

THE Yellow PAGES



PICTURED: Grade 11 pupil, Hannah Saunders, who came up with the name, "Heartbeat" for the title of our new-look school magazine.

THIS WEEK'S highlights

FROM NEW YORK TO L.A.

Our Parents' Association have done it again! Known to organise the most wonderful events, their Supper Theatre evening last Friday, 27 July, was no exception. The show, "From New York to L.A." was produced by Meryl Kurz and performed by the very talented Pig and Whistle cast. Singing both old-time classics and current chart-toppers, the performers certainly had the audience tapping their feet as they enjoyed a tour of their favourite songs across the U.S.A. through the ages. Thank you to our Parents' Association for organising this fantastic event (special mention must be made of Mrs Lucy Usher.) Thank you, too, to our Catering team for the delicious supper as always!



Our New-Look School Magazine



Our new-look school magazine has arrived! Our Marketing Department says: "With 2017 being such a momentous year, we felt that it was the perfect time to introduce our new-look magazine. We launched a competition within the school, asking our girls to come up with a name for the St John's D.S.G. yearbook, and had an influx of fantastic, and very creative, suggestions, making it rather difficult to choose the winning title. In the end, we unanimously agreed on "Heartbeat", because this magazine is for, and about our girls, who are the life blood of our school. It also ties strongly to our school slogan, "Small school. Big heart." Congratulations to Hannah Saunders in Grade 11 for coming up with this wonderful title, and to all the girls who put forward their suggestions! As a Marketing team, we have enjoyed brainstorming, planning and putting this school magazine together. We hope that you enjoy it!"

Krispy Kreme, who opened at Liberty Midlands Mall this week, surprised us on Tuesday with a delivery of 696 doughnuts – one for every girl and staff member! They even catered for our special visitors – the Grade 6 girls from Cowan House, who spent the morning with us. Thank you, Krispy Kreme for the delicious doughnuts – we're sure that you will be seeing a lot more of our girls and staff at your new shop!



A LOVELY SURPRISE!

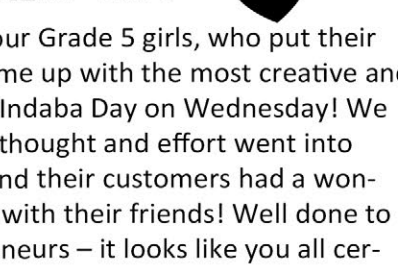
On Thursday, 9 August, we will be celebrating South African women and the role they play in nation-building, despite sometimes dire circumstances. We will have a range of activities and opportunities for girls and staff to make a difference, too, and to acknowledge and support the work of others. There will be a team "cook-off", with mixed-grade teams competing to see who can make the most of a Rise Against Hunger food parcel. (Interact is currently fundraising for this cause.) Please donate good quality second-hand clothing and other unwanted items for their jumble sale and bring some cash to spend. We are also collecting new or nearly-new bras which will be sold or distributed to "uplift" where needed. We encourage all girls to take part in the day's events in the same spirit of camaraderie and solidarity as the women of 1956 marched for change.



A photo at the Jumble Sale on Women's Day, 2016

WOMEN'S DAY

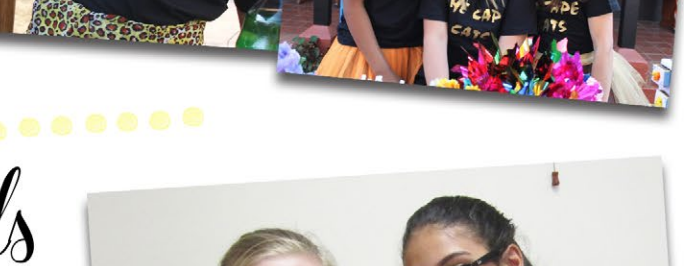
junior SCHOOL



Our Grade 5s recently enjoyed a stimulating exploratory visit to The KwaZulu-Natal Museum. For some, it was their first visit to the Museum and they found it exhilarating! Besides seeing various exhibitions, they were lucky enough to have a facilitator do various Science experiments with them. We love your passion for learning, Grade 5s!

