



LABORARE EST ORARE

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

# the yellow pages

Edition Three



Some of the exciting things in this edition...

- ♥ Robotics Skills in the Real World
- ♥ Chocolate Crunchies and Connections
- ♥ KZN Swimmers
- ♥ Senior School Choir Concert



# PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

## Raffle

It's that time of the year again... time for the annual Parents' Association Raffle! All funds raised will go directly back into the school through the Parents' Association. These contributions support additional resources, activities, and improvements that benefit all of our girls!

This year, there are three amazing prizes on offer:

- ♥ 1st Prize: Two-nights for two people in Superior Accommodation at The Cavern Drakensberg Resort and Spa valued at R10 800.
- ♥ 2nd Prize: Thandana Hamper in Indie-Pitch print valued at R5 000.
- ♥ 3rd Prize: Hirostar Aurora Padel Racket valued at R3 000.

Tickets are R20 each (R200 per book), and the deadline to return the booklets is Monday, 4 May - plenty of time to sell over the Easter holidays! The draw will take place at the Term 2 100 Club event on Wednesday, 20 May.

Raffle books have been sent home, so please check school bags. Completed books and money can be returned to Mrs Evans' office (or the post box outside). Extra books are available on request.

A BIG "thank you" to our amazing sponsors and our community for your support!

## Golf and Padel Day

It's nearly time for the annual Parents' Association Golf and Padel Day!

The St John's D.S.G. Parents' Association is hosting their annual Golf and Padel Day at VCC on Friday, 15 May. Don't miss out on a fantastic day of community, sport and friendly competition.

For golf queries, please contact Mike Norton on 083 382 0458. For padel queries, please contact Carrie Schonborn on 084 584 4918.

To book your golf spot, please email Heather Evans at [parentsassociation@stjohnsdsg.com](mailto:parentsassociation@stjohnsdsg.com). Padel bookings can be made via Playtomic.



St John's D.S.G. Parents' Association

# Golf & Padel Day!

Entries now open!

Victoria Country Club - Friday, 15 May

**Golf:** 4 Ball Entry: R2600 per team  
**Padel:** Team Entry R600 per team

Golf queries: Please contact Mike Norton on 083 382 0458  
Padel queries: Please contact Carrie Schonborn on 084 584 4918

Unmanned hole sponsorship: R3000

**Padel Day Information:**  
Time: Beginners (0-2) 08h30 - 12h00 Intermediate (2-3.5) 12h00 - 16h30  
Single entry: R300  
Team entry: R600

For padel bookings please book via Playtomic.

To book for both events please contact Heather Evans on [parentsassociation@stjohnsdsg.com](mailto:parentsassociation@stjohnsdsg.com).

**SHELVING SA** **IKONIK**

Prize sponsorships are welcome!

# JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Celebrating Gratitude in the Junior School

This year, the Junior School theme is Mindset Matters, and the girls have been exploring the different “glasses” we can wear to represent our mindsets. The green glasses, in particular, stand for gratitude, reminding us to appreciate the people and things we have in our lives.

This month, we had a very special reason to celebrate someone we are especially grateful for: it was Miss Hadebe’s birthday! Known for her knowledge, patience, kindness, and ever-present smile, she is truly a pillar of our Junior School. To show our appreciation, the staff surprised her by all coming to school dressed in green - a joyful and public symbol of friendship and gratitude. We also hosted a special birthday tea to honour the birthday lady and celebrate all that she does for us.



## A Spoonful of Creativity

The Grade 1s recently enjoyed a delightful outing to Clay Brulee, where each girl had the chance to design and paint her very own spoon rest. Full of creativity and colour, their unique pieces have now been placed in the kiln and will soon be ready to bring home. It was a truly special experience, and the finished creations are sure to be treasured keepsakes!



# Capturing Nature, Making a Difference

While many children spent the Christmas holidays relaxing and playing, Giuliana N used her time to launch her very first business, with a heart for giving back. Motivated by a desire to earn her own money in a meaningful way, she enlisted her father's help and turned her love of nature into something truly special: photography.



