



LABORARE EST ORARE

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

the yellow pages

Edition Four



Some of the exciting things in this edition...

- ♥ Staff Weddings
- ♥ Exchange Excitement
- ♥ St John's Day Invite
- ♥ Netball Achievements



GENERAL NEWS

Celebrations in the Music Department

Love was certainly in the air during the Easter holidays in the Music Department! A BIG “congratulations” to our Head of Music, Miss Nicole Louw, who married Junaid Sayed and Tabitha Hulett (Music Teacher), who married Dominic Casey.

We wish both couples a lifetime of love and happiness!

Welcome!

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

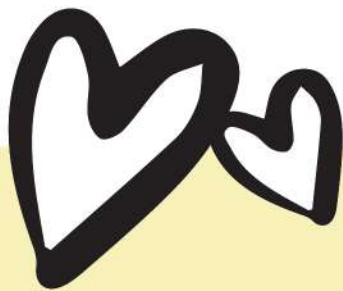
- ♥ Iona Roff – Boarder Mistress
- ♥ Kirstyn Hadden – English Teacher - Intern

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

Long Service Awards

A BIG “congratulations” and “thank you” to our staff who were recently recognised for their long-standing service to the school – their commitment is truly appreciated, and we celebrate everything they do to make our school the special place it is!

- ♥ 35 years: Ms Chantel Beattie (Art Teacher)
- ♥ 30 years: Mr Sifiso Maduna (Catering)
- ♥ 25 years: Mr Bigboy Mkhize (Catering)
- ♥ 10 years: Mrs Naomi Hardman (Business Manager) (Absent from Photo)



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Caramel's Birthday

Caramel, our much-loved class teddy, has been having quite the adventures this year! Inspired by "The Everywhere Bear", she heads home each week with one lucky girl (thanks to a spin of the wheel), returning with stories of all the fun they've shared. Dressed for every occasion and ready for anything, except swimming! Caramel is always part of the action.

When the girls discovered that Caramel was turning five this year, and that her birthday fell on the last day of Term 1, there was only one thing to do... plan a party! Invites were sent, each girl brought along a teddy friend, and soon the classroom was filled with a joyful gathering of very special guests. With a beautifully set table, a delicious cake (kindly organised by the moms), and a spread fit for a teddy banquet, the celebrations were nothing short of magical.

Some of the Grade 1s shared their experience of the morning...

- Holley S: "She looked so pretty in her birthday outfit."
- Emma I: "I loved how happy she was to have us all at her party."



A Flowery Connection

Our Junior School recently held their termly Class Rep meeting, which turned into a wonderful evening of connection. It started with the parents discussing the Junior School theme, "making mistakes count," reflecting on how growth often comes through trying, learning, and trying again.

The moms then enjoyed a special session with Kate Steyn (mom to Georgia in Grade 5), who guided everyone through a hands-on flower arranging activity. It was a relaxed and enjoyable time together, and a lovely opportunity to connect, create, and share a few laughs along the way.



Exchange Excitement

Recently, three of our Grade 6 girls, Georgia S, Paitin B and Ella G, along with Mrs Nipper (Grade 4 Teacher), left on an exciting two-week exchange program at St Piran's School in England.

Earlier this year, we had the pleasure of hosting two of their students, and now it's our girls' turn to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Enjoy every minute, girls - we can't wait to hear all about your adventures when you return!



Idiom Day Dress Up

The Grade 6 girls have been learning about figurative language and, towards the end of last term, they celebrated with an Idiom Day. They were encouraged to dress as the literal meaning of an idiom, and they blew us away with their creativity and effort.

Throughout the day, the girls took part in an idioms quiz and a fun challenge to come up with as many food-related idioms as possible based on items on display. Needless to say, those who found it "a piece of cake" were rewarded with exactly that. as they could related to items of food on display. Needless to say, those who found it to be "a piece of cake" were rewarded with exactly that!



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Sleep as a Superpower

On Funky Hair Day during Term 1, we hosted local psychologist Naomi Holdt, who presented an engaging workshop on healthy sleep habits. Embracing the spirit of the day, she joined in and brought energy and humour to what is often seen as a dull topic.

Naomi shared practical insights into sleep as a performance enhancer rather than just rest, explaining how routine and reduced screen time support better brain function. She also highlighted the impact of all-nighters before tests, showing how lack of sleep can reduce focus, slow thinking, and weaken memory recall.

The session reinforced that sleep supports learning, mood, sport, and overall wellbeing, and offered simple strategies to improve sleep habits. The key message was clear: sleep is not wasted time — it is essential for performing at your best.

Interhouse Plays

The 2026 Interhouse Plays, led by our Grade 10 and 11 Dramatic Arts girls, under the guidance of Mrs Pillay (Drama Teacher), were a wonderful celebration of creativity and collaboration. This year's theme, "Adapted Fairytales," came to life through the style of Workshop Theatre, with girls taking full ownership of the process, from scripting and directing to rehearsals and design. The result was a vibrant showcase of teamwork and imagination.

Congratulations to Bayly for taking 1st place with "A South African Rapunzel", followed by Lucas' "A Fever Dream" and Herman's "A Contemporary South African Cinderella", with each production bringing its own unique energy to the stage.

We caught up with the Bayly Directors to hear what they had to say about their play... "Our inspiration actually came from the Grade 10s, who first pitched the concept of a local Rapunzel. The most rewarding part of the process was the 'page to stage' journey - seeing everything finally click after navigating so many challenges. Beyond the performance, we cherished the backstage laughs and the opportunity to bond with girls we don't usually spend time with."