GRADE 5 INDABA DAY

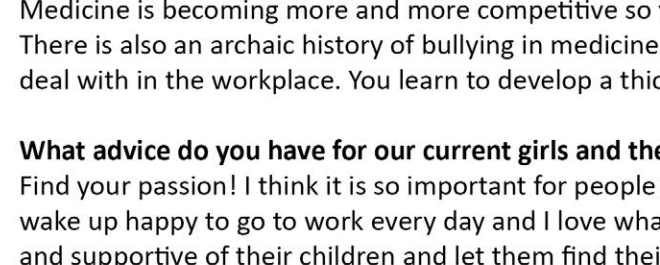
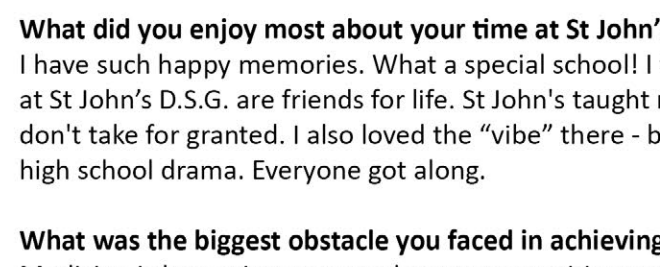
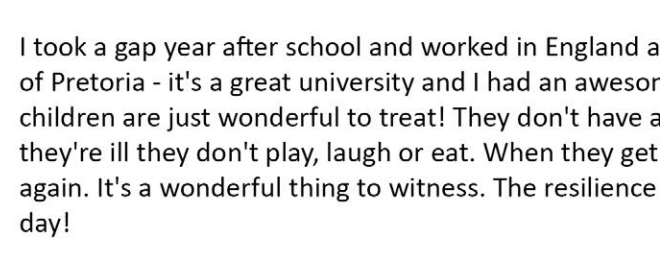
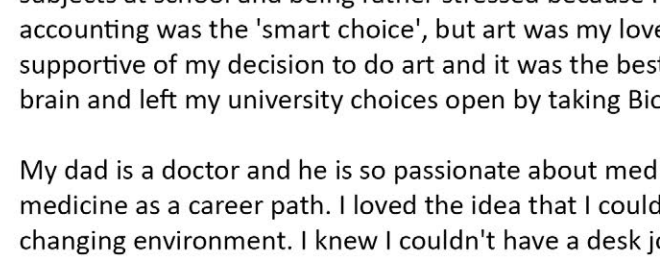
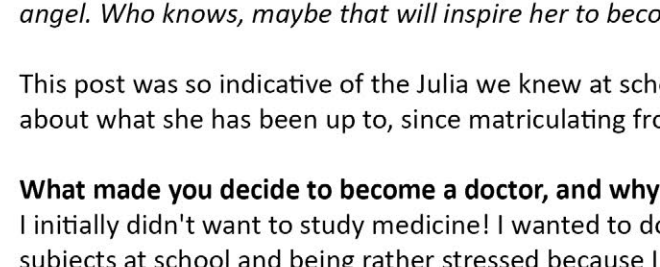
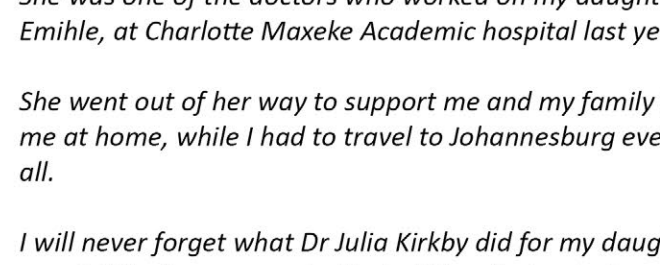
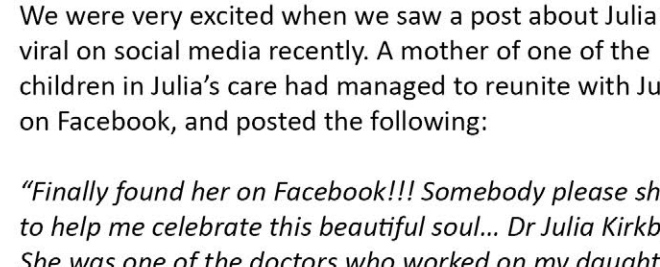
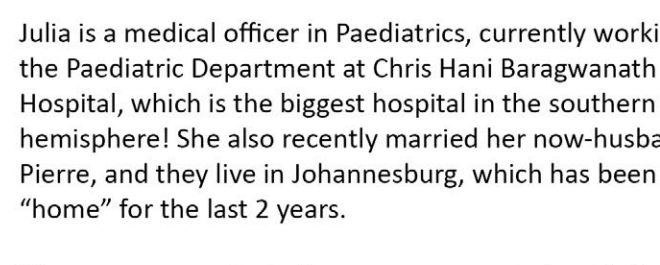
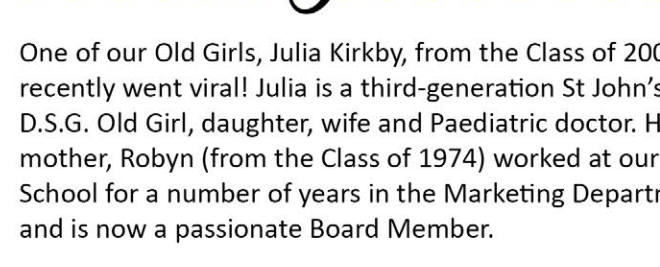
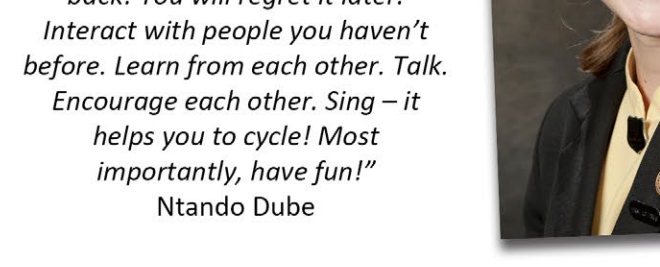
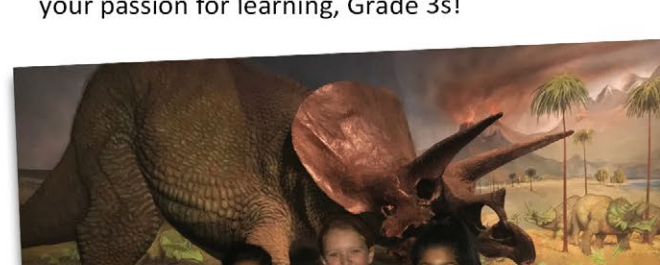