Since December, Giuliana has been selling her photos for R100 each, raising an impressive R7 000, which she will donate to the Pietermaritzburg Animal Rescue and Rehome (PARR). Her images beautifully capture the natural beauty of KwaZulu-Natal, from glowing sunsets to quiet moments with wildlife.

With her father's support and guidance, Giuliana has not only discovered a passion and talent behind the lens but also created a meaningful way to make a difference. Her story reminds us that even the smallest ideas, when driven by heart and purpose, can have a big impact.

# A Grade 5 Legacy

A much-loved part of the Grade 5 classroom, Shimmer and Shine (affectionately named by the Grade 5s of 2026) have become something truly special. As the longest-surviving goldfish Mrs Van Vuuren has ever had, they are a shining symbol of a treasured and long-standing Grade 5 tradition.

Having goldfish in the classroom is a joy the girls hold close to their hearts. Even years later, past pupils still pop in to check on them, fondly reminiscing about their own Grade 5 days and the small moments that made them so meaningful.

More than just classroom pets, Shimmer and Shine quietly teach valuable lessons in care and responsibility, as the girls take turns looking after them each day. In their own charming way, they have become part of the story of Grade 5, welcoming each new class. Here is a special letter that Shimmer and Shine recently "wrote" to this year's Grade 5s.

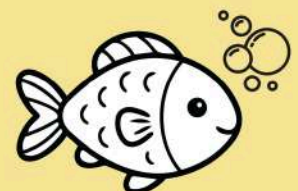
*Hello everyone!  
We are Shimmer and Shine, the two very lucky goldfish who live in the Grade 5 classroom. We may be small, but we have a very important job. We help the girls learn how to care, be responsible and show kindness every day.*

*Each week, a group of girls takes special care of us. They remember to feed us (just the right amount!), keep our tank clean and make sure our home is happy and healthy. From our tank, we get to watch the girls work hard, learn new things and share many happy moments together. It makes our little fish hearts very full!*

*Sometimes, life teaches big lessons even in a small fish tank. The girls learn that taking care of a pet is a big responsibility and that saying goodbye can be hard, too. But they always show such love and care, and that is what matters most.*

*We are so proud to be part of their classroom and SJS.*

*With bubbly love,  
Shimmer & Shine*



# Robotics Skills in the Real World

Our "Yellow Bots" Robotics Club recently enjoyed a fascinating visit from Dr James McAllister, Orthopaedic Surgeon (and Dad to Jo in the Senior School). Dr McAllister shared with the girls how he uses robotic technology to assist in his surgeries, making the session both engaging and inspiring.

Having performed over 500 robotic-assisted orthopaedic surgeries, he explained how the robot helps improve precision and ultimately leads to better outcomes and quicker recovery for patients. The girls really enjoyed the hands-on element, exploring models of joints and seeing how everything works in practice.

