



ST JOHN'S D.S.G.
PIETERMARITZBURG
Small school. Big heart.

the

yellow

pages

Edition Eight - 2023



SOME OF THE EXCITING THINGS IN THIS EDITION...

- ♡ Grade 6 Maths Whizzes
- ♡ Our Squash Superstars
- ♡ IsiZulu Evening in Durban
- ♡ Grade R uHambo Journey



GENERAL NEWS

Great Achievements

A BIG congratulations to Mr Mzwake Khanyile (Estate Staff) who has been making us so proud with his achievements. In the last month he has claimed victory in the uMngeni River Run (75km), Longest Day and The Eston 20km. We recently caught up with Mr Khanyile and asked him a few questions to gauge some insight in to this incredible man and how he has succeeded in all these races.

How long and how often do you train?

I train every day of the week with most weeks running over 100km.

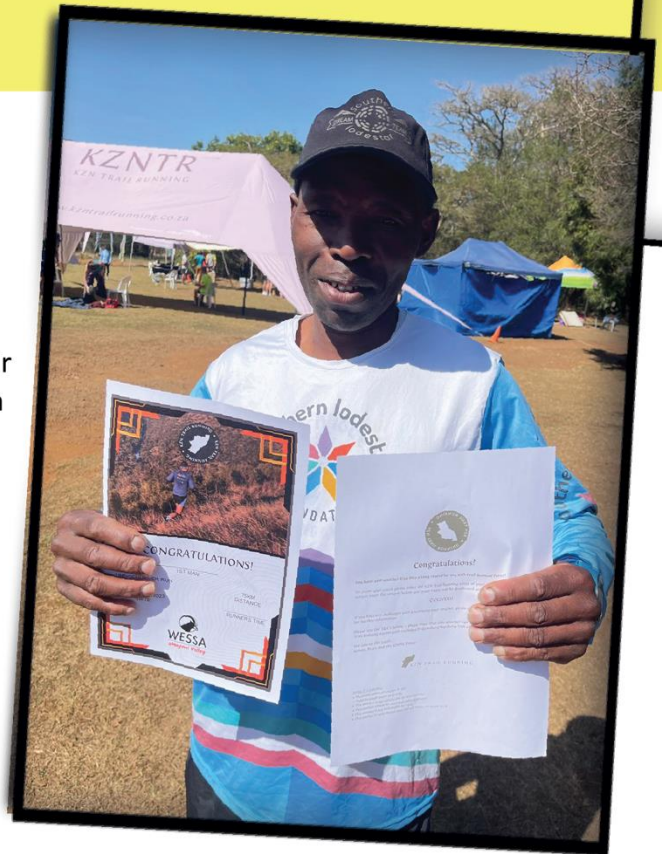
Which has been your hardest race?

Definitely the Karkloof 100 Miler.

Which race have you most enjoyed?

The Karkloof 100 Miler because I love trail running.

Mr Khanyile's next race will be the Karkloof 100 Miler (160km) which takes place in October and he is one of the favourites to win this gruelling challenge. We wish him all the best for this incredible feat!



Winter Warmth Campaign

As part of the Winter Warmth campaign the Junior School set a goal of collecting 1,000 knitted squares to sew into blankets for donation before half-term, and to everyone's excitement, reached just under 2,000! The squares were distributed into the capable hands of the St John's D.S.G. moms, aunts and grannies, who volunteered to sew them into blankets.

A total of 34 beautiful blankets were recently distributed to the Grey's Hospital babies, Angel's Care in Howick and Sunnyside Park Old Age Home.

We are so proud and thankful for all the donations, well done to everyone who got involved.

