

THE Yellow PAGES



PICTURED: One of our Grade 8 girls, Jessica Wetherill, with her mother (who is a St John's D.S.G. Old Girl), Sandy, at our Old Girls' Association's Mother and Daughter Luncheon yesterday.

"THE GOOD news"



Rev. Diane Pickford
St John's D.S.G. Chaplain

There are some amazing stories of what Jesus did for women in the Bible. 2000 years ago, in North Africa, Palestine, Israel and the Middle East, women were seen as second-class citizens. They were generally uneducated, were not recognized as being made in the image of God or having equal worth as men. They were divorced easily and left destitute. They were blamed and stoned to death for adultery. Jesus stepped into this unfair world and brought a radically different view, changing the destiny of women forever and giving them a place of worth.

Luke notes that Jesus spoke publicly with the widow of Nain (Luke 7:12-13), answered her prayer and provided for her needs. He made time for the woman with the bleeding disorder (Luke 8:48; cf. Matt. 9:22; Mark 5:34), addressing her as "daughter." He referred to the bent woman as a "daughter of Abraham" (Luke 13:16), thereby according her, and all other women, a spiritual status equal to that of men.

Today women still have hardships, dishonor and disrespect – and so do men. Today we look to various things for affirmation (e.g. careers, money, performance, relationships). These things can never fill the void in our souls. They are created things, not the Creator Himself, the source of all. This is why these things only leave us thirsty for more.

There are many examples of this. Jesus spoke to women directly while in public, which was unusual for a man to do (John 4:27). It amazed disciples to see Jesus speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar (John 4:7-26). She had shame, was an outcast, and was not at the well in the usual time of early morning and evening. He affirmed her worth. He also spoke freely with the woman caught in adultery (John 8:10-11). He understood her, forgave her and again, affirmed her worth.

Jesus' regard for the full intrinsic value of women is seen in how He spoke to the women He addressed. He spoke in a thoughtful, caring manner. He honored them. At the same time, He did not gloss over the sin in their lives. He held them personally responsible for their own lives, as seen in his dealings with the woman at the well (John 4:16-18), the woman taken in adultery (John 8:10-11), and the sinful woman who anointed his feet (Luke 7:44-50). Their sin was not condoned, but confronted. However, they learned from Him to be fully alive.

Jesus offers affirmation that will last, fulfill your thirst and never let you down. He bestows worth and status and purpose on his daughters. He never lies, exaggerates or ignores us. He loves you, so much so, that He died for you. How will you respond?

THIS WEEK'S highlights

A SPECIAL LUNCHEON

On Thursday, 9 August, the Old Girls' Association Luncheon. It was fantastic to see so many of our current girls and Old Girls, along with the special ladies in their lives, at this much anticipated event! Julie Hay, mother of Kirsty who matriculated last year, and founder of the influential organization, *Singakwenza*, gave a thought-provoking talk about how we can truly make an impact on those around us, especially the less fortunate. Well done to the Old Girls' Association for another extremely successful event and a big thank you to our Kitchen Staff for the delicious lunch.



junior SCHOOL



OUR BUDDING ARTIST

A beautiful painting by one of our Grade 5 girls, Kate Metcalf, was selected as one of the 13 winning artworks in the Santam Child Art 2018 competition! Kate's masterpiece will be featured in the 2019 Santam Child Art calendar. We chatted more to Kate about her art piece and what inspired her concept and execution.

What was the theme of the painting?

Mrs Stretch asked us to do a painting about what we want to be when we grow up. I want to be a teacher.

Why do you want to be a teacher?

I love playing with children and I am quite a patient person, so I think I could be a good teacher. I would really like to teach Grade 4.

The way that you have painted your art piece is so interesting – it's a bird's eye view of your classroom. Why did you decide to paint it this way?

I wanted everyone to see how I want my classroom to look one day, and how I would arrange it.

How do you feel about being one of the winners of the Santam Child Art 2018 Competition?

(Editor's note: Kate had just found out about being a winner and was so excited that she was at a loss for words!) Eventually, after some time to digest the information, this is what she said... "I am really happy. I would like to say 'thank you' to Santam for choosing me as a winner. I am pleased with how my painting turned out and if I had the chance, I would enter again!"



FAMILY GROUPS

Our Junior School girls spent some time together in their Family Groups yesterday, to celebrate Women's Day. Family Groups consist of one pupil from each grade, and it is always so special to see how the girls bond with one another during this time. As one of our Grade 1s says, "I am friends with LOTS of big girls!"



our swimming champs

Congratulations to Emily Martens, Jessica and Khanyisa Mtshali who have been selected for the KwaZulu-Natal Swimming team, and will be taking part in the "Three Province Swimming Challenge" in October! We are so proud of you all.



A GLIMPSE BACK IN TIME

Our Grade RR teacher came across this photo (taken in 2010) of some of our current Grade 6 and 7 girls.

We decided to recreate it, and had a lot of fun and laughter doing so!



senior SCHOOL



UHAMBO BEGINS!

"The best journeys answer the questions that in the beginning, you didn't even think to ask." Author unknown

This week, our Grade 9 girls departed on their three-week long uHambo adventure! uHambo, which means "journey" in IsiZulu, has been running at St John's D.S.G. since 2007. The girls spend their time away walking, riding horses, cycling and carrying their tents,

mattresses, food and clothing, which can weigh up to 14kg, in their backpacks.

They are also only allowed to communicate with their families via written letters and one phone call home. "It's tough, but it encourages team-building and an opportunity to just be in nature," says Tracey Schwegmann.

The journey itself is both challenging and exhilarating, and the girls develop self-confidence and independence during this time. They also learn to both rely on, and support, their uHambo sisters. It's no wonder that so many of them arrive back from uHambo, describing the experience as "life-changing".

With Group 1, 2 and 3 having already departed, and Group 4 departing tomorrow morning, we look forward to welcoming our girls back home in 3 weeks' time!



WOMEN'S DAY



At St John's D.S.G., we believe that learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom. As a result, our Senior School girls celebrated Women's Day with an "alternative educational programme", which included a cook-off, a jumble sale, slam poetry and a bra collection.

For the cook-off, the girls were split into teams and had to use the ingredients of a Rise For Hunger's meal pack (which include staples enriched rice, soy protein, dried vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and nutrients) to cook a meal for 10 people. Each team had the opportunity to shop for extra ingredients to the value of just R16, and had to compete against the other teams to cook the best tasting food. Although there was a lot of fun and laughter, it was also an incredibly eye-opening experience for the girls, who gained some insight into what it must be like to be a family receiving one of these meals.

The day also included a Jumble Sale - the girls brought gently used / nearly-new items that they no longer wanted and donated these items to Interact. Interact then marked the items for very low prices and sold them to raise money for Rise For Hunger. There was also slam poetry, a wonderful presentation about Women's Day and more!

Over 200 new, or gently used, bras were collected for our Upliftment Campaign. The bras will be sold (at very low prices) or donated to women who need our support. We will still be collecting bras until half-term. Please see if you have any bras which would be uplifting for those in need of support. Bras can be brought to Mrs Zartmann's class (R1).

Our Dramatic Arts teacher, Mrs Jackie Keevy-Muir, says, "The wonderful, inspirational videos, quotes and poetry presented by Mrs Borain was a grounding, introspective time the day, which was handled by the girls maturely and sensitively. The money that goes to Rise Against Hunger and the leftover clothing donations to the Salvation Army are going to be so appreciated. All in all, a wonderfully entertaining, thought-provoking and very special day that I will remember for a long time to come!"

