PAUL ROOS
GIMNASIUM | GYMNASIUM

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To the PRG community

Three months ago, the third term was anticipated with great excitement and expectation. And it did not disappoint! The highlights, achievements, victories and reasons to celebrate were almost overwhelming and served as unequivocal evidence that Semper Splendidior is alive and well at PRG, thanks to the extraordinary effort of our staff and boys.

Our sporting results, both as teams and individuals, ranked among the best nationally and internationally. PRG's cultural performances and results stood out as benchmarks in the province and country in several disciplines. Paul Roos was again recognised as a leading academic school in our province, particularly in Mathematics. The school also underwent a whole-school evaluation by the School Evaluation Authority (SEA) this term and received a glowing report, as well as an invitation to the national awards event later next term.

As with every other term, this one also brought its hardships, defeats, disappointments and even devastating tragedy. These realities form part of the journey towards becoming a remarkable human being. We often learn the most valuable lessons in the moments when we are defeated or disheartened. This is where powerful insights can emerge from reflecting and retrying.

The tough times also strengthen our connections with one another when we draw alongside one another in support and show compassion. I often encourage the boys never to leave a fellow Paul Rooser behind: to be on the lookout for a brother who is struggling and to set one another up for success.

The darkest moment of this term came when we received the devastating news of the tragic passing of Nico Caine, a brother in Grade 9. The shock of losing a learner feels like suffocation and can stun a community into silence. Our hearts are broken by this third tragic loss of a young member of the PRG community, following the passing of Mr Haller and Max Immelman last term. We continue to hold Nico's grieving parents, sister, family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

Term Three also marked the changing of the guard in student leadership. Over the past few weeks, the election process and appointment of various leadership positions were completed. We wish the new members of the SRC, House Committees, Matric Council and Student Council every success during their term of office. Special congratulations to our new Head Boy, Albert Nel, and Deputy Head Boys, Nathan Barnard and Jeandré van Zyl. The leadership training programme ran very successfully, and I have no doubt that our leaders will do the school proud.

I spoke to the boys in assembly about leadership and made the point that, although only a small number of boys hold an official leadership position, every Paul Rooser wears a leadership badge that comes with the privilege of being part of our school. It is that maroon blazer around his shoulders! No badge is required to take initiative, serve the community, reach out to those in need and stand up for what is right.

In last term's letter I mentioned that we were aiming to have the new soccer astro completed in time for the Grey Interschools weekend. Well, we did it! What was created there is much more than a soccer pitch; it is a communal space that is enjoyed by all and brings us together in a very special way. It was a great joy to see our soccer teams run out onto a world-class surface that is on par with those of our other major team sports. Even better, however, is seeing how much all Paul Roosers are enjoying the pitch as a recreational space. The Fives tournament this term, which was entirely learner-driven, demonstrated a spirit of fun and inclusivity that made me incredibly proud and grateful.

In addition to this, the pitch has also become a means for PRG to reach out to our broader local community through the soccer academy and other initiatives. We are still hoping to raise the much-needed funds required for the completion of this project, and we would welcome contributions from anyone who shares in the joy of what has been achieved here.

Once again this year, we have been inundated with applications from boys who are desperate to become Paul Roosers. It is a rare privilege to attend this school, and my observation is that the overwhelming majority of boys here appreciate this, seize their opportunities, buy into our values and seek to grow – Semper Splendidior.

And yet, there is always a disappointing handful of boys who do not respect these values. They radiate a sense of entitlement and an arrogance that dishonours our blazer and the values for which it stands. They are not team players, behave like consumers and add little to a healthy school culture. At times, they also cross the boundaries into serious misconduct. Sadly, even amidst an exceptional term, we had to deal with individuals whose behaviour eroded PRG's moral fibre and the values we strive to uphold. I mention this here to make it clear that we will not tolerate such behaviour, nor will we hide it. We will shine a light on it, confront it and work to extinguish it.

Thank you to every Paul Rooser who shows up in remarkable ways every day, especially when no-one is looking. I regularly receive messages from members of the public who do notice – particularly when our young men demonstrate respect and gentlemanship towards the least significant and most vulnerable members of society.

The fourth term is upon us, and with it come many special moments that mark the final chapter of the school year. The Matrics enjoyed a spectacular Matric farewell ball and are now looking forward to their last rite of passage on Z-Day, before plunging into the NSC examinations. We wish them every success.

There will be several farewells in Term Four, among them Mrs Olivier's, a PRG legend who retires at year-end. Her departure will leave a massive void that will be very difficult to fill. So, when you pass Ma'am this term, perhaps linger for a moment to thank her for her many years of exceptional service.

In conclusion, I want to thank every learner, staff member, parent, Old Boy, donor, sponsor and friend of Paul Roos who showed up and contributed this term. The governing body served the school with literally hundreds of voluntary hours. Thanks to your unwavering support for our precious school, and your understanding of our collective responsibility to look after it. Paul Roos Gymnasium continues to thrive and to set the benchmark in shaping remarkable men.

Semper Splendidior!



Jannie de Villiers
RECTOR

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 8 October 2026: Prize-Giving
- 9 October 2026: Z-Day for Matric learners
- 4 November 2026: Annual General Meeting / Parents' Budget Meeting