



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

# the yellow pages

Edition Five - 2023



Fun and laughter at the Music Festival!

## SOME OF THE EXCITING THINGS IN THIS EDITION...

- ♡ Mother's Day celebration with the Eaglets
- ♡ History with Mrs Evans
- ♡ Funk 2023
- ♡ St John's Music Festival



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# PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS



the P.A. **needs** your help to...

## TURN ON THE LIGHTS!

Help the P.A. raise funds to install flood lights on our astro!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION.**  
Look on the school APP/ Visit our website  
or  
Scan this code



Small school. *Big heart.* 

## 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 million from activities in 2022, and require your support to raise a further R2 million 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.



# JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Gentle Parenting

We are continuing with our thread of building our children's self-esteem. It is always important to start from a solid foundation and biblical truth. "I am worthy and that my identity lies in Christ alone". Building on from this truth, I would like to include Erikson's Psychosocial developmental stages and give recognition to his work.

Erikson's developmental stages are named after a psychologist who specialised in child psychoanalysis. At each stage, we face a crisis. By resolving it, we develop psychological strengths that help us become confident and healthy people, otherwise we have the opposite. In this article, I would like to focus on stages 3 and 4, as this pertains to the majority of our girls in the Junior School and ties into the theme of building self-esteem.









# Grade 5 Outing to Brae Farm

On a chilly Monday morning last month, the Grade 5 girls set off to Brae Farm to meet the wonderfully creative and knowledgeable Mrs Peckham.

The girls spent the day on the farm learning about different soils and plants, and organic farming. This also included creating a beautiful artwork reflecting the day's activities, as well as a visit from a Soil Scientist. This was a worthwhile and fun outing and the girls thoroughly enjoyed it!

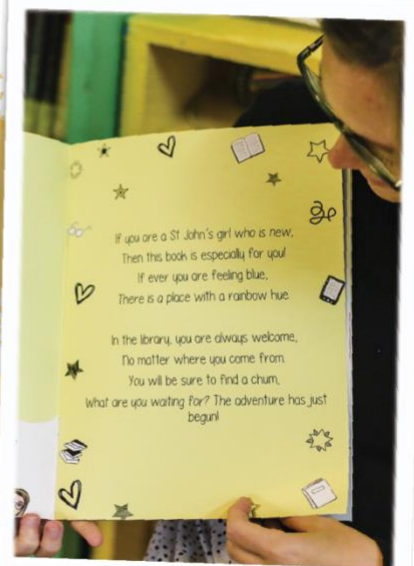


## A New Library Book!

Mrs Sam Evans is a woman of many talents! Not only is she our much loved Resource Centre Teacher in the Junior School, but she is also a published author! This year she published her second highly anticipated book entitled, "Tumi's Library Visit." We caught up with her recently to find out more, and this is what she had to say...

"In 2020 I wrote a book for the Junior School girls to help them understand what they could expect when they returned to school from being at home in lockdown during the pandemic. The girls have absolutely loved being able to take this book out of the Library and have enjoyed seeing St John's D.S.G. represented in a book. Since then, an idea has been brewing to write another book, but this time for the new girls who start at the school to share what they can expect from our Library. We very much aim for this to be an open, exciting and engaging space, where the girls are welcome at any time."

"If you are a St John's girl who is new,  
Then this book is especially for you!  
If ever you are feeling blue,  
There is a place with a rainbow hue.  
In the library, you are always welcome,  
No matter where you come from.  
You will be sure to find a chum,  
What are you waiting for?  
The adventure has just  
Begun!"





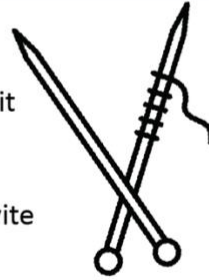
# Winter Warmth

There's something incredibly special about seeing a group of people work together to improve the lives of others. Not only do we honour God when we serve others, but research suggests that helping others benefits our own mental health and wellbeing, as it can reduce stress, improve mood, self-esteem and happiness. This term, the Junior School launched our 'Winter Warmth' campaign, with the goal of knitting 1 000 squares, to be sewn into blankets to donate to those in need. The beauty of this project is that it requires sacrifice; the actual knitting of the squares takes time, but even more so, some of our girls (and teachers) have had to first learn how to knit.

