



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

the

yellow

pages

Edition Nine - 2023



SOME OF THE EXCITING THINGS IN THIS EDITION...

- ♡ Formal Dinner
- ♡ Grade 7 Book Quiz
- ♡ Parent & Daughter Tennis Fun
- ♡ St John's D.S.G. Mini-Eisteddfod



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

Fishing Competition

The annual P.A. Fishing Competition is scheduled for the weekend of 25 -26 November. Please save the date - more details to follow on the school app.

Turn on the lights!

In May, the Parents' Association fundraising campaign, "Turn on the Lights", was launched. Their latest fundraising project is to raise enough funds to install international quality flood lights for the school's Astro turf. They have already raised R1.4million from activities in 2022 and 2023, and require your support to raise a further R1.6million by the end of Term 1, 2024.

To donate, please check the school app, scan the QR code or click on the heart to visit our website.

Raffle



All raffle booklets have now been distributed and it's great to see so many girls selling up a storm!

There are some excellent prizes on offer including a two night stay for four people at Montusi Mountain Lodge (valued at R21 400), a two night stay for two people at The Cavern Drakensberg Resort & Spa (valued at R10 080) and two vouchers for a Mini Luxury Package for two people (valued at R2 200 each).

There is a prize of R200 per grade for the girl that sells the most tickets, as well as a R1 000 prize for the girl that sells the most tickets in the Junior School and the Senior School.

All booklets and cash need to be returned by 23 October and the draw will take place at the P.A. 100 Club event on Wednesday, 1 November.

Let's reel in the fun!

THE ST JOHN'S D.S.G. P.A.
Invite you to their annual

Fishing Competition

GREAT PRIZES

AT "THE BIG DAM", BAYNESFIELD ESTATE
Saturday, 25 Nov: 12h00 - 18h00
Sunday, 26 Nov: 06h00 - 12h00

BAYNESFIELD ESTATE ENTRY R100 PER CAR • 5KM FUN RUN R30 • 2.5KM FUN RUN R20
ADULTS R180 | JUNIORS R120 | FAMILY OF 4 R500 | R200 PER BOAT
CASH BAR | FOOD FOR SALE | BRAAI FACILITIES

To book your place, contact Heather on hevans@stjohnsdsg.com
For more info, please contact Zeenath on 076 208 6477
or Colin Holzhausen on 082 773 7759

CAMPING: R250 PER SITE

ST JOHN'S D.S.G.
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
Turn on the Lights



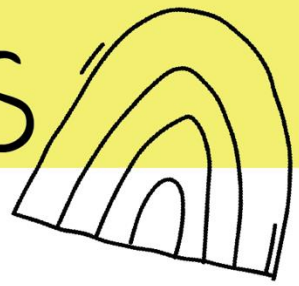
GENERAL

Pink Drive Swimathon

If anyone would like to take part in the Pink Drive Charity Swimathon, please visit www.swimathon-seals.com to enter.



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



Proudly South African

Our Eaglets are proudly South African! Over the last couple of weeks they have loved learning about what makes our country so special. In honour of Heritage Day they celebrated with a picnic, where each girl brought a treat to eat that highlighted their heritage.

What a fun way to show case all the amazing cultures that make up our rainbow nation.



Market Day Success

Last term, our Grade 5 entrepreneurs hosted their much anticipated "Market Day." They spent many weeks designing, crafting, creating, organising and prepping for this day, which was a huge success resulting in them raising a whopping R5,960 for the Pietermaritzburg SPCA!

The girls then embarked on a fun shopping trip to the Hayfields, Pick n Pay, to purchase animal food and much needed supplies with the funds raised at their market. After which, they visited the Pietermaritzburg SPCA to drop off their donations. Well done, Grade 5s for all your hard work!



Heritage Day Production

We had an incredible experience at our school's Heritage Day production, hosted by Educate and Fascinate.

