**Talent Show**

**Sweet Valley High** will be hosting an inter-school talent show in the second half of the year, and we will be going BIG. The purpose of this circular is to familiarise everyone with the arrangements and planning to date. In terms of the final format and the program of events, nothing is cast in stone. We remain open to constructive suggestions. This is indeed a joint undertaking, and at this early stage we are still exploring all the avenues. A talent show is by definition a pooling of diverse abilities and aspirations, and the organisational aspects must likewise draw on a variety of different talents. We aim to put on an extravaganza of note – the biggest and best of its kind. Brave words. But we believe that we collectively ‘have what it takes’ to produce an event that will echo down the years as the standard for all talent shows to come.

# Why a talent show?

* **We have talent.** Not only in the classroom, but also on the field, in the home, behind the workbench, in all the spaces that we love to fill with our thoughts and skills and abilities.
* **We can be inspired.** How many times hasn’t a great idea been engendered from simply watching someone else do something supremely well? We take on board the aspirations of others and make them our own.
* **We love to be entertained.** From the old Athenians gazing down at the classical dramas to the galleries of spectators cheering on their favourite team – we love being part of a crowd and WATCHING.
* **We need funds.** Money makes the world go round, and this is no less true of business than of the things that make a school like ours function from day to day. A server upgrade, brand new 21.5" LED monitors, fibre links, air conditioning, new seating – the list goes on!

## Resources

An event on the scale that we envisage needs sizeable resources. Fortunately, we have the collective will and the means to ‘make it happen’. Our resources are everything. With the right tools in hand, you can do anything. As Churchill once said: *“Give us the tools, and we will finish the job.”*

## People

People are without doubt our most valuable asset. From Producer and Director to stage hand and bottle-washer – without good people at every level, our hands are tied.

### Management

Hats off to our Management Team, the people who launched the idea of a Talent Show and set the wheels in motion. These are our policy makers, the ‘movers and shakers’, the people who have the right connections and who pull the right strings. We follow their example of undivided commitment to the task in hand, confident that focus and determination will lead to success. Their names are shown in the table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Management Team** | | |
| **Position** | **Title** | **Surname** |
| Advertising | Mrs | Majola |
| Director | Mrs | Roberts |
| Finance | Mr | Moosa |
| Logistics | Mr | Ollett |
| Media | Mr | Brown |
| Producer | Dr | Qengwa |
| Program | Ms | Kuse |

### Support Staff

These are the Sergeant Majors of our enterprise, the ones who catch bullets with their teeth and leap over buildings in order to accomplish the (seemingly) impossible. Teachers make up the majority of this band, with a handful of parents and others who have pitched in to get the Talent Show well and truly off the ground. No task is too BIG or too small to escape their careful attention, and it is a pleasure – indeed an honour – to have them on our side.

The table below shows all our volunteers to date, with an indication of their area of involvement. They have your best Talent Show interests at heart, so please give them your full cooperation.

| **PB** = Prop Building **LS** = Sound & Lighting **CA** = Catering  **TR** = Training **MA** = Marshalling **SS** = Safety & Security  **TP** = Transport **LG** = Logistics **AD** = Admin | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mr J. Hustler | PB | Mr L. Hartoog | MA | Mrs C. Geyer | LG |
| Mrs T. Smailes | LS | Mr T. Myburg | TP | Mrs C. Chivers | CA |
| Mr J. Domingo | TR | Mr S. Maxonga | TP | Mrs J. Richards | MA |
| Mrs N. Nel | CA | Mrs T. Allnutt | LS | Mrs S. De Vos | CA |
| Mr T. Gaxamba | MA | Mr S. Maxongo | TP | Mrs M. Allwright | AD |
| Mr S. Schroeder | TR | Mr P. Plant | PB | Mrs M. Le Roux | TR |
| Mrs Z. Goliath | CA | Mr R. Ranchod | LG | Mr W. Kulati | AD |
| Mr J. Gowar | PB | Mr A. Jackson | TR | Mr L. Badenhorst | SS |
| Mrs J. Du Buson | TP | Mr E. Le Roux | SS | Mr M. Peterson | PB |
| Mrs N. Choonara | LG | Mrs K. Mooi | CA | Mrs P. Payi | AD |

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### Participants

This is where all the action is – the *raison d’être* of a talent show. We have decided to ‘widen the net’, as it were, in the following two directions:

#### Neighbouring School Participation

A unanimous decision was taken to extend an open invitation to our three neighbouring schools. Just as we participate together in sporting and other cultural events, so it is fitting that we join hands in our Talent Show.

