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pages



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

Edition Five



Some of the exciting things in this edition...

- ♥ St John's Day Celebration
- ♥ Funk
- ♥ KZN Hockey Selections
- ♥ Stars over Broadway



# General News

## St John's Day Celebration

St John's Day 2026 was a truly special celebration as we warmly welcomed over 100 Old Girls back to St John's D.S.G. for a memorable weekend of connection, tradition, and community.

The festivities began on Friday evening, 8 May, with a beautiful formal dinner. It was wonderful to see generations of St John's D.S.G. ladies gathered together, enjoying canapés and drinks while watching the 1st Team Hockey side take on TWC under lights, before moving on to a delicious dinner, music, and plenty of dancing.

On Saturday, 9 May, our Old Girls embraced many of the traditions that make St John's D.S.G. so special. The campus came alive as Old Girls, current pupils, future pupils, parents, and families came together to enjoy the many St John's Day activities on offer.

The weekend concluded with the ever-popular Old Girls' vs Matric Hockey match, which ended in a spirited 2-1 win for the Old Girls, a fitting reflection of the camaraderie, competitiveness, and fun shared throughout the weekend.

We loved welcoming our Old Girls and wider community as we celebrated the enduring spirit of St John's D.S.G.



# Parents' Association

## 100 Club & P.A. Raffle Winners

At the start of the half-term weekend, our Parents' Association Committee hosted their AGM and 100 Club Draw. During the festivities of the evening, the P.A. Annual Raffle was drawn.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- **1st Prize: Cavern Weekend (Brett Hancocks)**
- **2nd Prize: Thandana Hamper (Kate Warr)**
- **3rd Prize: Padel Raquet (Jen Irons)**

A BIG "thank you" to the parents who supported this annual P.A. raffle – all the money raised goes directly back into the school to support additional resources, activities, and improvements that benefit all of our girls!

Congratulations to the 100 Club Draw winners of the evening:

- **1st Prize: Ronel Taylor (R4000)**
- **2nd Prize: Elizabeth Burczak (R2000)**
- **3rd Prize: Melanie Greyling (R1000)**



## Golf and Padel Day

On Friday, 15 May, the St John's D.S.G. Parents' Association hosted their much-anticipated annual Golf and Padel Day. Both events were a resounding success, filled with great sportsmanship, camaraderie, and community spirit.

A BIG "thank you" to our generous title sponsors - Shelving SA for Golf and Ikonik Furniture for Padel - and to everyone who made the day possible. From players and prize donors to hole sponsors and supporters, your involvement helped make this a truly memorable event.

Thank you to our incredible Parents' Association for their tireless dedication and planning. We're already looking forward to next year's event!

### Hole Sponsors:

DVN Steel  
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EPX Courier Services  
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Dundee Steers  
Northern Natal Bronze  
Marlin Technologies

Indezi  
St John's Parents' Association  
Action Asphalt  
Vapoclox Engineers  
Afgri  
St John's Old Girls' Association



# Junior School News

## A "bee-riliant" Morning with Mr Moore

The Grade 2 classroom was abuzz with excitement as the girls welcomed Mr Moore for a fascinating, informative lesson on the secret world of pollination. The girls were a captive audience, listening with wonderful focus and peppering Mr Moore with insightful questions that showed just how much they were soaking up. The excitement then moved outdoors to the garden, where the girls became little explorers, hunting for flowers and eagerly sharing their own "bee-riliant" knowledge. They were especially proud to introduce Mr Moore to their special friend, Chelsey Bee, and to recall impressive facts from the diary that travels home with her. It was a joy to see the girls interacting so enthusiastically with Mr Moore, and we want to say a huge thank you to him for such a lovely, memorable morning of learning!



## St Piran's Exchange

At the start of Term 2, three of our Grade 6 girls, Georgia S, Ella G, and Paitin B, embarked on an unforgettable exchange adventure to Maidenhead in the UK. During their trip, they visited many incredible places and enjoyed plenty of shopping in London. One of the highlights was seeing *Matilda*, *The Lion King*, and *Wicked* in the West End.