The girls had the opportunity to learn about South Africa's rich cultures and heritage, immersing themselves in the vibrant traditions that make our country so unique. One highlight was discovering the significance of "National Braai Day," a celebration that brings people together to embrace our diverse nation.

It was a truly educational and fascinating event that left lasting impression on all who attended.



Grade 7 Book Quiz

The Grade 7s recently participated in their annual Book Quiz. Five teams, two books and a total of forty-four parents and daughters. After four rounds of hotly discussed questions, and stiff competition, the winners emerged. Congratulations to team "2 Be or Not 2 Be."



Art with Heart

Our girls in the Junior School had a busy Term 3 creating the most magnificent art pieces which were displayed around the Junior School at the end of the term, for all to enjoy! Here are some of our teachers' favourite pieces from each grade!

We love seeing what you've been creating, girls. Well done!



Gentle Parenting

Our theme of GROWTH for Term 4 focuses on WISDOM. We are reminded that King Solomon, when offered the desires of his heart, chose wisdom. 1 Kings 3:10-15, *"You asked for the wisdom to listen and make the right decisions."* We need to rely on wisdom in our parenting.

As the world has labeled parenting styles, our focus needs to be on what God designed - connection and relationship. The parenting style that best suits this is the Authoritative style. This means that parents create a positive relationship, which in turn provides a safe space for children to develop autonomy, independence and healthy relationships whilst displaying respect. It also creates an opportunity to explore, ask questions and learn from our mistakes. Healthy risk takers are developed in this space. The opposite side of this growth model is Authoritarian. This parenting style focuses on obedience and punishment over discipline. The tone is set and cast in stone. This parenting style will often produce the answer, "because I said so!" This neither develops relationships, growth nor confidence within the family unit. On the opposite end of the scale is Permissive parenting, here the parent does not enforce rules and applies a simple attitude of "kids will be kids." Boundaries are not taught, and respect is minimized by both parties. The other extreme is the Uninvolved parent. Very little guidance, affirmation or correction is provided here. Parents are busy with their own lives, often leaving a child feeling abandoned or neglected.

When we focus our attention on nurturing and developing our children, we help develop their character. When we decide for them all the time, we prohibit development, which in turn can have a negative role in developing relationships. Home should be a safe place to develop personalities, character and push boundaries (within healthy limits).

Suggested below are some authors on parenting:

- ♥ Hettie Britz, "Growing kids with character"
- ♥ Danny Silk, "Loving our kids on purpose"
- ♥ Robert Emery, "The truth about children and divorce"
- ♥ Daniel Siegal, "The Whole-Brain Child" and "No Drama Discipline"

Mrs Michelle Gevers
Junior School Counsellor



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

2024 Leaders

We were so excited to announce our 2024 Head Prefects and Prefects at the end of last term.

Head Girl: Kelly Godfrey

Deputy Head Girl: Zekhethelo Phungula

Senior Boarder Prefect: Cynthia Monokoane

Prefects:

Jess Allen, Mia Aszalos, Jennifer Chen, Savanna-Belle Fyvie, Jordyn Govender, Grace Hoatson, Rebecca Macquet, Vuyolwethu Mlawu, Lwandle (Thandolwami) Mshengu, Khanyisa Mtshali, Kamo (Amogelang) Mudau, Angel Okoli, Holly Raw, Nompumelelo Shongwe, Leah Stewart, Nova Sutherland and Lauren Wetherill.



English Writers

The English Department is over the moon after a number of Senior School girls entered pieces into various poetry and writing competitions last term.

Svara Naidoo (Grade 11) placed first in the 12-18 year category of the Book Creator Poetry Competition for her poem "Women." The judges wrote, "This is a powerful poem about the empowerment of women, that uses creative rhythms, evocative language, and striking images to make its points."

