

Take Heart

Old Girls' Newsletter

August 2022

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of our St John's D.S.G. Old Girls' newsletter, *Take Heart*.

Finally, we were able to host our annual Old Girls' Day on Saturday, 14 May, and what an occasion it was. After scrolling through social media pages and chatting to Old Girls who attended, there was a common theme: how amazing and fun it was to reconnect with old friends again!

Due to the recent relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, our lives seem to have got really busy again and for those of us living in KwaZulu-Natal, there have been some extra unexpected challenges as a result of the recent devastating floods, however, we are resilient if nothing else. It is at times like these that the appreciation of those special people in our lives is certainly something we are all feeling and it's at St John's D.S.G. where many of these friendships and connections started.

The celebrations of St John's D.S.G.'s 125th Birthday continues throughout the year with more opportunities to return to our special school and reconnect with friends. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Lucy Kewley (Chairlady of the Old Girls' Association)



Heart-to-Heart

For our monthly "Heart-to-Heart" feature, we catch up with an Old Girl to find out where she is in life and what she has been up to since leaving school.

These features are published on the St John's D.S.G. website: www.stjohnsdsg.com under the "Old Girls" tab and links to these articles are shared on our social media pages. Below are two snippets of recent articles. To read more of our "Heart-to-Heart" features, please click on the heart.



If you would like to feature in a "Heart-to-Heart" article, please contact Jane Cole-Edwardes (Old Girls' Liaison) on oldgirls@stjohnsdsg.com.

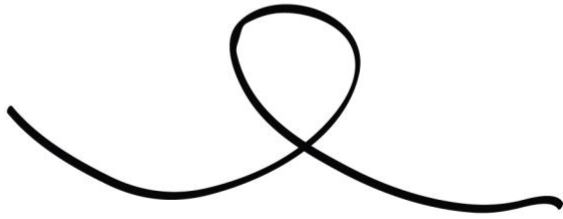
Heart-to-Heart with Lulu Khumalo

A people's person, whether it's in the work place or with family and friends, St John's D.S.G. Old Girl, Lulu Khumalo (Class of 2013) believes in adding sustainable value and making a difference wherever she goes. After leaving St John's D.S.G., Lulu went onto study at Rhodes University where she worked extremely hard to obtain her Honours Degree in Information Systems.

Lulu is currently working at Analyse Consulting, in Johannesburg, as an Analyst. Whilst she navigates the 'hustle and bustle' of the big city, her other enjoyment is being 'Auntie Nunu' to her two adorable nieces.

What did you love most about St John's D.S.G.?

I loved the friendships I created whilst at school and I loved the fact that my relationship with God was really formed during my time at St John's D.S.G. and is still going strong.



Heart-to-Heart with Abbey Martin

Working in the beautiful Kamberg Valley at Glengarry Holiday Farms, Abbey Martin (Class of 2012) has the best of both worlds. Whether she's managing the Tea Garden, cooking up a storm in the kitchen or building relationships with the guests, Abbey considers herself one of the lucky ones to live in such a beautiful part of the world, as well as do something she loves.

Abbey qualified as a chef in 2013. Food has always been one of her passions and to turn it into a living was a dream come true for her. She got the opportunity to work under the indomitable Jackie Cameron (another fellow St John's D.S.G. Old Girl!) and cook for some famous people, but most importantly she got to show people her love through food.

What did you love most about St John's D.S.G.?

The thing I loved most about St John's D.S.G. was that it really was a "small school with big heart". When deciding on schools it was one of the biggest selling points for me. I loved that all the girls knew each other. I loved that I felt immediately comfortable and part of the greater St John's D.S.G. family. For me, this sense of community stretched from the amazing Miss Joyce Dlomo (how does she carry wine glasses and tea on her head?!) and Mr Big Boy Mkhize in the Kitchen to the teeny Grade RRs in the Junior School.



