



Breaking News

R5

Do the Crime, Do the Time

By: Sanelisiwe Dick (10G)

Crime has always been a part of our lives, but it does not necessarily have to be. In Walmer Location, people are scared to leave their houses after seven o'clock. Some people even get scared when they see a person wearing baggy pants. They immediately assume that the person is dangerous.

In January, a seventeen year-old girl was raped and murdered. Every person that found out came with different versions of the story. Some say that she was under the influence of alcohol at the time she was raped. Many claim that she was raped twice by the same group of people. Only three parties know the truth, including the perpetrator, the victim, and the forensic experts.

A few weeks after the burial of this victim, a protest was arranged by Walmer Ward Councillor, Cllr Nomajama Bhenya. She stated the following words, "We are sick and tired of seeing the perpetrators walk freely while we cry every day because of rape." It was clear that she meant every word she said. As she was talking, you could see the anger and hurt in her eyes.

On the 8th of February, 2013, people gathered and started singing struggle songs such as 'Siyaya.' The majority of the march consisted of school students since it was right after school. There were two traffic officer cars and another car with a loud speaker. It was so hot that day, especially because everyone was moving, screaming, and shouting, 'Stop abuse.'

The biggest problem in our communities is that abuse is accepted. The main aim of the march was to make people take a stand and fight against what is happening. It seems like the male gender is seen as superior as compared to the female gender. These days, NO is taken as a YES.

Rape is a very serious offence. Be wise and remember to always think twice before committing a crime. Remember if you do the crime, you will do the time.



COMMUNITY ANGER... Crime has always been a part of our lives. It does not necessarily have to be! A few weeks back, a 17 year old girl was raped and murdered. After her burial, a protest was arranged by Walmer Ward Councillor, Cllr Nomajama Bhenya.

The Experience of a Lifetime at Ricochet Publishing

By: Ayabonga Ntshoko

Three Walmer High School students were given an opportunity for an internship at Ricochet Publishing Company. They went there during March holidays, and the students included myself, Millicent Mhlophe, and Lonwabo Damane, who is our Editor-in-Chief.

The students that were able to participate in the internship were Walmer Breaking News staff members.

The students enjoyed their experience of being professional journalists. They learned many things during their experience, such as taking pictures and interviewing people using tape recorders. "I learned how to blog and get

a lot of money out of that," said Lonwabo.

The trip has improved the students' writing skills and professionalism. The articles that the participants wrote were published in the June edition of Ikwezi Chronicles, a community paper for the Ikwezi Local Municipality located in the Karoo. Afterwards, the students were given formal certificates for participating in the internship.

There are future opportunities for eight students that are participants of Walmer Breaking News during the June holidays. We are looking forward to making the partnership with Ricochet Publishing Company a success.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Reader,

It is a great joy to have published this first edition of Walmer Breaking News.

We hope you will enjoy the articles and poetry included in this edition and will support us in the coming editions. This is your paper!

Feel free to write to us and send us your suggestions on how we can improve the paper. Support your paper by sharing your exciting stories with our journalists and we will try to ensure that they get published.

I will take this opportunity to also thank you to Ricochet Publishing for designing this edition of Walmer Breaking News and for providing our student journalists with job shadowing opportunities.

We would like to thank all those who have assisted Walmer Breaking News, including:

- Izizwe Projects
- Masifunde Learner Development
- UmthomboWolwazi Library
- The United States Fulbright Program
- The Walmer Sun
- Walmer High School
- The Repro House

Until next time,

Lonwabo Damane
Editor-in-Chief



Walmer Feeding Scheme Successes

By: Lonwabo Damane

Just a few years ago, Walmer High School was faced with a rapid increase in the absenteeism rate due to poverty. This changed, thanks to the feeding scheme that was introduced in the fourth term of last year.

"This started as a soup kitchen, which was sponsored by Pick n Pay, St. John's, and Alfadah. It could only cater for plus minus two hundred students. This bothered us because we knew that the whole school needed the service," said Mrs. Ngqakaza.

The new feeding scheme now caters for the school at large and is sponsored by the Department of Education. "Before we were in Quintile Five, meaning we were categorized as a Model C school. This automatically disabled us from receiving the feeding scheme. The principal had to fight and we are now in Quintile Three," Mrs. Ngqakaza elaborated.

The new feeding scheme consists of different nutritious menus which are set by the Government. This helps accommodate different pupils with different diets. "I know their favourite dish, which is the African salad, is served on Friday," she said. She said that they have also introduced pasta and the response they receive from the students is very constructive.

"We as the students used to not come to school due to the fact that one has no lunch money. Now classes are almost jam packed every day because

we know that the day won't end with our stomachs empty," said Calico Juneta, a grade 11 pupil. She predicted a swift increase in the passing rate, and she said that this left students with no reason of being absent from school.

Making this new feeding scheme more auspicious is the fact that both Walmer High School and the local community are benefiting from this. The left overs are given to Mrs. Veto, who gives them to an old age home.

It has also created job opportunities as the cooks that prepare the meals get paid. Mrs. Ngqakaza said that she is highly satisfied and advises other schools to also include this programme in their school. She believes that every child should be fed in order to participate in class and do well in school. As a result, the programme will be available for generations to come.

