



# Hoër Volksskool Potchefstroom



FOUNDED: 1922

MOTTO: SAPIENTIA VIS VERA (WISDOM IS THE TRUE FORCE)

ADDRESS: C/O KRUIS STRAAT AND  
CHRS HANIE AVENUE,  
POTCHEFSTROOM



## School History

Hoër Volksskool was opened in an old church building, since demolished, on 19 April 1922, with 23 pupils and a staff of two temporary teachers. The man behind the founding was PM van der Lingen, an inspector of education. The first principal, Jack Pauw, took office on 11 October 1922. Oom Koos Burger joined as the first permanent teacher. The next year the school moved to the showgrounds with 140 pupils and five teachers. In 1924 the first school buildings began and the pupils were able to move out of cowsheds! In 1928 the school moved to its new building. The colours were settled as black, gold and red in 1925 (black because Oom Koos wore a black jacket). The eagle on the badge symbolises victory. The three links in the chain symbolise unity, loyalty and good spirit. Koos Burger designed the badge. Now the school has around 1 200 pupils, of whom one-third are boys. It has had boarding facilities from the start.



**Hoër Volksskool**  
Potchefstroom



## Rugby History

Jack Pauw, who played flyhalf for Western Transvaal against the 1924 Lions, was the first rugby coach at the school which embraced the game from the start. The first year of triumph was 1939 when the First XV, captained by tall Josef Fürstenburg, won the Administrator's Cup. The school had to wait ten more years to win back the Administrator's Cup, and did so for three consecutive years — 1949, 1950, and 1951. It has also won the Cup in 1961, 1976 (the year the touring All Blacks visited the school) and in 1983. The Under-15s won the Director's Trophy in 1987 and 1995, the Under-16s the Beeld trophy in 1996 and the First XV the Super 12 in 1998. There have been a number of Old Boys who have played for the Springboks: Nic Bierman, Daan du Plessis Niek Bezuidenhout, Jorrie Muller and Jaco Engels. Johan Claassen, also a Springbok, was a history teacher at the school from 1954 to 1959. From there he went to coach the Springbok side that beat the All Blacks in 1970 and 1976 and the Wallabies in 1971. In 1981 the school produced 12 players at Craven Week, four of whom played South African Schools. By 2007, the school had sent nearly 200 players to Craven Week, seven of whom have played SA Schools. Volkies has nine teams and competes as a medium school. It is a school full of tradition. On the Thursday night before the big derby against Potch Gimnasium, there is the "Big Brag", where Miss Volkie is chosen. The teams are capped by their father or parents. Come Saturday, the boys' sports teams will show their support for their fellow female students — so the Under-14A rugby side will support the Under-14A netball team. The Second XV is known as the "Army". Volkies' great rivals are Potchefstroom Gimnasium. Volkies vs Gimmies is a great occasion in Potchefstroom.

### Internationals

#### South Africa:

Nic Bierman  
Daan du Plessis  
Niek Bezuidenhout  
Jorrie Muller  
Jaco Engels



Johan Claassen

*I grew up with a rugby ball in my hands, and I just wanted to play rugby and score tries! I loved my time at Potch Volkies and remember the war-cries after the matches, the many coaches who helped me (especially Coenraad Jurgens), and the pressure of competing in finals at school level. The lessons I learnt during those intense fixtures and hard matches did a lot for my future in rugby.*

— Jaco Engels

