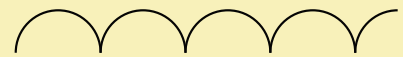
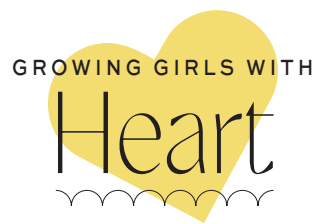


Heartbeat 2025





A St John’s D.S.G. girl defines her own path through the opportunities she embraces. We believe girls have the potential to achieve anything and overcome any challenges – if they put their heart into it.

A St John’s D.S.G., our difference is all about heart. Individually and collectively, our girls grow to become kind, courageous, and well-rounded – prepared for success in their personal and professional lives.

“ We would care very little if the girls did not turn out to be wonders and geniuses of intellect, if we could be sure they would turn out to be good.”

Bishop Baynes on the St John’s D.S.G. ethos, 1900s.

Our Heart SETS US APART

H for Healthy A COMMITMENT TO BALANCED LIVING

Balance lies at the heart of health. Our school routine helps girls to form healthy habits around physical exercise, rest, and positive life skills. Healthy habits take root early and our girls are prepared to prioritise health and wellness for flourishing futures.

E for Emotionally Intelligent THE MEETING POINT OF HEART AND HEAD

Emotional intelligence is empowering. Giving girls the gift of understanding emotions – their own and others – helps them change their lives (and the world). St John’s D.S.G. girls are mindful, compassionate, connected, and aware – traits that fortify success in all interactions.

A for Anchored in God STRENGTH THROUGH SPIRIT

Spiritual education is the heart and soul of our school. At St John’s D.S.G., we aim to build a culture of trust, anchored in biblical truth, to foster a Christlike heart for well-being and outreach. Whatever is happening in the world, our girls are guided by God.

R for Resilient TOUGH AND TENACIOUS

When the going gets tough, the challenge teaches us important lessons. Within a safe environment, our girls are geared to approach every obstacle with equal parts grit and grace. The world can be unpredictable, but St John’s D.S.G. girls have the resilience to adapt, grow, and progress today and into the future – knowing that they can overcome anything.

T for Thinkers HAPPINESS IS AT THE HEART OF LEARNING

Our modern curriculum instils girls with confidence, competence, and courage in their aptitude. Our school is a hub of passionate learners – happy in the knowledge that learning never stops; embracing and nurturing academic strengths and tackling challenges with help from teachers who truly love what they do.



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WELCOME from the Editors



WELCOME TO THE 2025 EDITION OF HEARTBEAT MAGAZINE

As we reflect on 2025, it is clear that this has been a year of exciting beginnings, meaningful connections and remarkable growth.

This year marked the opening of several significant new spaces on our beautiful campus. From the launch of our new school shop, The Crest, to the inspiring Innovation Centre in the Junior School, these additions have created new opportunities for our girls to learn, gather, create and flourish. They stand as visible reminders of our commitment to continually investing in the future of St John's D.S.G.

Beyond these developments, 2025 was a year defined by relationships. As a school community, we strengthened longstanding friendships, welcomed new families and created opportunities for connection, support and belonging. We celebrated achievements in the classroom, on the sports field, on the stage and through service to others, and there is much within these pages of which we can be proud.

While this magazine highlights accomplishments, new initiatives and memorable milestones, it is often the everyday experiences that leave the deepest impression. The kindness of a friend, the warmth of a greeting, the encouragement offered at just the right time, and the sense of belonging that comes from being part of a caring community. These are the moments that reflect the true spirit of St John's D.S.G. and make our school so much more than a place of learning.

As we look back on the year, we do so with grateful hearts, giving thanks to God for His unwavering protection, guidance and love over our school community. Through His grace, we have been blessed with opportunities to learn, grow and flourish together. We recognise that every achievement, every friendship and every opportunity is a reflection of His faithfulness. With God at the centre of all that we do, we continue to move forward with hope, purpose and confidence in His plan for our school.

This magazine offers a snapshot of a year rich in achievement, friendship and community spirit. It captures the experiences, celebrations and milestones that shaped 2025 and helped write another memorable chapter in the story of St John's D.S.G. As you turn these pages, we hope you enjoy reflecting on the memories that made this year so special.

Sarah Cole-Edwardes, Kate Martens and Jane Cole-Edwardes
The Marketing Team

WELCOME from the Principal



As another year draws to a close, I have reflected on the past decade since being appointed as Principal in 2015. The Senior School has grown by about a third since then, and boarding numbers by around 50%. There have also been multiple building developments. We now have a pavilion, double-storey humanities block with the new library and additional classrooms, a beautiful new Harwin Road entrance and car park, as well as many boarding and bathroom upgrades, a Junior School Innovation Centre, an Eaglets facility in Sanders Road, a new school shop, floodlights on the astro turf, solar panels, a school generator, and a number of school houses purchased and developed across Harwin Road. We see evidence of a thriving, healthy institution and our contingent of skilled, caring staff has grown significantly too. Yet in my opinion, the most consistent aspect throughout the decades

remains: our authentic, sincere, thoughtful, kind, humble, nurturing girls and families. As Bishop Baynes stated at the inception of St John's D.S.G. as a school well over a century ago, what matters most is simply that our girls are good.

The irony of this statement is evident on closer inspection. What "good" implied in the year 1900 included the development of character, integrity, humility, creativity, faith and a sincere love for others. In other words, it involves balance. Paradoxically, with less emphasis on results, but rather a focus on the development of the whole child, based on sound Christian values and principles, the performances and results naturally follow. A child who has the confidence to believe in herself, yet remain humble and gracious in her approach; who develops her talents as gifts to benefit others; who genuinely cares about the needs and wellbeing of others, will naturally end up performing with excellence in her own areas of strength, without a fear of failure simply because her focus is not exclusively on herself. Disappointment then becomes a learning or growth opportunity.

I am therefore delighted with our performances once again this year, but will not dwell on these, as they are simply fruits of a healthy, thriving school environment. I am most grateful to all parents and girls for your ongoing support and care, and to all staff in the school for your dedication. Ultimately, I thank God for His blessing and guidance.

"I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts." **Hebrews 8 vs 10**

"We would care very little if the girls did not turn out wonders and geniuses of intellect, if we could be sure they would turn out good." **Bishop Baynes, early 1900s**

Simon Moore
Principal

GROWING GIRLS WITH
Heart

Mr Moore TURNS 60

In August, St John's D.S.G. pulled off a birthday surprise in true style as we celebrated Mr Moore's 60th!

The entire school gathered secretly on the circular lawn before bursting into a heartfelt chorus of "Happy Birthday" as Mr Moore cut into his decadent, three-tier chocolate cake – lovingly created by our very own Assistant Catering Manager, Mrs Carol Parsons.

To round off the celebration, our Senior Singing Society performed one of his favourite songs – Blondie's "Heart of Glass". Needless to say, Mr Moore was left a little speechless... and perhaps even a little teary-eyed.



The Crest OPENS

In Term 3, we opened our brand-new school shop, The Crest – and it's more than just a place to buy uniforms!

With striking modern décor, spacious changing rooms, comfy seating areas, and even a coffee bar, every detail has been thoughtfully designed to make our parents and girls feel right at home.

Mrs Caroline Howard, Ms Sanelisiwe Ngubane and Mrs Julia Toti, the three lovely ladies who bring warmth and energy to this beautiful new space, look forward to welcoming all who step through the doors!



ONLY IN Teaching...



Only in teaching do you catch yourself saying things that make no sense anywhere else! In celebration of World Teachers' Day this year, we asked some of our amazing teachers to share the sentences they never thought they'd ever say out loud.

"We don't paint our nails with highlighters."

"Please take your socks off your hands before writing."

"Pritt is not a lip balm."

"Why is there glitter in the fish tank?"

"What is that smell?"

"Has anyone seen the baby Jesus?"

"Can you speak up, Mary, the donkey can't hear you."

"I'm not quite sure where you learnt to whisper, but I'm presuming it was inside a helicopter."

"If you're going to roar like a dinosaur, please do it quietly."

"Please stop your robot from dancing while I am explaining this."

"Our marbles are missing, please help me find them!"

"Bring your TikTok spark, let's make this lesson go viral!"

"And after this scene, we'll bring out the tap dancing nuns."



JUNIOR School



2025 Junior School Theme:

Character Counts

In 2025, our Junior School embraced the theme “Character Counts” – because at St John’s D.S.G., values matter! The girls were introduced to each of the core values, and in Life Skills lessons, Mrs Lyndal Nicholson (Junior School Wellness Facilitator) brought them to life through fun and interactive activities.

Cats	COURAGE
Enjoy	ENTHUSIASM
Ice-cream	INTEGRITY
Like	LEADERSHIP
Everybody	EMPATHY
Does	DETERMINATION

CHARACTER COUNTS ONLINE
OUR ONLINE TASKS

TIME LIMIT
Too much screen time isn't good for your brain or your body.

AGE RESTRICTIONS
Only use apps, games and websites that are right for your age.

STRANGERS
Never talk to, or share information with, people you don't know.

KINDNESS
Be kind online. Your words matter just as much on a screen as they do face-to-face.

STAYS FOREVER
Once you post it, you can't take it back.

THE Eaglets





Grade RR



Back Row: S. Hellberg; H. Mason; O. Hollander; S-R. Kemp; L. Mthethwa.
Seated: H. Parsons; L. McCallum; Mrs N. Ndawo; O. Ndlovu; A. Oosthuizen; Mrs K. Bolland; A. Molefe.
Front Row: D. Da Rosa; A. Lilmothun; T. Mlambo; S. Padayachee.
Absent: Q. Geer.

Each Grade RR girl arrived at the start of the year with butterflies in her tummy, stepping into the Eaglets for the very first time. But it didn't take long for them to settle into their new surroundings, explore their new space, and embrace every moment.