We know that Sweet Valley High is not the only school where star players of the future are in the ascendant, and we gladly welcome ‘all comers’ to weigh their talents against our own. After all, it is only by healthy competition that the playing fields are levelled, and that the truly deserving are allowed to bubble to the top. And of course, notwithstanding the competitive element, merely to have competed is more than half the fun. Who said something about journeys and destinations?

#### Talent Categories

Talent shows are often confined to activities on stage, such as singing, dancing, drama, comic performances, etc. While these items are certainly high on the agenda, we have thought it worthwhile to include a wider variety of categories in which learners may showcase their talents.

After all, not everyone can stand up in front of an audience and hold forth with confidence. Some people are more introverted than others, but this doesn’t mean that they don’t have talent! Some of the most talented people around are on the shy side, and their abilities go unnoticed by the majority of people. Our aim is to celebrate talent wherever we find it. Nor is it necessary to couple this with any form of competition.

The table below shows the categories we have registered so far, from all the entries and suggestions received. Some of the names may appear rather ‘weird’ for now, but please be patient– all will be revealed on the BIG day. We are confident that you will not be unpleasantly surprised! Here they are, in no particular order:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Singing* | *Juggling* | *Conjuring* | *Drama* |
| *Charcoal Drawing* | *Stage Skits* | *Thing-in-a-bottle* | *Endurance* |
| *Dance Troupe* | *Memory Stunts* | *BrainBox* | *One-Up* |
| *Pots ’n Paint* | *Recitation* | *Plasticine* | *Contortionist* |

## Equipment

Some acts require no equipment at all (besides a few audio items): this is the singer who delivers a soulful rendition of *‘Killing me softly with his song’* or who takes a trip down Memory Lane with *‘Ag Pleez Deddy’*, or the prodigy who can multiply any two 2-digit numbers with each other in his/her HEAD, faster than an invited member of his audience can arrive at the correct answer by using a hand-held calculator.

**The last example above is entirely possible.** You can investigate the claims of the American mathematician who can, at lightning speed and without any device, square numbers with up to 5 digits, and to identify the day of the week on which an audience member was born based on their birth date. The following quotation is from his website *www.arthurbenjamin.info*:

*“Dr Arthur Benjamin is both a professor of mathematics and a magician. He has combined his two loves to create a presentation called Mathemagics where he demonstrates and explains his secrets for performing rapid mental calculations faster than a calculator.”*

Other acts require at least some equipment: we’re talking about the conjurer who must have at least a rabbit to pull out from his bag. Then we have the full-on drama productions, where painted backdrops and all manner of stage props are completely necessary for the illusion.

For the manufacture of such items we have recruited a small but very efficient army of artisans – handy with the hammer and themselves highly talented with brush and paint.

The school already has a fair stock of stage equipment that can be recycled for further use. However, if anyone knows of a source where raw timber and untreated canvas can be acquired without too much trouble, please will he/she let us know: the contact person for logistic supplies is Mr Steven Ollett, who is a member of management.

## Time

‘Time’, as the saying goes, ‘is of the essence’. Not that everything must be done at once, but that each thing must be allotted its proper amount of time in the scheme of things, and that no time should be wasted in doing the wrong thing at the wrong time.

The third school term is a busy period for learners and teachers: the first half of the year is then ‘under the belt’, and preparations are already under way for the finals. The show comes right in the middle of this hive of activity, and we must be accommodating.

The talent show will be held over the period Friday 7 August – Saturday 8 August. Ms Kuse has drawn up a timetable for practice sessions in the school hall, for the categories and acts that require it. Please use these sessions to perfect your act!

# Program

For various reasons it has been thought a good idea to hold the talent show over two days. For a start, there are simply too many categories and events to fit into a single day; then again, some events are bigger than others and just work better on a Saturday than on a Friday.

For example, certain of the open-air *Dance Troupe* and *Endurance* numbers, where audiences can be much larger and participants more motivated to strut their stuff. Here we provide a provisional breakdown of all events into the two days (it will of course be formalised and nicely printed out for distribution).

## Friday Events

All the Friday events will be confined to the school premises: basically the indoor items which require monitoring (from a security point of view), and where inclement weather will not be an issue. The availability support personnel has also been a factor: we need to be accommodating, and not ride roughshod over the people who have given so freely of their time and ability.

