

# THE Yellow PAGES



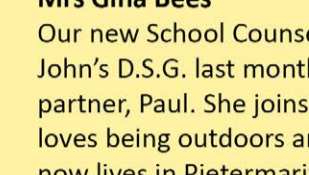
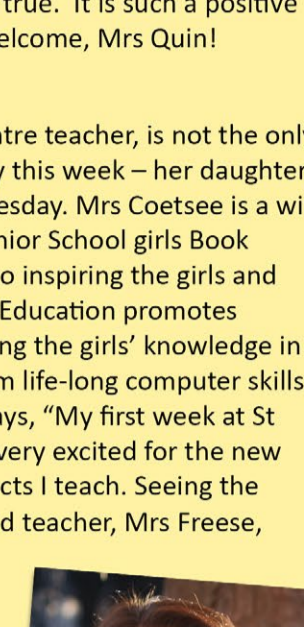
PICTURED: One of our Matric girls congratulating her friend, Sinezile Matutu, for being awarded an Honours blazer at Final Assembly last term. It is always so heartwarming to see our girls celebrating one another's achievements.

## WELCOME TO OUR new staff

This term, we are very excited to welcome three new staff members to the St John's D.S.G. family. They are:

### Mrs Belinda Quin

Joining us as our new Academic Support teacher in the Junior School is Mrs Quin. Mrs Quin the mother of three children – a son and two daughters, the youngest of which is one of our Grade 10 girls, Laura. She loves working with children, spending time with her family, gardening, cooking and reading. "I am looking forward to being part of this wonderful school and to making a difference in the girls' lives," Mrs Quin says. "The St John's D.S.G. motto of being a 'small school with big heart' is so true. It is such a positive and enriching environment, and the staff and girls are so warm and kind!" Welcome, Mrs Quin!



### Mrs Nicole Coetsee

Mrs Coetsee, our new Junior School Resource Centre teacher, is not the only one in her family to join the St John's D.S.G. family this week – her daughter, Katie, was welcomed into our Grade 1 class on Tuesday. Mrs Coetsee is a wife and mom of two girls, and will be teaching our Junior School girls Book Education, as well as Computers. "I look forward to inspiring the girls and building their interest in reading. I love that Book Education promotes general knowledge, and I look forward to expanding the girls' knowledge in creative ways! I also look forward to teaching them life-long computer skills." When asked how she is settling in, Mrs Coetsee says, "My first week at St John's D.S.G. has been wonderful. The girls seem very excited for the new term and have shown a great interest in the subjects I teach. Seeing the

warm welcome my daughter, Katie, received from her classmates and teacher, Mrs Freese, was the highlight of my week!"

### Mrs Gina Bees

Our new School Counsellor has a new surname! Miss Laurie started at St John's D.S.G. last month and during the holidays, married her long-time partner, Paul. She joins us this term as the new Mrs Bees. Mrs Bees, who loves being outdoors and is a sports fanatic, is originally from Durban, but now lives in Pietermaritzburg. Young and energetic, we believe that she will be a wonderful fit at St John's D.S.G. and relatable to the girls. Mrs Bees says, "Everyone at St John's D.S.G. has made me feel so welcome and supported. I am looking forward to getting to know the pupils in my role as a Psychologist and to offer them a safe space to talk about anything they feel the need to."



## OUR RECENT highlights

### THE POLAR BEAR SWIM

On Friday, 22 June, our Junior and Senior School girls braved the chilly swimming pool water to take part in our annual Polar Bear Swim! Despite the cold weather, spirits were high and the girls were, surprisingly, excited to swim a lap in the icy water! Our Junior School girls were even more delighted when Joy and her Emotions (from the hit Pixar movie Inside Out) showed up unexpectedly to cheer them on! Well done to all the girls who took part on the day.