Nova Sutherland's (Grade 11) poem, "My Lord Visits Me" made it into the top 10 and Taonga Phiri (Grade 12) entered her poem entitled, "Advice To a Teenage Daughter (The Reality of Love)." Nova also entered the Beyond the Vale Publishing short story competition and won the 16-18 year category with her piece, "My Day As An Alien." Her story will form part of a published book.

A number of our girls entered the Words@Kearsney poetry competition. Shivadhna Jugdeep (Grade 9) placed third for her poem, "What Would You Do To Get To The Top" and Lara Pandoo's (Grade 9) poem, "Amethyst Hearts" placed second.



Mrs Michelle Barnsley, Head of English says, "It takes a lot of courage to enter poetry and writing competitions, we can all be very proud of these girls!"

Formal Dinner

At the end of Term 3, St John's D.S.G. hosted a spectacular Formal Dinner for the Grade 10 -12s. The Indoor Centre underwent a breathtaking transformation and was turned into a beautiful setting for an unforgettable evening. The true stars of the night, though, were our lovely young ladies who graced our school with their elegance and beauty.

A BIG thank you to everyone who contributed to the evening, nights like this take time, preparation and hard work, and we are sure the girls appreciated all that went into it.





SJS has talent!

At the end of last term, the Senior School held their very own talent show. The stage came alive with a diverse range of performances, ranging from rap songs by "Angel's Army" to graceful and captivating Irish Dancing.

What made the afternoon even more special was the participation of some of our staff members who stepped forward to entertain the girls, demonstrating that it's ok not to worry about what others may think.

Thank you to everyone who was brave enough to stand up and perform!



Videos for Change

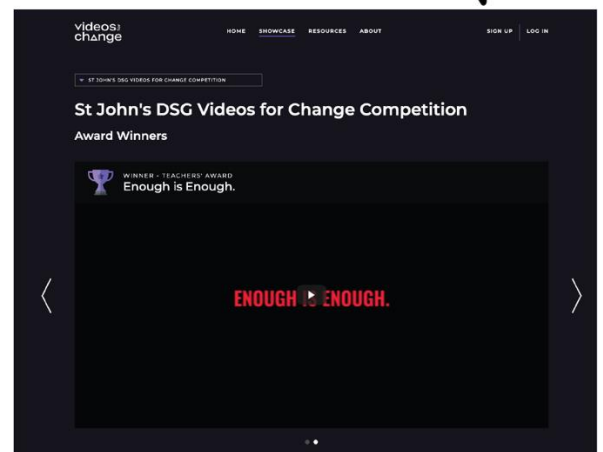
This year, one of the Matric Sister Circle projects was to create cohesion in their small groups, and to help the girls find common ground on topical issues that they care about.

“Videos for Change” was part of this, where the girls were asked to create a one minute video about an issue which was important to them. It needed to include a call to action and they could communicate in any way using video. Some of the topics the girls chose included gender-based violence, environmental concerns, relationship issues and bullying.

The competition was run internally, however, some of the videos will filter into international competitions depending on the topic e.g. an environmental video will automatically filter into an international competition on the environment. We may see further wins from this if the videos are chosen.

Well done to the girls for stepping up and getting involved in creating these impactful videos. Their dedication to addressing issue they care about is deeply inspiring.

To watch the three top “videos for change,” please click on the link below .



One Life Foundation

Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much. – Helen Keller

This quote could not be truer. At the end of last term, the girls handed over a cheque for R34 000 to the One Life Foundation, which will go towards the build of a food tunnel at Sobantu High School.

These funds were raised during the term through the Colour Me Sunshine Colour Run.



Grade 11 Wilderness Camp

During Term 3, a group of courageous Grade 11s along with three St John's D.S.G. staff headed off on a three-day Wilderness Leadership Camp in the Imfolozi Game Reserve. The girls were divided into groups, each being led by a couple trail guides who generously shared their experiences and knowledge of the bush and wilderness.

Mrs Janine Jeary (Accounting and EMS Teacher) had this to say about their time away, "There are so many memories from our time on the Wilderness Trail that it's hard to say what was the best. I think the fact that we could all 'unplug' from reality allowed time for self-reflection and a chance to reconnect with nature and ourselves."

