



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

the

yellow

pages

Edition Ten - 2023



SOME OF THE EXCITING THINGS IN THIS EDITION...

- ♥ Cut for CANSA
- ♥ Grade 1s Forest Adventure
- ♥ Speech Night Highlights
- ♥ Our Athletics Stars



GENERAL CUT FOR CANSA

We were absolutely blown away by the incredible support received at the recent Cut for CANSA event. Thank you to all who “made the cut” and sprayed their hair for this very special cause, close to so many of our hearts!

A big “thank you” to Solé Hair & Beauty for giving up their time to assist us and well done to Gabriela Do Vale (Grade 10) for organising such a successful event.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

FISHING COMPETITION

Don't forget to sign up for the annual Parents' Association Fishing Competition which will be held on the weekend of 25 – 26 November!

This year the event will be held at the Baynesfield “Big Dam” with lots of fun activities happening over the weekend, including a fun run for the whole family.

Please make sure to check on the school app (under the Parents' Association icon) for more information on how to book your place or alternatively contact Heather Evans on hevans@stjohnsdsg.com.

TURN ON THE LIGHTS RAFFLE!

A big “thank you” to all who supported the P.A. Annual Raffle. Over R82 000 was raised which will go a long way to support the school over the coming year. The winners of the 100 Club Cash prizes were:

Congratulations to the following who won the cash prizes:

- 3rd Prize: Mr and Mrs Appleford
- 2nd Prize: Mr and Mrs Vumbukani
- 1st Prize: Mrs Weatherill



Congratulations to the following who won the main prizes:

- 3rd Prize: Mrs Norton
- 2nd Prize: Mrs Hoosen
- 1st Prize: Mrs Norton

Thank you to the prize sponsors, Montusi Mountain Lodge, The Cavern Drakensburg Resort and Spa and Gwahumbe Reserve for your generous donations – it is so greatly appreciated.



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



A FOREST ADVENTURE

Last week, the Grade 1 girls spent some time exploring the Cordwalles forest. The aim of the morning was to get the girls to use their senses by listening to birds, smelling flowers and searching and touching many of the forest treasures that they found. The river was flowing enough for them to enjoy some time splashing and collecting a few water insects. The highlight of the morning was getting the girls involved in making a fire, which they used to roast delicious smores!



FOSTERING FRIENDSHIPS

Earlier this year, the Grade 4 girls spent a morning with the Grade 4 Cordwalles boys and to thank them for this wonderful time, the Grade 4s invited the boys to make the trip across Pietermaritzburg to spend the morning with them.

The girls were incredibly excited to host the boys which lead to high levels of anticipation as to how the day would all go down. The morning started with an icebreaker activity (a general knowledge kahoot challenge) followed by some time playing soccer, socializing and finally, cooling off in the pool.

The boys and girls had a happy morning making new friends!





AN AUTHOR COMES TO VISIT

During a heart-warming visit to our school, Brenda Kerr, a former teacher and mother of two daughters who both attended St John's D.S.G., recently shared her delightful story "Counting in Africa" with the Eaglets and Junior Primary girls. Brenda's connection to our school runs even deeper, as her mother was a boarder here from the tender age of nine, travelling to school from Lesotho by train.

"Counting in Africa" takes readers on an exciting African safari adventure and our girls were fully captivated from the beginning as Brenda skilfully brought the story to life. They eagerly participated, asking numerous interesting questions, and showing genuine enthusiasm for the tale.

What makes Brenda's book even more remarkable is its interactive nature. It features a custom-made, child-friendly webpage that provides links to videos, photos, and fun facts related to the Big and Little Five. This engaging platform allows children to dive deeper into the world of African wildlife, fostering a love for learning and exploration.

A percentage of all book sales are donated to Rhino Revolution, an organisation dedicated to rehabilitating and rewilding orphan rhino calves and rescued pangolins. By supporting Brenda's book, our school community contributes to preserving these incredible creatures and their habitats.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

SPEECH NIGHT



In the second week of term, we held our Grade 12 Prize-Giving, and are all still beaming with pride at what the girls have accomplished throughout their time at St John's D.S.G.

We were honoured to have had two Old Girls, Kelsey Dellar and Tsungai Mbuyazi (both class of 2019), who were in Matric when our current Grade 12s were in Grade 8, return to give some big sisterly advice and encouragement to the Class of 2023, just before they head off into the big wide world.