The Senior School Polar Bear swim brought in a total of R10 042, and the Junior School raised a staggering R24 895! The Junior School class that raised the most amount of money was Mrs Freese's Grade 1s, with R5 642. This money will go towards the upgrade of the swimming pool facilities. Thank you to all who participated and all that donated.



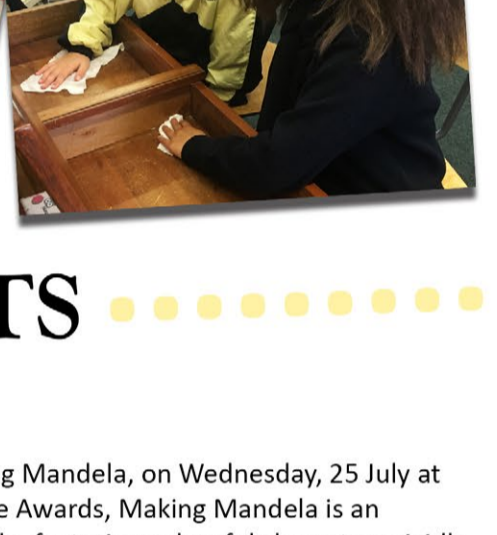
67 minutes



Did you donate 67 minutes of your time to do something special in memory of Mandela this week? Our Interact Committee girls donated a few of their time on Friday, 13 July to assist with a food-packing drive organised by Rise Against Hunger. Rise Against Hunger is a wonderful organisation that provides food for children in schools where the government feeding schemes don't reach, and all food packed on Friday will be donated to those in need within our local community.



Our Grade 3s spent their 67 minutes picking up litter, and then they each cleaned and tidied a friend's desk, pencil bag and homework bag.



## upcoming EVENTS

### Making Mandela

Just 5 days to go! St John's D.S.G. will be hosting the production, Making Mandela, on Wednesday, 25 July at 18h00. Winner of the Best Youth Production at the 2016 Naledi Theatre Awards, Making Mandela is an imaginative journey through the childhood of President Nelson Mandela, featuring colourful characters vividly portrayed in beautiful masks, with physical performances supported by emotive sound design and theatrical styling. To book your ticket, please contact Mrs Amada Kruger on akruger@stjohnsdsg.com. Tickets are R100 each.

### From New York to L.A.

Today is the last day to book your tickets for our much-anticipated supper theatre evening, this time featuring Meryl Kurz and "The Pig & Whistle" cast performing *From New York to L.A.* Tickets are R220 each and include a delicious supper served before the show (in the Drama Studio), as well as the performance (in the Theatre). To book your tickets, please contact Mrs Lucy Usher on 084 4444 258 or email lusher@stjohnsdsg.com

### Mother & Daughter Luncheon

Celebrate Women's Day with us, and the special ladies in your life, next month! On 9 August, our Old Girls' Association will be hosting their annual Mother and Daughter Luncheon, which not only includes a delicious lunch, but also an inspirational talk by one of our past parents and founder of the incredible charity, Singakwenza, Mrs Julie Hay. All our girls (11 years and older) are welcome to invite their moms, grandmothers, sisters, aunts and any other special ladies in their lives.

The cost is R150 per person and all proceeds will be donated to the Old Girls' Bursary Fund. Booking is essential, so please RSVP to Mrs Diane Oldfield on 072 149 8705 or oldfield@vodamail.co.za before Friday, 3 August, 2018.