Area Ambassadors

SOUTH AFRICA

Hilton/PMB: Mary Millward (née Quicke - 1985) info@dusi.co.za
Nombulelo Zulu (2014) bulelombanjwa@gmail.com

Midlands/Kamberg/Notties:

Kelly Sivright (née Gaylard - 1999) kelly@glengarry.co.za

Winterton/Bergville:

Lindsay Du Plessis (née Carte - 2002) lindsaycarte@gmail.com

Durban:

Puvithra Naidoo (1991) puvithra@me.com

KZN North Coast:

Kirsty Heath (née Bowles - 2002) bowlzies@hotmail.com

KZN South Coast:

Geneé Kilgour (née Liedenbergh - 1987) kilgour@mweb.co.za

Gauteng/JHB:

Grace Buthelezi (2014) fanelegrace@gmail.com
Nombulelo Zulu (2014) bulelombanjwa@gmail.com
Candice Seggie (née Leo-Smith - 2000) candiceseggie@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL

U.K. (London):

Christina Haralambous (2000) christine.haralambous@gmail.com

USA & Canada:

Paula Owen (née Munro – 1996) info@paulaowen.ca

Australia (Sydney):

Lauren Tischendorf (1998) lm Tischendorf@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY REPS

Wits:

Nana Mwenechanya (2017) nanamwene@gmail.com
Nombulelo Zulu (2014) bulelombanjwa@gmail.com

Tuks:

Michelle Niebuhr (2017) michelleniebuhr@gmail.com



We are still on the lookout for more Area Ambassadors, local and International, so if you are interested in assisting us with organising Old Girl gatherings in your area, please contact Jane Cole-Edwardes on oldgirls@stjohnsdsg.com

What our Old Girls have been up to...

Wedding Bells

Roxy Hampton (née Royden-Turner, Class of 2000) recently got married at The Groves Wedding Venue in Caversham, KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Four of Roxy's special bridesmaids were fellow St John's D.S.G. Old Girls and many of the guests were friends from school.

Left to Right: Roxy Hampton (née Royden-Turner); Kelly Laing (née Royden-Turner); Bridget Meyer; Janine Meyer; Susan Held (née Heincke); Bernie Jansen van Vuuren (née Grové); Kate Bain (née Sykes). Front: Juli Santini (née Royden-Turner) and right in the front is Jamie Santini (who is currently at St John's D.S.G. in Grade R).



Connecting through Sport

We love receiving news and pictures of Old Girl's meeting up with current St John's D.S.G. girls. Spotted at the u21 Interprovincial Hockey Tournament in Gqeberha in May this year were: Aimee-Renee Jacobs (Grade 12); Jenna Fyvie (Class of 2021); Olivia McDonald (Grade 12) and Jessica Rochat (Class of 2021).

A Grand Reunion

22 St John's D.S.G. Old Girls from the class of 2017 met up at the Rotanda Beach Bar in Hilton in March this year. Although a lot of the ladies hadn't seen each other since leaving school, it felt as if they had never been a part. They had a lovely evening reminiscing and catching up on lost time!

Pictured: Claire Kidger; Britney Holland; Michelle Niebuhr; Qelsee Jacobs; Ameera Yacoob; Kirsty Smith; Kellie Bode; Sasha-Lee Tamsen; Carmen Lunn; Brittany Shaw; Carla Widlake; Georgia Nicolin; Sarah Dickson; Sara Chubb; Emma de Wet; Ashleigh Haines; Jessica Saville; Sinead Mingay; Rachel Baert; Kelly-Ann Fjellvik; Maxine Bateman and Susan MacNicol.



Sister duos!

How incredible was it that St John's D.S.G. had two sets of sisters in the 1st Hockey team this year; the McDonald sisters (Olivia, Grade 12 and Genevieve, Grade 10) and the Macquet sisters (Izzy, Grade 12 and Rebecca, Grade 10). Further to the story, their moms (St John's D.S.G. Old Girls) were best friends at school, and we have it on good authority that even their grans shared a very close friendship whilst at St John's D.S.G.!



Monday Motivation Series

During Term 2, the Prefects started a "Monday Motivation" series, where they invited Old Girls to join an Assembly to address the school on what they have accomplished after leaving St John's D.S.G.



Julia Rees (née Norton, Class of 1998)

Julia shared her career journey from photography to forestry! She encouraged the girls not to let stereotypical careers get in the way of their passions and to rather follow their hearts and do what they love when they leave school. Julia mentioned, "The only way to do great things, is to do what you love, and you will know exactly what that is, when you find it!"



Cally Smith (née Bassage, Class of 2000)

Cally shared her story of her struggle with Bipolar disorder. Her message is one of hope in an often bleak scenario where mental health problems can break apart relationships. Through a steadfast trust in the Lord, Cally was able to overcome enormous life challenges. She has written a book "The Mirror has two faces," where she shares her journey to where she is today... married and planning for the future!