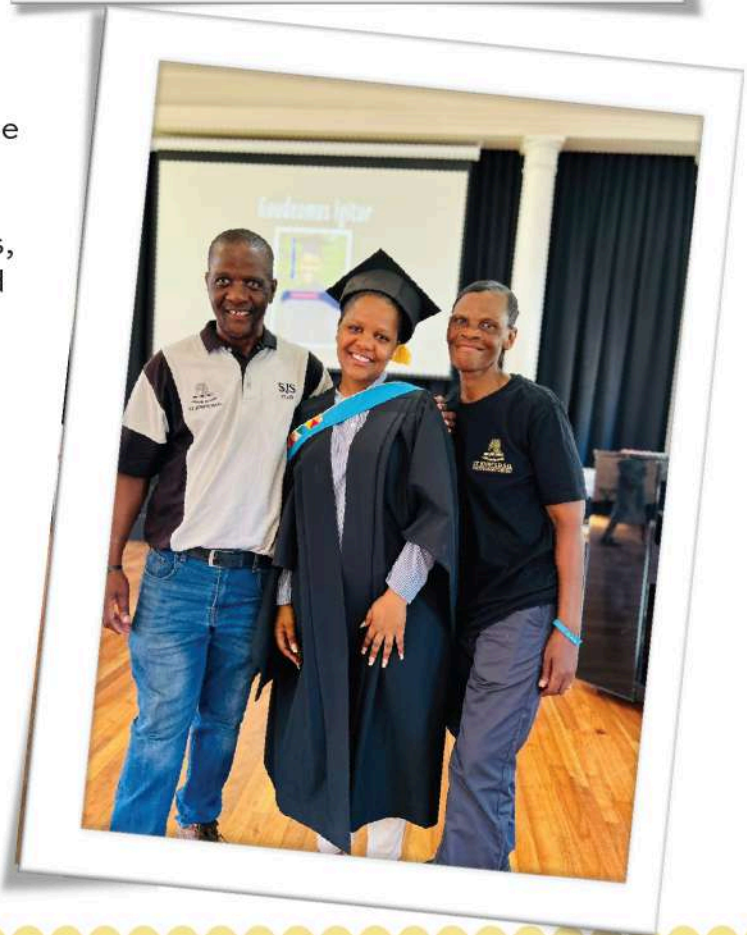
What stood out most was the connection between what the girls are learning in Robotics and how those skills can be used in the real world. As they shared afterwards, "We love it when we learn about ways that the skills we gain in Robotics apply to the real world."



# Miss Mazibuko Graduates

Last week, we celebrated a very special milestone for Miss Mazibuko with a graduation assembly in honour of her completing her teaching degree. It was a wonderful learning opportunity for the girls, showing them the rewards of dedication and hard work. She was joined by her parents and close friends for this memorable occasion.

Congratulations, Miss Mazibuko!



# When Creativity Rules the Playground

This term, our Grade 2 girls have been exploring the question: What makes a school? As part of their inquiry, they learnt how to conduct a survey and asked the Junior School community for their thoughts about the playground. From this, the girls discovered a world of creative ideas and dreams for what could be added to their play space.

After analysing the survey results, the girls decided on their own additions and first sketched them by hand. Then, with a little help from Ms Evans and AI, their prompts were transformed into realistic images, though some ideas were a bit more imaginative than others! The process not only sparked creativity but also gave the girls a chance to see their ideas come to life.

This is some of the feedback received from Junior School:

*"I would have a person handing candy out on the playground."*

*"I would have a horse stable so we can ride horses at break time"*

*"I would have a rollercoaster!"*



# History Comes Alive for Our Grade 4s

In the last week of term, our Grade 4s visited the Voortrekker Museum. It was an enriching experience, and the girls were fascinated by the artefacts, the Church of the Vow, and their time spent at the Andries Pretorius House, as well as seeing a traditional Zulu homestead.

They thoroughly enjoyed the morning and were engaged, curious and interactive throughout their visit.



# SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Grade 9 Holocaust Museum Visit

Last week, our Grade 9 History students visited the Holocaust and Genocide Centre in Durban to deepen their understanding of this important part of their curriculum. The visit was both highly educational and profoundly moving, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.

“Overall, I found the experience very beneficial and enjoyable. I especially enjoyed when the tour guide opened the bookcase in the Anne Frank exhibit to reveal a duplicate of Anne’s room in the secret annexe. Seeing pictures and more information about what people went through during WW2 made our History lessons more relatable and understandable.” Kelsey G



## Chocolate Crunchies and Connections

This term, our Grade 11 Consumer Studies students have been exploring nutrition through the lifecycle, and what better way to bring it to life than through a special collaboration with our younger girls.

Our Grade 1s and 2s eagerly joined the “big girls” for a morning of hands-on cooking. The Grade 11s were patient and caring, guiding their little helpers every step of the way, even cooking side by side at the counter when the younger girls couldn’t quite reach.

