

# THE Yellow PAGES



PICTURED: Some of our Grade RRs (Lucy Mackay, Mackenzie Neumann, Langelihle Duma and Alysia Kumarsamy) holding up their "Identity Documents" for their Voting Day on Tuesday, 7 May.

## teacher FEATURE

**Music Teacher, Miss Sondra-Marie "Sonnie" Grobbelaar** joined the St John's D.S.G. family at the beginning of the year. Already she is known for her energy, enthusiasm and her quirky – perhaps even mischievous – sense of humour. It, therefore, goes without saying that our girls and staff have quickly developed a fondness for this fun-filled, spunky lady who has brought even more passion and fun to our Music Department.

**We caught up with Miss Grobbelaar to find out a bit more about her. This is what she said:**

**What inspired you to become a teacher?**  
I initially wanted to be a music

therapist, but I realised I was too soft and fluffy for that, so I started teaching at different schools as a substitute Music Teacher and I realised I loved it, as I can have such fun and kids can learn from it. Music teaching is a win/win situation.

**What have you enjoyed most about having your role?**  
I can earn money by doing what I love. Literally, I get paid to sing (best job ever!) Also, I love working with young people because they have such a beautiful way of seeing the world. They are the best teachers when it comes to being a good person.

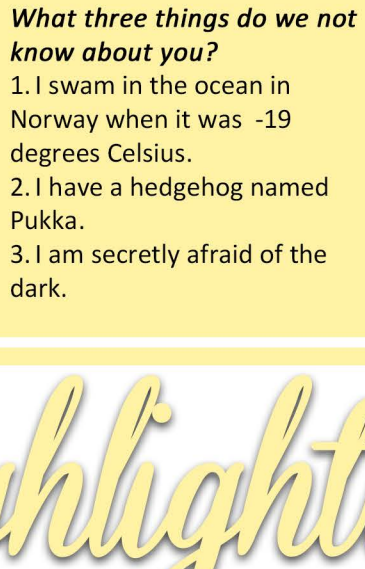
**What have you liked most about working at St John's D.S.G.?**  
The colour. It's my favourite colour! I also love the atmosphere because everyone is

**Miss Sonnie Grobbelaar**  
Music Teacher

so friendly, kind and patient, especially when I start playing the melody horns and singing out loud.

**What three things do we not know about you?**

1. I swam in the ocean in Norway when it was -19 degrees Celsius.
2. I have a hedgehog named Pukka.
3. I am secretly afraid of the dark.



## THIS WEEK'S highlights

### OUR P.A. FUN GOLF DAY

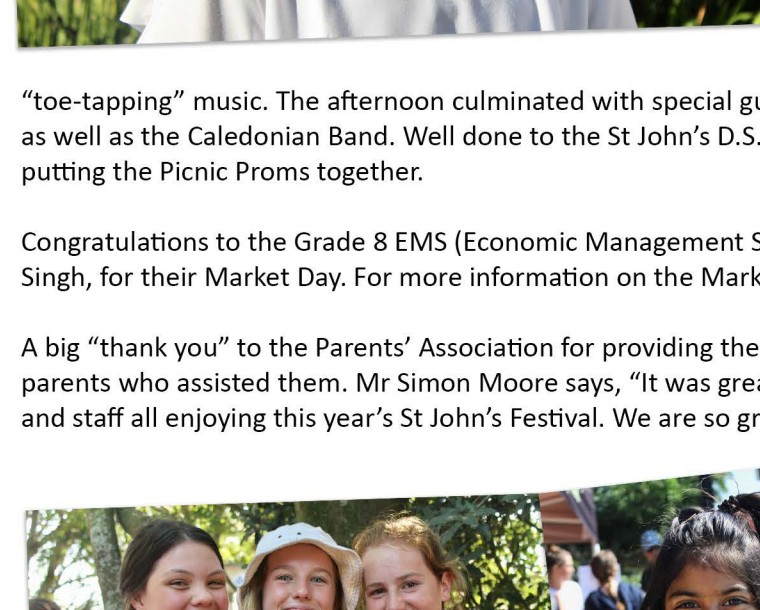
On Friday, 3 May, our Parents' Association hosted their annual Golf Day at the Maritzburg Golf Club. We had some fantastic support from our golfers, and although the hole-in-one prize of R12 500 on Hole 3 was not won, a lot of fun and laughs were had by all!