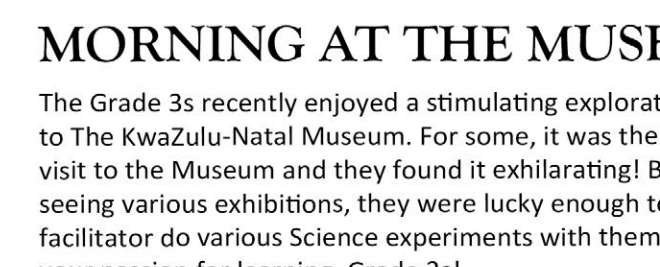
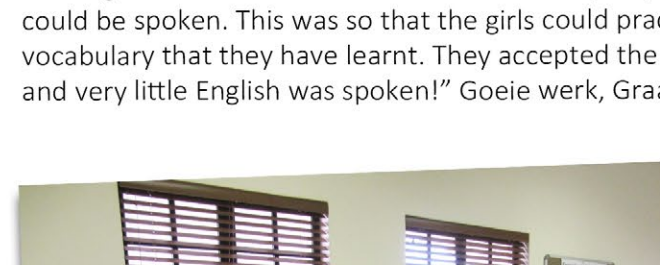
We are SO proud of our Grade 5 girls, who put their heads together to come up with the most creative and clever ideas for their Indaba Day on Wednesday! We could see how much thought and effort went into making their items, and their customers had a wonderful time shopping with their friends! Well done to our Grade 5 entrepreneurs – it looks like you all certainly have a great future in innovation and the business world!