Together, they prepared delicious chocolate crunchies, a treat that’s both fun to make and easy to pack in a lunchbox. The morning was full of laughter, learning, and meaningful connection, bridging the gap from our oldest girls to our youngest.



# Pi Day Fun

March 14 is International Pi Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the beauty of Mathematics, and especially the number  $\pi$ .  $\pi$  is the number

3.141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375... a never-ending value woven into the fabric of creation. It appears naturally when the circumference of a circle is divided by its diameter.

To mark Pi Day this year, the Mathematics Department filled the school with mathematical surprises. Since Pi is a letter from the Greek alphabet, and Mathematics frequently uses Greek letters, the entire Greek alphabet was displayed on lockers and on the steps leading up to the Library.

Highlighting Pi's relationship to the circle, staff and students took part in a Hula Hoop challenge during tea break, held on the Circular Lawn. Categories included who could hula the longest and who could be the most creative. The challenge brought lots of laughter and energy, and in keeping with the circular theme, the winners were awarded doughnuts!

## Updates from the Eco-Club

### **Making a Difference, One Bag at a Time**

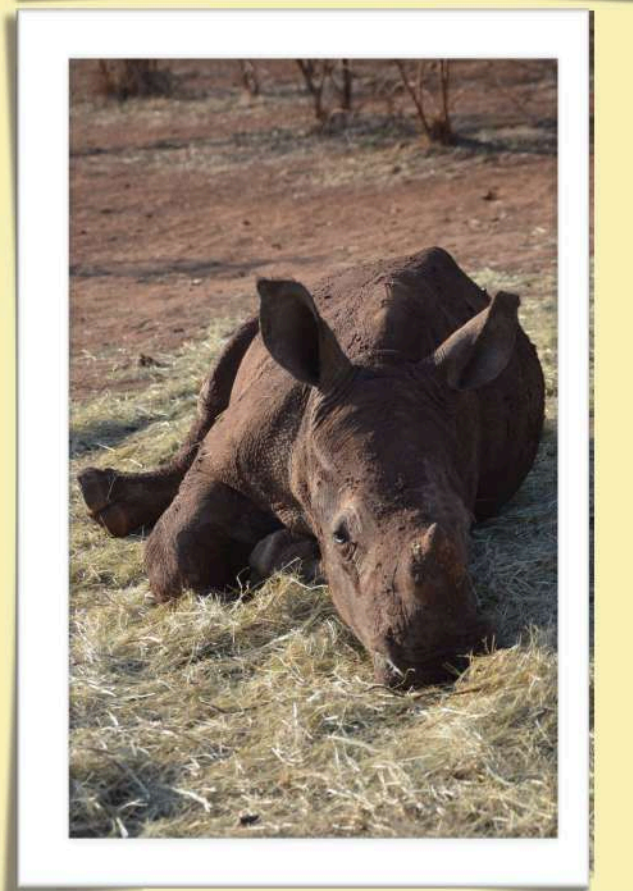
Rubbish seems to be everywhere—empty bottles, plastic, and polystyrene often go unnoticed. On Thursday, 12 March, the Eco-Club decided to take action. Fifteen girls came together to clean up Alex Park, collecting an impressive 15 bags of rubbish in just one hour.

While the girls worked, children played happily on the playground, and seeing their laughter reminded everyone that a small effort can make a big difference. The Eco-Club is proud that St John's D.S.G. girls are contributing to positive change in the Scottsville community, proving that even one hour of dedication can have a lasting impact.

### **Adopting a Rhino: Eco-Club Makes a Difference**

Rhino poaching remains a serious issue in South Africa, with 352 rhinos lost last year - almost one every single day. These magnificent animals are part of our heritage, forming part of the Big Five, appearing on the ten rand note, and representing our unique wildlife. Determined to help, the Eco-Club organised bake sales, wildlife-themed civvies days, and other fundraising efforts, raising over R6 000. This money will allow St John's D.S.G. to adopt a rhino for a year through the Zululand-based organisation, Helping Rhinos, covering its food, healthcare, and habitat needs.