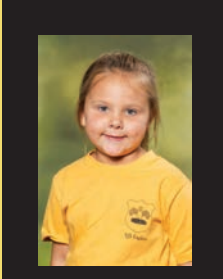
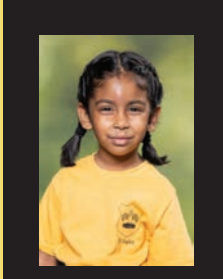
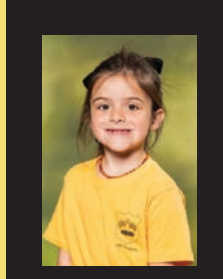
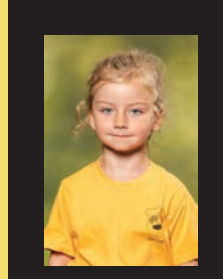
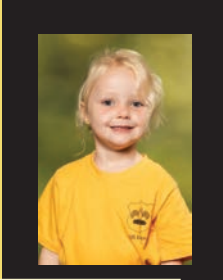
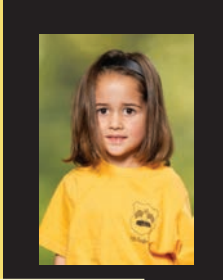
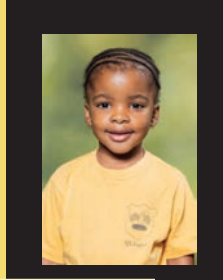
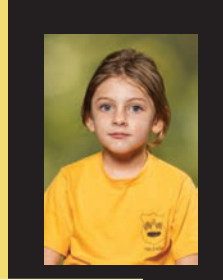
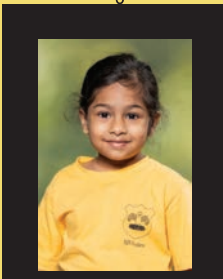
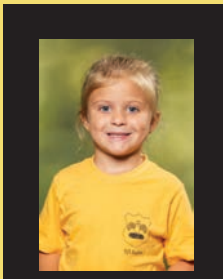
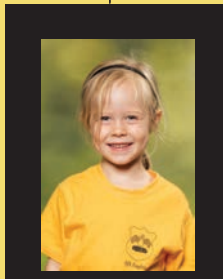
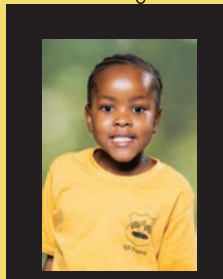
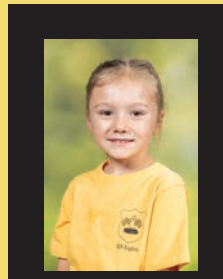
The year flew by in a blur of busy days and joyful learning. In Term 2, their love for reading blossomed as they explored Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes. The chant, "Run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!" became a playground soundtrack! Mr Gwala was even tasked with guarding their gingerbread biscuits during a lively baking activity. A visit from Hooked on Books – Wiggly and Wiggly further ignited their passion for stories and reading.

In Term 3, while learning about Living Things, the girls had hands-on experience of following the life cycle of a chicken. After a long 21-day wait, they watched with wide eyes as the eggs began to wiggle and tiny chicks pecked their way into the world. We were blessed with 15 fluffy visitors to care for before they returned to the farm.

We are so proud of how our Grade RR girls have grown into confident, independent and curious learners. The girls have begun to understand what it means to be a St John's D.S.G. girl – to be brave, kind, honest, wise, positive, and to never give up.

Well done, girls – what a wonderful start to your St John's D.S.G. journey!

What would you like to be WHEN YOU GROW UP?

Anna  A mermaid, so that I can live under the sea.	Arya  A doctor, because I like doctors, and I went to the doctor before when I was sick.	Azania  A policeman, so I can catch some baddies.	Daisy  An office girl like my mommy and work in a big office.	Harper  A mommy, because I want to cook.
Hayley  A helicopter pilot, because I like flying. I might open my window and try to eat the clouds.	Lucy  A farmer, because I want to grow cherries, mangoes and watermelon.	Lukhona  I want to be strong. I want to sleep in a big bed.	Okuhlekonke  A teacher, because it's nice to be a teacher.	Olivia  A doctor, so I can help people.
Saijal  A doctor to help mommies get their babies out of their tummies.	Scarlett-Rose  A doctor, so when my brother is sick, I can help him.	Sophie  A granny, so I can have sweets in the car every day.	Thingo  A builder, so that I can build houses.	Quinn  A teacher, because I like being a teacher.

Grade RR ART



Lucy



Daisy



Olivia



Saijal



Lukhona



Sophie



Okuhlekonke



Thingo



Scarlett-Rose



Anna



Arya



Hayley



Azania



Harper



Quinn

First DAY



HAPPY SNAPS





Welcome, Miss Coutts

In January, we welcomed Miss Coutts, who joined our St John's D.S.G. family as the new Grade R teacher. With her passion for early childhood education and her warm, nurturing approach, she has been a wonderful addition to our special Eaglets home.

Welcome to the family, Miss Coutts – we are so happy to have you with us!



Grade R

Back Row: N. Moola; T. Ntuli; L. Memela; Z. Vermaak; L. Mlonzi; A. Elston.
Seated: T. Ramoipone; B. De Jesus; Miss K. Coutts; L. Nipper; I. Meeding; Miss H. Trott; K. Dixon.
Front Row: R. Padayachee; H. Dunn; G. Akerman; Z. Ismail; E. Irons; Z. Vather; S. Ntuli; V. Rugunanan; Z. Hancocks.

The year began with wonderful energy as we welcomed new and returning families to our Eaglets campus. The Eaglets Brunch at the start of the year was filled with laughter, love and connection as families came together to celebrate new beginnings. Our first outing was to Scrummies to celebrate Valentine's Day, which brought with it joyful moments of play and learning with the boys – always a highlight.

With "Kindness" as our school theme, the girls truly embraced what it means to be kind – helping friends, sharing smiles, and offering hugs when needed. Determination and perseverance showed up in small but powerful moments such as tying shoelaces for the first time, solving puzzles and trying again when things felt tricky.

Learning was hands-on and full of fun. Baking days, messy play and sensory activities filled the classroom with laughter, sticky fingers and sweet memories.

One of the year's highlights was our Mini uHambo, where the girls built tents, roasted marshmallows, rode their bikes, and hiked to "Silver Streams" – a day rich in teamwork, adventure and bravery.

From day one, our Grade R girls arrived with wide eyes and open hearts, ready to explore. It has been a year filled with curiosity, courage and countless small victories as they stepped outside their comfort zones. Our classroom became a second home: warm, welcoming and full of friendship. Watching each girl grow and bloom has been a joy and a privilege.

As our Grade R girls spread their wings and step into "Big School," they do so with hearts full of kindness, minds full of wonder, and an eagerness to keep exploring.

What did you learn this year
THAT MADE YOU FEEL PROUD?

Gabriella

That I could do maths and know how to do even and odd numbers.

Brooklyn

That I could do homework, and I can do my sounds.

Kendall

That I could work on my own and help my friends.

Hope

That I could build 3D shapes and be a girl of character.

Alexis

That when I thought things were tricky, I tried again, and then it wasn't.

Zara H.

That when I fell, I just kept getting up and going again, even on my bike.

Emma

That I could build a tent at mini uHambo as part of a team.

Zara I.

That I could make new friends.

Isla

That I could do new sports.

Linomusa

That I could be kind and write letters, it was hard, but now it's fine.

Lizalise

That I could do new things and sleep in my own bed.

Noorah

That I could make cubes and learn about new things.

Lexi

That when I fall off the swing, I just try again.

Sithelo

That I could draw and read words like 'cat'!

Thingo

That I made new friends.

Rivasha

That I could hang upside down on the fireman's pole.

Vibha

That I really like Messy Day! I was scared, but then I had fun in the mud.

Tshephang

That I could do Time2Read. It was hard, but I could do it.

Zayanah

That I made a new friend, like Lino.

Zaylee

That I could make my body strong on the jungle gym and do the monkey bars.

INNOVATION CENTRE

Opening Art



Alexis

Brooklyn



Emma

Gabriella



Hope



Isla



Kendall



Lexi



Linomusa



Lizalise



Noorah



Rivasha



Sithelo



Thingo



Tshephang



Vibha



Zara H.



Zara I.



Zayanah



Zaylee



Inquiry-Based Learning Fun!

This year, our Grade R girls enjoyed exploring the wonderful world of animals in their Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) project. Each girl picked an animal from a hat and discovered exciting facts – like how penguins can't fly but are amazing swimmers, or how giraffes only sleep for a few minutes at a time!

With the help of their Grade 4 "big sisters," they created posters and shared their discoveries proudly. It was a joyful collaboration – proving that learning is always more fun when it's shared!



Eaglets' Special Moments



Mother's DAY

On Friday, 9 May, the Eaglets playground was abuzz with excitement as our youngest girls eagerly awaited the arrival of their moms for a heartwarming Mother's Day celebration.

From the moment they arrived, moms were showered with love, starting with beautifully painted portraits their daughters had created with such care. The joy continued with a shared picnic, where laughter, cuddles, and stories flowed freely.

Together, moms and daughters painted candles and carefully iced cupcakes, creating not only sweet treats but also treasured memories. It was a morning filled with love, connection and smiles all around.



Father's DAY

In June, our Eaglets enjoyed a special Father's Day celebration with their dads and father figures. From painting and playing soccer to simply spending quality time together!

A BIG "thank you" to all who joined us for such a meaningful morning!



Playground Transformation

The Eaglets' playground transformed into an even more vibrant and colourful space this year, thanks to the incredible talent of one of our very own dads, Keagan Dunn (dad to Eden and Hope). The brief was simple – colour and flowers – and Keagan certainly delivered! Some of our Eaglets were overjoyed to see the beautiful new mural and excitedly shared their thoughts with Mrs Bolland...

"It makes me feel loved!" **Lexi**

"The flowers make it feel like everyone is by my side." **Thingo**

"I got a BIG surprise." **Noorah**

"The flowers! The flowers are beautiful." **Hayley**

A BIG "thank you" to Keagan for bringing this magical vision to life!

EAGLETS Celebrate HERITAGE DAY

On Heritage Day, we celebrated the beautiful tapestry of cultures that make us who we are. Our diversity is our strength, and by honouring where we come from, we step boldly into the future together.



Messy PLAY!

When you hear excited voices shouting, "This is the best day ever!" and "We're having so much fun!" – you know it was a joyful and successful morning!

This year, our Eaglets learnt just how amazing their bodies are by exploring how they move, work and experience the world through their five senses. To wrap up this exciting topic, the Eaglets enjoyed a messy sensory play morning, giving the girls a hands-on way to explore and enjoy everything they've learnt!



In Term 2, our kind-hearted Eaglets took action to support animals in need by collecting blankets, tins, and pellets for PARR (Pet Animal Rescue and Rehoming). Their generosity and empathy made a real impact!



HATCHING New Friends

This year, our Eaglets had the best time learning all about the life cycle of chickens – from patiently waiting for the eggs to hatch, to cuddling (and carefully caring for!) the fluffiest little chicks. The girls discovered just how much joy – and responsibility – comes with nurturing new life.

One chick stole the show, lovingly nicknamed "Potato" because its egg looked just like one! What a special journey of curiosity, care, and growth... with plenty of giggles along the way.



JUNIOR Primary





Welcome, Mrs de Jager

In Term 3, St John's D.S.G. welcomed Mrs Chanie de Jager, who joined us as our new Grade 1 teacher. From day one, Mrs de Jager has brought big smiles, creative energy, and a whole lot of heart to the Grade 1 classroom. We are thrilled to have Mrs de Jager as part of our St John's D.S.G. family.