Freedom Day Concert

To celebrate Freedom Day this year, the Grade 9s hosted their annual Freedom Day concert - an inspiring celebration of our country and the talents of our young musicians. As part of the Grade 9 Subject Music Inquiry-Based Learning project, the girls took full ownership of the event, gaining valuable skills in leadership, teamwork and creativity. The concert was a vibrant showcase of music, growth and unity. A BIG "well done" to all involved!



Honour Blazers

Congratulations to the five St John's D.S.G. girls who were awarded Honours Blazers in their respective disciplines at our recent Awards Assembly. These awards recognise outstanding achievement, top-level performance, and national success. We are in awe of the hours of training, hard work, dedication, grit, and resilience that have gone into earning this prestigious accolade, and we are incredibly proud of each of these girls.

- ♥ Dramatic Arts: Molly O
- ♥ Swimming: Bailey L
- ♥ Squash: Makayla N
- ♥ Indoor Hockey: Lamia A & Annabelle B



In addition, six St John's D.S.G. girls were awarded Honours Blazers for Sport. These talented sportswomen have consistently contributed to the school's sporting success at the highest level from Grade 11 upwards. They have achieved excellence through provincial representation across various sports, and their sportsmanship, commitment, and dedication to school sport are exemplary. These awards are based on an accumulation of points.

Congratulations to these outstanding sportswomen:
Lamia A, Annabelle B, Mia H, Sienna S, Kate vB & Emma W



SPORTS NEWS

Holiday Sports Round-Up

Our sportswomen have had an action-packed holiday with numerous tours, tournaments, competitions and national sporting events. We congratulate them all on their excellent results and achievements.

Most importantly, they represented St John's D.S.G. with pride and BIG heart, made great memories and had the most fun.

Hockey

- ★ The 1st team finished a creditable tie, ninth out of 32 teams at the St Mary's Waverley Festival.
- ★ The U16A team finished sixth out of 24 teams at the St Mary's Waverley Festival.
- ★ The U14 A team finished eighth out of 16 teams at the St John's D.S.G. Festival.
- ★ In the Psi Indoor Hockey League (B Section), the SJS Junior Team received gold medals.

Equestrian

- ★ Well done to the Interschools' Equestrian Team, who received 1st place in Equitation.

Swimming

- ★ Well done to our swimmers who participated in Level Galas and Senior & Junior Nationals.

Netball

- ★ The 1st team won five out of eight matches at the St Stithians Festival.
- ★ The U16s finished 14th out of 28 schools at the St Andrew's Netball Festival.
- ★ The U15s won four out of four matches on their Netball Tour to Joburg.

Squash

- ★ Well done to our Squash players on their achievements in the KZN Closed and the SA Closed Tournaments.





Netball

A BIG "congratulations" to the following "Yellow Nets" who have been selected for the various uMgungundlovu Netball teams. Well done, girls!

U14 Team

Louisa M
Ava P
Jess G

U15 Team

Binta C

U16 Team

Megan B
Emma K

U17 Team

Rebecca Z
Tatham S

U18 Team

Rebecca P
Lelomso M
Rachel P



A BIG "congratulations" to four of "Yellow Nets" who were selected for various KZN Netball teams.

KZN u14: Jess G

KZN U16: Emma K

KZN U17: Tatham S

KZN U18: Rebecca P

Congratulations also to our two Senior Netball coaches, Senzo Mkhwanazi and Sbusiso Mokoena, on their appointment as KZN Netball coaches for the upcoming IPT, which will be held in Boksburg during the July holidays.

We are extremely proud of our girls and coaches.



MUSIC NEWS

Soloist Soirée & Music Information Evening

To strengthen and celebrate our musical community, our Soloist Soirée brought together both Junior and Senior schoolgirls in one inspiring evening of performance. Entry into the concert was by audition, ensuring a high standard throughout.

The evening began with an informative and engaging talk by Miss Louw, who highlighted the value of music education and shared practical ways in which parents can support their daughters, particularly by encouraging consistent practice habits and nurturing a love for music.

The programme that followed featured a diverse selection of instruments and performances, showcasing both the talent and dedication of our girls. We were especially encouraged by the increased number of participants this year. It is truly exciting to witness the ongoing growth of our music department.



St Charles College Mic Night 2026

An evening of musical talent and vibrant energy was enjoyed at the St Charles College Mic Night, held on Wednesday, 25 March. This much-anticipated event brought together young musicians from across Pietermaritzburg, creating a dynamic platform for collaboration and performance.

The evening featured a variety of performances, including the St Charles College High School Bands, as well as soloists and ensembles from St Charles College, St John's D.S.G., The Wykeham Collegiate, and Epworth High School. Each participating school was invited to submit two items, resulting in a diverse and engaging programme.

We were especially proud to note that this year saw a record number of our girls auditioning for the event, yet another encouraging sign of the continued growth and enthusiasm within our Music Department. Samke M and Lungele M were selected to represent the school. Samke delivered a powerful and emotive performance of "Die on This Hill" by Sienna Spiro, accompanied sensitively on the keyboard by Eloise S. Lungele, captivated the audience with a beautiful rendition of "Falling Behind" by Laufey, showcasing both vocal control and musical expression. Both performers delivered truly memorable performances and represented the school with confidence and poise.

Beyond the performances on stage, it was particularly heartening to see such a strong contingent of SJS girls in the audience, enthusiastically supporting their peers. Their presence contributed to the warm and encouraging atmosphere of the evening and served as a reminder that St John's D.S.G. is a school filled with spirit, unity, and heart.