After a whole-school vote, we chose an orphaned two-year-old female white rhino named Ingelosi. Our "rhino with heart" now has St John's D.S.G. girls cheering her on, and the Eco-Club is thrilled to raise awareness about rhino poaching while making a tangible difference.



# SPORTS NEWS

## Swimming

A BIG “congratulations” to our incredible “Yellow Fins” for finishing their swimming season in spectacular style, bringing home the Senior Relay Gala trophy!

We caught up with Mrs Schirge, our awesome Head of Swimming, who was absolutely beaming with pride. She shared a few reflections on the afternoon:

*“I knew how much the girls wanted it. There are moments in sport that stay with you, and this was one of them. What stood out most was the way the team rallied around one another, encouraging every member of the squad. Before the races, our team talk was a little different. It wasn’t the usual strategy or technical discussion. Instead, the girls had ten seconds to look at the teammates next to them and realise exactly what they were swimming for - for themselves, for their team, their parents, and for their school. With such strong competition in Pietermaritzburg, we knew it would be tough. That’s what makes these galas so special, the opportunity to compete against schools that bring out the very best in one another.”*

The results were phenomenal:

- ★ 1 record broken (U17 4 x 50m Backstroke)
- ★ 6 out of 11 trophies claimed

Thank you to Pietermaritzburg Girls’ High School for hosting such a wonderful event, and a BIG “well done” to all the schools who competed.

## KZN Swimmers

A BIG “congratulations” to four of our “Yellow Fins” who were selected to represent the KZN Schools’ Swimming Team at the SA Schools’ Championships taking place from 23 – 27 April.

### Junior School

Neliza O

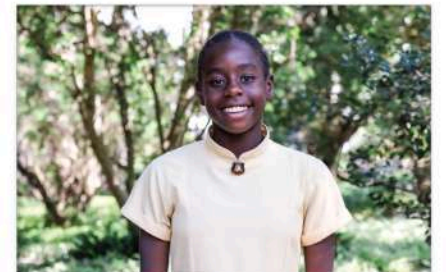
### Senior School

Chanel vT

Jamie S

Shiloh C \*Missing from picture

Best wishes to all our swimmers taking part in various galas around the country in the next couple of weeks - we wish you all the best as you compete at Level Galas and Junior National Championships.



## Grade 6 Swimming Champions

We recently caught up with Georgia S, Paitin B, Neliza O and Mieke LR, our U12 Age-Group Champions, to chat about what it means to swim for the “Yellow Fins”, the dedication that happens behind the scenes, and the BIG goals they are already setting for themselves.

The girls train four to five sessions a week, over and above their committed school squad training. That means early mornings and long hours in the pool while many others are still asleep or relaxing at home. Their weeks often end with a full weekend of gala racing – a schedule that takes real commitment and determination.

Behind every swimmer is a wonderful support system, and we would like to give a BIG shout-out to the moms and dads who spend hours poolside, watching, encouraging and cheering them on. Our girls are incredibly lucky to have such supportive families.

When asked what it means to swim for SJS, they simply said, “It’s such an honour, and we are so proud to be the girls in Black and Yellow.”

Before the Interschools’ Gala at the start of March, they shared their goal with Mrs Van Vuuren (Grade 5 Teacher): “Let’s win the trophy!” And that is exactly what they did, winning every race and bringing their age-group trophy home.

Well done, girls. You have reminded us what hard work, dedication and passion can achieve. This is what it means to swim with a BIG heart.



## Hockey

Our St John’s D.S.G. “Yellow Sticks” are the proud winners of the SPAR KZN School Girls’ Hockey Challenge (PMB Central)!

The team showed incredible determination throughout the tournament, winning all their pool games to secure their place in the final against Epworth. After a nail-biting 0–0 draw at full time, the match went to the thrilling 8-second penalty shootout, where our girls held their nerve to claim a 3–1 victory!