Mrs Heather Evans, our Key Relationship Co-ordinator, says, "Lovely, warm weather and clear skies fared well for all our golfing enthusiasts. Thank you to all the golfers for joining us, and for assisting in fundraising for the Parents' Association. A special note of thanks also goes to our many sponsors and to those who donated prizes without whom this day wouldn't be as successful.

They are: Geyser's Fertilizer and Lime, Linvar, The Hilton Bush Lodge, Outforce, Easy Skips, Gromor, Brandhouse, GUD Holdings, Flowe-Pac, Craik Speirs, Phumula Beach Hotel and Champagne Sports Resort, Bundu Bashes Travel, Foodpak, One-Sure, Jetteson Timber Products, Pizzology, Arbor-Care and Kathy Jacob.



### St John's Festival



"toe-tapping" music. The afternoon culminated with special guest performances by the KZN Youth Wind Band, as well as the Caledonian Band. Well done to the St John's D.S.G. Music Department for all their hard work in putting the Picnic Proms together.

The St John's Festival took place on Sunday, 5 May. The day started with a beautiful Chapel Service, lead by Rev. Diane Pickford, our School Chaplain, and it was wonderful to have both our current girls and our Old Girls in attendance, celebrating this special day together - and in such a meaningful way.

After the Chapel Service, many of our St John's D.S.G. girls, Old Girls and their families joined us at the Picnic Prom concerts, which took place on the Top Hockey Field. Our Junior Primary Choir, Senior Primary Choir, Senior School Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Grades 6 and 7 Marimba Bands, the St John's D.S.G. Orchestra and Performance Marimba Band entertained us with some great

Congratulations to the Grade 8 EMS (Economic Management Studies) classes and their teacher, Mrs Smitha Singh, for their Market Day. For more information on the Market Day, see the Senior School section below.

A big "thank you" to the Parents' Association for providing the food and drinks on the day, as well as all the parents who assisted them. Mr Simon Moore says, "It was great to see so many girls, families, friends, Old Girls and staff all enjoying this year's St John's Festival. We are so grateful for the awesome support received."



### FUNK!

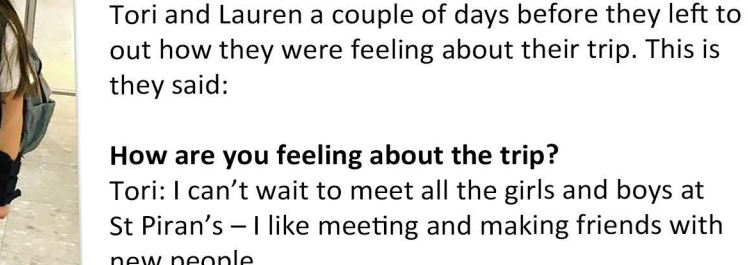
Funk - an annual inter-school drama/dance production - continues to generate tremendous excitement and now celebrates 20 years as a firm favourite on the annual school calendar! Some of our Senior School girls will again be performing in this year's production, which takes place at 19h30 on 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 May, at the Hexagon Theatre. Other schools participating in this year's show are Carter High School, Epworth School, Pietermaritzburg Girls' Other School, Hilton College, Howick High School, Maritzburg College, Russell, St Anne's Diocesan College, St Nicholas, The Wykeham Collegiate and Voortrekker High School. Tickets are R75 each and can be purchased by contacting hexagon@ukzn.ac.za or 033 260 5537.