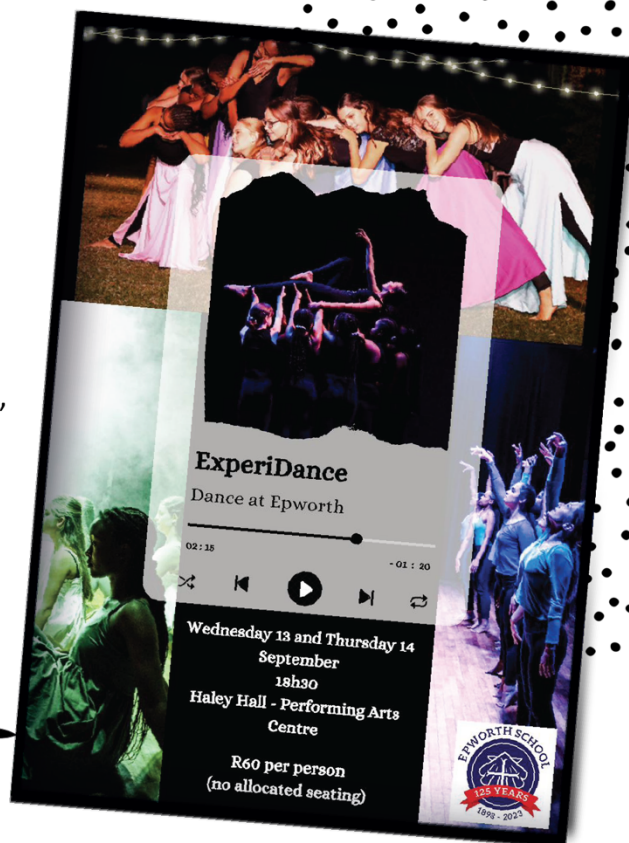


ExperiDance

Along with Epworth High School's dance companies, St John's D.S.G., BoNana Dance Studio, Amber Sandalls School of Ballet and Midlands Dance Theatre Centre are proud to present ExperiDance. The show is a great opportunity to celebrate and appreciate dance and collaboration with other schools.

The girls will be performing on Wednesday, 13 and Thursday 14, September at 18h30 in the Haley Hall at Epworth. Tickets are R60 per person.

To book online please click on the heart or purchase tickets at the door on the evening. Seating is unreserved and the show runs for approximately 80 minutes.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

100 Club Success

Before half-term the P.A. held their "Turn on the Lights!" themed 100 Club Dinner and it was a huge success!

The lucky draw winners were:

- ♥ 1st - The Mostert Family
- ♥ 2nd - The van Rooyen Family
- ♥ 3rd - The Lambert Family

Thank you to all the 100 club members who are a part of this wonderful fund raising cause for our special school and also a BIG thanks to all the prize sponsors. Without you this event wouldn't be possible.

The P.A. is proud to announce that a staggering amount of R44 000 was raised through donations from parents at the 100 Club Dinner for the "Turn on the Lights!" Campaign.



Morning Treat!

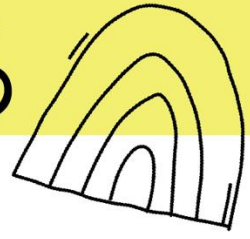
For the coffee and tea lovers amongst us, the Parents' Association has organised a mobile coffee van to be available every Monday morning at the Harwin Road parking area from 06h15.

This forms part of the fundraising efforts towards the Astroturf Flood Lights!

They would love your support so pop in and enjoy the delicious treat!



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



Gentle Parenting by Michelle Gevers

"Everything is meaningless, completely meaningless!", words written in 935 B.C. by Solomon recorded in the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon finds himself questioning the purpose of life, a life that has been good, a life full of intellect, power, wealth and abundance in all things. He has an honest approach (ties in with our theme of ownership) as he takes stock of accumulating material things and likens this all to, "chasing the wind."

As parents, do we ever find ourselves asking the same questions? Solomon asks himself because he had forgotten his purpose and pursued his own desires. As parents, our role to parent should be purpose driven. So, what is this purpose and how do we go about this in our daily workplaces, marriages, home and parenting?

We need to be reminded that there is no child conceived without God's knowledge (Ps139). He repeats the statement after each of His creation, "It is good." He is specific about this purpose. He created us for His glory (Isa 43:7) and he instructs us to do, *"everything for the glory of God"* (1Cor 10:31). Therefore, we need to reflect God's character in our parenting. This means we need to teach His truth into our children's lives. Their identity should be found in Him, not things of the world. This is our first responsibility, by doing this we will raise a generation who won't be gullible to pseudo-science, but instead recognizing God is our Creator. Then, we mimic His character. He is just and loving. This translates into being fair and not unreasonable, it means being a good listener, not condemning but correcting, not punishing but disciplining. We need to be the living example that our children want to mimic not social media influencers. This applies to your family values, speak these aloud so your children know what your family believes in and holds onto. Let them match the behaviour to the words spoken, this develops emotional intelligence when these are aligned together with their emotions.

We should seek to be honest at all times and speak in love, this allows consequences to be addressed and not "brushed under the carpet". This is common in today's society as our mental and emotional tanks can be depleted quickly and the effort seems too much. Remain consistent. By being consistently fair establishes healthy emotional boundaries as our children know what to expect, this establishes a firm foundation for them.