Grade One

Back Row: K. Jansen van Vuuren; N. Maharaj; G. Naidoo; M. Rodrigues; Y. Ndimande; D. Ojwach; R. Hancocks.
First Row: L. Peattie; I. Norton; T. Nipper; O. Cotchobos; K. Oberholzer.
Seated: L. Hagen; Miss S. Mazibuko; K. Patterson-Roberts; Z. Mbili; Mrs R. Freese; P. Thompson.
Front Row: G. Clark; I. Labuschagne; U. Mseleku; K-G. Pretorius; K. Desfontaines; M. David; E. Gordjin.
Absent: J. Mathonsi.

New classrooms, smiles, and skies so blue,
A year of learning, both bright and new.

With eager hearts and minds so keen,
Grade 1 began – a joyful scene!

With Mrs Freese to guide us from the start,
Her warmth and kindness touched each heart.

Then came a change when she retired,
A new teacher arrived, and we were inspired!

We carried on learning with courage and might,
Making each day a pure delight!

We learnt and laughed and grew so tall,
This year's been special for one and all.

We learnt to read and write with pride,
Sounding out words with friends by our side.

Each story shared, each sentence new,
Showed just how much we've learnt to do!

We met the Ugly and Little Five,
Exploring nature made us come alive!

We even made the Little Five with flair,
Using waffles, pretzels, and marshmallows to share!

On Den Day, we snuggled in cosy spaces,
With giggles and smiles on happy faces.

Through every twist, through change and cheer,
Our growth has shone throughout the year.

This year of growth was full of delight –
A time of courage, laughter, and light.

We'll always remember, with smiles so bright,
That Grade 1 has been a true delight.

What do you think Mrs Freese is doing with her time NOW THAT SHE IS RETIRED?



Gemma:

I think she
is reading or
snuggling with
her dog.

Olivia:

She is probably
taking her
dogs for a walk
every day.

Mia:

I think she
is sleeping.

Kennedy:

She went
to England,
but she is
back now, so
she is with
her family.

Emma:

I think she
goes to
Isobel's mom's
coffee shop
and drinks
milkshakes.

Lemé:

She is
protecting her
books from
strangers.

Rebecca:

I think she
walks in
her forest
every day.

Kendall:

She is probably
at home,
sleeping.

Nuha:

She must be
relaxing, or
maybe going
to the shops.

Jedidiah:

I think she is
having fun with
her family.

Zanda:

She is probably
walking with
her dog,
going to the
beach and
collecting
shells.

Kristin:

I think she
is just chilling
or farming.

Giuliana:

I think she
is having fun
resting
at home.

Yamihle:

I think she
is resting at
home and
having fun with
her family.

Tenley:

I think she
is probably
sitting on the
couch and
watching TV
or sleeping.

Ivy:

After going
to see her new
grandchild in
England,
she is sleeping
at home.

Katie-Grace:

I think she
is relaxing on
the couch.

Darlene:

I think she
is relaxing
at home.

Kelly:

She is
probably
relaxing and
chilling by
the pool.

Lavinia:

She is probably
just sitting
on the couch,
relaxing.

Philippa:

She said
she was going
to work at
a Bookshop.

Mila:

She is probably in a Library
scanning books, because
she loves books.

INNOVATION CENTRE

Opening Art



Darlene

Emma

Gemma

Giuliana

Isobel

Ivy



Jedidiah

Katie-Grace

Kelly

Kendall

Kennedy

Kristin



Lavinia

Lemé

Mia

Mila

Nuha

Olivia



Philippa

Rebecca

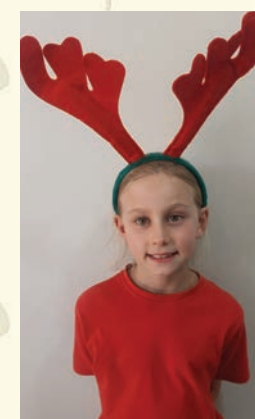
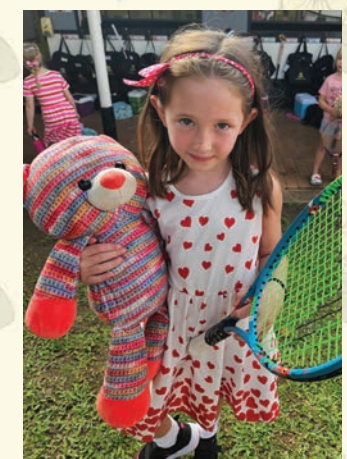
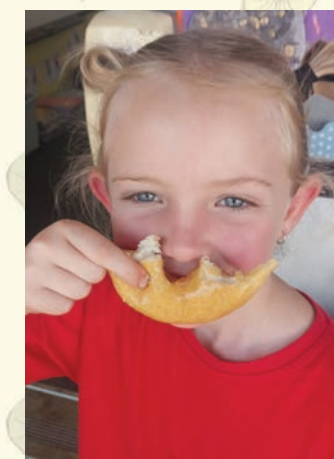
Tenley

Uminathi

Yamihle

Zanda

HAPPY SNAPS



GRADE 1s

Day Out...



In Term 2, the Grade 1s enjoyed a fun-filled morning of learning beyond the classroom! Their first stop was the charming new Hall Café in Howick, right next door to the Angels' Care Centre. Here, each girl confidently ordered and paid for her own drink, a lovely way to build independence and life skills.

Afterwards, they explored the nearby sensory garden and had loads of fun on the jungle gym before taking a stroll to admire the majestic Howick Falls.

The excitement continued as they hopped back on the school bus and headed to Everdon Estate – the home of Mrs Freese. After a quick snack, the girls set off on a scenic walk where they were thrilled to spot zebras, warthogs, and rows upon rows of avocado trees!

It was a wonderful day of discovery, laughter and making memories together.



Dad's and Daughter's Robotics EVENING

In Term 2, our Grade 1 dads were invited for a special evening of bonding, laughter, and all things robots! Held in our stunning new Innovation Centre, the night was packed with exciting robot-themed activities. The dads teamed up with their daughters to tackle some tricky robotics challenges – luckily, the girls knew exactly what to do! After all that brainpower, everyone enjoyed some well-earned pizza and toasted marshmallows.

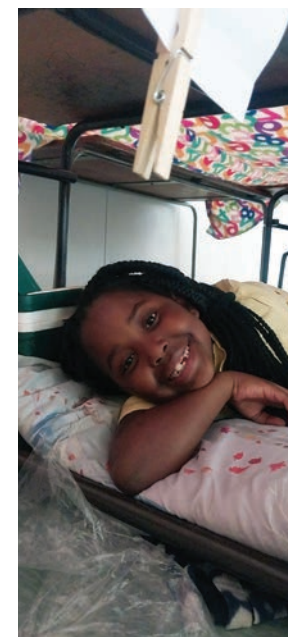


Den Day

In Term 3, the Grade 1s explored the theme The Ugly Five, diving into the wild world of some of Africa's most fascinating (though not always beautiful) animals. They learnt all about the quirks of the wildebeest, warthog and hyena, discovering what makes each one unique (and not so "ugly" after all!).

To bring their learning to life, the girls enjoyed a special Den Day. The classroom was transformed with blankets, pillows, and pegs as they built their own dens. They spent the day cosied up inside, reading, learning, playing, and sharing loads of fun.

It was a wonderfully imaginative way to explore animal life while also building a strong sense of classroom community.



Grade 1s ART MORNING

In Term 2, the Grade 1s enjoyed an inspiring art morning led by local artist Kerry Peckham. Set in a calm, creative space, the session offered a chance to slow down and explore art in a more mindful way. A BIG "thank you" to Kerry for bringing such warmth, encouragement, and inspiration to the girls.





Grade Two

Back Row: L. Liebenberg; M. Thomas; M. Dancer; S. Govender; G. MacDonald; G. Smith; E. Wilson; M. Watson.
Seated: J. Mohun; Mrs C. Stretch; A. Holley; F. Holley; Miss D. Erskine; H. Da Rosa.
Front Row: J. Somar; N. Syed; M. Konigkramer; E. Dunn; K. Jackson; R. Badenhorst.

Grade 2 has been a joyful year of learning, laughter, and exploration! From the first term, our classroom buzzed with excitement – especially during two memorable visits from Mrs Peckham, who inspired us with her knowledge of bees, the environment, and succulents. Our painted cacti became beautiful gifts for Mother’s and Father’s Day, each a little masterpiece of love.

The opening of the Innovation Centre was a highlight. Our collaborative painting was a showstopper, and the space quickly became a hub of imagination – filled with baking, making, creating, and joyful discovery. Our Inquiry-Based Learning projects were equally impressive: after deep research, we presented thoughtful work on bees and the Big Five, complete with eye-catching posters and detailed dioramas.

We celebrated 100-days of school dressed as little old ladies, visited our pen pals at St Charles College, and enjoyed a magical Dinosaur Morning, made even more special by the flowers gifted to us by the boys.

As the year ended, we proudly took part in the Nativity as shepherds caring for the Grade RR sheep, a heartwarming moment that brought smiles to all. We also spent a wonderful morning exploring Robotics with our SCC friends, tinkering, building, and collaborating – a perfect finale to a year filled with innovation, teamwork, and discovery.

Grade 2 has been a year of growth, grit, and giggles. We are proud of all we’ve achieved and excited for what awaits in Grade 3!

What was your favourite part of school this year?



Rachel Loving Mrs Stretch and Mrs Stretch loving me.	Makenzie Art, because it is challenging.	Harley Having Mrs Stretch as a teacher because she always makes it fun.	Eden Our diorama for the Big 5. It was fun because we got to do it ourselves.
Suvariya Learning about bees because they are so fun to learn about.	Anna The 100th day of school was so much fun because we got sweets.	Farrah When I made new friends.	Karigan My favourite part was the first day because I saw all my friends.
Mikayla The first day of school because it was new to me.	Lorelei Learning about the Big 5 because I love African animals.	Grace When Farrah was kind to me because she let me sit next to her.	Gabriella The play about having rights.
Jayana The performance at the end of the year because I like practising the moves.	Nur'ayn When we got the new art room.	Meekah When me, Kenzie and Harley went to the gala. It was such fun.	Emma Learning about the Big 5 was so much fun.

INNOVATION CENTRE

Opening Art



Rachel



Nur'ayn



Suvariya



Mikayla



Meekah



Makenzie



Lorelei



Karigan



Jayana



Harley



Grace



Gabriella



Farrah



Emma



Eden



Anna

HAPPY SNAPS



100-Days of Grade 2!



At the beginning of Term 2, our Grade 2s turned into 100-year-old grannies to celebrate 100 amazing days at school! From glasses perched on noses to cozy cardigans, they rocked the wisdom and charm of a century well-lived.



Outing to the Museum

In Term 4, our Grade 2 girls had a fantastic time visiting the Pietermaritzburg Museum. The girls explored fascinating exhibits, asked great questions, and discovered so many cool things. From the moment they stepped off the bus, everyone was buzzing with excitement and curiosity!