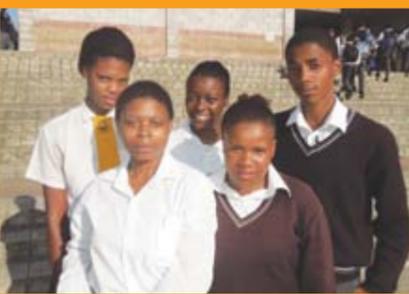


ACHIEVEMENT... The Walmer Feeding Scheme that was introduced in the fourth term last year has become a success.

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BREAKING NEWS: THE TEAM



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Teacher shortage: Who will fill the gap?

By: Lonwabo Damane

For most of Term 1, Walmer High School has been operating with a massive shortage of teachers. Classes are jam packed with students thirsty for education but there are not enough teachers available to attend to them.

The available teachers are going out of their way to make sure that all the students are on the same level and no class/student is left behind. However, the kind of load they have on their shoulders and the kind of pressure they are working under makes it impossible for them.

I spoke to Nolusindiso Jam-Jam, one of our 2013 matriculants who spoke on behalf of the learners about this situation.

Grade 12 is a very short year and we do not have enough teachers at the moment. How is this affecting you?

Nolusindiso: First of all, our syllabus ends in six months and there's a lot of work that needs to be done in this period. This will put us behind... not only the grade 12's but the lower grades too.

How are you coping or what means are you doing to meet the present teachers halfway?

Nolusindiso: We're studying in groups, exchanging notes with students from other schools and we use study guides to guide us.

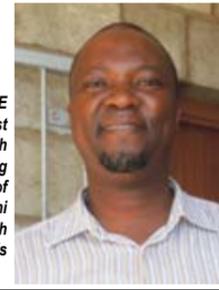
If this problem persists, what ramifications can you foresee or predict?

Nolusindiso: Passing rates might decrease. For instance, grade 9 will be writing external papers for the first time so they need as much guidance as possible. I also think if it continues for a long time, it will cause children to drop out of school and put the school's reputation at stake but we believe that the principal is working on this crisis.

As the students sit back and wonder when this will come to an end, I had a conversation with the principal and got some of the questions students are dying to ask answered.

Sir, as you know, we currently do not have enough teachers available in school. I'm aware that this is affecting the students in a negative way but what effect does it have on the teachers?

SHORTAGES IN THE CLASSROOM... For the past three weeks, Walmer High School has been operating with a massive shortage of teachers. Principal Dyani says he has consulted with the department which is working very hard on this.



Principal Dyani: The available teachers are overloaded and students are not being taught. It also disturbs the teachers because as he/she is busy teaching, the other class is making noise because there's no supervision. This is putting the teachers under a lot of strain.

As a person who goes up and down doing what's best for this school, what steps have you taken so far to solve this problem?

Principal Dyani: I've consulted my bosses and I've seen for myself that the department is working very hard on this, so I'm optimistic that in a few weeks this will pass.

Has Walmer High School walked this process before?

Principal Dyani: Yes, it has. Teacher shortage has always been a challenge especially in township schools and particularly in schools that are poor; this is quite common. In this case, if a teacher goes for a leave, it's not easy to get a substitute, but in rich schools this is done in a minute because of the large budgets they have.

Some students are waiting for a teacher to start the first chapter with them. What advice would you give them?

Principal Dyani: If one is thirsty for education, then nothing should stand in their way. I've always believed that 80% of the work should be done by students. Yes, a teacher should be there but only to guide them. So I encourage them to work as groups and they shouldn't be despondent at all because this is just a passing phase.

This is taken into account as the school's current and major problem, since it is occurring at the most demanding and occupying term. Students are asked to bear with the present teachers and meet them halfway for a few weeks and the principal says in no time this will come to an end.

How can respect help us as youth of today?



By: Bulelwa John (11)

What Is Respect?

Respect is the means of showing regard and appreciation for the worth of someone. Respect is an important way of being kind and good to other people. People admire someone deeply, as a result of their abilities, qualities, or achievements. Respect is an important factor in a learner's ability to achieve his or her goals and it involves being polite to people. It is when you respect yourself first and when you know what to say to people in the right way.

What Role Can Be Played?

Try to respond differently to injustice. React in a positive way and reply respectfully. Have respect so that people can respect you back. Make a difference to the community so that people can know you are well mannered. Try to control your self-esteem. Reduce the way we react to respect in the negative way to be in a good way. Trust yourself and behave in a good way.

What Can Youth Do To Show Respect?

You can be kind to other people even if they have hurt you or used vulgar language. Don't quickly lose your temper and be alert of other's responsibilities when they claim their rights. Try to control yourself and be able to understand other people's temper so you will not respond to their vulgar language. Trust yourself and try to not hurt other people's feelings by judging them or abusing them.

What Is The Purpose Of Respect?

The purpose of respect is to be able to work with other people and to communicate with others in a right way. We can advise each other and help each other out. As equals, we must not judge each other.

How Will You Benefit From Respect?

You will receive confidence through respect. You will get noticed by others and be an example to people who don't show respect. Also, you will influence others and help them change so they can be noticed by others too.

What Kind Of Change Do We Expect?