One of the highlights of the evening was when Tsungai sang her song, "Above the Clouds," which she wrote and produced after her uHambo Journey, which brought many of the girls and parents to tears.

Well done, Matrics of 2023, we are so proud of what you have achieved!



JACKIE CAMERON COOKING

A few Senior School girls recently took part in an exciting “MasterChef Competition” hosted by Michaelhouse at the Jackie Cameron School of Food and Wine. St John’s D.S.G. had three brave teams of Grade 8 and 9 girls who took on the challenge! The teams were given a list of available ingredients a few days before the competition and had to plan and cook a main dish and dessert in 70 minutes. It was tough, but our girls made us proud and produced dishes which included warm apple and pear pies, crispy chips, cranberry white chocolate mousse and even freshly made pasta!

We are so grateful to the Jackie Cameron School for the opportunity to learn and grow and to Michaelhouse for the hospitable hosting of us all.



WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES

In Consumer Studies our girls get to enjoy many practical projects to accompany the theory. While studying topics of universal design in housing and adaptive housing, our Grade 10s recently got to experience making a simple cake, with a disability. The disabilities ranged from being in a wheelchair, on crutches, limited hand mobility, partial sight or wearing a blindfold to simulate blindness. It was a very humbling, practical lesson as the girls learnt first-hand how challenging life could be and how we take our health and abilities for granted.





MUSIC NEWS



MUSIC MUSEUM

Last week, the Junior School girls enjoyed an interactive morning at the Music Museum. Each grade had a turn to visit the Museum to learn about different music families and how they produce sound. It was a lot of fun experimenting on the drumkit, pressing the “buttons” on different woodwind instruments to change the pitches heard, looking at what is REALLY inside a piano and playing on a real African kalimba (mbira). The girls were also treated to demonstrations on the violin and voice. It was a noisy and novel morning!



SPORTS NEWS

EQUESTRIAN

Congratulations to all our horseriders who recently competed in the KwaZulu-Natal Team for SANESA Nationals in Gauteng. We are very proud of their results and recognise the dedication, hard work and commitment that goes into being able to compete at this level.

- ★ Annalene van der Merwe (Grade 11)
- ★ Zara Knatten (Grade 8)
- ★ Rachael Mackenzie (Grade 9)
- ★ Tessa Hayward-Butt (Grade 9)
- ★ Caitlin Hayward-Butt (Grade 9)



KWAZULU-NATAL SHOWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to Georgia Macleod (Grade 9) on her achievements at the recent KwaZulu-Natal Showing Championships. She was placed 1st in Show Riding and Show Hack and received the Champion Junior Show Horse and Reserve Supreme Champion.



IRISH DANCING

During the September holidays, Rachel Ekerold (Grade 10) took part in the South African Championships for Irish Dance in Johannesburg.

She finished 2nd and 8th in the General Competition section and placed 7th overall in her age group in South Africa, in the Special Championship section.

Well done, Rachel. We are so proud of what you have achieved!



FENCING AND SAILING

During the holidays, Daniela Cantarelli (Grade 9) participated in the Fencing Junior Nationals in Johannesburg and placed 6th in the U17 age division for both Epee and Foil. Due to the African Games taking place next year, Daniela has been pushed up an age group for 2024. Well done, Daniela on an excellent result at your first National Competition for this age group.

This past weekend, Daniela participated in the final KZN closed competition of the year and received two silver medals for the U17 and U20 competitions.

Daniela also sailed the KZN ILCA regional regatta on the weekend of 21- 22 October. She was placed 7th overall (including men and women) and was the 1st female youth.

Well done, we are so proud of your achievements.



ATHLETICS

Congratulations to our Athletics stars who have recently taken part in the aQuelle Series Athletics Meetings held at the Msunduzi Stadium over Term 2 and 3. Our U16 4 x 100m relay team finished in 2nd place.

Special congratulations to Abbie Julius and Jo McAllister (both Grade 8) who finished in the top five athletes in the competition for "Best Athlete of the Series" in the U16 girls age group. The points were calculated on the ASA tables and were determined by times and distances in the various events for each age group.

U16 Girls

- ★ 1st Abbie Julius 5593 points
- ★ 3rd Joanne McAllister 3258 points

Abbie was also awarded the prize for the best female athlete of the series across all the age groups with our St John's D.S.G team finishing in 3rd place in the girls' team