It will be noted that there is a lot of overlap in the times, and purposefully so. We don’t want people to be restricted in terms of what they want to attend, at any one time; rather, we are aiming to achieve more of a carnival-type atmosphere, where people can ‘mix and match’ their interests.

**When What Where**

14:00 Singing; band performances School Hall

15:00 Conjuring Library

15:30 Pots ’n Paint Room 24

16:00 Stage skits School Hall

16:00 Charcoal drawing Art Room

16:30 Thing-in-a-bottle Library

17:00 Memory stunts School Hall

18:00 Drama; Recitation School Hall

18:00 Plasticine Room 24

## Saturday Events

Saturday morning is the ideal time for our bigger numbers, where group participation is the order of the day, and where members of the general public will be able to get a good insight into what Talent Show (and by extension, the school) is all about. For this reason, it will also NOT be necessary to purchase a ticket to be a spectator at any of the Saturday morning events.

Please note that the events of the day will be bracketed by a short flag-hoisting ceremony, in which the Governing Body Chairman will say a few words, and the closing ceremony, in which the prizes for the various categories will be announced, and participants and helpers alike will be thanked for their involvement.

In effect we will be presenting an ‘open house’, which will also provide a wonderful opportunity to advertise the school to prospective learners in 2021. If a school can achieve such talented feats of excellence outside the classroom, what may it not achieve inside these four walls?

# Ticket sales

Each of the grades has performed a wonderful job in boosting sales – a total of R5,454 – well done to all of you! In recognition of your hard work, the Finance Committee has approved a small treat for you: a trip to the Pizza Den 😊.

**Here are a few figures:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Value of tickets sold per grade (in Rands)** | | | | | **TOTAL VALUE** |
| **Gr 8** | **Gr 9** | **Gr 10** | **Gr 11** | **Gr 12** |
| 240 | 642 | 1044 | 1668 | 1860 | 5454 |

In honour of a long-standing agreement with our twinned school, iThemba Preparatory, we will be donating 10% of the proceeds to their Bread-n-Butter fund – a most worthy cause, which helps to ensure that learners can at least begin each learning day without feeling hungry. The donation amounts to R545. This isn’t much, but each bit helps.

As mentioned above, the ‘outside’ events to be held on the Saturday will not require a ticket. However, members of the public will still be able to contribute a few cents (or Rands) of their appreciation, by dropping a few coins (or notes) into the collection boxes of a few brightly dressed volunteers. Small beginnings sometimes have BIG endings.

# Next Steps

We are confident that Talent Show will go off well. But there is to be no resting on our laurels: the training sessions organised by our support staff must be scrupulously adhered to, and there is to be no ‘forgetting of lines’. Just as we are known for our academic ability, so let none forget that our extramurals compare with the best.

A meeting of all stakeholders will be held soon, where further issues will be discussed and decided upon. Items on the agenda include the following:

* 1. Finance report   
     (GB Chairman)
  2. Transport issues
  3. Safety and security
  4. Other school entries:
     + Astera Technical High
     + Fountains High School
     + De Kroon Hoërskool

The staff and learners of Sweet Valley High have what it takes to produce a talent show that will long be remembered. It remains for every person in the school to put their best foot forward.