Be present, life is fleeting! Make the time to show up and watch practices, recitals, assemblies, cook and share meals together, read bedtime stories, laugh and play together. Our children need to feel our presence, they need a constant reminder of our love for them. God reminds us constantly of His great love for us, as His creation surrounds us every day.



Grade R uHambo Journey

The excitement of waving farewells to the bus each morning on the week of the Grade 9 uHambo departures brought on much excitement to our Grade R girls. They have been drawing pictures for their designated group of hikers and have loved looking at the uHambo newsletters showing what the "big girls" are doing on their trip. The "uHambo 2032" group had a taste of adventure as they enjoyed a morning experiencing some elements of what to look forward to in 9 years' time. Our little Grade R girls bravely "hiked" the cross-country track and later set up their tents for a rest. They each brought their bicycles to school, cycling around the field together after roasting marshmallows on the fire to make "smores." Mrs Eva and Mrs Schirge took groups for their turn to open their uHambo post, which had been written for them. Special little campfire treats were waiting for them upon their return and personalised cards wishing them well. A busy and memorable morning for all the girls and perhaps one they will cherish for years to come.



"Charlotte's Web" Day

The Grade 3s recently dazzled with their "Charlotte's Web" character outfits.

It was wonderful to see the girls put so much effort into their costumes and to see the younger grades marvel at the outfits, knowing that they will get the opportunity to dress up when they are in Grade 3.

To finish off their day, the girls enjoyed the most delicious and beautifully decorated cupcakes made by the talented Mrs Carol Parsons (our lovely Assistant Catering Manager) and Kitchen Staff.



A Buzzing Success

This term, the Grade 2s have been abuzz with excitement and their hard work and dedication were on full display at the recent Honey Festival held at the Royal Showgrounds on 30 July.

It provided a platform for the girls to showcase their knowledge and creativity and they rose to the challenge. Their projects, which resulted from in-depth inquiry-based learning, demonstrated their understanding of bees and their environmental commitment. These young minds left an indelible mark on the event, making the school community very proud.

Adding to the school's achievements, the Junior School also participated in the festival's art competition. Alia Vermaak (Grade 2), Emma Wilson (Grade R) and Aryana Raghndan (Grade 5) emerged as stars by clinching the first prize in their respective age groups. Their artistic creations showcased their talent and depicted bees' beauty and importance in our lives. Lorelai Liebenberg (Grade R) and Anna Hardman (Grade 7) secured the second prize in their respective categories. Their artistic prowess were on full display, further solidifying the school's reputation for nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel in various fields.

We applaud the girls' outstanding efforts and achievements. They have demonstrated that they can create a buzz of success that resonates far beyond the classroom walls with passion, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence. We eagerly look forward to witnessing more such accomplishments from these



The Value of Money

The Grade 4s are learning about the value of money in Maths and recently hit the shops with only R20 in hand! The goal – to feed themselves for lunch!

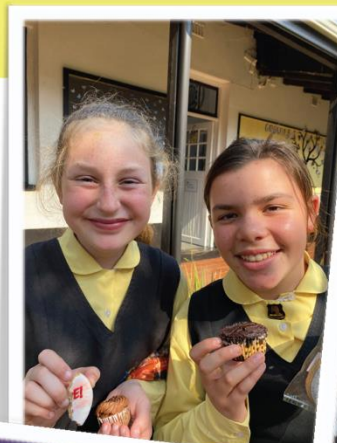
There were no rules other than they had to buy themselves a meal within their budget, using estimation to work towards their total. Most girls soon realized that if they made groups and pooled their money, it would go further. Needless to say, the choices were interesting and lots of valuable lessons were learnt (some trollies were emptied and re-stocked numerous times)!

The feedback from the girls was most insightful! Georgia McCleary says, "Who knew that healthy eating was so expensive, it's cheaper to eat the delicious stuff!" Looks like these girls have a new found respect for grocery shopping!



Grade 6 Maths Whizzes

The Grade 6 girls have been working hard on their mental Maths this year. They recently celebrated their 100th "Score!" exercise. To celebrate, Mrs Usher and Mrs Gurney played Maths games, taught the girls a Maths dance and presented them with beautiful biscuits made by one of our talented mums, Mrs Boswell. They have all come a long way! Special mention must be made of Thalya Pillay who managed to SCORE 100% for all 100 exercises so far!