## junior SCHOOL

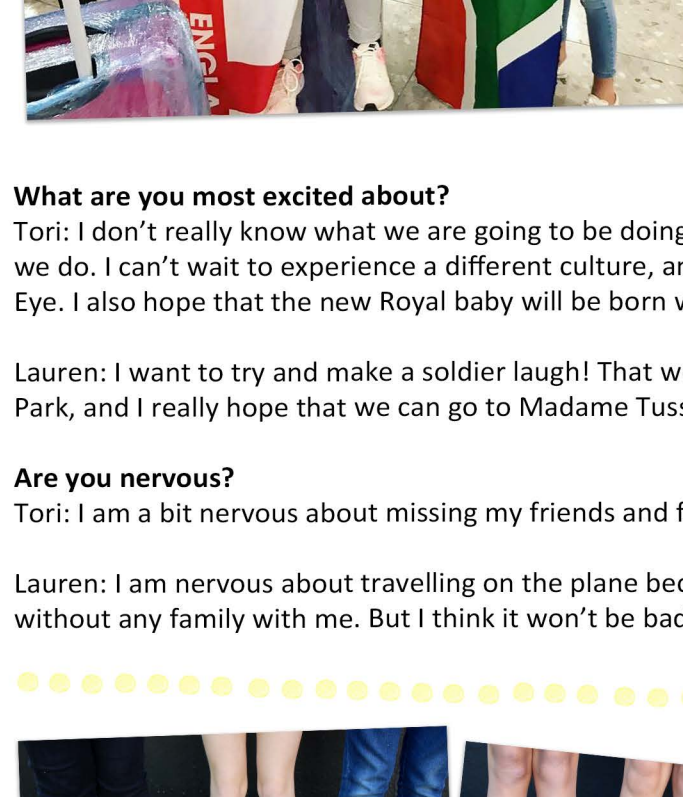


### VOTING DAY

Ahead of the 2019 National Elections, our Junior School girls held their very own election morning to vote for which type of charity they would like to support with a Civvies Day next term. The votes were counted and verified and this morning the results were announced in assembly. The winning cause was "flood relief." Thank you to all voters and to our St John's D.S.G. "I.E.C. officials" for organising the vote!



### our exchange girls



Two of our Grade 6 girls, Victoria Usher and Lauren Roseveare, departed last Thursday for the United Kingdom to spend two weeks with their exchange friends, Amy and Sophie, who attend St Piran's Independent Prep. School in Maidenhead. We spoke to Lauren a couple of days before they left to find out how they were feeling about their trip. This is what they said:

**How are you feeling about the trip?**

Tori: I can't wait to meet all the girls and boys at St Piran's - I like meeting and making friends with new people.

Lauren: I am excited about meeting Sophie's family and seeing how different the U.K. is to South Africa. I want to have as much fun as possible while I am there!

**What are you most excited about?**

Tori: I don't really know what we are going to be doing (Amy said it's a surprise) but I don't actually mind what we do. I can't wait to experience a different culture, and I am hoping to see a Queen's soldier and the London Eye. I also hope that the new Royal baby will be born when we are there.

Lauren: I want to try and make a soldier laugh! That would be funny. I am looking forward to going to Thorpe Park, and I really hope that we can go to Madame Tussauds, Big Ben, Tower Bridge and M&M World.

**Are you nervous?**

Tori: I am a bit nervous about missing my friends and family, but I'm sure that I will have a wonderful trip.

Lauren: I am nervous about travelling on the plane because it will be the first time that I have ever travelled without any family with me. But I think it won't be bad at all - I'm really looking forward to the trip!

## senior SCHOOL



### GRADE 8 MARKET DAY

Our Grade 8s hosted a Market Day on Sunday at the St John's Festival. We were so impressed by the originality, thought and effort they put into making their stalls, and the items they were selling, as unique and beautiful as they were. From beautiful wall art and handmade tote bags, to succulents, fish and delicious ice creams, our Grade 8 entrepreneurs had a busy day setting up their stalls and serving their very excited customers. We are positive that they (and their parents!) slept very well that night.



### quiz night

Thank you to the girls, parents and staff who gathered for an extra weekend outing at Quiz Night in support of Interact fund-raising. The library proved to be a comfortable venue with excellent sound and this helped proceedings immensely. The trophy was closely contested by the nine teams, with bragging rights narrowly going to The Spectaculars for the second time in their five-year support of this event. The Interact girls outdid themselves selling dessert and tea/ coffee and helping set up and tidy up."