The girls were hosted by three St Piran's girls, allowing them to attend school and experience firsthand what school life and living in England is like. Mrs Nipper (Grade 4 Teacher), who accompanied the girls on the exchange, said, "Georgia, Ella and Paitin were an absolute pleasure to travel with and were a true credit to both our school and their families. The girls were consistently praised for their exceptional manners, maturity, kindness and bravery throughout this once-in-a-lifetime adventure!"



## Grade 6 Waste-to-Toys Workshop

It has been wonderful to hear the sounds of laughter and excited chatter in the mornings before school, as girls gather on the Gym Hall lawn to skip and play together. Inspired and guided by Mrs Julie Hay from Singakwenza, the girls have been making their own skipping ropes out of recycled bread bags — and having enormous fun with their colourful creations.

Each year, as a thank you for their dedication in collecting and sorting recycling every Tuesday, Mrs Usher treats her class to an inspiring workshop. Using only a permanent marker, a pair of scissors, and items rescued from the recycling bin, the girls learn how everyday waste can be transformed into meaningful educational resources. Along the way, they also gain insight into brain development and the importance of early childhood education.

The project does not end there. Over the coming weeks, the girls will work in groups to design and create their own educational toys and games. At the end of the term, they will visit Fairleigh Primary School, where they will have the special opportunity to put their creations to the test by teaching and playing with the young children there.



## Parents' Celebration Ceremony

What a heartwarming and joyful morning we recently experienced at the St John's D.S.G. Parents' Celebration Ceremony! Our girls truly shone as they paid tribute to their very own "superheroes", their parents.

Through beautiful poems, uplifting songs, and energetic dances, the girls expressed their gratitude and love, reminding us all of the incredible role parents play in shaping their lives. Every performance was filled with sincerity, creativity, and plenty of smiles!

It was a fun and happy celebration, a special moment for the SJS Junior School community to come together and honour all that our parents do, every single day.

Thank you to our amazing girls for their inspiring performances, and to our wonderful parents — you are truly our everyday heroes!



# Senior School News

## isiZulu Competition

Our St John's D.S.G. isiZulu students recently took part in the isiZulu Competition hosted at Epworth School, alongside 13 other IEB schools from across KwaZulu-Natal. The competition aimed to promote the use and appreciation of the isiZulu language. Participants competed in three categories: Essay Writing, Prepared Speech, and Spelling Bee.

Our St John's D.S.G. girls performed exceptionally well, achieving the following results:

- Prepared Speech: Lulo P (1st place)
- Spelling Bee: Sthabile N (3rd place)
- Essay Writing: Okuhle M (3rd place)

We are incredibly proud of our girls for their hard work, confidence, and outstanding achievements.



## Grade 9 French Outing to Piggly Wiggly

Our Grade 9 French girls recently enjoyed a fun and interactive outing to Piggly Wiggly, where language learning came to life outside of the classroom.

The visit was a wonderful success, with the girls participating in a French "speed-dating" style activity designed to build confidence and conversational skills in an engaging and relaxed environment. Learners were given 45 seconds to ask and answer questions in French before rotating to their next partner, creating a lively atmosphere filled with laughter, enthusiasm and plenty of French conversation.

The activity encouraged the girls to think quickly, communicate confidently and connect with one another in a meaningful way, all while practising their language skills in a fresh and exciting setting.

It was a memorable afternoon of language, connection and fun, proving once again that some of the best learning happens beyond the classroom walls



## Pit Produksie

The recent visit by the Pit Production team to St John's D.S.G. provided a transformative educational experience, effectively bridging the gap between the rigid requirements of the Grade 12 curriculum and the visceral power of live performance.

By staging scenes from the prescribed setwork "Donker Web" alongside interpretive dance performances of the Grade 12 poetry anthology, the production team utilised what theatre scholars call "embodied cognition"- the idea that learning is deepened when the body and mind engage with material simultaneously.



## Funk

Our Senior Performance Company captivated audiences with their moving and thought-provoking piece at this year's FUNK showcase, once again demonstrating their incredible talent, creativity and commitment. Their piece this year was titled: Blind to Reality.

"Sometimes it feels easier to look away. To silence the noise, scroll past the headlines, and convince ourselves that if we do not see the brokenness in the world, perhaps it does not exist. But turning a blind eye does not make suffering disappear. Beyond our comfort, there are people hurting, struggling and searching for hope. While we may not be able to change every hardship or heal every wound, we do have the power to acknowledge what is happening around us. To choose compassion over ignorance. To pray for those facing unimaginable challenges. To open our hearts instead of closing our eyes. Awareness creates understanding, and understanding reminds us of our shared humanity."