We expect people to have good manners and always have show good character. We must show responsibility and always be concerned about people. Finally, we must pay attention and always be careful.

Students doing it big in and out of Walmer High

By: Lesedi Moyo (12A)

Walmer High School, as we all know, is situated in the not so popular township of Walmer. By now, you can imagine what a lot of people think about it. It is dragged down and often overlooked by others due to Walmer's negative reputation.

Immediately when a person says Walmer Location, people predict that the person is will talk about the negative things happening in Walmer, such a violent acts against women and children. I am also going to talk about Walmer but I will not focus on the negative things because that would be an insult to my nature.

Today, I am going to talk about our very own W.H.S students that have been doing great things at our school as well as outside its mighty gates. They are young leaders and should be role-models to some students that are hiding their potential talent. These include editors and artists that write and paint their problems away.

Lihleli Kutase is a young lady that has already let destiny push her to the media side. She's in matric and is best known for excelling in all that she does. Her peers view her as a leader and a young role-model, and she demonstrated this in the following interview.

Q: I heard that you are doing it big outside of W.H.S. What do you have to say about that?

A: I have been part of the Walmer's Own Magazine team since 2009 and at some point I was the editor. I learned a lot about proof reading, editing, and dealing with other people's ideas.

Q: What did you love about what you were doing?

A: What I loved about what I was doing was that it offered me to expand my knowledge on writing as a profession.

Q: When and why did you join the group?

A: I joined in 2009, because it seemed cool at that time. Plus, I wanted to improve my writing abilities.

Q: Since you're in matric, how do you manage to juggle things from the group to school?

A: Now that I'm in matric, I do not attend as often as I'd like but I try and make time to be present.

Q: What do you plan to achieve or gain from this?

A: I had planned to have been a part of at least seven editions.

Q: Would you advice others to join? Why or why not?

A: I would advise others to join because it surely improves a person's team work ability and English as a language.

Dulwana Siyabulela is a learner who is also in matric. Siyabulela is a a cricket player who plays for both our school and an outside team called Walmer Warriors. urely you'll agree with me when I say that W.H.S is a school that has it all! Dulwana was kind enough to take time off from his busy schedule and answer what I had to ask him.

Q: What exactly do you do?

A: I am a cricket player, a wicket keeper on the field, and I'm also the Vice Captain of our school team.

Q: When did you start playing?

A: I started playing when I was in primary school and that was in 2007.

Q: What do you love about cricket?

A: I love the fact that cricket is a sport that requires discipline, commitment and focus. It is also a fun sport to play.

Q: What are the positive and negative effects of cricket?

A: The negative effects are that I'm in matric so that means that there is less time for me train and the positive effects are that it keeps me grounded, away from what my peers are doing.

Q: How do you manage your time?

A: As for managing time, I made myself a time table which I follow very well and it helps me manage time.

Q: Would you advise others to join?

A: Yes, but people should know that cricket isn't as easy as it looks. It needs time and a lot of practice.

Q: What do you plan to achieve from this?

A: Big things. I want it to be my option B just in case option A doesn't work as planned.

I was fortunate enough to interview our very own



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM... Lihleli Kutase (left) and Dulwana Siyabulela taking their work beyond the boundaries of Walmer High.

Brenda Fassie, Amanda Mncono. She is a beautiful and talented yet humble song bird. I asked her about what she does and this is what she had to say.

Q: What is it that you're involved in?

A: I am a member of the Masifunde Film Group. I work with editing and cameras.

Q: When and why did you join?

A: I joined in 2009 and I joined because it involved doing what I loved.

Q: What do you love about it?

A: I love the fact that I get a chance to get to know a lot of people during interviews.

Q: Would you advise to join?

A: Yes, because when you're in matric you get a chance to work with BayTv.

Q: What do you plan to achieve from this?

A: I hope to my first year in film and if I get a chance to do so, I will have more knowledge because of my past experience.

It seems to me that our school has a wide variety of awesome people doing awesome things in and out of our school. That shows that our school is not like the site in which it is situated in Walmer Location. Walmer High is similar to a Lotus flower, since it is very unique. It grows in the dirtiest of dirty places but that does not stop it from being admired by people and blooming into something strong and beautiful. W.H.S is a factory known for producing only the best products. The question that still remains is, are you one of them?

Teenage pregnancy at school

By: Millicent Lucylle Mhlophe

Teenage pregnancy is a predicament in our school. Why are we letting this happen? Why don't we do something about it?

If you are a student and the father of the baby is also a student, where will you get the money to support the child? You now have to find work, but who will employ you when you have not even finished school yet?

Nowadays, many teenagers rush into big things that they are not ready to do. For example, in 2011 there were 4,217 pregnant learners in Gauteng province. There are several school students who are pregnant at this moment and they are still attending school. Some feel that is okay because they must not miss their classes since they are important. Others disagree, and feel that the student should drop out once they know that they are pregnant, so that they do not distract other students.

As teenagers, we must really think out of the box before we intend to do things or make decisions. I asked students and teachers of Walmer High School to tell us what they think about this situation.