The response has been a joy to witness, and the sense of community it has evoked has been contagious. Every week, we see more girls and teachers arriving at school with their needles and wool, and other departments within our school have also joined the challenge. We invite our extended community to join us too!

Squares should be approximately 20cm x 20cm and can be knitted or crocheted. Completed squares can be handed to Mrs Parfitt in the Junior School reception. We are looking for volunteers to sew the squares into blankets, so if this is something you would like to be involved in, please let us know by contacting [juniorschool@stjohnsdsg.com](mailto:juniorschool@stjohnsdsg.com). Thank you to everybody who has already contributed to this campaign. We will collect squares for the remainder of Term 2, and we look forward to sharing photos of the completed blankets.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."  
Winston Churchill



## Grade 4s History lesson with Mrs Evans



This month the Grade 4s were treated to a history lesson by Mrs Marilyn Evans, our Senior School Head of History, who gave them an interactive session about the history of St John's D.S.G.

The girls pretended to be detectives using magnifying glasses to look for clues as to what life used to be like and what has changed over the years. Time was spent looking through photos and write ups with much excitement when they then realised how they too will be a part of the school's history one day.





# SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Pastorial Postscript

### WHY ARE WE WORRIED ABOUT VAPES?

As you know, we are taking a no tolerance stance against vapes and other illegal substances at St John's D.S.G. I know that this is the stance many of you support in your own homes, but we are also doing so to uphold our legal duty towards your children to do everything we can to keep them safe.

Vapes are not less dangerous than cigarettes, even though that is what many people believe, they are just dangerous in different ways.

One of the things that we are very concerned about is the fact that they do not always contain seemingly innocuous liquids. Reports have reached us from other schools and our attorney that it is now possible to vape THC and even LSD was mentioned. This is obviously very concerning, especially if a student is using someone else's vape and does not necessarily even know what is in it.

Vaping devices are also designed to be easy to conceal, and they are manufactured in bright colours and designs and might look like a USB, a highlighter or a lip balm.

These are some of the signs to look out for if you suspect your child or her friends might be vaping:



- ★ A sweet scent in the air.
- ★ Unusual-looking highlighters or USB drives.
- ★ A constant thirst.
- ★ Persistent dark circles around the eyes.
- ★ Nosebleeds, mouth sores and/or a constant cough.
- ★ Vape chargers, vape pods, pod batteries, frayed phone chargers, cotton balls and thin metallic oils lying around.
- ★ Diminished concentration or focus.

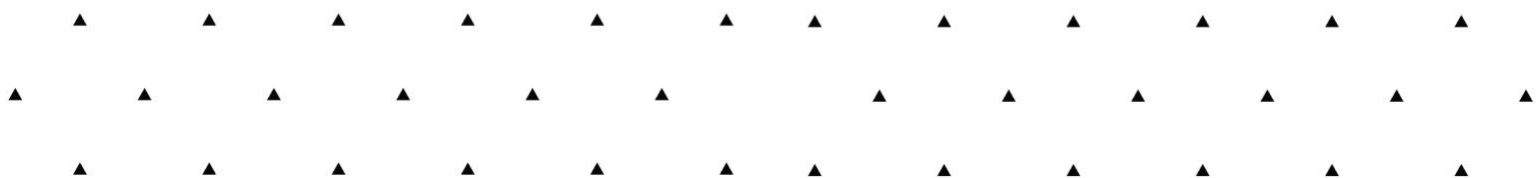
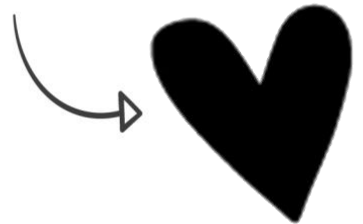
Possessing, using, distributing or displaying evidence of the use of a vape or cigarettes (or any contraband substance, including medication, drugs, or alcohol) at school or in a public place (which will bring the school into disrepute) is a major offence in terms of our Code of Conduct.

It is important that our community are all aware that any pupil who contravenes these rules may lose her place at St John's D.S.G., and we want to do everything we can to avoid that happening.

If you are worried, or feel you need more advice, please click on the heart for an article on this.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [bborain@stjohnsdsg.com](mailto:bborain@stjohnsdsg.com).