Grade 7 Pancakes

To encourage the Grade 7 girls to learn new vocabulary, they had to learn how to make Pancakes in Afrikaans. They quickly applied themselves and earned the "right" to make their pannekoekie. They were also encouraged to speak in Afrikaans whilst cooking. This resulted in lekker teatime treats!



Spirit of Adventure

The Grade 6 and 7s recently attended a trip to Spirit of Adventure. They took part in a variety of events which helped them bond together. They realised that walking was just part of the "adventure" if they wanted to join in the different activities. They participated in orienteering, raft building, kayaking, abseiling, rock climbing, potjie cooking, as well as activities that required brain power and lots of group collaboration. They came back physically and mentally stronger and ready to take on their roles in "Beauty and the Beast, JR."



"Beauty and The Beast.JR"

Last week, our Senior Primary girls showcased a magical production of "Beauty and the Beast.JR." This timeless tale, bursting with captivating characters and a heart-warming message, came to life on stage through the hard work and dedication of our talented girls. From the creative costumes to the stunning set design, the production transported all who watched it into the world of fantasy and wonder. The performance was a true testament to the passion of our young performers and talented staff involved in putting this wonderful production together.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

World of Work Day

The Grade 11s recently gained a glimpse into the career world during their World of Work Day. Our girls got the opportunity to listen and speak to professionals within their career fields of interest, gaining insight into what the industry entails. Mrs Taryn Zammit, L.O. Teacher says, "Having the opportunity to meet with professionals who have experience in the girls' career fields of interest is very helpful." This year we were lucky enough to have the following awesome professionals come in and chat to the girls :

Doctor: Lindiwe Khumalo-Mugabe
Engineer: Lance Deysel from Clifford Engineering
Pilots: Jon Sargood from VUZE flight school at PMB airport
Psychologist: Tamryn Sprunt
Graphic Designer: TeeDee Dlamini-Wilson
Artist: Kelly Higgs
Accountant: Caryn Maitland
Dietician: Amy Burt
Biokineticist: Nicola Portela



A BIG thank you to you all for taking the time off from your busy schedules to talk with our girls, we know they found it very informative!



isiZulu Evening

On 28 July the IsiZulu Grade 10 to 12 girls attended the IsiZulu Evening at Reddam College Umhlanga along with 27 other IEB KZN Schools. The evening was a huge success with girls getting a chance to meet other scholars from different schools and allowing them to showcase their cultural talents in music, poetry and dance. The Grade 10s performed a beautiful cultural dance along with two other scholars Amahle Falala (Grade 10) and Lwandle Mshengu (Grade 11) who participated in a Spelling Bee competition.



Dramatic Arts Update

DANCE@KEARSNEY

This term, our SJS Dance Company girls (Ashley Khupe, Alyssa Maplanka, Grace Alborough, Mary Kewley, Casey Campbell and Nova Sutherland) performed at the annual Dance@Kearsney Festival on 28 July which was Choreographed by Jessica Anderson.

The dance piece was inspired by Actor Bruce Lee.

"Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless - like water."

And like water, there will be days in which we help fill oceans and carve out mountains and days in which we fall without direction and crash. It is important to learn how to dance with the waves of life, move with the sea and let the rhythm of the water set your soul free.



JONGOSI DAY – HILTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2023

The annual Jongosi, a celebration of youth and the performing arts, took place on Friday, 11 August on the Hilton College Campus as part of The Witness Hilton Arts Festival.

The Grade 12, Grade 11 and Grade 10 Dramatic Arts girls attended and watched three amazing theatrical show: *Kafka's Ape*, *Mamba Proudly SA* and *Isidlamlilo – The Fire Eater*.



Crocheting for a Good Cause!

This term Daniela Cantarelli (Grade 9) raised over R6,000 for FreeMe Wildlife by crocheting a blanket that was raffled.

Daniella spent over 40 hours on the blanket and what is even more amazing is that she only learned crocheting, from Youtube videos, this March. Daniella shared some insight into why she started this fundraising journey. "FreeMe is close to my home, and we previously took a yellow-billed kite that was in distress to them. I love nature and believe what they do is so important, especially as we encroach more and more into wildlife's space," she said.

FreeMe Wildlife does not charge for its services and relies solely on public support and volunteer work, so the money raised will be allocated towards the monthly running costs of the organisation.