One student said, "It is not very acceptable because family planning is free and condoms are free there to avoid pregnancy. Lessons are taught at school about how to prevent teenage pregnancy. Children must be discouraged to have sex at an early age." It is clear that young mothers and their babies face greater health risks. In the educational sphere, we remain concerned about valuable learning time lost and the ever present threat that the new responsibilities of motherhood may mean some give up their own education for their child.

Another student agreed, saying, "It is acceptable because mistakes can happen and everyone has the right to education. She has to stay in school until the delivery date has arrived so that she will not be behind with her school work."Based on this argument, she does not have to quit school because the student will be pregnant for nine months.

Those nine months she has to be at school. A student who agreed with continuing their education said, "It is not always the issue of not coming to school. What about her studies? Going to labour does not automatically happen. It happens almost in the ninth month of the pregnancy."

She will have to take at least few days to deliver the baby and stay with the child. In some countries, there are high school day care centres for students who have babies, which means she drops the child and goes to class. This is not encouraging them to

become pregnant but it helps them not to miss their classes. They have to be careful and condomize all the time.

In an opposing argument, Anelisa Mtyatyeni said, "These students are not supposed to come to school because many problems may occur like, she can go to labour before time and disturb other learners. The other learners will not know what to do in that kind of situation."

Teacher Ma'am Nqakaza agreed with Anelisa, stating, "They know what is right. We teach them about these things. They know what Love Life used to teach them. Sometimes other children stay by themselves, sometimes we as teachers wonder how these children are disciplined."

Ms. Nqakaza continued, stating, "Sometimes it is hard to teach children who are pregnant because they have mood swings and they are at risk as they might be in labour and we cannot get rid of them because the government says every child has the right to education."

It seems that people are divided on this issue, especially because it is such a personal one. One student expressed, "I think it's very unacceptable because they will not be in the same level of other children and they concentrate very well on their studies. If a student is pregnant she must not come to school." In comparison, another student feels that, "Whether they are on the same level or not it does not matter. What matter is that she is at school and she is doing her work."

One of the primary policy objectives of this government since 1994 has been to achieve gender parity in basic education. This policy has been so successful that girls now make up the majority of enrolments in secondary schools.

Ms. Ntantiso said, "The law says it is right. It would be would be unfair if the girl is penalised, since also the boys must be penalised. Girls must take more responsibility and try to be more serious about their lives and school. It is not pleasant to see a school girl wearing a uniform and pregnant at the same time. Sometimes the students develop mood swings, they sleep in class and they do not cope with school work, and I have got two minds about this situation, meaning it is fine for the students to attend school and it is not fine."

Clearly, teenage pregnancy and education is an important issue to discuss around South Africa. We have heard what the students and teachers have said, and girls and boys, it is up to you to decide what is right for you.



Valentine's Day - Walmer High style!

By: Damane Lonwabo (11G)

As the nation celebrated Valentine's Day with their loved ones, we at Walmer High School also saw the day as one that should be spent with great felicity. It should be a day involving time with loved ones and binding the universe with love.

Our own entertainment committee (Mrs Sana, Mrs Mfama, Miss April, and Mrs Ngcozela) put on together a fantastic show that united the juniors and seniors of the school and got them wearing smiles under one roof.

The show was blessed with a stunning opening play based on under age drinking and peer pressure performed by the OBF (One Big Family) club. The play grasped the audience's attention and got the crowd dying with laughter as it was presented in a comedic and educational way.

Afterwards, it was time for the beauty pageant and the judges had to choose the most dazzling and distinct couple out of the 12 contestants that took part in the competition. Things appeared pretty tough for the judges as the contestants were highly competitive.

After a long consideration period, the judges finally came up with the results and landed us with Yolanda Mlindi (8A) as our female winner and Olwethu Nggowana (11F) as our male winner.

Just when everyone thought the show had come to an end, DJ Bakkie and DJ Jason got the house in flames and the dance floor was open to everyone. As a result of all the hard work of the entertainment committee, it was a successful show that satisfied every individual present and will forever be one of our blissful memories as W.H.S.



LOVELY DAY... As the nation celebrated Valentine's Day with their loved ones, we at Walmer High School also saw the day as one that should be spent with great felicity.

Worrisome Security Challenges at School

Walmer High School is faced with worrying security challenges. Each month, students are faced with the dangers of robbery, theft, bullying, and stalking. Students often feel that they are not safe at school because of these aspects stated above, as girls complain about boys stalking them in their toilets.

In regards to stalking, there is another matter that is extremely dangerous. People come from outside the school to rob and take student's pocket money, cellphones, and accessories. They force them by taking out knives and even threatening them by means of stopping them from speaking.

These are the matters that Walmer High School is faced with often. Students steal other students' backpacks and then take part in bullying. Especially boys are intensely bullying one another by calling each other names and fighting, sometimes even using knives.

Now the question is how do these students feel and how will this end? In reference to teachers and students, what can be done?

First, I spoke to Mrs. Sana, one of the teachers who have experienced lots of corruption around Walmer High School.

Q: As a teacher and as a parent, how are you coping with this kind of situation?

Mrs Sana: I'm not coping well. It's too frightening, especially the use of drugs by learners. I don't feel safe around the school.

Q: Does this affect you?