**[ O. Sharief ]**

**Sweet Valley High: Principal**

Appendix – Entries – First Round

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Learner** | **School** | **Talent Category** |
| C. Mancoba | Fountains High School | Dance Troupe |
| Z. Hasim | Sweet Valley High | Contortionist |
| C. Pow Chong | De Kroon Hoërskool | Drama |
| M. Bernardo | Astera Technical High | Recitation |
| B. Diedericks | De Kroon Hoërskool | Charcoal Drawing |
| C. Bansda | Sweet Valley High | Drama |
| Z. Kanter | Astera Technical High | Plasticine |
| R. Le Roux | De Kroon Hoërskool | Pots ’n Paint |
| B. Busakwe | Sweet Valley High | Charcoal Drawing |
| K. Ferreira | Sweet Valley High | Drama |
| R. Carrington | Sweet Valley High | Endurance |
| F. Nel | Fountains High School | Charcoal Drawing |
| P. Njokweni | Fountains High School | Stage Skits |
| D. Renshaw | Fountains High School | Dance Troupe |
| N. Magielies | Astera Technical High | Thing-in-a-bottle |
| K. Kleyhans | Astera Technical High | Singing, Band |
| N. Logiotis | Sweet Valley High | Endurance |
| C. Sirkhotte | Astera Technical High | Dance Troupe |
| Z. Deerling | Fountains High School | BrainBox |
| E. Jooste | De Kroon Hoërskool | Memory Stunts |
| N. Merchant | Sweet Valley High | Endurance |
| M. Fesi | Astera Technical High | Singing, Band |
| N. Mfuleni | De Kroon Hoërskool | Singing, Band |
| L. Balakistnen | Sweet Valley High | Stage Skits |
| B. Oosthuizen | Fountains High School | Dance Troupe |
| C. Bowren | Sweet Valley High | Singing, Band |
| J. Asquith | Sweet Valley High | Plasticine |
| R. Heystek | Sweet Valley High | One-Up |
| D. Mungur | Sweet Valley High | Pots ’n Paint |
| C. Dolley | Fountains High School | Dance Troupe |
| I. Richmond | De Kroon Hoërskool | Drama |
| L. Matibela | Astera Technical High | Pots ’n Paint |
| M. Mtyhobo | Astera Technical High | BrainBox |
| J. Bennet | Fountains High School | Drama |
| C. Gilson | Sweet Valley High | Singing, Band |
| L. Qengqani | Sweet Valley High | Plasticine |
| D. Paul | Astera Technical High | Charcoal Drawing |
| T. Joseph | Astera Technical High | Plasticine |
| M. Roberts | Astera Technical High | Drama |
| W. Cohen | Astera Technical High | Conjuring |
| N. Nieuwenhuizen | De Kroon Hoërskool | Recitation |
| J. Patchay | Sweet Valley High | Thing-in-a-bottle |
| D. Schoeman | Fountains High School | Memory Stunts |
| U. Coopoosamy | De Kroon Hoërskool | Juggling |
| S. Mashicila | De Kroon Hoërskool | BrainBox |
| L. Doko | Astera Technical High | Singing, Band |
| R. Bezuidenhout | Sweet Valley High | Endurance |
| C. Myali | Sweet Valley High | Memory Stunts |
| S. Chuang | Sweet Valley High | One-Up |
| L. Sephten | Sweet Valley High | Plasticine |
| S. Kula | Astera Technical High | Singing, Band |
| L. Jacobs | Fountains High School | Thing-in-a-bottle |
| M. Hageman | Sweet Valley High | Plasticine |
| R. Du Preez | Sweet Valley High | Endurance |
| B. Moss | Astera Technical High | Dance Troupe |
| S. Sacks | Astera Technical High | Memory Stunts |
| S. Mbottana | Astera Technical High | Drama |
| C. Lupondwana | Astera Technical High | Dance Troupe |
| C. Du Preez | Sweet Valley High | Singing, Band |
| W. Melwa | Sweet Valley High | Contortionist |
| L. Holmes | Sweet Valley High | BrainBox |
| L. Lentoor | Astera Technical High | Singing, Band |
| K. Mpongoshe | Fountains High School | Singing, Band |
| C. Mackay | Astera Technical High | Dance Troupe |
| R. Fekisi | Astera Technical High | Thing-in-a-bottle |
| L. Mtombeni | Fountains High School | Stage Skits |
| L. Prince | De Kroon Hoërskool | Singing, Band |
| L. O'Moore | Sweet Valley High | Conjuring |
| B. Kraus | Fountains High School | Dance Troupe |
| D. Magwa | Sweet Valley High | Memory Stunts |
| M. Sihali | Astera Technical High | Juggling |
| K. Beck | Fountains High School | Singing, Band |
| K. Olivier | Fountains High School | Singing, Band |
| C. Pennels | Fountains High School | Dance Troupe |
| A. Cloete | Astera Technical High | Dance Troupe |
| L. Bantom | Sweet Valley High | BrainBox |
| J. Gradwell | Sweet Valley High | Singing, Band |
| T. De Klerk | Sweet Valley High | One-Up |
| M. Nortje | Sweet Valley High | Drama |
| W. Imrie | Fountains High School | Pots ’n Paint |
| C. Metcalfe | Astera Technical High | Dance Troupe |
| J. Scotson | Sweet Valley High | Recitation |
| T. Mhlanga | Astera Technical High | Dance Troupe |
| S. Taylor | Sweet Valley High | Endurance |
| K. Needham | Fountains High School | Singing, Band |
| R. Buley | Sweet Valley High | Memory Stunts |