The aim of the camp teaches the girls many valuable survival tools, however it is more than just camping out under the stars, as many important life lessons are learnt too.



Honours Blazers

Congratulations to these girls who recently received their Honours Blazers!

Jessica Dickason (Grade 12): Academics
Kamera Kader (Grade 12): Academics
Sienna Porriell (Grade 12): Academics
Anri van der Meijden (Grade 12): Academics
Reese Peters (Grade 12): Hockey
Sibongokuhle Mnyayi (Grade 11): Basketball

We also had several Honours re-awards for Academic and Sports

Alexandra Lutz (Grade 12): Academics
Robyn-Brooke de Klerk (Grade 12): Academics
Tamlyn Khan (Grade 12): Academics
Heather Trodd (Grade 12): Academics
Jessica Meter (Grade 12): Academics
Simone Bruyns (Grade 12): Academics
Caitlin Cotterell: (Grade 12): Hockey
Cevana Naidoo (Grade 11): Squash



SPORTS NEWS

Sports Awards

Our annual Sports Awards evening is a celebration of the participation and achievements of our individual sportswomen and teams at every age group and level in every sport at St John's D.S.G. Our aim is to nurture and develop every girls' talent to help them reach their full potential.

Girls were singled out for their achievements, commitment, improvement made over the season, dedication and hard work. We are so proud of our top achieving sportswomen - we had 12 national representatives, 59 provincial players and 38 girls selected for regional teams. Congratulations!

Our guest speaker, Mrs Meg Sileno, inspired and encouraged our girls with the personal story of her journey as a sportswoman, water polo player, mother and Olympic athlete.

We are so grateful to everyone in our community and our "small school with big heart" for everything they do to ensure the success of our programme. What an awesome year it continues to be!



Parent & Daughter Tennis Fun

To finish off the Junior School Team Tennis season at the end of Term 3, St John's D.S.G. held a fun Parents and Daughters Tennis Tournament.

The games were played in great spirits with more laughs than aces, but regardless of how rusty some of the parents were they still enjoyed the morning, and the girls loved being able to give them mums and dads a few pointers.

Well done to all who played and supported – it has been a great season of Tennis.



Swimming

We are so proud to have two swimmers participating in the World Cup in Berlin, Athens and Budapest this month. Following on from Milla Drakopoulos' (Grade 11) success at the World Championships in Japan and Israel, she and Bailey Lambert (Grade 8) will be travelling with a number of other Seals Swimmers to participate in these galas. We wish them both well for their respective events.

Congratulations to Bailey Lambert on her recent results at the KwaZulu-Natal Junior Swimming Championships! She won 8 individual gold medals, 1 gold relay medal and 1 silver relay medal. She even broke the KwaZulu-Natal age group record for the 50m backstroke twice at the gala. Bailey now holds both the 50m backstroke and 100m backstroke KZN Short Course records for 13 year olds. Bailey was also awarded the KZN 13 year old Girl Champion at the gala. What an outstanding set of results!



MUSIC NEWS

We congratulate the following girls on their external music examination results:

Trinity College London

Caitlin van Huyssteen (Grade 3): Initial Piano 93%, distinction
Katelyn Newlands (Grade 8): Grade 3 Trumpet 78%, merit
Priyasha Lutchman (Grade 8): Grade 4 Piano 89%, distinction
Kerrin Wynne (Grade 10): Grade 7 Piano 88%, distinction
Michaela Tudor (Grade 8): Grade 4 Piano 88%, distinction