A BIG “thank you” to Spar Hockey KZN and Epworth for hosting such a fantastic tournament and creating a wonderful platform for schoolgirls’ hockey.

And to our girls, your teamwork, heart, grit and composure under pressure made this victory truly special. We are incredibly proud of you.



# MUSIC NEWS

## Whose Song Is It Anyway?

The second edition of our annual Music Quiz, “Whose Song Is It Anyway?”, was a fun-filled evening of music, nostalgia, and surprises. Fourteen teams battled it out, tackling questions that ranged from fiendishly tricky to delightfully obvious, covering every style of music from the dawn of time, along with fun puzzles and lively games.

A guest team of members from the Howick Choristers took third place after a near-perfect score in the Classical Music category. In second place, Ms Evans’ (Junior School Resource Centre Teacher) team, the “Beyoncé Know-alls”, brought together an eclectic mix of Junior and Senior School staff. The biggest surprise of the night was the Music Department’s own team, the “Sons of Pitches”, who clinched first place. Congratulations to all our winners and to everyone who joined in the musical fun!

## SASMT Mixed Bag Concert

This term, the SASMT hosted a Mixed Bag Concert, showcasing a variety of young musicians across different instruments and styles. The event provided learners with a valuable opportunity to gain performance experience and build confidence.

We are proud of the following girls who participated:

- ★ Keila R – Voice
- ★ Sithandiwe (Lubanzi) M – Piano
- ★ Samaiya S – Guitar
- ★ Uminathi M – Piano
- ★ Katelyn N – Cello
- ★ Priyasha L – Violin

Well done to all performers for representing the school with pride.





# Senior School Choir Concert

On Thursday, 19 March, St John's D.S.G. proudly hosted a successful Senior School Choir Concert, bringing together choirs from various schools for an evening of inspiring choral music.

The programme featured two concerts, showcasing a diverse range of ensembles. The St John's D.S.G. Singing Society opened the evening with a confident and engaging performance, setting the tone for the night. The concert concluded with a powerful performance by the St John's D.S.G. Senior Choir, bringing the event to a memorable close.

The evening was a celebration of collaboration, musical excellence, and the shared joy of choral singing. We thank all participating schools and performers for contributing to such a successful event.

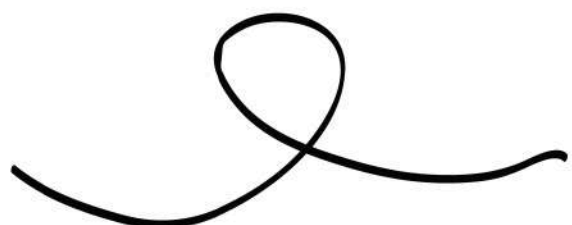


## "Stars over Broadway"

Prepare to be dazzled by an evening of glamour, sophistication and musical excellence featuring classics like "Feeling Good", "Summertime" and "New York, New York!"

Please join us for either of the concert performances on 14-15 May or go all out (and get dolled up!) and attend the special Gala Dinner on 16 May. All tickets can be purchased via Quicket or the Karri App.

This special evening promises more than just beautiful music - it's an opportunity for our community to come together in celebration and connection. As we gather to support our performers, we strengthen the spirit and sense of belonging that make our school so special.



*Stars Over*  
**BROADWAY**

Starring  
**ST JOHN'S D.S.G.  
MARITZBURG COLLEGE**

Prepare to be dazzled by an evening of glamour, sophistication, and musical excellence, featuring classics like *Feeling Good*, *Summertime*, and *New York, New York*.

**CONCERT**      **GALA DINNER**  
**14 & 15 MAY - 19H00**    **16 MAY - 18H00**

Both shows will take place in the St John's D.S.G. Theatre. Tickets can be purchased via Quicket or the Karri App. Concert Ticket: R80 per show. Gala dinner: R350 p/p (includes 3 course cocktail meal served with refreshments) Dress: Black Tie