

# THE BLUEPRINT



Paarl Boys' High 2019



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<b>Redakteur :</b>	Herman Snyman
<b>Subredakteur :</b>	Dian Jacobs
<b>Grafika :</b>	Dian Jacobs Justin de Villiers
<b>Joernaliste :</b>	Nicolás du Toit Connor Hess Justin de Villiers Liam Relling Stephan Stofberg
<b>Fotografie:</b>	Jonathan Louw Juf. P. Terblanche Juf. D. Redelinghuys
<b>Proeflees :</b>	Juf. M. Visagie
<b>Fasiliteerder:</b>	Mnr. K. Bezuidenhout



# Redakteursbrief

Hierdie uitgawe van *The Blueprint* kondig die einde van die eerste kwartaal van 2019 aan. Tyd vlieg.

Ek wil graag namens myself en die redaksie die graad 8's en hul ouers welkom heet en bekend stel aan ons elektroniese publikasie: *The Blueprint*. Ek hoop dat die besige begin van julle hoërskoolloopbaan nou begin rigting kry en dat julle begin gewoond raak aan die HJS-manier van doen ...

Elke persoon het 'n storie om te vertel. Met die begin van 'n nuwe jaar het ons almal die kans om te help skryf aan ons eie storie. Stories is oral om jou. Jy hoef nie in verafgeleë plekke of eksotiese bestemmings te gaan soek na stories nie, hulle sit in die gewoonste van insidente en in die voorspelbaarste van geleenthede. Jy moet dit net raaksien. Hier is my raad vir die jaar vorentoe:

1. Neem deel aan jou storie.
2. Glo in jou storie.
3. Trek 'n verband tussen jou storie en God se groot storie met die mens.

The theme of this edition is random. The writers randomly chose something to write about. Legends of PBHS focusses on Old Boy Mr. Brett Tesselaar who is in his 15th year as a teacher at Paarl Boys' High. Read about all this and more. *The Blueprint* is excited about the new year! We look forward to interact with the learners of the school this year!

Lekker vakansie hou as gesin. Ek sluit af met Langenhoven: "Die man wat aldae lekker kos het, eet nooit lekker nie; en die man wat heeljaar vakansie hou, het nie één rusdag nie."

Die Redakteur  
Herman Snyman



# Random Career Opportunities

By Nicolás du Toit

The minds of young children are filled with colourful and romanticised stories and characters, fuelled by the movies and stories that they are told. We are told by our parents that we can become anything that we put our mind to, but as we get older, the magic and imagination slowly dies out. We become aware of the world out there and conform with today's standards of both success and reality.



But what about the imaginative and romanticised career opportunities out there? The jobs which we think of as strange and don't fit in on the list of 'successful' jobs? Here is a list of random, strange and weird jobs which exist in our world today:

- A professional 'sleeper' – you read it right. A Finnish hotel has hired one of its staff to test the comfort of their beds, and the quality of their sleep. Although a lazy person's dream, this job requires more than just a love for sleep and a critical personality – it requires a fluency in both English and Finnish.
- We often hear the phrase "watching paint dry", but did you know that there is a profession involving it? Dr Thomas Curwen at Dulux watches paint dry, taking note of how fast it dries, what changes occur in colour as well as any other changes in the particles.
- A professional mourner: for all the drama queens out there. There is a belief in South-East Asia, which states that a loud funeral, with weeping and crying throughout the ceremony aids the spirit in passing to the afterlife. "Professional mourners" are people who are employed to cry and weep loudly throughout the service.
- For those of use with a brave personality, there is always a career in snake milking. As bizarre as the name is, it involves 'milking' the snake, in order to collect its venom. The venom is then used to create anti-venoms and other medications.
- In Florida, USA, lies the only underwater hotel in the whole of the United States, the Jules Undersea Lodge. Guests have to scuba dive to reach the rooms. In addition to this, there is also a pizza delivery man, who delivers pizza straight to your room, in scuba gear, with the pizza in a water-tight box. Who knew being a pizza-delivery guy could be so interesting?