Grade Three



Back Row: A. Ngeleka; L. Meeding; S. Holley; L. Mbili; L. Fourie; C. Jansen van Vuuren.
First Row: T. Breytenbach; A. Schonborn; B. Hutton; A. O'Neill; R. Holzhausen; L. Cassim.
Seated: H. Moodley; J. Howells; T. Sinanin; Mrs A. Huntley; N. Marnitz; L. Ndlovu; K. Martens.
Front Row: C. Gordijn; L. Westhorpe-Pottow; A. Croeser; Z. Small; J. Santini.
Absent: T. Ayliffe.

This year has been one of growth, not just of minds but of hearts, too. The Grade 3s have embraced the 2025 Character Counts theme, finding meaningful ways to live it out in their daily lives.

A highlight was designing and creating their own ant farms as part of their Inquiry-Based Learning projects. Through this hands-on experience, the girls observed and recorded the life of an ant colony, learning how each ant has a special role and contributes to the community. It was a powerful reminder that, even as young girls, they can make a meaningful impact on their own communities.

Throughout the year, the girls learnt that their class is a team, and supporting one another is key to building a strong, caring community. Classroom discussions focused on kindness, fostering relationships and always seeking the best in each other.

Looking back on 2025, we see a group of girls who have grown into strong, kind and compassionate individuals. They are ready, not just for Grade 4, but for the world, bringing inclusion, support and care wherever they go. We couldn't be prouder of each Grade 3 girl and the character she has shown this year.

If you could create your own planet,

IN WHAT WAY WOULD IT BE DIFFERENT TO EARTH?

Tayla: On my planet, everyone shares and helps each other. When you pull petals off the flowers, they turn into lollipops.

Amani: On my planet, people would be kind to animals, they would not cut down trees, no one would get sick, and no one would die.

Layana: When you brush your teeth on my planet, it tastes like candy and you can fly. When a flower blooms, it blooms puppies.

Ava C.: Each morning on my planet, you send a heart bubble with a letter in it to a friend to thank them for being a lovely friend.

Louisa: Every day on my planet, the flowers would bloom. There would be animals surrounding you that can talk to you and feel your emotions.

Lucy M.: On my planet, everyone speaks Afrikaans and in every sentence they say 'dankie'. On my planet, adults also have six children each!

Chelsea: On my planet, everyone would be happy. The sand would glitter, the clouds would be candy floss and there would be magical animals.

Riley: My whole planet would be made from candy. The trees would be lollies, the rocks would be rock candy and the grass would be icing.

Bella: Every Sunday on my planet, people meet around a heart-shaped bush and give each other kind messages. Every second day, the sun turns blue and sings to you.

Hannah: On my planet, the clouds would be made of whipped cream, it would rain gummy bears and when there are tsunamis, instead of water, it would be a tsunami of sausage dogs.

Teija: My planet would be a forest filled with lush green grass, bugs and animals everywhere. The sun would shine like a rainbow, making the forest as colourful as can be.

Jamie: It would be different because my planet would be made from healthy candy. If you touch a tree, it will turn into a rainbow, and if you cry, your tears will vanish.

Kinsey: On my planet, the sea glows in the dark, the sky is red during the day and everyone is happy.

Cally: On my planet, there would be thousands of puppies and lots of ice cream.

Ava S.: On my planet, everyone is kind, the animals can talk and the ocean is made from bubble tea.

Julia: On my planet, everyone has a house and food and is just loved.

Lulonke: Every time there is thunder on my planet, it makes an echo saying 'Marshmallow! Marshmallow!'

Taela: On my planet, no one would litter, and everyone would help each other and be kind and caring.

Angelina: On my planet, instead of having mean people, I would always have kind, loving and generous people.

Sarah: On my planet, there would be no potholes, you could sleep as long as you liked and chickens would lay kinder joys.

Lukhona: I would have no trash anywhere on my planet and people would never cry because nobody would be mean or rude.

Nina: My planet would be edible. When it rains, it rains bits of chocolate and when it hails, it hails watermelon and passion fruit cubes.

Zara: On my planet, the tops of the trees would be softer than silk and the bark would smell like buttermilk. Everyone would be happy.

Lucy W.: My planet would have no cars or roads. There would be lots of trees and animals, and it would be a healthy environment.

INNOVATION CENTRE

Opening Art



Jamie



Lukhona



Bella



Kinsey



Hannah



Amani



Riley



Cally



Nina



Ava S.



Lulonke



Tayla



Zara



Chelsey



Julia



Ava C.



Taela



Sarah



Lucy W.



Lucy M.



Angelina



Teija



Louisa

HAPPY SNAPS



Benvie Gardens

In Term 4, our Grade 3 girls enjoyed a wonderful outing to Benvie Gardens, surrounded by the beauty of nature! The girls explored the lush gardens, admired the towering trees and vibrant flowers, and had fun playing and sharing a picnic in this peaceful setting.



“Charlotte’s Webb” DAY



A CREATIVE MORNING

at Zulu Lulu Art House

In Term 2, the Grade 3s enjoyed an exciting and creative morning at Zulu Lulu Art House, where they got to explore their artistic side by painting pottery. The bus ride there was filled with chatter and anticipation, and the excitement only grew as each girl carefully chose her special piece to paint.



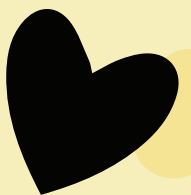
“Charlie AND THE Chocolate Factory” DAY



SENIOR Primary



all about heart • all about heart • all about heart





Grade Four



Back Row: K. Amos; R. Merrick; J. Greyling; R. Barath; S. Govender; L. Makhathini; S. Matshisi.
First Row: I. Metcalf; J. van Niekerk; H. Meter; Z. Zuma; A. Jones; H. Khan.
Seated: M. Dray; S. Singh; Mrs P. Nipper; T. Thompson; E. Rogers.
Front Row: B. Duba; G. Rajbally; C. Freese; A. Konigkramer; S. Strauss; A. Vermaak; H. Dawood.

This year, we were reminded that learning is never a straight line. There were moments when we stumbled, made mistakes, and had to try again, but each misstep became part of our story, helping us grow stronger, wiser, and more confident. The Grade 4 class embraced this beautifully through the 2025 Character Counts theme, which became a golden thread woven through so many of our experiences.

As part of our Science curriculum, the girls explored Structures and Materials, designing and building their own bridges with creativity and determination. They also shopped up a storm (armed

with just R20 each), learning the real value of money and gaining insight into how many South Africans live day to day. Their adventures continued as they visited Cordwalles forests, and danced the night away with their moms at a joyful Grade 4 and Grade 5 Mother's and Daughter's Dance evening.

Through it all, we hoped to carry forward the courage to keep learning, the patience to embrace mistakes, and the understanding that growth happens in many directions. Sometimes we need to go backwards to go forwards, but even if the path is not always linear, it always guides us to where we are meant to be.

If you could time travel back TO ANY MOMENT FROM GRADE 4, what would it be?

Lubanzi

To our class movie day! I love watching movies and eating snacks.

Taylor

Right back to Day 1 of Grade 4, so I can do it all again with Mrs Nipper.

Riley

To our overnight camping trip! It was the BEST!

Sienna

To Zuivergoud Farm camping trip. What an amazing experience.

Alia

Jumping into the freezing cold water on our camp. We were all so brave.

Jané

Back to Term 3. I love playing Soccer and Tennis with my friends.

Huda K.

Back to Term 2 so that I can try to make A team for Hockey. I have worked hard.

Huda D.

Movie day was so cool. I loved spending time with ALL my friends.

Samaiya

Our Spar shopping experience. I wish we could do it again.

Luthando

Trying the new food on camp. It was the best day of my life.

Kendall

Packing food for Rise Against Hunger. It made my legs tired but my heart full.

Bonolo

I loved the new experience of camping at Zuivergoud Farm.

Ziyanda

I enjoyed learning new things. I love Grade 4!

Gia

Camp was the best. I can't wait to do it again in Grade 5!

Julia

Seeing my granny when she came to visit!

Chelsea

The treasure hunt at the Voortrekker Museum. That was fun!

Saihariya

Being with my friends and all the memories that we made.

Abigail

I want to start Grade 4 all over again! The best year EVER!

Hayley

Tangling my brother's fishing line on camp. That made me laugh.

Izzie

I loved trying to shop for food with R20. We learnt so much.

Emily

Making new friends on camp. This helped me a lot.

Abby

Trying new things. Mrs Nipper challenges us to always try first.

Michaelah

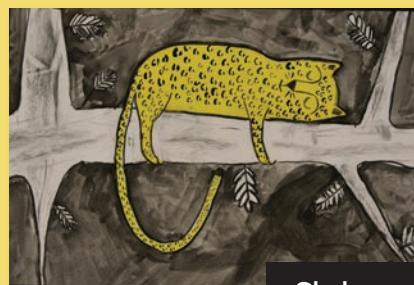
I loved shopping in Spar. This was a happy memory.

Raya

Grade 4 has been amazing. It is hard to choose just one memory.

INNOVATION CENTRE

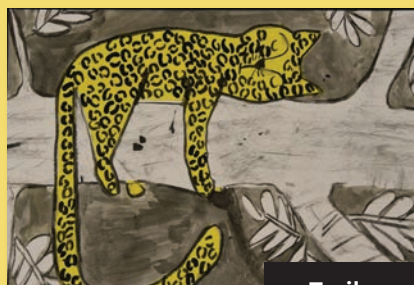
Opening Art



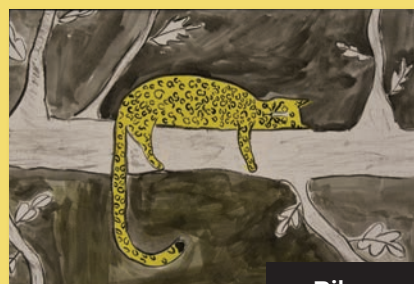
Chelsea



Samaiya



Emily



Riley



Abigail



Kendall



Raya



Lubanzi



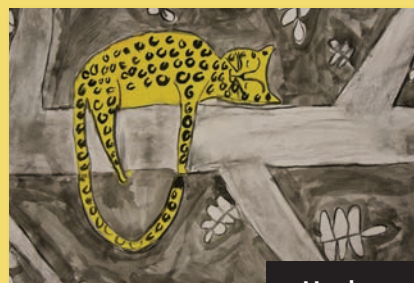
Bonolo



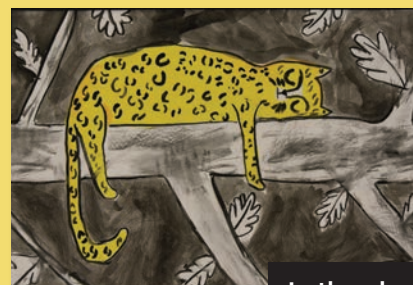
Gia



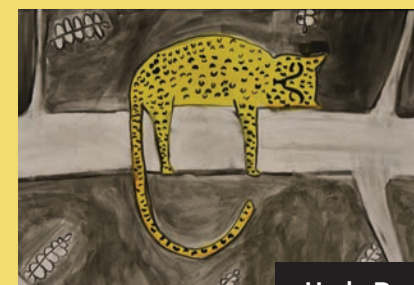
Huda K.