Ipeleng Mkhari (née Moloto, Class of 1991)

Ipeleng is a mom of four teenage girls and a very successful businesswoman, founder and CEO of Motseng Investment Holdings. She was the first St John's D.S.G. Head Girl of colour in 1991. The school was incredibly fortunate to have her join the "Monday Motivation" series, coming all the way from Johannesburg, giving up time from her busy schedule to talk to the girls. She shared her life lessons that made her successful in business and her personal life.



Reunion Weekend

St John's D.S.G was delighted to welcome back over 250 Old Girls, from various years, to the Reunion Weekend in May. The Old Girls kicked off the festivities with a Chapel Service led by St John's D.S.G's Chaplain, Rev Di Pickford; enjoyed a delightful tea on the Chapel Lawn; took a walk down memory lane with a tour around the school's campus; supported the 1st Team Hockey girls playing against St Anne's; and then relaxed and caught up over a delicious harvest table lunch.

Comments from some of our Old Girls who attended the Reunion:

"I just wanted to thank you for a truly beautiful day. I was blown away by the generosity and hospitality. So much attention to detail and loved having moments to catch up with everyone. I never knew how much I needed to be there it was really good for my heart."

"Thank you so much to everyone involved in organizing a fabulous weekend celebrating the 125th birthday of our special school!"

"I think all the Old Girls in attendance truly felt special and appreciated the effort that was put in to make us feel like VIPs!"

"On behalf of our Class of '67, we would like to thank you for everything you did to put together that amazing event. It was absolutely fantastic and we thoroughly enjoyed every minute!"

"A huge big thank you for the fabulous St John's D.S.G. Old Girls' day. It was the first one that I have attended and it will definitely not be my last. It was great to see all the wonderful improvements. I found the service very moving. Had a huge lump in my throat. Great food and great company."

"Old Girls' Reunion was a red-letter day for me! I struggled to sleep on that night after all the excitement! Thank you for the generous hospitality! It was exceptional."



125th Celebration... the fun continues

St John's D.S.G. has already celebrated many events as part of the 125th Birthday celebrations. With the official 125th birthday on 20 August 2022, you are invited to attend the 125th Gala Dinner on Saturday, 13 August.

Tickets are still available if you are able to join us.

Other Birthday Events... Past-to-Present Run



125th Gala Dinner

SATURDAY 13 August 2022

INDOOR CENTRE 17H30

Formal Attire
RSVP to Jane Cole-Edwards
on jcoledwards@stjohnsdsg.com by 1 August 2022.
Tickets are limited. Cash Bar available
Tables of 10 at a cost of R4 500

RSVP extended 5 August!

125th Music Concert 🎵



Outreach Project – Ashburton Primary School

As many of you may remember, St John's D.S.G. has for many years, supported the Ashburton Primary School. In the past, during weekly visits, the outreach committee, consisting of St John's D.S.G. girls, would help in all aspects of the school. From teaching life skills to the Ashburton pupils, to painting classrooms, to helping with maintenance repairs - you name it. This is hugely beneficial for both Ashburton Primary School as well as our St John's D.S.G. girls, gaining enormous valuable lessons for life. For a few years now, due to the country's current situation, St John's D.S.G. hasn't been able to get to Ashburton to assist them with their needs. 2022 is the year the girls will get involved again! Ashburton Primary School is requiring a brick building, a prefab and a wendy house to help with their everyday running.



If any Old Girl's would like to donate towards these requirements, please contact Jane Cole-Edwardes on oldgirls@stjohnsdsg.com. Equally, if anyone has memories of this special programme that they would like to share – please email those too.

Update Contact Details

We would love to get in touch with all our special Old Girls. Please take a minute to click on the heart below to update your contact details.



Click here to
update your details

Not Online?

We know that not everyone has access to online resources, so if you know of an Old Girl who is not online and who would benefit from having information posted to her, please email Jane Cole-Edwardes on oldgirls@stjohnsdsg.com with their name and postal address.

Link to Current News

If you aren't already following our St John's D.S.G. Old Girls' social media pages, please do so by clicking the link below. This is where we keep you up to date with what our Old Girls are up to as well as any important information regarding reunions date changes and future events.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sjsoldgirls>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsdsgoldgirls/?hl=en>

If social media isn't your thing, The Old Girls' section on the St John's D.S.G. website allows for easy access to any past "Heart-to-Heart" posts, newsletters and upcoming events.