Rockschool

Zesihe Ndlela (Grade 6): Grade 1 Drums 90%, distinction

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

Luhle Mncube (Grade 3): Initial Piano 83%, merit
Madison Boswell (Grade 6): Grade 2 Piano 80%, merit
Leletle Chitya (Grade 9): Grade 2 Singing 80%, merit
Daniela Cantarelli (Grade 9): Grade 5 Singing 77%, pass
Victoria Burczak (Grade 9): Grade 5 Piano 87%, distinction
Mihlali Hadebe (Grade 9): Grade 3 Singing 89%, distinction
Ashleigh Philps (Grade 11): Grade 5 Singing 75%, pass
Savanna-Belle Fyvie (Grade 11): Grade 4 Singing 87%, distinction
Malebo Lazaro (Grade 12): Grade 4 Singing 80%, merit

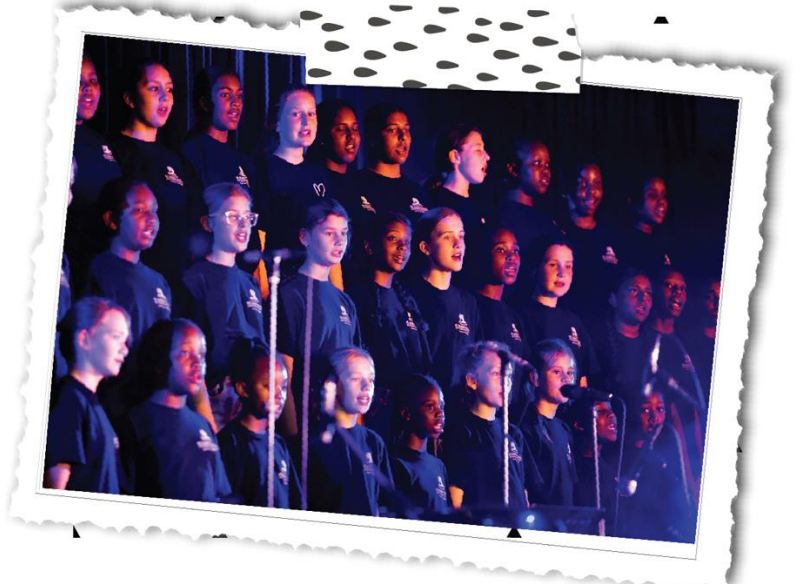


We particularly congratulate our Grade 9s on their outstanding results at these examinations which took place only days after they returned from uHambo!

Vuyolwethu Mlawu (Grade 11) was invited to perform George Gershwin's "Summertime", which she sings in isiZulu, at the Durban Jewish Centre on the 17th of September in an elite concert for the rising musical stars of KZN. Vuyolwethu gave a heart-stopping rendition of this beloved song to much acclaim at this historic venue in Durban.

Night of the Saints

The Night of the Saints was a remarkable event where both our Junior School and Senior School Choirs and our Senior School Orchestra collaborated with St Charles College, showcasing their combined talents. Students came together to create a harmonious musical experience emphasising the spirit of unity and cooperation we foster. This delightful event was a testament to the commitment of our choristers instrumentalists and the collaborative strength of our school community.



St John's D.S.G. Mini-Eisteddfod!

We recently enjoyed two spectacular events that showcased the incredible musical talent within our Junior School community. The Mini-Eisteddfod celebrated its 5th anniversary and once again had a record number of entries. The external adjudicator, Mrs Jessica Wortmann, was impressed with the level of development and nominated the following girls as the main prize-winners:

Best Junior Instrumentalist: Michaela Rouse (Grade 3): Flute

Best Junior Pianist: Caitlin van Huyssteen (Grade 3)

Best Senior Instrumentalist: shared by Zesihe Ndela (Grade 6): Drums and Thea-Rose Nelson (Grade 6): Voice

Best Senior Pianist: Lisa Du Toit (Grade 6)

Over-all Winner: shared by Zesihe Ndela and Thea-Rose Nelson

The Junior Gala Concert was a true testament to the dedication and passion of our students and staff in the field of music. This event featured a wide variety of exceptional soloists who captivated the audience with their skill and artistry and dazzling performances from all our music groups.