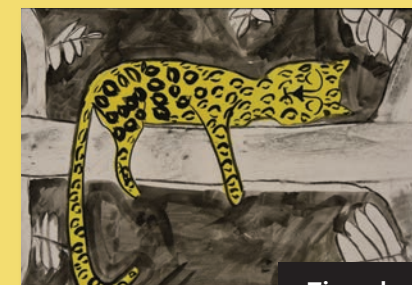
Hayley



Luthando



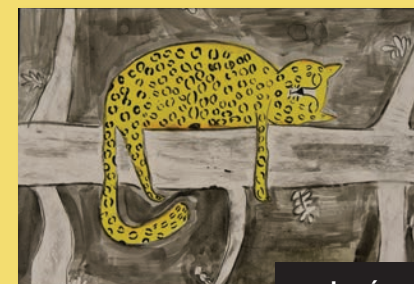
Huda D.



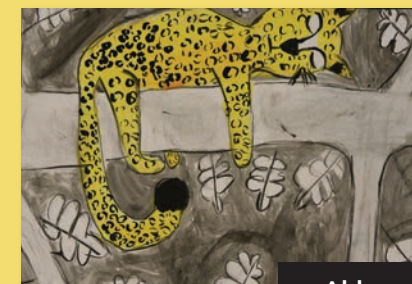
Ziyanda



Sienna



Jané



Abby



Taylor



Julia



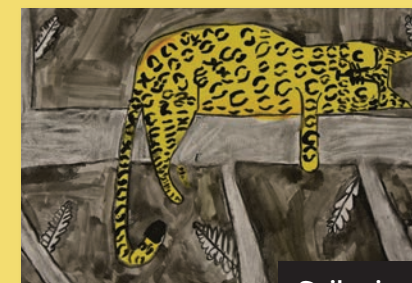
Alia



Izzie



Michaelah



Saihariya

HAPPY SNAPS



Creative Minds AT WORK

In Term 1, our Eaglets and Grade 4s teamed up to put their imagination and problem-solving skills to the test as they planned and designed their dream homes!

It was a fantastic opportunity for the Eaglets to bond with their older sisters, and the excitement was contagious as ideas flowed and unique structures took shape. From cosy cottages to futuristic mansions, their creativity knew no bounds!

Both the Grade 4s and Eaglets had a blast working together and proudly showcased their incredible designs. What a special time of learning, laughter, and teamwork!



A Spirit of Service

After learning about the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, our Grade 4 girls chose to spend their 67 minutes on Mandela Day by giving back in a meaningful way. Armed with gloves and big hearts, they set out to collect litter around the school, doing their part to care for the environment and honour Madiba's spirit of service. A small act with a big impact – well done, girls!



R20 SHOPPING SPREE

In Term 4, the Grade 4s had an absolute blast on their shopping spree, armed with just R20 each, to feed themselves for the day! Many quickly discovered that teaming up and pooling money was a clever strategy – though a few disagreements along the way definitely added to the fun. There were some interesting purchases, lots of laughter and plenty of learning in the process.

The feedback from the girls was most insightful. Julia says, “My husband will have to do all the shopping one day”, and Emily now knows what parents have to deal with as “trying to please everyone is hard!”



BRIDGE Building

In Term 4, as part of their Science curriculum, the Grade 4s explored the topic of Structures and Materials. They were lucky enough to learn from Mrs Ingrid Evans, one of our Senior School teachers and a qualified bridge engineer!

Mrs Evans introduced the girls to different types of bridge structures before challenging them to design and build their own bridges using just 24 skewers and a pot of glue!

The results were seriously impressive! Abigail and Huda K’s winning bridge held an incredible 25kg without breaking, and congratulations to Chelsea and Raya, whose bridge won Best Bridge By Design!

Alia & Zee	16.5 kg
Mics & Saihariya	3.5 kg
Abby J & BB	4.5 kg
Raya & chelsea	11 kg
Taylor & Janè	23 kg
Hayley & Izzie	4 kg
Julia & Samaiya	14 kg
Abby k & Huda k	25 kg*
Sisi & Emily	4 kg
Riley & Lulu	10.5 kg
Kendall & Huda D.	2 kg
Gia & Lubanzi	6.5 kg



Trip to the BOTANICAL GARDENS

In Term 4, the Grade 4s enjoyed a beautiful morning at the Botanical Gardens! They spent time together collecting pinecones, playing games and reading under the trees. This was a perfect way to celebrate the end of our special year together.



Cordwalles VISIT



Moms, Daughters, AND DANCING SHOES

In Term 3, the Junior School hosted a Grade 4 and 5 Mom’s and Daughter’s Evening – and it was such fun! The Dance Warehouse joined them for an energetic dance session and it was wonderful to see our moms and daughters enjoying a special time together while showing off their moves.





Grade Five

Back Row: L. Duma; C. van Huyssteen; E. Garvin; Y. Saeed.
Second Row: A. Shezi; B. Loni; N. Ojwach; L. Mncube; M. Neumann.
First Row: M. Rouse; M. le Roux; A. O'Neill; Q. Jama; S. Rodrigues; G. Steyn.
Seated: E. Parsons; Miss M. Moolman; M. Waring; Mrs K. Jansen van Vuuren; A. Devsuran.
Front Row: S. Ndaba; T. Jele; A. Variawa; P. Bell; A. Peattie; K. Mbele.

What a special year it has been in Grade 5! The girls have approached every challenge and opportunity with such positivity, curiosity, and, most of all, a smile.

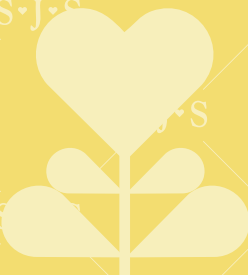
This year, our focus on Character Counts has been more than just a theme – it's become part of who these girls are. They've worked hard to grow into girls of character: kind, responsible, respectful, and resilient. It has been a privilege to watch their friendships deepen, their confidence grow, and their care for one another shine through.

We've shared so many memorable learning experiences – from our much-anticipated trip to Zuivergoud Farm, to the joyful moments spent with our friends at Cordwalles Prep, and of course, the excitement and success of our Market Day. Each moment has brought learning to life and reminded us how much can be achieved through teamwork, creativity and enthusiasm.

May this special group of girls continue to ask questions, stay curious, and approach life with the same zest and joy they have shown throughout this year. The future is bright!

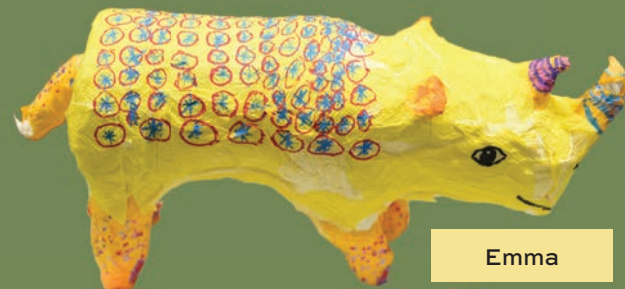
What have you discovered about yourself this year?

Paitin That I can do anything I set my mind to.	Adhya That I am not as shy as I used to be.	Langelihle That kindness is contagious. If I'm kind to someone, something good happens to me.	Ella I have learnt to believe in myself and try, even though it's hard sometimes.	Qhama That I make a lot of mistakes, but it is ok, because I can always get back up and try again.
Thandolwethu That I can be brave, even if it is my greatest fear.	Mieke That I am brave. I don't like being away from home, and I spent a night out on our Grade 5 outing.	Bukhobenkosi That I am a really good artist.	Khwezi That I need to take a breath before trying to resolve a conflict or a misunderstanding.	Senzelwe That I am a girl of character.
Luhle That I do things differently from other people, and that I should just focus on myself.	Mackenzie That I like reading!	Neliza That I have a passion for swimming, and that I love swimming competitively.	Ariane That being me is the most important thing, and I just have to trust myself.	Yumna That I am growing more confident each day!
Emma That I can do anything I put my mind to.	Amelia That I am very helpful.	Sophia I have learnt to focus on myself.	Michaela That I really like Afrikaans!	Melissa That small gifts, that don't cost anything, can make a person's day.
Ayize That I really like English as a subject.	Georgia That whatever I put my mind to, I can do it. I believe in myself.	Caitlin That I love writing.	Aleena That my marks don't define me. I am who I am.	



INNOVATION CENTRE

Opening Art



Emma



Khwezi



Amelia



Senzelwe



Caitlin



Thandolwethu



Luhle



Melissa



Adhya



Paitin



Ayize



Sophia



Mackenzie



Michaela



Bukhobenkosi



Georgia



Neliza



Mieke



Qhama



Ella



Aleena



Ariane



Langelihle



Yumna

Adventure, Teamwork AND OUTDOOR FUN!

This year, the Grade 5s enjoyed an unforgettable morning at the Cordwalles Outdoor Education Centre, packed with adventure, teamwork, and hands-on learning! Despite the heat, the girls dived into the fun – tackling map challenges, navigating the forest and exploring the incredible biodiversity around them.

It was the perfect way to bring their Natural and Social Science lessons to life with learning, laughter and a little bit of wilderness magic!



MARKET DAY



Egypt DAY

This year, the Grade 5s had been counting down the days to Egypt Day, and it was everything they hoped for and more! They were thrilled to share the experience with the Grade 5 boys from Cordwalles Prep, making the day even more special.

From baking Egyptian mummies to solving ancient Maths problems and coding robotic cars to travel around Egypt, the activities were both fun and full of learning. It was a day filled with excitement, teamwork, and creativity, one that will definitely be remembered as a highlight of the year!



Zuivergoud Farm

This year, the Grade 4 and 5s enjoyed an unforgettable outdoor adventure at Zuivergoud Farm. Excitement was high as the girls arrived, ready for a day (and night) in nature. They pitched their own tents (some more enthusiastically than others!) and embraced the challenge of sleeping under the stars.

The experience was filled with opportunities to learn, laugh, and grow together. The girls made new friends and discovered the importance of teamwork and leadership. They stepped out of their comfort zones and learnt valuable skills. They were also treated to a morning in the dairy, learning about how milk is produced and the care and dedication that goes into farm life.



Mom's and Daughter's EVENING





Grade Six

Back Row: N. Xamsana; G. Mazzei; L. Newell; D. Sookdeo.
Second Row: I. McKenzie; E. McKenzie; M. Mkondweni; Q. Holley; C. Butler.
First Row: A. Phillips; S. Bhamjee-Haffejee; A. Dray; P. Ndlazilwana; J. Tsebe; L. Moodley.
Seated: A. Kirsten; C. Speed; G. McCleary; Mrs L. Usher; N. Pillay; H. Hugo.
Front Row: S. Govender; U. Singh; A. Nel; A. Green.