# Legends of PBHS

By Connor Hess

This term I decided to interview an Old Boy, hostel father and teacher, Mr. Brett Tesselaar. When I heard the theme for this term's *The Blueprint* is "random", I immediately thought of our beloved English teacher.

Mr. Tesselaar matriculated in 1992 and he played second team hockey from Grade 10-12. He also played under 14F and under 15F rugby as well as second team golf.

His favourite book is "To Kill a Mockingbird".

During his schooling career the subject he was best at was ironically Afrikaans and his worst subject was Biology. His favourite subject was Geography. The teachers that left the biggest impression on him were his English and Afrikaans teacher.



How did Mr. Tesselaar get appointed at his alma mater?

"It was 2004 and I was on my way to watch rugby at Newlands with my previous colleague. Before they picked me up I read in the newspaper that Paarl Boys' High was looking for an English teacher. Before going to watch the game, we were having a braai and I saw Mr. Visagie behind me with a couple of Boys' High teachers. I decided to go and greet Mr. Visagie. He recognized me and during our conversation he also mentioned the vacant English position. He then asked me what sports I coached. At that stage I was coaching first team hockey, exactly what Boys' High was looking for. I still did the interview, but I think my conversation with Mr. Visagie helped me to get the position. And now I am in my 15th year at the school."

We thank Mr. Tesselaar for the service he continues to give the school and the role he plays in developing our future.

Spot Mr. Tesselaar?



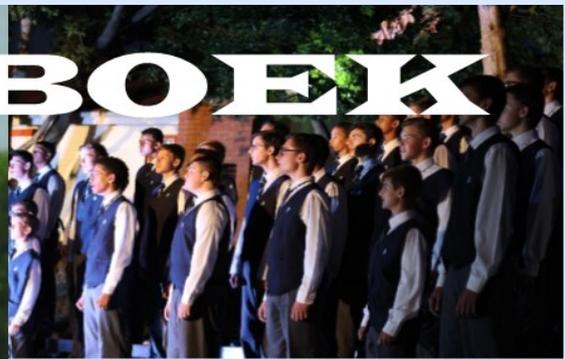
Spot Mr. Tesselaar?

# Random Interesting Facts

By Justin de Villiers

- Showers spark creativity.
- Superman could not always fly; in the original comics he could only jump over tall buildings.
- The accordion is the most popular instrument in North Korea.
  - Dolphins have been trained to be used in wars.
  - Pringles are technically not potato chips.
    - Koalas have fingerprints.
    - Chinese police use geese squads.
  - The first iPhone was not made by Apple.
    - Sea lions can dance to a beat.
  - You sneeze faster than a cheetah can run.
- The Cast of *Friends* still earn around \$20 million each year.
- In some parts of Germany people help toads cross the road.
- Dr. Seuss's name is pronounced (soice) rhyming with voice.
- There is a precise speed where jogging becomes running.(10 km/h)
  - Lemurs get high on bugs.

# FOTODAGBOEK



# Diogenes of Sinope, the dog of Greek philosophers

## By Liam Relling

Diogenes of Sinope (412-323 BC), also known as Diogenes the cynic, is considered by many to be one of, if not the most, important and influential figure among cynics. Throughout his life, he built up his reputation as the archetypal cynic through his rejection of luxury in favour of self-sufficiency, his sarcastic sense of humour and his disregard for social norms and conventions. Described by Plato as “Socrates gone mad”, Diogenes is often credited for originating cynicism; however he did state that he was primarily influenced by the writings of Antisthenes, who developed the ethical side of Socrates’ teachings.

It is important to note that anything regarding historical figures, especially those buried deeper in time, should be taken with a grain of salt as very few records were made and even less preserved. This is especially important with a man such as Diogenes, seeing as he preferred verbal interaction over written account, similar to his contemporary, Plato. Because of this, along with the fact that few of his written works were preserved, we can only learn of his philosophies through anecdotal stories that took place throughout his life.