Mrs Sana: Yes, it does affect me as teacher because I feel that some of the parents are not concerned about their children. They go to work and come home late. They don't even care about what is going on around their children.

Q: What can you do or suggest about this crisis?

Mrs Sana: I think that the school needs to have the code of conduct and action taken against a corrupt learner. We also need to include the arm of law.

I next spoke with Millicent Mhlophe, a Grade 12 student who is full of experience with such situations and has been around the school for a while.

Q: As a student of Walmer High School, what can you say about this situation?

Millicent: First of all, crime isn't a pleasant thing to do.

We as students of Walmer high school must fight against crime, because this is our school. Everyone who commits crime must be sent away for a very long time to prevent Walmer residents from taking the law into their own hands.

Q: Can you suggest any ways to end this?

Millicent: Students must not be outside the school. Police must patrol in and outside the school so that everyone can be safe.

The fire is on at Walmer High School, as teachers are trying by all means to fight with the situation. In February of this year, class representatives were chosen to guide and report corrupt moves inside the school. They were also chosen to represent the school in meetings about such matters.

There you have it, students, teachers, and residents of Walmer. The teachers have spoken and now it is up to you and the arm of law to take action.



By: Thoz Mbongolo

Underage Drinking and Drug Use

By: Pamela Ntante (8E)

We, as teenagers of today, have a problem with using drugs and alcohol. Every day, we are told that drugs are dangerous to our health, but some of us do not listen. We see how other people end up after using drugs, but we do not stop until the same thing happens to us.

Some of us drop out of school. For example, two boys were caught smoking in the school by the principal early in February. The principal punished them, but others still smoke in school. I spoke to a boy in Rustenburg in my community who says drugs make him feel better.

He says they help prevent his worries but I think it makes things worse. Many people are now so addicted to drugs that they would do anything for

them. They break into other people's houses or steal money from their parents and then they end up in prison.

DRUGS ARE A DANGER TO YOUR HEALTH. PLEASE KNOW THAT.

Thembeke Gosa from the Department of Transport says, "To solve this problem it is for the government to try by all means to stop drug trafficking into the country."

She advises the learners to keep themselves busy with different types of sport, activities, and projects because if they have a lot of free time, they tend to do drugs. It is clear that if you do not do drugs, you can have a bright future. Be sure of your decisions.



NOT SO COOL... Thembeke Gosa gives advice – teenagers today have a problem with using drugs and alcohol which often destroys their health and affects their relationships with others.

The Social Costs of Social Networks

Social networks have turned against us. They are killing our minds and confidence. They have influenced children and resulted in so many bad things like showing bad behaviour, losing respect, losing control, and turning them into monsters. At Walmer High School, we experienced those things and it was huge because students and teachers had a meeting about this issue. As we know, it affects us all as students and teachers.

In South Africa, some students and teenagers that are missing are sold to other countries. They start by meeting with strangers from social networks. It really hurts to know that our future is in the dark because of the steps we take and the directions we choose by ourselves. Now it is even worse because your private life is not private anymore. We are destroying our reputations.

As we know, spreading lies about someone is a very bad thing to do, but now gossip is one of the major problems in social networks.

In Walmer High School, we have experienced the negative side of social networks and we have heard gossip about other students. We are still trying so hard to stop this issue by creating love

and peace in our school. As students of Walmer High School, we really want to unite our beautiful school and be one big family.

I spoke to Noqoli Amanda [11B] and Yolanda Mfeti [11A], who were highly affected by the gossip spread on social networks.

Yolanda Mfeti [11A]

What damage could this do to the students and school in large?

This can destroy the school's reputation and it can ruin a lot of children's lives. If it keeps on happening, such things can make students drop out and even commit suicide.

We recently experienced the negative side of social networks at Walmer High School. How has this affected you?

This has affected me in a negative way because I was also a victim. Spreading things about others just to get back at them or to hurt them does not only affect them only but the entire family and it can get bad if it does not stop.

Amanda Noqoli [11B]

How do you feel about this gossip issue?

I feel so sad because I did not think that a human being can be so cruel. It felt as if that person did



By: Simbongile Skiti

not have a heart at all. As students, we have worked towards bringing this to an end and making decisions by ourselves.

We must not bring cell phones to school and we must use social networks for specific reasons like research, assignments, or homework.

Be aware of social networks, since they can make you happy now but tomorrow they may come back and turn against you.



Tips to stay safe:

- Do not bring cell phones to school
- Tell class reps or the teachers if you feel unsafe or see something that looks wrong.
- Tell the principal if you are meeting in classrooms after school hours.

The Debate Awakens: The debate club is back again at Walmer High School!

By: Sanelisiwe Dick (10G)

Debate has always been a popular activity at Walmer High School. The only problem was that the students did not have an adult to guide them. The students had tried to facilitate each other but failed. The failure was a result of them not being able to organise matches with other schools. The students did have hope that they would have a facilitator one day.

The school's first debate in quite a while was held on the 22nd of May 2013. It was held in the Umthombo Wolwazi Library, which is Walmer High School's library. The debate took place after school.

There were 15 devoted students as the participants, meaning that there were three teams. Each team had to make up its own name. In the end, we had The Pythons, The Four Nations, and the winning team of The Groundbreakers.