Our Grade 7s had a taste of what it was like to be in the Senior School earlier this week, when they cooked in the Senior School's Consumer Studies kitchen for the first time! Currently learning about "Die Kombuis en Die Restaurant" in their Afrikaans lessons, the girls tested their culinary skills – and their vocabulary in the kitchen! Mrs Kim Anderson, our Grade 7 teacher, says, "The girls had to learn the recipe for the pancakes in Afrikaans. Once the whole class could recite it by heart, we went to the Consumer Studies kitchen and got cooking! The rule was that while in the kitchen, only Afrikaans could be spoken. This was so that the girls could practice the vocabulary that they have learnt. They accepted the challenge and very little English was spoken!" Goeie werk, Graad 7s!

MORNING AT THE MUSEUM

The Grade 3s recently enjoyed a stimulating exploratory visit to The KwaZulu-Natal Museum. For some, it was their first visit to the Museum and they found it exhilarating! Besides seeing various exhibitions, they were lucky enough to have a facilitator do various Science experiments with them. We love your passion for learning, Grade 3s!

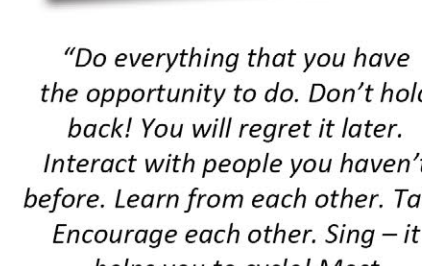


senior SCHOOL

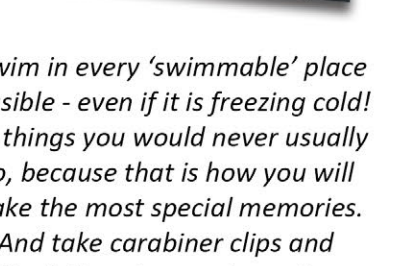


ADVICE FOR UHAMBO

With our Grade 9s departing for their three-week long uHambo journey next week, we thought that we would ask some of our Grade 10 girls for advice and wisdom to impart to their younger 'sisters'. This is what they said:



"Don't leave your bags outside your tent - they will be wet when you wake up! Don't leave clothes outside either - they will become frozen. And don't stress so much - you will learn everything you need to know on uHambo! I had never been camping before and I was absolutely fine."
Mia Chetty



"Swim in every 'swimmable' place possible - even if it is freezing cold! Do things you would never usually do, because that is how you will make the most special memories. And take carabiner clips and attach them to your bag - they make a great washing line!"
Fionna Huggins



"Do everything that you have the opportunity to do. Don't hold back! You will regret it later. Interact with people you haven't before. Learn from each other. Talk. Encourage each other. Sing - it helps you to cycle! Most importantly, have fun!"
Ntando Dube



old girls



One of our Old Girls, Julia Kirkby, from the Class of 2007, recently went viral! Julia is a third-generation St John's D.S.G. Old Girl, daughter, wife and Paediatric doctor. Her mother, Robyn (from the Class of 1974) worked at our School for a number of years in the Marketing Department and is now a passionate Board Member.

Julia is a medical officer in Paediatrics, currently working in the Paediatric Department at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, which is the biggest hospital in the southern hemisphere! She also recently married her now-husband, Pierre, and they live in Johannesburg, which has been "home" for the last 2 years.

We were very excited when we saw a post about Julia go viral on social media recently. A mother of the children in Julia's care had managed to reunite with Julia on Facebook, and posted the following:

"Finally found her on Facebook!!! Somebody please share to help me celebrate this beautiful soul... Dr Julia Kirkby! She was one of the doctors who worked on my daughter, Emihle, at Charlotte Maxeke Academic hospital last year.



She went out of her way to support me and my family through that ordeal. I had another twin who also needed me at home, while I had to travel to Johannesburg every second day to see my other sick baby. It was not easy at all.

I will never forget what Dr Julia Kirkby did for my daughter. And when she grows up, I'll tell her about this guardian angel. Who knows, maybe that will inspire her to become a doctor just like beautiful Dr Julia."

This post was so indicative of the Julia we knew at school, and we decided to catch up with her to find out more about what she has been up to, since matriculating from St John's D.S.G. 11 years ago...

What made you decide to become a doctor, and why did you choose the specialisation that you did?
I initially didn't want to study medicine! I wanted to do something in the creative industry. I remember choosing subjects at school and being rather stressed because I had to choose between art and accounting. I knew accounting was the 'smart choice', but art was my love and my creative outlet. Luckily, my parents were very supportive of my decision to do art and it was the best decision I made - I was able to satisfy both sides of my brain and left my university choices open by taking Biology and Physical Science too.

My dad is a doctor and he is so passionate about medicine. This was definitely an inspiration for me to choose medicine as a career path. I loved the idea that I could work with people and use my brain in a constantly changing environment. I knew I couldn't have a desk job!

I took a gap year after school and worked in England as a boarder mistress. Then I decided to go to the University of Pretoria - it's a great university and I had an awesome 6 years there. I chose to focus on Paediatrics because children are just wonderful to treat! They don't have a hidden agenda and don't play games with you. When they're ill they don't play, laugh or eat. When they get better they play with you, they smile and they start eating again. It's a wonderful thing to witness. The resilience of children and what they can overcome amazes me every day!

What have you enjoyed most about your time at St John's D.S.G.?
I had such happy memories. What a special school! I think what I loved most was the people. The friends I made at St John's D.S.G. are friends for life. St John's taught me to be respectful, tolerant and kind - something I definitely don't take for granted. I also loved the "vibe" there - because it was a small school, there wasn't any of that major high school drama. Everyone got along.

What was the biggest obstacle you faced in achieving your dream, and how did you overcome it?
Medicine is becoming more and more competitive so you are always in an environment of competitive people. There is also an archaic history of bullying in medicine and a strong sense of hierarchy. That can be difficult to deal with in the workplace. You learn to develop a thick skin and have confidence in your own abilities.

What advice do you have for our current girls and their families?
Find your passion! I think it is so important for people to find what "makes them tick", even if it takes a while. I wake up happy to go to work every day and I love what I do. How lucky am I? I think parents need to be patient and supportive of their children and let them find their own paths.

