

the yellow pages



ST JOHN'S D.S.G.
PIETERMARITZBURG
Growing girls with heart

Edition One



Some of the exciting things in this edition...

- ♥ Grade 7 Leadership Blessing
- ♥ Bringing the Vibe
- ♥ New Arrivals
- ♥ 2026 Sports Captains

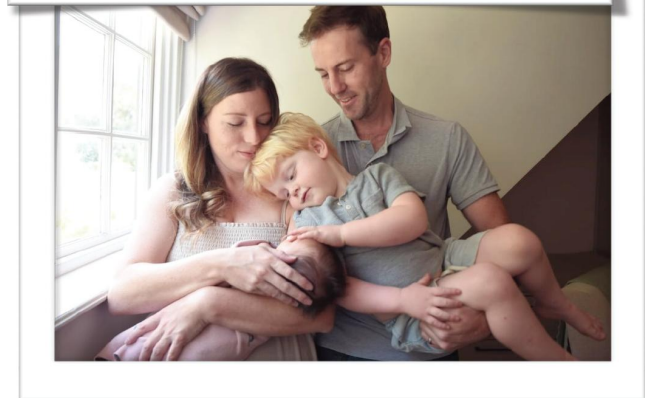
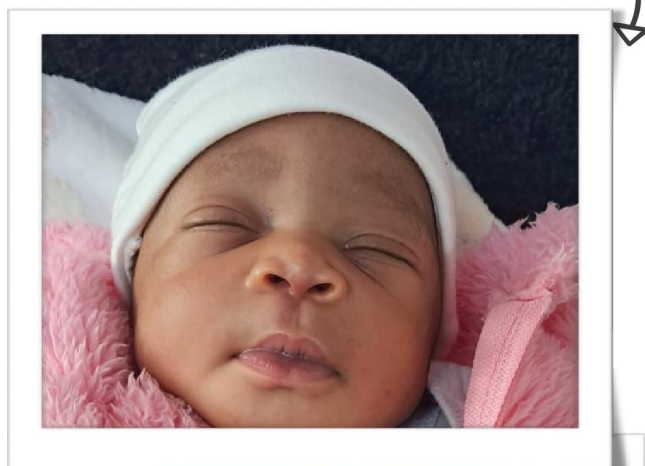


GENERAL NEWS

New Arrivals

A BIG “congratulations” to Felix Mkhulise (Transport Department) and Londeka on the safe arrival of their precious baby girl, Asiphe Mkhulise, born on 16 January. The St John’s D.S.G. girls and staff can’t wait to meet her and share in this very special joy. Congratulations to the proud family!

A BIG “congratulations” to Anica and Graydon Scholtz (Theatre and Pastoral/Worship Co-ordinator) on the safe arrival of their precious baby boy, Joel Ellis Scholtz, born on 19 January. Warmest wishes to the Scholtz family as they celebrate this wonderful new arrival.



Another “BIG” congratulations to Amanda Huntley (Grade 3 Teacher) and her husband, Neil, on the safe arrival of their precious daughter, Addison Jayne Huntley, who arrived a little ahead of schedule on 23 December, 2025. A lovely Christmas gift, indeed.

A Warm Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new staff members who have recently joined us this term.

- Roxanne Meyer:** English Teacher
- Dr Emily Rivett-Carnac:** Mathematics Teacher
- Chezney Singh:** Teacher Assistant - Eaglets
- Tabitha Hulett:** Music Teacher
- Stephani Truter:** Grade 3 Teacher (Locum)
- Dr Nicola Brown:** Head of Physical Science
- Malindi Duguid:** Afrikaans Teacher
- Unathi Ndima:** Junior School Intern and Boarder Mistress
- Jasmin Whitby:** Junior School Intern
- Charne Pretorius:** Junior School Intern
- Zotha Sosibo:** Junior School Intern and Boarder Mistress
- Alfred Nyokana:** Plumber / General Maintenance Worker
- Mikayla Sprunt:** Theatre Manager (Locum)

It is so great to have you all as part of our school with “Big Heart!”

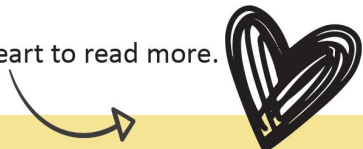


Choosing Connection First: A Thoughtful Shift in our Approach to Technology.

Through ongoing reflection, research and careful observation, St John's D.S.G. has made the bold decision to delay the use of laptops for all Grade 8 and 9 students and become a smartphone-free school.

In a powerful reflection, Mrs Lisa Akerman, Deputy Head: Head of Academics at St John's D.S.G., shares her thoughts in an open letter on the role of technology in the classroom and why it should never come at the cost of a student's well-being, confidence and sense of belonging.

Click on the heart to read more.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

Bringing the Vibe

In the first week of term, some of our awesome Parents' Association members enthusiastically dressed up and "spread the love" by handing out fun, encouraging words and stickers to the Junior School - and even a few Senior School girls who couldn't resist receiving a heart sticker!