This year, our Grade 6 girls embraced the theme of “Spread Your Wings and Fly, Butterfly”... a call to grow in independence, courage, and collaboration. As the workload grew heavier and the challenges a little tougher, the class leaned into the idea that we are better together – a message beautifully captured in our assembly song by Jeremy Loops.

From facing fears at Spirit of Adventure to building trust at El Olam, exploring wetlands, baking in our new

kitchen, and teaching little ones at Fairleigh Primary, the girls stepped out of their comfort zones and into new experiences. Science experiments in the new lab, fun Maths challenges, and cosy movie nights added to the joy and learning.

Through it all, the girls supported one another, grew in confidence, and discovered the strength of teamwork. It was a year of transformation, and now, with wings spread wide, they’re ready to soar into Grade 7.

WHAT METAMORPHOSIS HAVE YOU UNDERGONE THIS YEAR to “grow your wings” for Grade 7 and the future?

Sabine I learnt to handle things on my own and manage my homework without needing a search party to find my planner!	Chelsey I “spread my wings” at camp when, even though I was scared, I overcame my fear of heights, and now it is not so bad anymore.	Annah This year, I came from a very small school to St John’s D.S.G. Making new friends was really hard, but when I did, it was amazing. Friends are the most important part of school.	Shreya I have become more confident in myself and my abilities, especially when I got to perform an amazing role in the play “Annie” this year.	Ava G. During the production of “Annie”, I developed confidence and self-expression... even though I didn’t play a speaking character.
Quinn I learnt that I am not alone and that even though I don’t choose what happens in life, I can pick my attitude.	Abigail I learnt to “spread my wings” on the Hockey tour to Bloemfontein. I had to make my bed, brush my teeth, pack my bag and make sure that I had everything for the day ahead.	Gabriella I faced my fears head-on at the Grade 6 camp. I completed these challenges with determination, and it made me feel stronger.	Georgia The exchange to St Piran’s taught me independence and took me out of my comfort zone.	Leyah I have grown more responsible and have focused on doing my best in everything I do.
Ava N. I realised how privileged I am. After our class trip to Fairleigh Primary, I understood how much I have and how little those children had, and it taught me to stop complaining about little things.	Phupha I have become more confident, kind, empathetic and understanding. I am an improved version of myself.	Loveday My exchange to St Piran’s taught me independence. I made incredible memories.	Atarah I learnt that making mistakes is ok. I have become independent, and I faced many fears at Spirit of Adventure.	Nihara I “spread my wings” at Spirit of Adventure when I went through the snake pit after saying I would never do it.
Urjavi I have become more mature and mindful of others.	Diya I have learnt to believe in myself more, and am ready to soar into next year with a positive mindset.	Chloe My wings have grown stronger with all the things God has thrown at me.	Jennet I stepped out of my comfort zone by doing things like abseiling. My wings have grown as I have become braver.	Ntando I learnt that if I want to accomplish anything, I need to work for it. For example, I improved in piano from practising consistently.





HAPPY SNAPS



St Piran's EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

In May, two of our Grade 6s, Georgia and Loveday, along with Ms Evans, left on an exciting two-week exchange programme to St Piran's School in England to join up with their exchange partners for the second half of the programme. Earlier in the year, we had the pleasure of hosting two of their students, Darcey and Grace.

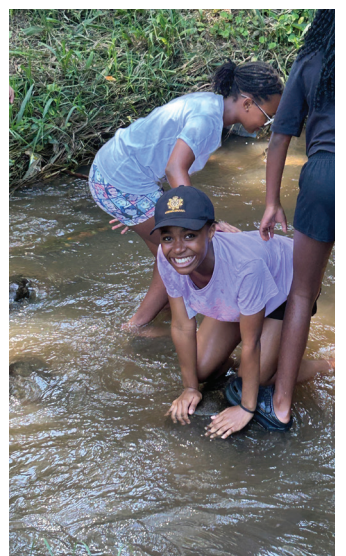


Celebrating World Wetlands Day

The Botanical Gardens is a hidden nature wonderland right in the middle of our big city. The class had a magnificent school trip there to explore a wetland. This formed part of our Term 1 Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) project, where we learnt about the role these fascinating ecosystems play and the importance of preserving and protecting them. A wetland is a place where the land is covered by water, so, yes, it can be a bit muddy. (Thankfully, there was no quicksand!) We learnt that wetlands help to clean water by filtering it through sand and rocks, and the reeds and grasses trap rubbish. Wetlands help to slow down flooding as they can absorb water like a sponge and release it again in a dry season. They help our economy by providing tourism opportunities – people like to visit them, and

the plants can be used to make items to sell and also medicines. Our guide from GroundTruth showed us how to test the water health by doing a MiniSASS assessment. We caught all sorts of little bugs, worms, crabs and other creatures and looked at them under magnifying glasses. We also learnt to test how clear the water is, using a clarity tube, and we measured the strength of the current with a velocity plank. After that, we got to explore the river. It was so much fun and we got absolutely soaked! The gardens were very relaxing, and there was plenty of room to run and sit and chat with our friends. It was very clean and beautifully maintained by the staff there. Going to the Botanical Gardens was a great experience!

Sabine, Atarah and Ntando



Baking Cookies IN THE INNOVATION CENTRE



Baking cookies is always so much fun, but eating what you make is even better! As a class prize for having had the most parents attend a talk on online usage, we chose to bake cookies in the new Innovation Centre kitchen.

The yummy smell of baking flooded our noses and made our mouths water. We used a simple vanilla cookie recipe and then drizzled icing and sprinkles on top of the heart shapes. Although we got to sample our final results, these cookies were for the children of Fairleigh Primary School in Eston, and they created big smiles on the little children's faces.

Annah and Gabriella



Trumpet AND VUVUZELA

What most of the school doesn't know is that the Grade 6s had a little family of hadedas nesting in the branches right outside the classroom. We were lucky enough to watch Holler and Hoot (the parents) hatch two clutches of eggs. It was only when the second batch hatched that we decided to name them. The class voted and settled on the names Trumpet and Vuvuzela for the baby birds. We found out that hadedas mate for life and that they build their nests in the forks of large trees, 4-5 meters above the ground (a perfect spot for us to view them from our first floor window!). We got to watch Trumpet and Vuvuzela grow and learn from their parents. Very sadly, when we returned from a half term, Mrs Usher had to break the news to us that Vuvuzela had fallen from the nest. Our depression from having to return to school after half term was now doubled – we called it "Vuvusadness!" Luckily, Trumpet grew strong and soon flew the nest to begin his journey as one of the most annoying birds in the universe!

Quinn



Waste-to-Toys Workshop

Our Grade 6 Waste-to-Toys Workshop with Singakwenza was fun, interesting and exciting! We learnt a lot about the different stages of brain development, which helped us to understand how children's brains grow. The best game we played was using balls which we made out of bread and netlon bags. It was so much fun!

This was the introduction to one of our Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) projects and, inspired by what we learnt from Mrs Hay. Mrs Usher then challenged us to design and make our own educational toys for pre-school children out of recycled waste materials.

Overall, it was an amazing experience which combined learning, creativity and fun!

Leyah, Diya and Shreya



Spirit OF Adventure



Spirit of Adventure was a wonderful place to make memories and explore each other's personalities, strengths and weaknesses. We were involved in exciting activities like abseiling, kayaking, walking up a steep hill, orienteering, walking up a steep hill, obstacle course, walking up a steep hill, and a very scary snake pit! Did we mention the steep hill? Although we aren't the best chefs, we managed to make a delicious potjie together around a warm, crackling fire. All in all, we had an amazing adventure and will remember this experience forever!

Chloe, Ava G. and Abigail



Visit to Fairleigh Primary



This outing was absolutely amazing! We learnt so many life lessons – like kindness, patience and communicating with children who spoke a different language. The purpose of our visit was to "try out" the educational toys which we had made as part of our Term 2 Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) project. We had to be able to teach a skill: language, mathematical or physical, creating games using recycled waste. Some games involved memory, reading letters and symbols, and teaching simple English words. Another fun part of the visit was that we had a Netball match against the Fairleigh senior primary girls. It was a tense match and they were awesome! Unfortunately, we lost. We also played Soccer against the boys. We ended the morning by handing out the cookies which we had baked at school. The class enjoyed every second of the experience and would love to do it all over again! We learnt to appreciate what we have and we loved meeting and playing with the little children who were so cute and shy. It was definitely an outing to remember!

Urjavi, Jennet and Chelsey



Grade Seven

Back Row: K. van Huyssteen; M. Schalkwyk; M. Kyle; A-L. Mulder.
Second Row: M. Bishop; J. Dent; C. Hart; I. Green; A. Cele.
First Row: K. Singh; T. Bridgmohan; Z-J. Neumann; Z. Mohamed; Y. Khan; U. Kunene.
Seated: F. Holley; A. Gowa; Mrs K. Anderson; N. Malevu; E. Cole-Edwardes.
Front Row: K. Deonundhan; Z. Dlamini; T. Harrilall; S. Ngcobo.

The Grade 7s started off the year by being inducted as leaders, which included an application and interview process, which proved quite daunting for some. Besides this, they have proved to be most able in performing the duties of House Leaders in Cross Country, where they taught the younger grades various cheers, helped run a Fun Gala and confidently guided the younger girls in Family Groups.

Classwork has included lots of Poetry, many reading challenges, and a plethora of scientific investigations where they have donned lab coats and even made their own indicators. Thrown into this, they have designed their hoodies, dressed up for Book and Heritage Day, filled food packages for Rise Against Hunger, contributed

to an amazing Junior School Art piece and auditioned for the "Annie. Jr" production. An overnight stay at Spirit of Adventure and a day trip to El Olam were enjoyed with their Grade 6 sisters. On these outings, lots of teamwork was encouraged, and many conquered fears of heights by abseiling down the dam wall.

As we know, food always plays an important role in any Grade 7's life, and they created their own "solar cookers", cooked s'mores and successfully baked delicious brownies. Amongst all this activity, they have even moved classrooms and recently painted an amazing mural, guided by Carrie Bennet, in the new Grade 7 courtyard. These fine, young ladies are ready to meet the challenges of high school.

Why is reading MORE THAN JUST the words on a page?

Isabella

Reading helps with comprehension and spelling.

Jocelyn

It takes you places without you actually being there.

Keira

You use your imagination more when you read.

Nongcebo

It boosts your vocabulary and uses your imagination.

Sthabile

Those words tell a story. It teaches us new things and could even help us with real life incidents.

Kimia

Reading helps you have a bigger imagination and different interpretations of things.

Andrea

It can be emotional, you can really feel it, and it can mean something different to what it actually says.

Unathi

Reading is about imagining yourself in a different world and experiencing different adventures.

Tyhira

It is telling you a story, and you have to understand it to make sure you know what is happening.

Zahra

When you read, you use your imagination. It is like writing a movie inside your head.