Diogenes was born and raised in the Greek colony of Sinope. Sinope was an incredibly wealthy city. So wealthy in fact, that it had bankers who minted the city’s own coins. Diogenes’ father, Hicesias, was one such banker who was charged with minting coins. He also took it upon himself to train Diogenes to mint coins and work with him. One day, Diogenes went to the Oracle of Delphi for advice. She told him to “deface the currency”. So, the father-son duo became involved in a plan to deface coins. As soon as this was discovered, they were both exiled from Sinope. After their run-in with the law, he interpreted the Oracle’s advice more metaphorically: to deface the political currency and not actual coins. He embarked on a journey to Athens and made it his goal in life to challenge society, its values and norms.

In Athens, he was drawn to the teachings of Antisthenes. Reportedly, he insisted on having Antisthenes mentor him. Antisthenes ignored him until eventually beating Diogenes with his staff. Diogenes responded by saying, “Strike, for you will find no wood hard enough to keep me away from you, so long as I think you’ve something to say.” Antisthenes ultimately caved and finally accepted Diogenes as his pupil. After years of working under Antisthenes, Diogenes developed his own philosophy based on Antisthenes’ and, by extension, Socrates’ works. This involved a life of self-discipline, self-sufficiency, freedom and rejection of material value.

Diogenes' bare-bones lifestyle was twice as impressive as it was shocking. Some say that he had an onion-only diet for a short time period, but that's unlikely considering his admiration for a dog's willingness to eat anything. More on that later. Initially, when he arrived in Athens, he asked someone to find him a cottage. Growing impatient, however, he moved into a wine barrel he found by the river. He felt as though his fellow men weighed themselves down with the luxurious lifestyle and material items. According to him, none of that was necessary for happiness.

People often compared him to a dog because of his lifestyle. He would often eat and perform bodily functions in public. Eating in public may sound normal in the modern age, but to the Ancient Greeks, it was considered highly uncivilised. What started as an insult eventually turned into something he would start to embrace, developing a great sense of admiration for a dog's way of life. Dogs eat, sleep and perform bodily functions wherever they please. They don't regret the past or worry about the future. They just live in the moment. When asked why he was being compared to a dog, he stated, "I fawn on those who give me anything, I yelp at those who refuse and I set my teeth in rascals."



Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

He had quite the feud with Plato, which stemmed from them disagreeing over Socrates' teachings. On one occasion, Plato defined man as a "featherless biped". Diogenes plucked the feathers from a chicken and brought it to Plato's Academy, exclaiming, "Behold! I've brought you a man!" After that incident, the Academy added "with broad, flat nails" to the definition.

He was infamous for such strange behaviour. Like all the times he walked around the city in the daytime with a lantern. If he was ever asked why, he simply stated, "I am fruitlessly searching for an honest man," or "a real person".

Long after his antics in Athens, he was imprisoned by pirates and sold into slavery. According to a story, widely believed to be written by Menippus of Gadara, Diogenes was captured on a trip to Aegina and sold as a slave in Crete to a Corinthian man named Xenias.

Diogenes stated that he knew no trade, but that of governing men when asked about his trade. He also stated that he wished to be sold to someone in need of a master. Xenias loved Diogenes' attitude and hired him to tutor his children in Corinth. This is where accounts of this story begin to conflict the most. Some say he was released almost immediately. Some say he lived the rest of his life as Xenias' slave. Others believe that he spent a few years with Xenias and got released later on. There are also some accounts that he found himself a new barrel in Corinth.

Corinth was also where he had one of his most famous meetings. The time he met Alexander the Great. Or rather, the time Alexander the Great met him Diogenes didn't care much for other people, their status in society or anything about them unless he thought he could learn something from them, such as Antisthenes. Alexander was about as eager to meet Diogenes as a young child is to open a Christmas present. According to Plutarch and Diogenes Laërtius, they exchanged only a few words during their first encounter and it went as such:

“I am Alexander, the great king.”

“I am Diogenes, the dog.”

Alexander offered to do Diogenes a favour to which he replied, “Move over, you're in the way of my sunlight.”

Alexander admired Diogenes' lack of care and remarked, “If I had not been Alexander, I would have liked to have been Diogenes,” to which Diogenes replied, “If I were not Diogenes, I would still wish to be Diogenes.”



