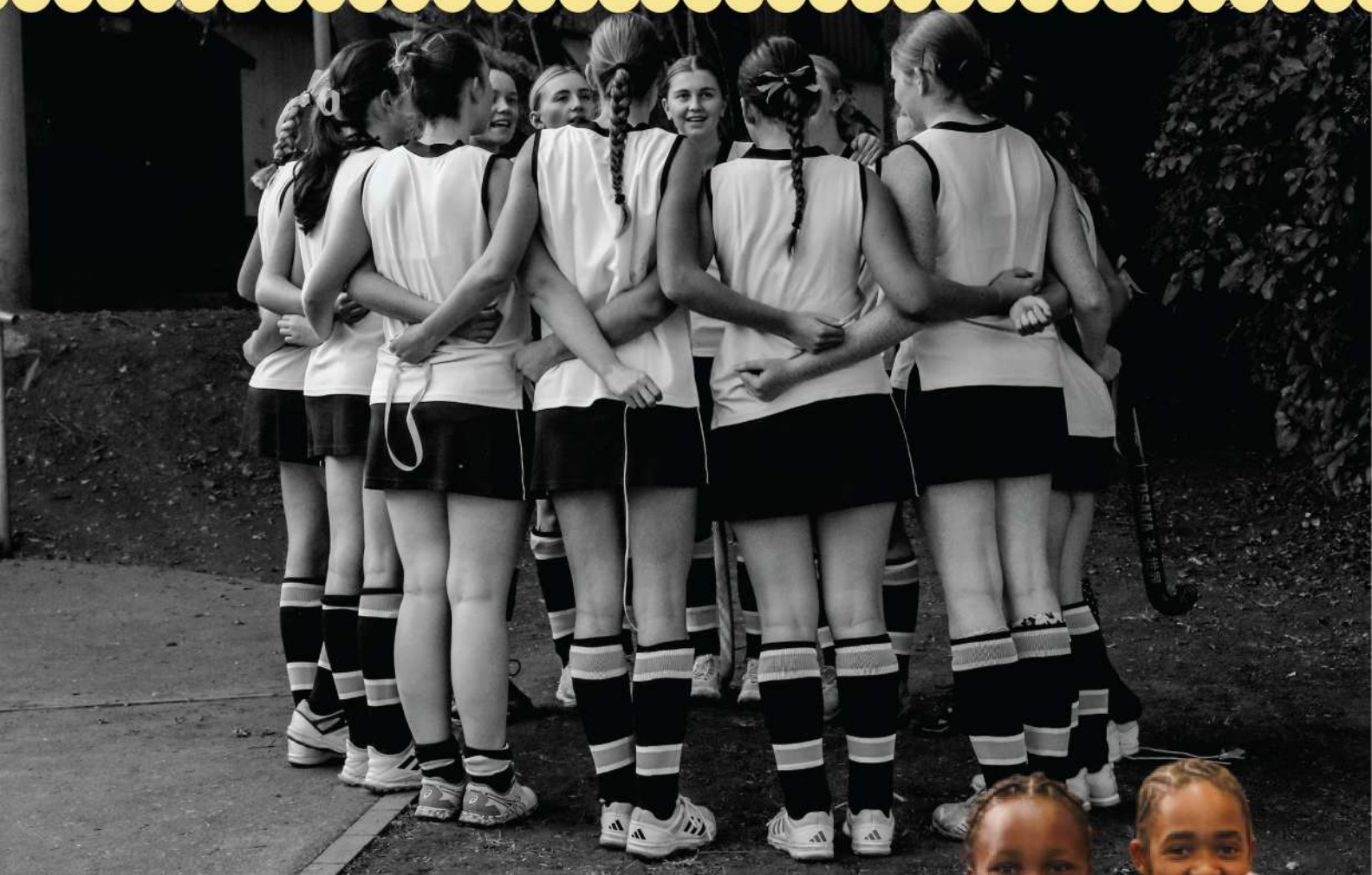




ST JOHN'S D.S.G.
PIETERMARITZBURG
Growing girls with heart

the yellow pages

Edition Six



Some of the exciting things in this edition...

- ♥ Grade 6 Robotics Morning with SCC
- ♥ Staff Wellness
- ♥ St John's Sports Festival
- ♥ Night of the Saints



General News

From Umlazi to the Francophone World

When Ms Asithandile 'Clémence' Nomvete (Senior School French Teacher) recently walked across the stage to receive her Master's degree in French from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, it was the culmination of a journey that began far from the lecture halls of academia in Glebelands Hostel, Umlazi, south of Durban.

Her path was never straightforward. Balancing work as a tutor and English assistant, navigating financial pressures, and often writing her dissertation on campus due to unreliable technology at home, Nomvete pushed forward with quiet determination. "My journey has been anything but easy," she reflects. "But through faith, resilience, and hard work, I kept moving forward."