## A SPECIAL "THANK YOU"

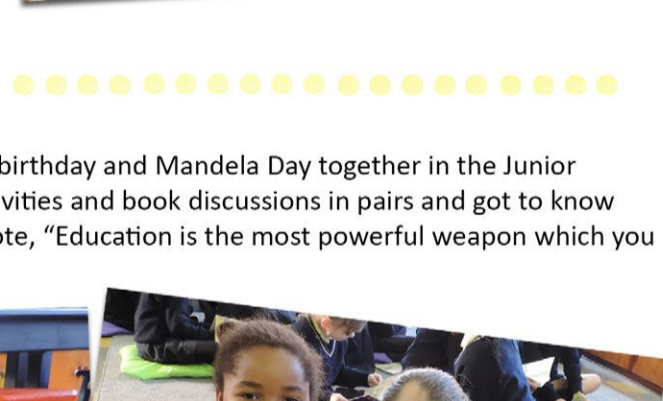
The Youth Forum would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to the St John's D.S.G. community for their generous contributions towards the annual Winter Blanket Drive. A total of 32 handkerchiefs and 11 polar fleece blankets were donated, and as a result, 5 of our Support staff, as well as the *Thandanani* community, will have a warmer winter.

## junior SCHOOL



### GRADE 7 SOKKIE WITH SCC

During the last week of term, our Grade 7s spent a most enjoyable morning learning how to sokie and line-dance with their friends from St Charles College. With the guidance of the very talented and funny Ben, from Ben's Dance Studio, our girls danced and giggled non-stop with their dance partners, who were absolute gentlemen! Thank you to St Charles College for joining us and to Ben's Dance Studio for the fantastic morning.



## Celebrating Madiba

The Grade 2s and 6s celebrated Nelson Mandela's 100th birthday and Mandela Day together in the Junior School Multi-Purpose Room. The girls shared reading activities and book discussions in pairs and got to know each other a little better. They used Madiba's famous quote, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world", as their theme for the day.



## senior SCHOOL



### WORLD CHAMPIONS!

At the recent Interkultur World Choir Games that took place in Tshwane from 4 – 14 July, the St John's D.S.G. Senior Choir was declared the winner of the "Music of Spirit and Faith" category in the Open Competition. This was the 10th anniversary of this prestigious event for amateur choirs and what made it extra special, was that it was hosted on African soil this year for the first time.

300 choirs from 60 different countries competed in two competitions: the Open Competition (for choirs who do not have international experience) and the Champions Competition (for choirs with an international ranking). Every choir was awarded either a bronze, silver or gold award for their participation and, in each category, one winner or champion, was announced. The points accumulated by a choir in international events such as this one, adds up to provide each choir with a world ranking.

The St John's D.S.G. Choir, conducted by Ms Carika de Swardt, started preparing for this event in October last year when her creative team, including Mr Joshua Boudan and Miss Nicole Louw, started to collect and evaluate possible songs for the program. As a ministering group who aims to share the Christian faith through song, the choir wanted to represent the various cultural groups represented by the girls in the choir. The prophecies of Ntsikana Gaba, the first Xhosa Christian prophet, spoke loudly to the creative team and became the driving force behind the selection and composition of the indigenous spiritual music for this event. "We are one flock, with one Shepherd; cloaked in one blanket", became the motto of this choir and it tied in with the over-arching theme of this year's event, which celebrated the coming together of many voices in one harmony. The choir performed four songs, which were either original compositions or arrangements of indigenous South African songs from various cultural backgrounds.

The St John's D.S.G. choir has never been exposed to competition of this magnitude and their intention was to deliver their message in a way that would bring glory to God and honour to their School. The St John's D.S.G. choir now share the podium with only three other choirs from KwaZulu-Natal, who were also crowned winners of their respective categories: St Mary's D.S.G. Kloof, The Drakensberg Boys Choir and Drakondale Girls Choir School.

Ms Carika de Swardt said: "South African choirs have a special heritage and purpose that reflect our society perfectly. To be able to direct and conduct a group of 50 young South Africans from such diverse backgrounds with the aim of achieving one goal, is a privilege and a step towards national unity that our country needs to foster. I am extremely proud of the girls. This award was an unexpected honour for us, but a glorious validation of our spiritual mission and hard work."



## Two Matrics are awarded Honours blazers

At the end of last term, two of our Matric girls were awarded Honours blazers for Dramatic Arts in our final assembly. Congratulations to Sinezile Matutu and Alinaswe Lusengo on this phenomenal achievement - we are incredibly proud of both of them.