Wonga Sophitshi, a Grade 10 student, was the brains behind the debate. He revealed his plan during a Library Prefect meeting. His aim was to create something to draw the students into the library. "I must admit that the debate exceeded my expectations," said Wonga, smiling like a proud father.

The debate was a success to such an extent that Miss Gxoyiya wanted to have a fixed school's debate club. Although she has not formally announced this yet, Miss Gxoyiya would like the future team to have sessions every Friday.

"We hope that Miss G facilitates the development of the school's debate club," said one student excitedly. If you are interested in the school debate club's progress, keep on reading Walmer Breaking News!



BACK AGAIN... The debate club is back again at Walmer High School!

No news regarding Umthombo Wolwazi Library break-ins

By: Damane Lonwabo

There is still no news regarding the Umthombo Wolwazi Library break-in attempt that occurred earlier on in this term. The robbery attempt took place on the 1st of May during the early hours of Wednesday before the holiday. Apparently this was a second attempt made by the unknown burglars.

The first one happened just a week before the second one and they both occurred before sunrise.

According to Kelly McNulty, one of the ETAs from the United States who has been running the library successfully since January this year, few things were stolen. It is believed that the unknown burglars' targets were items formerly stored inside the library.

"The ADT security system responded within four minutes, so this made it impossible for them to get [any items]," Kelly said. The police are still behind the investigation and the last time they came to the school, which was just after the robbery attempt, they took fingerprints.

Kelly and Ashley Millhouse were upset and they failed to comprehend why anyone would want to take such a wonderful library, which came out of hard work, away from students. "I was furious and disappointed when I heard the news, because I know how much students enjoy spending their spare time and studying in this library," Kelly said. "I know many students felt the same way and they have been suggesting and throwing brilliant ideas on how to prevent this from happening in the future," she continued.

The break-in attempt has not only been a wake-up call for the Walmer High School, but also a concern for the safety of the library. Kelly and Ashley are confident that Principal Dyani and the police will not rest until the people responsible for this are found.

Our Big Family

By: Hlombekazi Breakfast (10G)

OBF (One Big Family) was founded by former Walmer High student Fundile Makhosi and current student Onela Likhwe. They first started with a small group, including myself and five other learners. As days went by, more and more children became interested.

While it had more than 30 members at the beginning of Term 1, they have recently become fewer. This is a positive change because they can sort and discuss problems for efficiently. As a small group they no longer have unstructured, 'spaghetti' meetings.

"OBF has had ups and downs lately similar to any student organization. Since we are all teenagers, we sometimes find it hard listening to one another and we have no elders around during our rehearsals. We have elected leaders within ourselves who will take responsibilities whenever they can. We do not want any adult leadership because we want to sharpen our skills as being leaders.

"Luckily, Ashley Millhouse and Kelly McNulty volunteered to help us and are willing to organize everything for us. I must say that they've been so helpful. They have organized concerts and made our posters for free, as well as advised us and introduced the group to others.

"[OBF is] passionate...filled with young and youthful drama, which is all about sending a message to the community and more motivation to the people around us. [We] would like to see change in our community for better," said Fundile Makhosi. He believes in, "empowering our community through drama."

I took the time to interview one of our fans who asked to remain anonymous. She has been watching the group since our first performance and she's been supporting it all the way. When asked for any feedback she would like to give, she said that we have to be well-organized and write more educational plays. It is helpful that



FAMILY TIME... OBF (One Big Family) was founded by former Walmer High student Fundile Makhosi and current student Onela Likhwe.

we have fans and they are behind us all the way, in good and bad times.

We were unsure of what to write about until we heard about the South African breweries and we created a play about underage drinking. South African Breweries works with alcohol and the topic was entitled, 'You Decide.'

We decided to take part in the competition, although unfortunately we did not win. Recently, OBF was busy with an HIV/AIDS play and they performed it on 7 May here in our hall. First, they performed for the Grade 8 and 9 and again performed for Frade 10 and 11. The audience was noisy but we hope that they understood the message.

We perform any plays that cross our minds. If you want to know how things are done do not hesitate to come and just pay a little visit to one of our sessions. We meet every day afterschool.

Debate: the Path Carver

By: Lesedi Moyo (12)

Walmer High School is best known for having students that excel at both their academics and sport," said Lerato Mdunyelwa, a Matric pupil. Unfortunately, other sports like debate and chess do not often surface when people mention the sports that pupils take part in at Walmer HS.

Over the past few years, W.H.S has been well known for its strong debate team and as a result, the majority of the students that took part in the debate are doing great things where they are.

Ms. Ntantiso, an English teacher who was also a debate coordinator, said, "I feel sad and guilty because I know what they are being deprived of." She answered this when I asked her how she felt about the fact that there was no debate team representing W.H.S. She continued to say that there had been a lot of challenges that took their time as teachers, which included overcrowding and shortages of teachers.

She also said it made it difficult to make time for extra mural activities such as the debate team. When asked what she was most proud of in regards to the achievements achieved by the former debate students, she said that she is most proud of Amlindile Maphithiza because he is now a member of a debate team. "The fact that he was part of Walmer High's team also helped him with his passion for rap music because now his music group has been invited to perform at the Grahamstown Arts Festival in July."