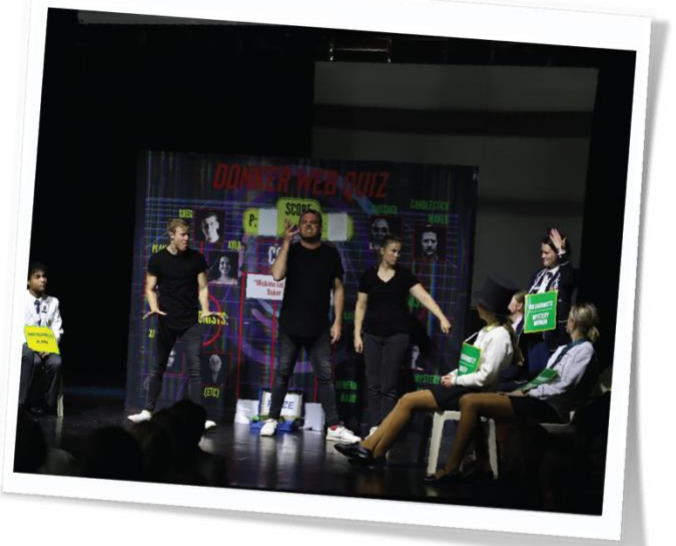
**Dr Berni**  
**Head of Student Affairs**





# PIT Produksies

The Senior School girls were recently treated to the PIT Produksies, who performed for the first time, their new IEB prescribed novel, "Die Donker Web" written by Fanie Viljoen. This is the continuation or sequel novel, "Die Onderwêreld". It was an interactive workshop where pupils' knowledge and recall of the cyberhacking adventure was tested both visually and dramatically. The actors guided the pupils with the use of props, music, singing and dance in their role-play impromptu of important scenes from the first 46 chapters of the book.



Our St John's D.S.G. girls thoroughly enjoyed this memorable performance, as it was presented in a competitive game show between two teams on stage which involved not only the participants, but also the audience in elevating the show. The Wykeham Collegiate and St Nicholas Matric pupils also attended the annual production and our girls impressed their "rivals" with happy banter and quick responses. Mev Bernadette Johnston (Head of Afrikaans) says, "The actors were most complimentary of our girls' skilful answers and manners. The comic relief, joy and laughter displayed by all was testimony of the top class professionalism of the production."

## Funk

For 24 years, FUNK has been a firm favourite on the school production calendar. This year, we were grateful to return to a live programme.

FUNK evolved as an idea to create a dance programme for schools with very specific aims: to unite schools in working towards a common goal; to give Drama students and their teachers the opportunity to create and rehearse pieces of dance theatre for public performance; to enable young people to see that movement, dance and dance theatre are accessible to them and not only in the hands of professional adult dance companies; and finally, and perhaps most importantly of all, to generate meaning and artistic integrity through dance choreography whilst challenging young people to work outside of their comfort zones.



Each school is required to create a 7-minute choreography incorporating any type of musical or textual accompaniment, with the highlight of the production always the mass group Finale, which includes all the schools together on stage.

Well done to our girls, Ashley Khupe (Grade 12), Jess Conway (Grade 12), Grace Alborough (Grade 11), Lauren Wetherill (Grade 11), Mary Kewley (Grade 11), Nova Sutherland (Grade 11), Jude Mecklenborg (Grade 10), Casey Campbell (Grade 10) and Imogen Kirby (Grade 10), who dedicated over 75 hours of rehearsal time to give us all such a spectacular performance. We are grateful to our wonderful new choreographer, Miss Jess Anderson, for her professionalism and energy.



A massive "thank you" to Ms Keevy-Muir for all her behind-the-scenes logistical administration; to Ms van Heerden for sewing the beautiful skirts; to the chaperones, Mrs Stopforth, Ms Erasmus, Mrs Schirge, Mrs Schwegmann and Miss Willows; and to the Transport Team for shuttling the cast up to St Anne's and back.





# MUSIC NEWS



## St John's Music Festival

On Friday, 12 May the school came alive with the sound of music at the St John's D.S.G. Music Festival! Festival goers were treated to an array of musical performances while relaxing with friends and family. The highlights of the evening were the performances by local lad, Matt Gardiner, and of course the main event, Matthew Mole, an internationally renowned artist and performer.

To everyone involved, we extend a heartfelt "thank you!" Events like these take an enormous amount of work and couldn't be done without the assistance of the entire community.