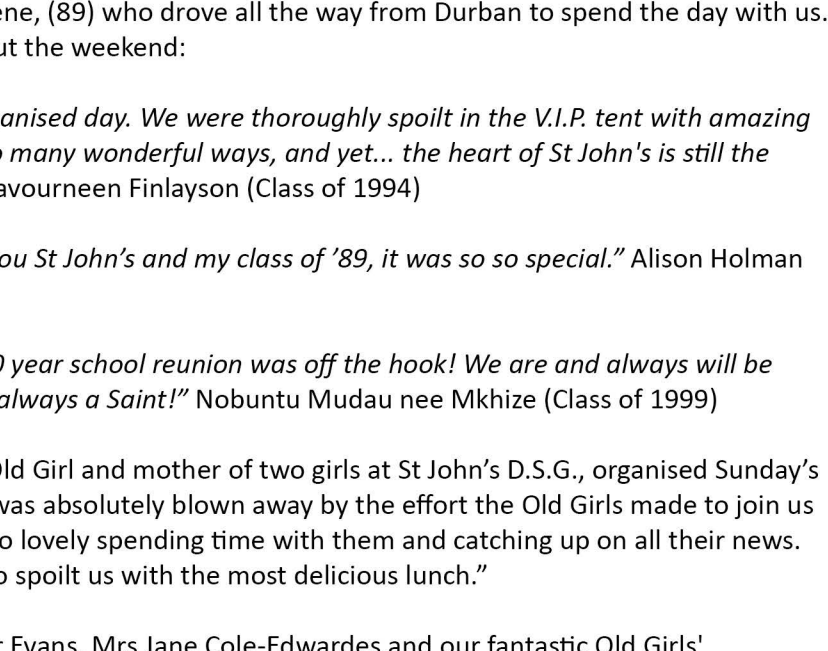
Mrs Belinda Kidd and Mrs Marilyn Evans

## old girls



### OLD GIRLS' WEEKEND

The Old Girls' Committee were delighted to welcome the Reunion groups of 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009 to the Luncheon on Saturday. The Gym Hall, where the lunch was hosted, is a nostalgic place for all our Old Girls and was filled with much laughter and chatter - it was a wonderful turnout of Old Girls. Mrs Terri Chubb, Old Girls' Association Chairlady says, "We encourage all who have attended our beautiful School to return and join in the celebrations that the School hosts, especially as we move towards our 125th Birthday in 2022.



On Sunday, 5 May, St John's D.S.G. organised a special V.I.P. tent for our Old Girls at the St John's Festival. Over 100 girls and their families joined us, and enjoyed champagne, a grazing board and mouth-watering cupcakes and chocolate brownies. The children were treated to a face-painting session, and there were various fun activities organised for them too. It was a very special time catching up with all these wonderful ladies, some of whom came all the way from Australia for the reunion! Special mention must be made of two of our Old Girls, Wendy Carter (86) and her sister, Arlene, (89) who drove all the way from Durban to spend the day with us. This is what some of our Old Girls said about the weekend:

"Thank you St John's. It was a very well organised day. We were thoroughly spoilt in the V.I.P. tent with amazing food and treats. The school has grown in so many wonderful ways, and yet... the heart of St John's is still the same. Very grateful and proud Old Girl!" Mavourneen Finlayson (Class of 1994)

"The whole weekend was magical. Thank you St John's and my class of '89, it was so so special." Alison Holman nee Howells (Class of 1989)

"What a beautiful weekend we had! Our 20 year school reunion was off the hook! We are and always will be proud St John's D.S.G. ladies. Once a Saint, always a Saint!" Nobuntu Mudau nee Mkhize (Class of 1999)

Mrs Jane Cole-Edwardes (nee Rogers), an Old Girl and mother of two girls at St John's D.S.G., organised St John's event on behalf of the school. She says, "I was absolutely blown away by the effort the Old Girls made to join us in the Old Girls VIP tent on Sunday. It was so lovely spending time with them and catching up on all their news. A huge thank you to our Catering team who spoilt us with the most delicious lunch."

Thank you to Mrs Terri Chubb, Mrs Heather Evans, Mrs Jane Cole-Edwardes and our fantastic Old Girls' Association for organising these wonderful events. We would also like to thank our Kitchen team for the incredible food. To all of our Old Girls who joined us on Saturday: it was wonderful to see you all. Please do keep in touch - we always love to hear your news!