In true Diogenes fashion, when asked how he wanted to be buried, he gave instructions to be thrown outside the city so that wild animals could feast on his remains. When asked if he minded being eaten after death, he said, “Not at all, as long as you provide me with a stick to chase the animals away!” After being asked how he would use the stick if he lacked awareness, he asked, “If I lack awareness, then why should I care what happen to me when I am dead?”

He died around the age of ninety, in 323 BC. There are various accounts of how he died, though. One stated that he died from eating raw octopus, another stating he killed himself by holding his breath until he died, believing his body had grown too weak to live independently. The most popular and ironic account is that he contracted rabies from a dog bite.

By looking at Diogenes' life and all his anecdotes, it's easy to see why he is considered by many to be the source from which cynicism originated. Despite some questionable values of his and a few disgusting habits, he did have some valid points. Even if you disagree with everything he did or said, you can't deny that he was definitely one of the stranger, more interesting figures in history.

# Woza Albert: A Play to Remember.

By Justin de Villiers

On 27 February, the Paarl Boys' High dramatic arts department went to the Baxter Theatre to watch Woza Albert. This was a great experience for me as a part of the dramatic arts department as this was the first play that I have seen that was not a musical. The play was very comedic. I found it very interesting but also utterly hilarious and entertaining and I do not regret going.

The play was written in 1982 by actors Mbongeni Ngema and Percy Mtwa, (who returned this year to perform the play after four decades once again) in collaboration with renowned theatre maker Barney Simon. The play has the main idea of what would happen if Christ came in the years of apartheid. The whole play is actually made up of many short sketches of people from all walks of life in the late 1980s in South Africa responding to the news of Christ coming to South Africa. Although this is what you could call the main idea of the play it was actually a protest play.



Woza Albert is a play in the style of poor theatre. This is a play style in which a theatrical performance is stripped of many props and a set. It focuses on the actors' ability to portray the message using his speech and body actions. This is a style creation of which is credited to Jerzy Grotowski. It is fast-paced with 26 scenes; yet you will never be bored.

Woza Albert is a play that I will never forget because of its humour and entertainment value. I advise you if you ever get an opportunity to go see this play to go see this play go and enjoy it whether for educational purposes or entertainment, go!

# A Close Call: How The World Nearly Went Up In Flames

By Stephan Stofberg

Most people in the world are ignorant of how close the world has been to a Nuclear Armageddon during the Cold War. There were several cases where disaster was barely averted by only the thought that the unthinkable would never happen.

Soviet submarine B-59, in the Caribbean near Cuba.



Source: <http://dunyanews.tv>

On 27 October 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a group of eleven United States Navy destroyers and the aircraft carrier USS Randolph located the Soviet, nuclear-armed Foxtrot-class submarine, B-59, near Cuba. The American ships, despite being in international waters, promptly started dropping “signalling depth charges” (practice depth charges the size of hand grenades) to let the Soviet submarine know that they had been found and to surface so that they could be identified.

What the Americans did not know was that the submarine was under orders to use its T-5 nuclear-tipped torpedo, that had a yield of 10 kilotons of TNT (2/3 of the Hiroshima bomb), if it was damaged by either depth charges or surface fire. According to a Soviet intelligence officer on the ship it felt like you were in a steel barrel being smashed by a sledgehammer. The crew of the submarine had no way of knowing if WW3 had started due to them being deep underwater and unable to contact their superiors. The captain of the B-59, Valentin Grigorievitch Savitsky, decided that WW3 had started without him and wanted to launch their nuclear-tipped torpedo at the American ships. Luckily for the world at large this was not the case.



Unlike the other boats in the flotilla, B-59 also had on board the flotilla commander and second in command of the sub, Vasili Archipov. Normally the captain would only require permission from the political officer to use “special weapons”, which would have proved disastrous in that it would ignite a global nuclear retaliation against the USSR to which it would not have been able to respond at that time. Luckily, due to Archipov’s presence his permission was also required. An unanimous vote was needed from the three senior officers present. Archipov was the only officer that did not agree with the use of nuclear weapons. His decision to oppose the captain’s decision saved the world from a global catastrophe that it would take a long time to recover from, if it ever did.