves among South African who's who.

Some of the more recent well-known WPPS Old Boys include retail magnate Raymond Ackerman (1938 to 1944), extreme adventurer David Grier (1968 to 1973), rugby player Dion O'Cuinneagain (1979 to 1985), screen, stage and TV actor Jonathan Rands (1960 to 1967), cricketer Vince van der Bijl (1954 to 1960) and 1986 head boy Mark Shuttleworth, who, as the first South African in space, flew with the Soyuz mission to the International Space Station where he conducted science experiments for South African universities.

A happy school

Housed in Mount Royal, an elegant Herbert Baker building in bustling Claremont, with the eastern massif of Table

Mountain as a scenic backdrop, WPPS has two campuses, one in Eden Road and the other in Newlands Road. The school accommodates boys from Grade N to Grade 7, some of whom are boarders in Barlow House on the Eden Road campus.

It is a happy school with lots of smiling faces and its motto "Celebrating Life and Learning" attests to lasting memories and life-long friendships made in the classroom and on the sports field during important formative preparatory years. The school also has a strong family ethos with its 457 boys, dedicated teachers, and enthusiastic and supportive parent body forming a close-knit community that, for many boys and parents, lasts long after school days have been left behind.

The boys benefit greatly from parent and teacher engagement, which imparts a sense of belonging, and although the school concedes that currently it does not adequately reflect the diversity of its wider community, it has a strong commitment to becoming a more diverse and inclusive school; one that accepts pupils and staff of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds, but one which still retains its status as an independent, English-medium, Christian preparatory school for boys.

Every year each grade chooses an organisation with which to work as part of its outreach initiative. Last year, the pre-school continued its support of the SPCA. Grade 1 learners enjoyed working for a second year with the tea-bag ladies from Hout Bay, and Grade 2s collected more than 12 000 bread tags to be sold for recycling, the money collected going towards the purchase of a wheelchair. Grade 3 had as their focus senior citizens, with activities including card making, gardening and visits to Huis Nuweland. Grade 4 boys made reading books for the Shine Centre and Grade 5s made up "Buckets of Love" in support of Catholic Welfare and Development, while Grade 6 and 7 boys helped out at the Wynberg Night Haven, planted trees at Sid G. Rule Primary, worked in a soup kitchen and fixed classrooms at the Blind School.

Opportunities galore

A WPPS Bursary Fund identifies and offers bursaries to a variety of deserving students, who, through their potential, abilities and attitude, are able to contribute positively to the school environment. Successful candidates, such as Devon Bruiners, have benefited enormously from their years at WPPS.

Devon's burning desire to succeed led him to achieve rugby and cultural colours with the Stansbury Prize for courtesy, thoughtfulness and general helpfulness, among other accolades. He was also awarded a full bursary to Bishop's College, and today Devon is involved with the JAG Foundation, which inspires South Africa's disadvantaged youth to build a positive future for themselves, their families and their communities by encouraging them to participate in sports-related programmes.

WPPS is closely affiliated to St Andrew's College in Grahamstown, with WPPS acting as a feeder school for St Andrew's, its older brother school. A number of scholarships are awarded to prospective St Andrew's College students, which may be augmented by a bursary in certain cases.

The school is lucky to have many young male teachers on its staff for the boys to look up to.

Headmaster Michael Hosty runs life orientation classes, which are the only classes he takes, and for boys struggling in certain areas there is learner support and even occupational therapy.

In some respects, however, nurturing and mentoring take on a less formal role with "Dads 'n' Lads" weekend excursions with fathers, uncles, male family friends and older brothers providing relaxed opportunities for male bonding. The annual Evening of the Arts, Nativity play and other school productions, while showcasing cultural activities and providing outlets for artistic inclinations, also offer opportunities for letting off



WELL PREPARED: Western Province Preparatory School is a sterling example of how combining the best of the English public school system with a progressive educational approach can produce a school geared toward the 21st century.

steam and having lots of fun.

At WPPS, providing an excellent all-round education means that the school has as part of its teaching facilities a computer laboratory, a purpose-built art room at the Eden Road campus, and a state-of-the-art technology centre at the Newlands Road campus – making it truly and in every way a school for the 21st century.

Mini-open days

WPPS mini-open days are on the following dates between 8.15am and 10.15am:

February 24

March 24

April 21

May 26

June 23

August 25

September 29

October 20

November 24

For further information, contact Caron Perrott at email marketing@wetpups.org.za or call 021 761 8074.

Visit www.wetpups.co.za



celebrating life and learning