She went on to say that when the school participated in the Township Inter High School Debate Challenge, the best speaker from that tournament came from our school and that his name was Fundile Makhosi.

These students are not the only ones that achieved great things. Yomelela Hlwathika, who is currently studying Political Science, discovered his passion for politics through debate. Anelisa Tuswa was also a member of the society, and she is currently studying at Witswatersrand University. Ms. Ntantiso concluded by saying, "Debate is a life skill that everybody should have."

There are a lot of skills that one can obtain if they are part of a debate club. These include public speaking skills, since few people know how to speak publicly and this causes them to avoid doing so altogether. Debate provides a suitable environment for one to better the following skills:

- Analytical skills** – This is the ability to analyse a problem and propose workable solutions is invaluable. It is a skill that debate teaches and can be applied to skills found in high-level businesspeople and other professions.
- Research Skills** – Debate teaches one to become a good researcher.
- Listening and taking notes** – Debate requires a careful listener and a good note



CHALLENGING MINDS... Fundile Makhosi was a key member of Walmer High School's respected debate team.

taker. This helps a student get better makes and learn faster.

Debate is also fun, as it enables a person to build friendships with teammates who enjoy similar interests. Many of the nation's top lawyers, doctors, business executives, and elected leaders were involved in debate and for good reason.

In short, debate skills help one get ahead and stay there. The power to persuade is highly respected and there is no better way to master this art than through debate. Ask yourself this: why am I not a part of debate team?

Writing Workshops



Masifunde Learner Development hosts a Writing Workshop on differentiating between fact and opinion in journalism. On left: Izizwe Projects' staff member Johan Charlier teaches the 5W's and 1H of interviewing.





You left me

By Moyo Lesedi

To the one I love(d)...
Always a part of me.

It pains me to write you this letter but sadly, I have to.
Allow me to elaborate on what happened after you decided to peacefully depart.

Smooth breeze gently kissed my cheeks as I sat there in solitude. Face covered with a black veil, I mourned for you. My thoughts were occupied by a hoax you'd play on people. I just couldn't bring myself to chant along these lame lamenting lyrics. Every time I tried to, my heart would beat slower and let tears translate what my tormented, tortured, tranquil soul felt.

You left me.
Why did you?

Like a snake peeling off its skin, you and I were to be forever to be apart.
As much as I didn't like the sound of my own heart's shutter, I knew I had to let you go.
The sad and yet strange thing is, I no longer feel the loss.
I guess I left you too...

Written by a 17 year old me to a 10 year old me.



Freedom of Love

By: Juneta Calico (11)

So close and distant
I watch myself slip away
Kissing so merrily
Closing my eyes as the light shines
So deep, so dark, and so plain
I've never felt love so uncomplicated with no pains

It felt like friendship that had fantasies
I'm not in love but free with no cruelty
My heart so free I've got nothing to fear
Nothing to worry about, can it be so near?
So close at heart, so much to spare
Not much to say, I'm totally speechless
Can it be so true? An angel to set me free
His words are a lot more to fill this gap I feel
So far so near a friend I never expected
Came out of the blue uninvited
I've stepped in a cloud but it's not cloud nine

But I'm pretty sure this one is mine
It's just plain romance I have no deep feelings
It's like the study of love with the right settings
A journey of life, a road to my greatest discoveries
He is an open book, a campus for directions
When his face appeared I thought of love and commitment
But now I know destiny sets me to another assignment
I hope he feels the same way
I'm looking for love with fun and games
No strings attached, just pale and plain
Is it too much to ask for?
Because it's what I think I deserve
I hope he sees the light and help me across the night

Thank You Zimasa
Thank You Anelisa



Calling for Help

By: Zimasa Maqashalala (11)

Weeping willow, I'm lost not found
I even struggle to stand the ground
The weight on my shoulders is more than a pound
I try to cry out but I have no sound

For all my life they have lied
They've always seem to play with my mind
They haven't even once been so kind
They've always pushed me on the side

Weeping willow, for crying out loud
I don't even know how many times, I don't even count
I'm begging you please help me out
Cause I can't even use my own mouth

My soul they've bitten down
They made me look like a clown
They even took my only crown
And left my head facing down

Weeping willow, please give a sound
To me and all others who are not found
Help me again to be proud
Of who I am truly inside



Remorseless Man

By: Millicent Lucylle Mhlophe

I do not comprehend why women become victims of men
Gone are the days where girls saw boys as their brothers
Where boys saw girls as their sisters
Gone are the days where women saw men as shields that can protect them from everything

Men were not abusers
Women were not victims of abuse nor rape
Nowadays it has all changed

Girls are scared of boys
Women feel unprotected around men
Why are men so unrelenting remorseless
What did women do to get punished this way
I do not comprehend.

Nowadays women, girls, and boys are abused, raped, murdered, and killed
Men are hawkers of women
Why?

You do not have a reason of doing so
Unrelenting remorseless men deserve to be punished or put away.



Broken Dreams

By: Thozama Mbongolo (11G)

Her dream was to become a businesswoman
But it all vanished as life changed.
She began mourning and crying
Seeking help
But no one helped.

She gave everything up thinking it's the end of the world
She was shattered.