At the heart of her Master's research lies a fascinating intersection of music, language, and crisis. Her dissertation examined how Senegalese musicians, including the influential youth movement, Y'en a Marre, used song to communicate public health messages and mobilise communities during the Covid-19 pandemic. "Music became a bridge between information and everyday life," she explains.

French is no longer simply a subject for Nomvete, it is a part of her identity. Transformative experiences in France and Réunion Island deepened her connection to the Francophone world, and it was during this time that she adopted the name Clémence, gifted to her by a friend. "It represents identity, growth and belonging," she says. As she sets her sights on a PhD, Nomvete hopes her story reaches students who may feel that their circumstances define their ceiling. "Where you come from does not define where you are going."

A remarkable reminder that with resilience and the right support, anything is possible.

Staff Wellness Day

The St John's D.S.G. staff recently enjoyed the annual Staff Wellness Day – a well-deserved opportunity to step away from busy schedules and focus on personal wellbeing. The day served as an important reminder that to care for others, we must first care for ourselves.

The highlight was definitely pedalling to blend your own smoothie! Even Mr Moore and Mr van Blerk (Principal of St Charles College) swapped a meeting for a bike ride to create their blueberry vanilla chai and coffee freezos!

With health screenings, seated massages, eye tests, body composition analyses, colour consultations, goodie bags, and a lucky draw packed with prizes, it was a truly lekker day.

A BIG "thank you" to our incredible service providers and sponsors who made the day possible.



Junior School News

Grade 1 Snuggle and Stories

What a magical evening it was at our Grade 1 Snuggles and Stories event! With our term theme of "Stories We Love" in full swing, the girls cosied up in their pyjamas for an evening filled with imagination and connection. Mr Moore even took on storyteller duties, reading to the girls and their parents.

Grade 2 Art Morning

The Grade 2 girls recently enjoyed a morning of art and exploration with local artist, Kerry Peckham.

The session began with a discussion about insects and pollinators, followed by a walk through the indigenous gardens. The girls collected leaves, tasted aloe nectar, and observed the plants and insects around them.

Back in the classroom, they painted backgrounds, arranged flowers, added details to pressed aloe pieces, and completed their artwork with ladybirds and bees.

The morning offered the girls an opportunity to learn more about the natural world while creating colourful pieces inspired by their surroundings.



Grade 6 Water Filter Competition

Following their wetlands study and visit to the Botanical Gardens, the Grade 6 girls explored various methods of water filtration, including the important role wetlands play in naturally purifying water.

To extend their learning, the girls visited the St John's D.S.G. water purification plant, where Mrs Hardman (Business Manager) and Mr Marx (Estates Manager) explained how our borehole water is treated and prepared for drinking. They also watched videos and investigated how municipal water is cleaned before reaching our taps.

Armed with this new knowledge, the girls were challenged to design and build their own water filters. Each group was given the same amount of equally dirty water (a special concoction prepared by Mrs Usher!) and tasked with purifying it as effectively as possible.

The results were impressive, with the winning group doing an outstanding job!



Grade 5 Egyptian Day with Cordies

This year's Grade 5 Egyptian Day, which forms part of the Social Science syllabus, was packed with hands-on-learning and fun alongside our Grade 5 Cordies friends. In groups, they explored famous Ancient Egyptian landmarks using robotic cars. They also created delicious Egyptian mummy sausage rolls and discovered how multiplication was done the Ancient Egyptian way.



Eaglets Update

The Eaglets Campus has been a hive of activity this term, filled with exciting events and meaningful celebrations. We thoroughly enjoyed honouring the special people in our lives, with delightful mornings dedicated to both moms and dads.

A definite highlight was Mr Moore's surprise visit - everyone was thrilled! The girls took great pride in showing him around our space and enthusiastically sharing all that they had been learning. It has been a joyful and memorable term.



GRADE 7 HOODIES HAVE ARRIVED!



Grade 4 Robotics Fun with SCC

The Grade 4 girls recently welcomed their friends from St Charles College to the Innovation Centre for an exciting morning of problem-solving, collaboration and fun.

Working in mixed teams, the girls and boys rotated through three interactive stations:

- An unplugged coding activity using LEGO.
- An Indi Car robot challenge, where teams designed a continuous-loop track for the car to navigate.
- A timed obstacle course, where they coded a Sphero Mini robot to complete the course as quickly as possible, requiring plenty of calibration, directional thinking and patience.

It was wonderful to watch teamwork and communication skills develop throughout the morning. The excitement on the children's faces as they solved problems, overcame challenges and refined their designs was a highlight.

A special thank you to Ms Evans and Mrs Nipper for creating such a fun-filled and engaging learning experience beyond the classroom.



Senior School News

Accounting

In Matric, our class was assigned the task of researching a company listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) and analysing its financial position. For my Accounting project, I selected Shoprite.