Yusra

The words have a meaning behind them. That is why you have to read with understanding.

Temika

A passage in a story can tell you something you want to know. Understanding is best!

Maya

The words on the paper are used so that you can see and understand the story.

Zanothando

It tells you a story, it transports you to a different world where you get to escape reality.

Lizzie

It tells a story.

Carla

The words tell a story, they teach a lesson, and they can guide us in what we do.

Maeve

There is a deeper message behind the meaning of words.

Fenn

Reading makes you imagine what the story in the book is telling you.

Zoë-Jayne

It is being able to read between the lines and understand what hasn't been written, and being able to create a picture of what is happening.

Meghan

It can teach you lessons and new things.

Amy-Lee

It is about the story that is being told.

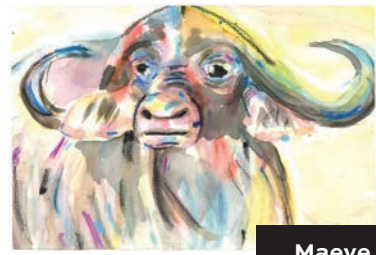
Kyra

It takes us to a new world of imagination.

Khwezi

They create stories in your imagination.

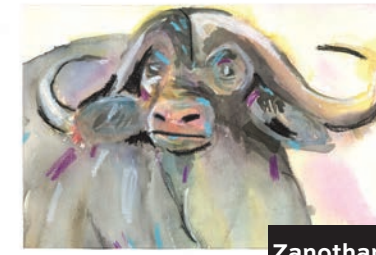
INNOVATION CENTRE Opening Art



Maeve



Carla



Zanothando



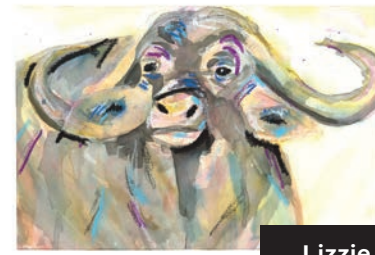
Fenn



Unathi



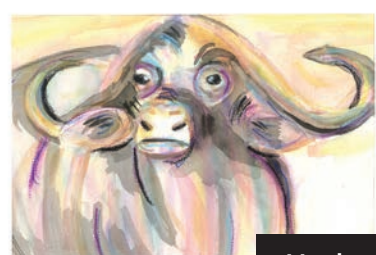
Amy-Lee



Lizzie



Sthabile



Meghan



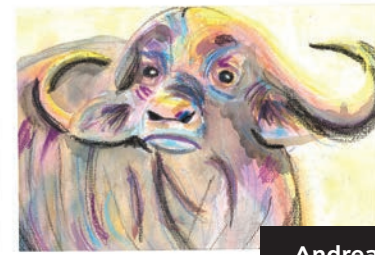
Jocelyn



Keira



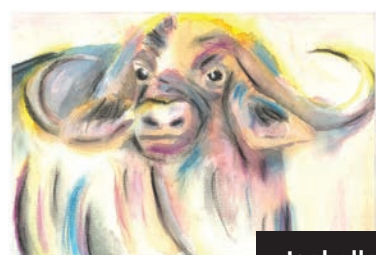
Zahra



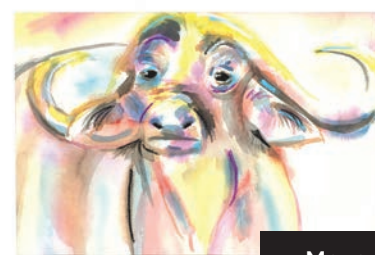
Andrea



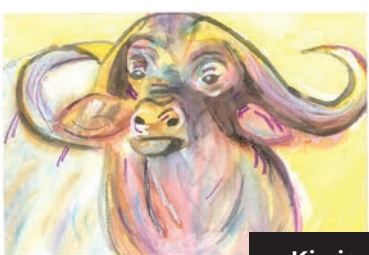
Yusra



Isabella



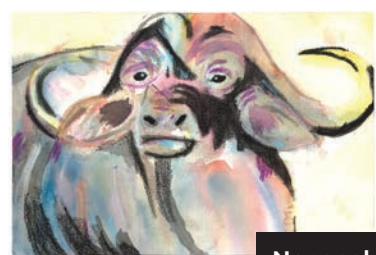
Maya



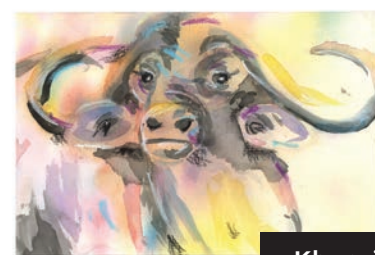
Kimia



Temika



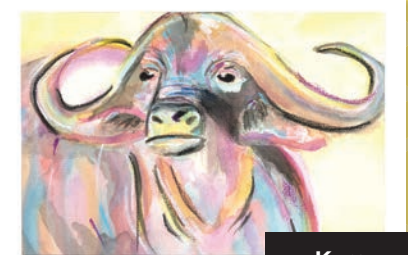
Nongcebo



Khwezi



Tyhira



Kyra



Grade 7 Hoodies



GRADE 7 Poems: NORTHERN LIGHTS

Astonishing Lights

Interesting phenomena
Flowing with waves of wonder
As they perform their dances
Through the sky
Changing from one shade to another
Illuminating colours
Painting the deep blue canvas
As the reflection bounces back
From the crystal waters
Blinding my eyes
Vivid, bright, ombre streaks
Strike through the night sky
Like a spectacular fire
Burning with a chandelier
Lighting the atmosphere
With burning, astonishing lights.

Zahra, Sthabile, Maeve and Lizzie

The Auroras

Vibrant colours splash the sky,
Painting it like a canvas
Waiting to be brought to life.

Many believe the fire fox is responsible,
For this captivating eclipse.

The stunning lights blind me with their beauty,
As they gracefully twirl past like a ballerina.

This event calms all who watch,
Creating a glorious atmosphere.

The vibrant colours catch my eye,
As they spiral by.

Visible from space,
Allowing even astronauts
To enjoy the memorable moment.

As the lights disappear,
Almost as fast as they appeared
I realise I will remember this moment forever.

Carla, Zoë-Jayne, Amy-Lee and Keira

The Dancing Skies

They are eye-catching.
The vibrant colours with their angelic movements leave me amazed!
They are like pills of pigment waiting to be released.

The waves are like colours on a blank canvas,
Each stroke merging into one body of light.

The colours soar!
The mystical fire fox stalks across the night sky,
Leaving behind a celestial trail.

Their unique hues flow gently through the deeply coloured atmosphere.
Their flashes of fluorescent green light up the sky like a torch.
This natural display is worth the travel.

'The Dancing Skies' is definitely a rare and attractive sighting to remember!

Kimia, Kyra, Andrea, Tyhira and Fenn

The Aura of the Aurora

Vibrant colours of the aurora
Shimmer in the night
Blinding every eye
Colours of azalea, maroon, emerald, royal blue and scarlet
Dance across the sky
Its fluorescent, vivid, ombre glow mesmerising many
As I stride past
Splashes of colour
Are ethereal and immaculate
The Northern Lights tumble like waves of the ocean
Hues collide
Forming a stunning swirl of colour
The lights leap through the sky
Like a ballerina.

Temika, Meghan, Maya, Zanothando and Unathi

The Rare Sighting

Eyes glow, smiles spread, and whispers grow
Atmospheric Christmas lights illuminate the sky
What are they?
Where did they come from?
Is it a fire in the sky?
Or are they multi-coloured earthworms?
Perhaps it's a massive ribbon of vibrant colours blowing in the wind
Or a river flowing beside the clouds
Strokes of glow-in-the-dark paint hover above us
Rays of luminescence dance and play hide-and-seek with the clouds
Emerald, aqua and crimson layers of wonder snake through the thermosphere
Each colour grips the attention of every living creature
They stand in awe, glaring at the rare sighting
For this
Is the beauty of the Northern Lights
Aurora Borealis – the glamorous light phenomena.

Yusra, Khwezi, Isabella, Nongcebo and Jocelyn

CLASS of 2025

♥
Amy-Lee



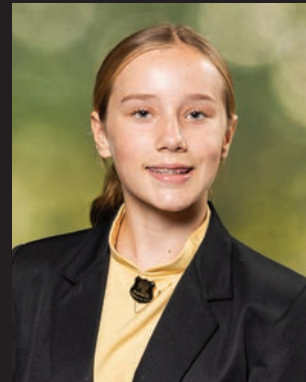
♥
Andrea



♥
Carla



♥
Fenn



♥
Isabella



♥
Jocelyn



♥
Keira



♥
Khwezi



♥
Kimia



♥
Kyra



♥
Lizzie



♥
Maeve



CLASS of 2025

♥
Maya



♥
Meghan



♥
Nongcebo



♥
Sthabile



♥
Temika



♥
Tyhira



♥
Unathi



♥
Yusra



♥
Zahra



♥
Zanothando

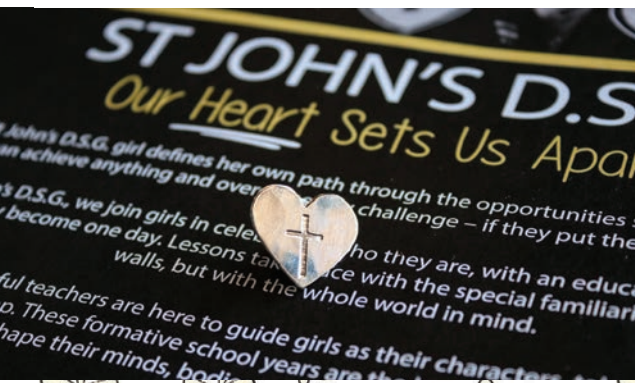


♥
Zoë-Jayne



LEADERSHIP Blessing

In Term 1, the Grade 7s celebrated a special "Leadership Blessing," marking a significant milestone in their Junior School journey. The girls received a beautiful silver heart and pledged to lead with kindness and integrity. Each parent then had the heartfelt honour of pinning the badges onto their daughter's dress, making the moment extra special.



TEA WITH Mr Moore

Tea, treats, and terrific conversations!

In Term 1, our Grade 7s enjoyed a special tea with Mr Moore, where they got a sneak peek into life in the St John's D.S.G. Senior School.

With plenty of questions, treats, and laughter, it was a morning to remember! A wonderful mix of curiosity, connection and cake – what could be better?



Energy BLAST

While learning about energy in their Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) project, the Grade 7s took part in a little healthy competition. The first task was "Keeping the Light On", where the girls had to use pedal power to keep the light glowing. This resulted in Jocelyn being crowned "Queen of the Stairs." The girls then became more competitive with "The Great Elastic Challenge", which saw the need to convert potential energy to kinetic energy. After a few heats, the runners up were Isabella and Lizzie, with Zahra being inaugurated as the overall champion.