The girls (and families) absolutely loved the positive vibe, and it was such a fun and uplifting way to kick off the term.



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome Back

On the first day of term, our special Junior School families were welcomed with a super cool, vibey drop-off, and any first-day nerves quickly melted away.

What a joyful way to kick off the year. We can't wait for all the laughter, learning, growth, and magical moments 2026 has in store.



Grade 7 Leadership Blessing

This week, our Grade 7s celebrated a special Leadership Blessing, marking an important milestone in their Junior School journey. Each girl received a beautiful silver heart and pledged to lead with kindness, courage, and integrity. The moment became even more meaningful as parents had the honour of pinning the badges onto their daughters' dresses - a touching reminder of the support and love that surrounds them as they step into leadership. A truly special occasion for our Grade 7s and their families.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome Grade 8s 2026

St John's D.S.G. was alive with excitement at the start of the term, as we welcomed our new Grade 8s for 2026, the start of such an exciting new chapter! It was especially lovely to welcome back 13 Old Girls, now returning with their daughters, sharing this special St John's D.S.G. experience. Grade 8s, we're so excited to have you as part of the St John's D.S.G. family and can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll achieve in the years ahead.



2025 Academic Success

Last week, we held our Grade 8 – 11, 2025 Prize-Giving to honour those girls who achieved incredible success last year. It was terrific to see the outstanding number of academic achievements our girls received.

- 13 Grade 10 girls achieved Half-Colours (between 80% and 85%)
- 10 Grade 10 girls achieved Colours (85% and above)
- 11 Grade 11 girls achieved Half-Colours (between 75% and 80%)
- 7 Grade 11 girls achieved Colours (80% and above)
- 11 Grade 11 girls achieved Honours and were awarded their white blazers. (Requiring an average of 85% over three exam terms)

Well done to our prize winners. We are so proud of you all.

Matric and Prefect Blessing

What a very special start to the year for our 2026 Matric girls! Last week, our Grade 12s took part in their Matric and Prefect Blessing. This is a special service conducted by our Chaplain, Rev. Di Pickford, to mark the Matrics' position within the school and to recognise each girl as a leader with the potential to positively influence those in younger grades.



2025 Matric Results

We are incredibly proud of the outstanding achievements of our Class of 2025. St John's D.S.G. entered 75 candidates for the IEB Matric examinations, all of whom achieved Bachelor Degree passes. In addition to this, 53 of the girls achieved two or more distinctions. A summary of the results is given below:

- 75 candidates wrote, and they all achieved a Bachelor Degree pass.
- 231 subject distinctions (80% or more).
- 165 subject B symbols (70 – 79 %). This means that 73,3% of all marks were 70% or higher.
- The girls achieved an average of 3,08 distinctions per candidate, with 68 girls achieving at least one distinction.
- On average, the girls achieved 5,28 As or Bs per candidate.

Our top achiever for 2025, Rookaya Gafoor, achieved 8 distinctions with an average of 95,83%. Kate Metcalf achieved a remarkable accomplishment, attaining 100% in EGD. In total, 21 girls achieved A aggregates, including 7 with averages above 90% and 14 above 80%. A further 38 candidates achieved B aggregates. This means that an astounding 78,6% of girls achieved A or B aggregates. The average overall mark achieved was 76,33%.



Twenty-seven girls achieved four or more distinctions:

- Eight Distinctions: Rookaya Gafoor
- Seven Distinctions: Michelle Chen, Layla Hancock, Jessica Linfield, Kate Metcalf, Emma Mitchell-Innes, Claudia Rohrs, Hope Spencer, Kerrin Wynne
- Six Distinctions: Erin Chandler, Gabriela Do Vale, Freya Flemington, Zinhle Mjamekwana, Tayla Rohrs, Micah Soden.
- Five Distinctions: Imogen Kirby, Olivia Leisegang, Rheasha Maharaj, Caitlyn Sates, Victoria Usher, Isabelle Van Der Berg
- Four Distinctions: Nobuntu Dladla, Milla Drakopoulos, Deanne du Plessis, Naomi Evans, Yanhle Makhanya, Kailia Pillay

National Recognition:

- 13 girls placed in the Top 1% of candidates nationally in various subjects
- Kate Metcalf and Kerrin Wynne were named on the IEB Commendable Achievement List (Top 5% in five subjects)
- Michelle Chen, Rookaya Gafoor, Claudia Rohrs, and Hope Spencer were named on the IEB Outstanding Achievement List (Top 5% in six subjects)

We wish the Class of 2025 all the best as they walk into the future, which is filled with great opportunities and adventures.



SPORTS NEWS

2026 Captains

We're so excited to announce and congratulate our new 2026 Sports Captains!