To read more, click on the heart:

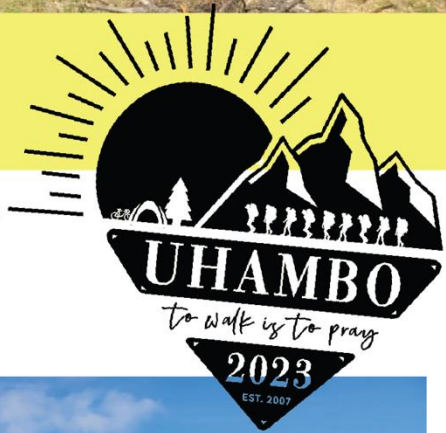




uHambo 2023

uHambo 2023 is sadly over and what a year it was! The girls were lucky enough to experience this life changing 21-day journey, which they will remember forever.

Take a look at some of what they got up to...



SPORTS NEWS

World Gymnaestrada

Lauren Wetherill (Grade 11) recently participated in the 2023 World Gymnaestrada held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, which included 60 countries and 20 000 participants. The World Gymnaestrada is the largest general gymnastics exhibition. Much like the Olympics, the event is held every four years. However, the focus is not on winning medals but instead Group Performances – some with hundreds or even thousands of participants.

The event took place over seven days, with a tight schedule, including an Opening and Closing Ceremony, Team Performances, Large Group Performances as well as an International Team Performance.

Lauren performed three times with her team, as well as having the chance to see performances from other federations. Lauren says, "I am so grateful that I got the opportunity to attend, as this was a once in a life time opportunity. I felt so proud to represent my country!" Well done, Lauren.



Squash

St John's D.S.G. sister duo have been crowned National Growthpoint Champions for 2023.

Congratulations to Cevana Naidoo (Grade 11) and Makayla Naidoo (Grade 8) on their outstanding success at the South African National Growthpoint Championships held at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town from 17 to 20 August.

Cevana played excellent squash to win the U17 Championship 3-0. Makayla fought back from two games down to win the fifth game 11-9 and clinch the title 3-2.

Both girls were also selected for the SA Junior Girls Team to play in Malaysia in December and the British Junior Open in January 2024.

St John's D.S.G. Squash Coach, Ravi Govender praised both players for achieving their goals and for the hard work they have put in to improving their technique and tactics. It has taken dedication, discipline and drive.

Well done, Cevana and Makayla. We are so proud of you both.



MUSIC NEWS

Best of Eisteddfod

Seven of our girls achieved the top mark in their section at the recent SASMT Eisteddfod, which is a huge credit to their hard work and determination, as well as to their teachers. They are:

Grade 7 Clarinet: Caitlin Davies (Grade 11)

Grade 6 Classical Voice: Vuyolwethu Mlawu (Grade 11) *missing from photo

Grade 5 Classical Piano: Victoria Burczak (Grade 9)

Grade 4 Classical Voice: Savannah-Belle Fyvie (Grade 11)

Grade 3 Classical Voice: Mihlali Hadebe (Grade 9)

Grade 3 Classical Piano: Emihle Nonxuba (Grade 8)

Grade 1 Classical Piano: Grace Cole-Edwardes (Grade 6)



They were invited to perform at the Best of the Eisteddfod concert series. It is interesting to “note” that two Old Girls, Elizabeth Burczak and Bulelwa Kumalo were also selected as winners for the Grade 6 and 8 Violin sections respectively.

Greek Talent Show

The Grade 9 Subject Music girls took part in a creative collaboration evening with the Michaelhouse Grade 9 Music boys on 21 July, where each school put together half of the Greek Talent Show. Items from *Hades* (the musical), solo and group performances, the story of *Odysseus and the Sirens* as well as some exciting jazz and vocal numbers from Michaelhouse were performed. This was followed by a Greek-themed dinner and a chance for the boys and girls to socialise.



Marimbas to the Max

Our Performance Marimba band amazed and entertained the audience at Epworth with their co-ordinated and confident performance at the Marimbas to the Max event at the end of July. The girls got the audience marching together around the Epworth indoor centre to *Oh When the Saints!*



Sweet Rewards

The Music Department has been encouraging the girls to practise, practise, practise! During the holidays, Tyhira Harrilall (Grade 5) came to collect her sweet reward for all her holiday practising and was spotted with her spoils! Girls can claim a sweet from Mrs Nelson for every 10 practise sessions completed, so we hope to have many more rewards being claimed leading up to our Mini-Eisteddfod in September!



Women's Day

On Women's Day the Performance Marimbas once again took to the stage, alongside International marimba competition-winners Michaelhouse, at the Maritzburg College 160th Birthday Festival.

Our girls held their own and once again presented a nuanced and energetic program which kept the audience entertained at this open-air event.