A BIG "thank you" to all the girls and staff involved in bringing this powerful performance to life. Your dedication, passion and willingness to tackle meaningful themes through the arts are truly inspiring.



# Sports News

## KZN Hockey

Congratulations to our 36 "Yellow Sticks" who have been selected for KZN Inland Hockey Teams. We are so proud of all the hard work, training and sacrifice that performing at this level takes. We would also like to recognise our coaches and staff members who have volunteered to manage and coach various teams. We wish all these players well for their National and Regional events in the upcoming holidays.

### U13A

Mienke T

### U14A

Bianca J

Yusra K(absent from photo)

Joy M

Qhama M

Sthabile N

Charlotte T

### U14B

Elizabeth C-E

Kirsten F

Meghan K

### U14C

Arabella A

### U16A

Olivia B

Rebecca H

Deborah L

Amy vB

Alexi W

Paige W

### U16B

Tiara B

Bronwyn L

Abigail M

Samukelisiwe M

Mila T

Gabriella T

### U16C

Aphelele M

Hannah W

### U18A

Annabelle B

Emma W

Jade vB

### U18B

Derryn M

Kate vB

Lucy F

Mia H

Rachel M

### U18C

Philippa B

Sienna S

Tyler K



## KZN Hockey 5's Selection

U14A

Bianca J

Joy M

Non-travelling reserve

Sthabile N

St John's D.S.G. Staff Representatives:

**KZN Inland U18A Head Coach and KZN Inland U16A and B Assistant Coach** - Phillip Smerdon

**KZN Inland U14C and KZN Inland U16B Manageress** - Sthembile Mazibuko

**KZN Inland U16B and KZN Inland U14A Head Coach** - Lyn van Breda

**KZN Inland U14C Head Coach** - Ntsako Khoza

**KZN Inland U18B Head Coach** - Khanya Langa



## Basketball

We are incredibly proud to celebrate Lamia Amod on her selection for the KZN Marlins Basketball team, who will compete in the 2026 Basketball National League (BNL)!

This is an outstanding achievement and a testament to Lamia's hard work, dedication and passion for the game. We wish her every success as she takes on this exciting new challenge and continues to grow both on and off the court.

Well done, Lamia — your St John's D.S.G. family is cheering you on every step of the way!



## Sailing

Congratulations to Daniela Cantarelli who has been selected to represent the South Africa Sailing Team in the ICLA 6 Female Class for the 2026 Youth Sailing World Championships in Vilamoura, Portugal from 11 – 19 December 2026. Daniela's hard work, perseverance and dedication has resulted in this outstanding achievement. We wish Daniela well as she trains and prepares for this prestigious event.



# Music News

## “Stars over Broadway”

Just before the half-term break, audiences were treated to an unforgettable celebration of music, style and exceptional young talent at this year’s “Stars Over Broadway” — a collaborative music production between St John’s D.S.G. and Maritzburg College.

Set against the glamour and sophistication of the golden age of jazz, the production brought timeless classics to life through outstanding performances by talented vocal soloists from both schools. Featuring music from legendary artists including Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Frank Sinatra, Michael Bublé and Norah Jones, the programme captivated audiences with beloved favourites such as “Feeling Good”, “Summertime”, “New York, New York”, “My Baby Just Cares for Me”, “The Nearness of You” and “My Way”.

The performances were elevated by the exceptional Maritzburg College Jazz Big Band, alongside instrumentalists from St John’s D.S.G. and Pietermaritzburg Girls’ High School, creating a rich and vibrant musical experience that had audiences enthralled from beginning to end.

The elegant black-tie evening added an extra touch of glamour to the event, with guests enjoying a sophisticated atmosphere, fine dining and world-class entertainment.

A huge congratulations and thank you must go to every performer, musician, staff member and organiser involved in bringing this spectacular production to life. The passion, dedication and countless hours behind the scenes were evident in every moment of the show.

“Stars Over Broadway” was a true celebration of collaboration, artistry and the incredible talent of our young performers — an evening that will long be remembered by all who attended.