Tennis

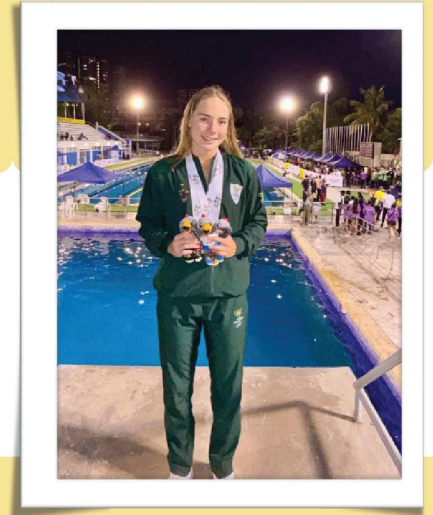
Captain: Kate vB

Vice-Captain: Sienna S

Swimming

Captain: Emma W

Vice-Captain: Anna M



Swimming

A BIG "congratulations" to Bailey L on her recent participation at the Junior African Games in Luanda, Angola. She won three gold medals (and achieved two PBs) in her three individual events and five gold medals in each relay event.

Bailey was awarded the top overall woman medal earner with an incredible 8 golds in total!

Well done, Bailey!

Tennis

Congratulations to our two "Yellow Strings" who represented KwaZulu-Natal at the national tennis tournament in Pretoria from 7 – 11 January.

Kate vB played in the U18A team, and Perrin R captained the U15B team. They experienced some top-quality tennis and gained really great experience.

Sailing

In December, Daniela C sailed an ILCA 6 in the Youth Nationals held in Hermanus. She placed 3rd girl and finished 12th overall in her class. It was a very successful National in a highly competitive class.

Well done, Daniela!

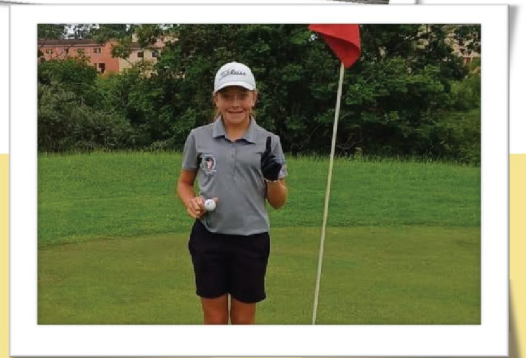
A Hole-in-One

It was only a matter of time... During the recent school holidays, Christelle vT aced a hole-in-one on the 11th hole at the Margate Country Club. We are sure that there will be many more to come in your golfing career, Christelle!

Motocrosse

At the end of 2025, Emily dP was awarded 1st place in the KZN Cross-Country Motorcycle Racing Championships.

Well done, Emily!



Indoor Hockey

A BIG “well done” to all our 22 Indoor Hockey girls who took part in the national tournament in KwaZulu-Natal at the end of 2025.

A BIG “congratulations” to the following girls who were selected for South African teams:

U18A

- Lamia A

U18B

- Annabelle B

U16A

- Rebecca H

U16B

- Deborah L
- Paige W



Rowing

Last weekend, the SJS rowing girls, together with members of the Henley Midmar Rowing Club, competed at the VLC National Sprints in Germiston, an event that attracted an impressive 1 052 boat entries. Saturday saw several outstanding performances. The Junior Women’s U15B Quad of Georgia D, Lily Md, Sophie L and Lily T, coxed by Kelsey G, won their race convincingly - a remarkable achievement, especially as it was the first race for three of the girls. Isabelle L and her sister Emma placed third in the U15A Double, while Hayley B and Sarah S claimed gold in the U15B Double, with two additional SJS crews also competing strongly. Isabelle also achieved a commendable sixth place in the highly competitive U15A Single.

All nine club girls were entered into the U15 A&B Octuple race, finishing fourth despite a snapped oar in the final 200 metres.

On Sunday, the girls stepped up to compete in senior categories. Hayley and Sophie placed in the top eight of the Women’s C Double, while the Women’s C Quad finished an impressive second, narrowly missing first place by just two seconds against senior and university crews. The weekend concluded with a strong effort from Isabelle (and Emma) in the Women’s B Double.

We are incredibly proud of the girls’ performances, as well as the dedication and support of their parents and coaches.



Biathlon

Kaitlyn R and Julia R both participated in the World Biathlon Championships in Mossel Bay during the December holidays. It was slightly different to the normal Biathlon competitions as the swim was in the sea with the transition on the beach.

Kaitlyn placed 4th overall and 3rd in South Africa in the U17 age group, with a new personal best time. Team SA won a gold medal in the U17 age division, and as a result, Kaitlyn will be competing in the World Champs in October 2026 in Madeira. We look forward to tracking her progress.

Julia’s U15 age group had the largest number of competitors, which resulted in two heats of around 35 girls in each heat. She made it to the final and ended in 14th position in her age group in the World Championships.

Well done, Kaitlyn and Julia – what a wonderful opportunity to compete on the World stage for Biathlon.