This was a highly engaging and informative task, as it provided my classmates and me with valuable insight into the various aspects of a business, including share prices, financial performance, and the influence of external factors. It was particularly interesting to see how events such as wars, economic uncertainty, and fluctuations in fuel prices can have a significant impact on a company's performance over a relatively short period. I thoroughly enjoyed completing this project, not only because of the knowledge I gained, but also because of the structured manner in which the task was presented. Each section was built logically on the previous one, making the research process both manageable and meaningful.



Although the project required considerable effort, the skills and insights gained were highly beneficial and greatly enhanced our understanding of how businesses operate in the real world.

Written by Mia H

Grade 8 Sewing Project

The Grade 8 Technology girls recently completed a sewing task as part of their clothing and textile theory unit, with the aim of developing hand sewing skills using felt and thread. Each girl was required to demonstrate a minimum of three different stitch types, choosing to either create a stuffed animal or a flat design such as a landscape or pattern, with creativity being just as important as technique. While many found the task intimidating at first, they quickly grew in confidence and produced some truly beautiful and unique pieces. It is a skill that will serve them well beyond the classroom, whether they are embroidering crafts, sewing on a button, or mending a favourite item of clothing — a reminder that some of the most practical skills are also the most rewarding to learn.



Sports News

Inter-House Netball and Hockey

The final week of term was filled with colour, spirit and friendly competition as our Junior and Senior School girls took to the astro and courts for the annual Inter-house Hockey and Netball matches. Congratulations to all the girls who participated with such enthusiasm and House pride. A BIG “well done” to the Juniors in Lucas House, who won the Hockey, and Bayly House, who won the Netball. For the Senior girls, the exciting results will be announced at the Sports Awards next term.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the end of a busy and successful sporting term!



St John's Sports Festival

Last weekend, St John's D.S.G. hosted our annual Junior School Sports Festival and were delighted with the awesome participation from a total of 370 Hockey, Netball, Squash and Tennis players from local, highway and Durban schools.

Thank you to our friends from Chelsea Prep, Cowan House, DGC, Epworth, Fatima, Hillcrest Primary, Howick Prep, Laddsworth Primary, Maris Stella, St Mary's, Kloof, TWC, Umhlali Prep, Virginia Prep, for an awesome day of camaraderie, competition, but most of all, fun!

A BIG “thank you” to all the coaches, officials, staff and parents who generously gave their time and energy to make this event such a success. A special mention goes to our Grade 7 parents, who assisted with preparing and selling a variety of delicious food and drinks. Your support and commitment were greatly appreciated and contributed significantly to a wonderful day for all involved.



Music News

ATKV Competition Results

Our Senior Choir took part in the Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuur Vereniging Applous competition for the third time this year. Taking on the challenge of entering a more demanding category than before, the choir learned two songs in Afrikaans, one which was especially composed for them. The challenge proved to be worth it, and the hard work resulted in the Senior Choir achieving a superb Gold Award. St John's D.S.G. not only entered one choir, but three this year. For their competition debut, also in an advanced category, the Senior Primary Choir achieved an excellent Silver Award. Even they had a song arranged especially for them. Our Singing Society, which is run by the girls, also achieved an amazing Silver Award in the open category. Under the leadership of Mhlali H in Grade 12, this is a unique and inspiring achievement.



Night of the Saints

On 12 June, the Music Departments of St John's D.S.G. and St Charles College came together for a spectacular evening of music-making at the annual Night of the Saints concert. Showcasing the strength of collaboration and the power of combined musical forces, the JP Choir, SP Choir, Senior Choir, and Senior Band joined their counterparts from St Charles College in a programme of inspiring and uplifting repertoire. The massed ensembles filled the venue with rich harmonies, vibrant instrumental textures, and a palpable sense of unity, creating a memorable musical experience for performers and audience members alike. A particular highlight of the evening was the stirring performance of "You Raise Me Up", which resonated deeply with the audience and earned enthusiastic applause. During the interval, the Performance Marimba Band delighted concertgoers with an energetic and engaging set, adding a uniquely South African flavour to the evening's entertainment. Night of the Saints was a wonderful celebration of musical excellence, partnership, and the joy of shared performance.



Junior School Music Update

Our Junior Ensemble Concert took place on 9 May. It was a wonderful celebration of talent and creativity. The event featured performances from several music groups from Grade 3 Orff Ensemble to the Grade 7 Marimba Band, who entertained the audience with a variety of pieces and demonstrated their hard work and enthusiasm. It was a fantastic opportunity for our young musicians to share their skills and passion for music, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the performances. Following on from these performances was Junior Performance Week, which provided a wonderful opportunity for all the girls who take music lessons at school to showcase their progress and talents. Throughout the week, parents were treated to a variety of performances featuring different instruments and musical styles. Junior Performance Week is a wonderful platform for performance practice which celebrates dedication and hard work. Thank you to all the girls who participated, we are proud of you!