# SPORTS NEWS

## Hockey

A BIG "congratulations" to all the girls who have been selected to represent the KZN Inland and Midlands Teams. St John's D.S.G. had an incredible 32 girls make these teams! Joining the girls are four of our Sports Staff, who were appointed as team officials for KwaZulu-Natal Inland Hockey.

Mrs Lyn van Breda: U18A Assistant Coach, Mr Philip Smerdon: U16A Coach, Mrs Caitlin Esau: U16A Physio and Ms Tracey Schwegmann: U16A Manager.

### U18A Team

Caitlin Cotterell (Grade 12)  
Chloe Dellar (Grade 12)  
Rebecca Macquet (Grade 11)  
Reese Peters (Grade 12)

### U18B Team

Jess Allen (Grade 11)  
Kelly Godfrey (Grade 11)  
Grace Hoatson (Grade 11)

### Non-travelling Reserve

Jordyn le Roux (Grade 12) (Absent from photo)

### U16A Team

Annabelle Balmer (Grade 9)  
Caycee Lund (Grade 10)  
Emma Williams (Grade 9)  
Genevieve McDonald (Grade 11)  
Lamia Amod (Grade 9)  
Tholwana Khoele (Grade 9)

### U16B Team

Danika Freese (Grade 9)  
Jemma van der Byl (Grade 10)  
Layla Hancock (Grade 10)  
Samantha Carolan (Grade 9)

### U16 Midlands Team

Diané Norman (Grade 10)  
Kate van Breda (Grade 9)  
Lelomso Mkondweni (Grade 9)  
Rebecca Pringle (Grade 10)  
Sienna Solms (Grade 9)

### Non-travelling Reserve

Mia Howie (Grade 9)  
Jessica Hoatson (Grade 9)

### U14A Team

Derryn Millward (Grade 8)  
Jade van Breda (Grade 8)  
Tiara Brisset (Grade 8)

### U14B Team

Rachel Macquet (Grade 8)

### Non-travelling Reserve

Mulalo Ndanganeni (Grade 8)

### U13B Team

Claire du Plessis (Grade 8)

### U12A Team

Amy van Breda (Grade 6)

We wish them and their teams well for the inter-provincial tournaments in the upcoming holidays.





# Cross Country

Last month, St John's D.S.G came together to host the Senior School Inter-Schools' Cross Country league. The event was a success from start to finish with a cracking route that Mr Zondi (our running guru!) designed himself. There was a whopping number of 249 students competing with 47 of them being our St John's D.S.G. Cross Country team.

The team performed extremely well with three girls placing in the top ten in both the Senior and Junior categories. Senior SJS Runner, Mia Aszalos (Grade 11), enjoyed the support of her friends and teachers along the way, as well as the electric atmosphere that made the afternoon so memorable. Junior SJS Runner, Joanne McAllister (Grade 8), winner of the Junior race, who has been running competitively since the age of six, really enjoyed the flat terrain and hills, which were "not too challenging."

Thank you to Mrs Akermann, Mr Zondi and all the staff who were involved helping behind the scenes, events like this are not possible without you, and so it's greatly appreciated! A big "congratulations" to all the runners, we are so proud of you.



# Basketball

Congratulations to Cynthia Monokoane and Sibongakuhle Mnyayi (both Grade 11) who were selected for the uMgungundlovu U18 Basketball team. This team participated in the KwaZulu-Natal Trials in Durban on Saturday, 27 May. We are delighted that Sibongakuhle has been selected for the KwaZulu-Natal U18A team that will participate in the National tournament in Johannesburg in July.

Congratulations to both girls.



# Netball

Our St John's D.S.G. U14A team has had an unbeaten league Netball season. In a playoff for the uMgungundlovu Championship against Edendale Vocational High School they won 13 – 7. They have qualified to play in the provincial Kay Motsepe Tournament in Durban on Saturday, 3 June at Kingsway High School.

The winners of the Kay Motsepe Provincial tournament qualify to play in the Kay Motsepe U14 National Schools' Championship in July.

Our U14 Coach, Ms Thuli Gcabashe is exceptionally proud of her team and says, "We started this season with one goal in mind – to put in hard work! The girls have not only met, but surpassed my expectations and for that I couldn't be more proud. Through all the ups and downs that came with this season, it has been such a rewarding experience coaching these girls and watching them grow as individual players and as a team. I hope that the girls are proud of all they have achieved this season."