She became bitter and ignored everything
She felt lost and lonely
She was always filled with anger
No one could understand her
Not her teachers nor her family.

She sank like a ship in the ocean
Her dreams disappeared and they were never seen.



My Dreams in Life

By: Pamela Ntante (GR 8)

There are things that I want to achieve in life and those things also include excelling in my studies and studying further after finishing my grade 12. I want to become a lawyer, and I have always dreamt of being one since I was in grade three.

I hear people say that becoming a lawyer is very hard. You have to face difficult stages and challenges and there is a lot of untruthfulness involved. I only know that every dream has its own problems and I pray that whatever happens in life, I will still be able to pursue my dreams and become what I want to become.

I want to make my parents proud and they said that they will support me in every step I take. My whole family looks out for me and they want me to have the life they didn't have. They went through the struggle during Apartheid, so they dropped out of school before they could even finish. My father always advises me to go to school every day, and he always says that it will help me in the future.

I never consider dropping out of school because I know it would affect my future in a negative way. My mother says that what I do now will have an effect on my tomorrow. Hence, I must up my game and play it very carefully. I would like to pass my story to many young teenagers in the world, and also advise my friends to come to school every day.

Fortunately my closest friend, Yandiswa Ngolomi comes to school every day as she also wants to be something in life one day. She is a good friend and I love her dearly because we always encourage each other to look forward in life. You must remember that if you also have a dream, never give up and always work hard to turn it into reality.



Devotion is a Death Sentence

By: Simbongile Skiti (11a)

My love for you blossoms like
a primrose in the spring
with so many blissful memories to cherish
the love I felt for you was just
a stain that vanished

You took my pride away from me
you used me to satisfy your needs
I was blinded by your love
I sold myself, comforted you like a glove

Unfortunately I didn't know who I was
living with a stranger who fed me with lies
I had abandoned my dreams

You made me dig my own grave
pushed me into a cave
now I'm living in hell like a slave

I've got to let you know
that I was born alone
I promise not to love again
I've got to let you go!

Walmer High School's Girls Soccer Team

By: Pamela Ntante (8E)

Soccer is a very good sport for us young teenagers. It keeps us focused most of the time. As students of Walmer High School, we are very lucky to be taught how to play any sport by the people who teach us. We should be very grateful for our coaches' time and that they come to our school to teach us.

I love soccer. It keeps me focused on my schoolwork because I have learned to love it so badly that I cannot bear to miss practice. Soccer advises me to do my schoolwork because if I do not, I will get punished and miss practice.

Soccer is for everyone and it does not choose between a girl and a boy. Without soccer in the world, more people would get bored and try to look for other ways of excitement. They could tend to do bad things but soccer keeps most teens from the streets and it keeps them busy at all times.

Dick Bruijn from Izizwe Projects is our soccer teacher and he advises us youths to, "Do any sport you like. It's always good to do a team sport. It's good to try and win but remember it's just for fun." Try out any sport and you will have fun and learn more.



GLAMOUR GIRLS... Walmer High's Girls' Soccer team takes time to pause for a photo. Sport is very good for us young teenagers. It keeps us focused most of the time.

Extramural, Extra Fun

By: Hlombekazi Breakfast (10G)

Having something to do afterschool is a great thing to experience. Many kids who have joined extramural activities know that they are reducing the chances of being involved in unlawful activities such as drinking alcohol, smoking drugs, and chasing after girls and boys. They know what they want to achieve in life, hence keeping busy is the right thing to do.

I could define the phrase extramural activities as one that you do after school or on your spare time. It is easy to notice that majority of students here at Walmer High School do not participate much in these extramural activities.

When there are competitions, a minority of learners take part and they show their hard work towards goals they want to accomplish. You see the same people who participate and you hardly see new people.

We need new learners to participate and to take on a challenge. A well-known quote by an unknown author states, "Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark and professionals built the Titanic. Taking part in these activities not only produces fun but also lowers one stress levels, as we all come from different households with different situations."

Extramural activities make school an exciting place to be at, since we have soccer for girls and boys, rugby, and cricket. Some learners hope that there will be a cricket team for girls. Acting is also available through groups like OBF (Our Big Family). This group writes their own plays and directs themselves, but are helped out by faculty members.

It is clear that there are a lot of activities to take part in at Walmer High School. There is only one way you can run away from your problems and that is to take part in these extramural activities.



FUTURE SOCCER STARS... Having something to do after school is a great thing to experience.



All about Netball

By: Chuma Nangu (10G)

Netball at Walmer High School has been played for a long time and it has not changed. We want to change our boring high school netball and make an interesting netball team so that other teams would like to challenge us.

If the other learners participate and play the sport that we all love, we could be a wonderful team especially if we have positive team spirit. There are many students who have the ability to play the sport. If you believe in this, you can do it. Some of our players I have even played at since primary school. Even John Masiza players can play, so please participate because we need you.

The other students who want to play netball can come and play with us because we can teach them how to play. If you want to be seen as a netball player, you must act as one and we will know you want to challenge other schools.

There will be games and tournaments that we will play and we will play with the following schools: Pearson, Victoria Park, D.F Marhelbe, and more. Remember to use your skills and join our growing netball team!