Reading IS IMPORTANT

This year, to encourage reading, the girls were enticed with a reward of a cupcake if they completed a book before the end of Term 1. The girls (and parents!) were then given the ultimate challenge to read a further two books, which resulted in a fun Parent and Daughter Quiz Evening. Congratulations to team 'Litereight' for taking the title of 2025 Book Masters.



THE Mural

The Grade 7s completed an art piece, designed by Carrie Bennet. This mural forms part of the new Grade 7 garden.

Well done, Grade 7s! It looks amazing.



HAPPY SNAPS



Spirit OF ADVENTURE

What did you love about Spirit of Adventure?

Zanothando – (The Hill or as some named it Mt Everest) Walking up the hill was the hardest part. The walk down the hill was so easy and fun, that I thought the walk up wouldn't be too bad, boy was I wrong. The walk felt like a treadmill, never ending, it was a non-stop torture chamber. As we walked, I felt my skin trickling with sweat and the soles of my feet burned as I pushed forward.

Yusra – We walked down to Shongweni Dam wall for our second activity – abseiling. I could hardly contain my excitement! After a quick safety talk and harness check, I stood at the top, looking at the long drop, and the incredible view of the luscious foliage around us. It was a bit nerve-racking going down backwards, but my friends cheering me on, made it an unforgettable experience.

Zoë-Jayne – We went rafting and swam in the FREEZING dam! We paddled, we raced, we swam and Keira dunked me!

Maya – Next was my personal favourite activity, the snake pit. While heights terrify me, I have no problem with small, enclosed, pitch-black spaces. I couldn't see my hand two inches away from my face, so it was a given that I crashed into a lot of walls, especially since I was in front. I had to lie flat on my stomach and feel my way out.

Sthabile – Stalk the Lantern was one of my favourite games that we played. The objective was to find the lantern before everyone else did. It wasn't as easy as it sounded because while we were trying to find the lantern the leaders would shine the torches in our direction and if we moved, while they were blinding us, you would have to travel back to base. That game had many memories and there were funny moments that Khwezi and I witnessed. Khwezi and I tried to take an abandoned shortcut through the hovering bushes and towering trees, but the leaves were too crunchy with every step we took and by the time we were halfway, someone had already taken the lantern.



SPECIAL Moments

NEW Grade 6 & 7 Classrooms



Innovation CENTRE

In July, we celebrated creativity and community at the Junior School's Innovation Centre Grand Opening! Parents and distinguished guests were treated to a vibrant showcase of art and displays created by our talented students and staff. The evening was thoughtfully planned by our incredible Grade 4 girls as part of their Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) project for the term. The event's aim was not only to celebrate our new space for learning and exploration but also to support an important cause – African Wildlife Vets.

The evening's event was marked by a fun and lively charity Art Auction featuring a phenomenal lion painting made extra special by the hand and fingerprint contributions of each girl from Grade RR to Grade 7.

Grand Opening



Invent, Imagine, Investigate, Innovate

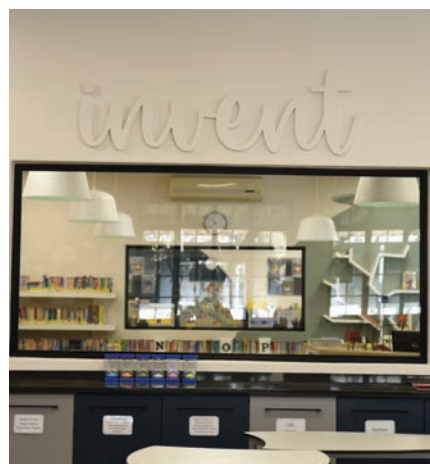
Five years ago, we recognised the need for a transformative space in our Junior School to support our evolving teaching methods, including Inquiry-Based Learning, coding and robotics. After careful planning and consultation with professionals and schools nationwide, we set to work designing and implementing our Innovation Centre, which officially opened at the start of Term 2.

Previously housing the Grade R, RR, Robotics, and Multipurpose classrooms, this area was transformed into a cutting-edge learning hub, which will include:

- **Robotics Lab:** A dedicated space for coding, robotics, and hands-on STEM activities.
- **Computer Lab:** Upgraded facilities to enhance digital learning.
- **Library:** A modern, flexible learning environment fostering research and reading.
- **Makerspace:** Featuring a fully functional kitchen for experiments and cooking, alongside tools for creative projects.

The centre is designed with collaborative zones and mobile furniture to support flexible learning setups. This is what the future of education looks like – a place where girls can innovate, imagine, investigate, and invent.

While we embrace innovation, our core remains steadfast: our anchor in Christ, our school values, and our focus on realising the holistic potential of every girl.



WHAT DID THE GIRLS GET UP TO IN THE Innovation Centre this year?

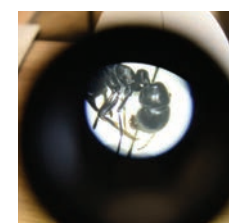
All Things Ants!

"What can we learn about community from ants?" This was the Grade 3s' driving question in their Term 3 Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) Project.

To find answers, they had to observe ant behaviour around the playground, collect and analyse data, learning about ants' life cycles and anatomy, and even building their own ant farms (stocked with ants they caught themselves!). Along the way, they blended aspects of the Science, Mathematics, Life Skills, and Language curricula.

As a highlight, the girls were visited by Dr Caswell Munyai, Senior Lecturer in the School of Life Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He shared his expertise and passion for all things ants, bringing along pinned specimens and a microscope for closer study. He also spoke about his work on the hit Netflix documentary "Kulu's Journey", which highlights the plight of the pangolin, the world's most trafficked animal. To the girls' delight, he inspected, applauded, and offered tips on each group's ant farm.

We are deeply grateful to Dr Munyai for inspiring our girls and bringing their project to such a successful conclusion.



Robots, Races and READY, SET, GO!

In Term 3, our Grade 4s hosted the St Charles College boys for a fun morning of collaboration and creativity!

The boys and girls joined forces to build robot cars, which ended with an exciting race.



Battle BOTS

The “Yellow Bots” Robotics Club – comprising an incredible squad of 54 talented Grade 5–7 girls – took on an electrifying challenge in Term 2. Inspired by “Battle Bots,” their coach, Ms Evans, set them a thrilling task: design, build, and code robots to face off on an elevated plank, to knock their opponents off!

After eight weeks of brainstorming, building, testing, and perfecting their creations, the competition reached an epic showdown! Robots battled through group stages and intense knockout finals, with Team 10 claiming ultimate victory!



A Buzz in the Innovation Centre

When Taylor T (Grade 4) brought in a bumblebee she found on her farm, little did she know what a buzz it would create in the Junior School!

The bumblebee was handed to the Grade 2s to investigate – since Mrs Stretch is our very own “Queen Bee” – and Ms Evans took things up a notch by placing the bee’s leg, wing and even some honey under the microscope for the girls to observe.

The Grade 2s were absolutely fascinated, spotting pollen grains, crystallised sugar and the intricate details of the bee’s body parts. Some were so intrigued they kept coming back for one more peek! Even more exciting? This hands-on discovery marked the very first use of the Junior School’s brand-new Innovation Centre microscopes – what a sweet way to kick things off!



Library FUN!

At the start of Term 2, we kicked off our Library Challenge – a treasure hunt-style reading adventure designed to make Library time extra exciting! The challenge included 16 different types of books, and for each one read, the girls earned a sticker. Once they completed the challenge, they handed it in and earned a prized spot on the Wall of Fame.

Well done to Chloe S (Grade 6), who was the first to complete the challenge – winning a R300 Exclusive Books voucher.

The best part? The girls have fully embraced the challenge, using it as motivation to step outside their reading comfort zones and loving every moment!



TEACHERS READ TOO! Can You Guess Who?

This year, our Junior School girls put their detective skills to the test in the “Teachers Read Too, Can You Guess Who?” challenge!

The Library walls were covered with mysterious photos of our awesome Junior School teachers, cleverly hidden behind books that gave sneaky clues about their identities. Who would read about bees? Or swimming?

This fun-filled activity was designed to spark curiosity and encourage more Library visits – and it was a huge hit! A total of 54 girls took on the challenge, but only four cracked the case, guessing every teacher correctly. Well done, detectives!



WORLD BOOK Day

The Junior School girls (and their teachers!) absolutely love a good dress-up! In celebration of World Book Day this year, the campus was filled with excitement as the girls arrived dressed as their favourite book characters, bringing their beloved stories to life!



Junior School RECOGNITION CEREMONIES

Eaglets



COMMENDATIONS AND MERITS

Merits are awarded to girls who have achieved an average of 80% or higher for the year.

Grades 4 & 5

MERIT AWARDS

- ♥ **GRADE 4**
Kendall Amos
Raya Barath
Chelsea Freese
Julia Greyling
Samaiya Singh
- ♥ **GRADE 5**
Langelihle Duma
Ella Garvin
Caitlin van Huyssteen

Grade 6

- ♥ **GRADE 6**
In Grade 6, girls who have achieved an average of 75 – 79% for the year, received a commendation.
Commendations go to:
Ava Green, Georgia McCleary, Loveday Newell,
Urjavi Singh
- ♥ **THIRD IN CLASS (WITH COMMENDATION):** Ntando Xamsana
- ♥ **SECOND IN CLASS (WITH MERIT):** Diya Sookdeo
- ♥ **FIRST IN CLASS (WITH MERIT):** Phupha Ndlazilwana

Grade 7

SUBJECT AWARDS

- ♥ **English** Yusra Khan
- ♥ **Afrikaans** Yusra Khan
- ♥ **isiZulu** Sthabile Ngcobo
- ♥ **Natural and Social Sciences** Yusra Khan
- ♥ **Mathematics** Yusra Khan
- ♥ **Mrs T Cup for Art** Andrea Gowar
- ♥ **Drama Cup** Nongcebo Malevu and Sthabile Ngcobo
- ♥ **Hennessy Cup for Music** Maeve Schalkwyk

SPORTS AWARDS

- ♥ **SPORTS CONTRIBUTION AND EXCELLENCE CERTIFICATES**
Khwezi Cele, Elizabeth Cole-Edwardes, Kimia Deonundhan, Zanothando Dlamini, Yusra Khan, Meghan Kyle, Unathi Kunene, Sthabile Ngcobo, Kyra Singh
- ♥ **TROPHY FOR ENDEAVOUR IN SPORTS**
Yusra Khan and Sthabile Ngcobo
- ♥ **HARALAMBOUS TROPHY FOR JUNIOR SPORTS GIRL**
Kyra Singh
- ♥ **HIGHEST SPORTS ACHIEVER**
Elizabeth Cole-Edwardes



SPECIAL AWARDS

- ♥ **ANNETTE SYMES SALVER**
Lucas and Bayly
- ♥ **GIRLS WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL SINCE GRADE RR**
Elizabeth Cole-Edwardes, Jocelyn Dent, Meghan Kyle, Amy-Lee Mulder, Zoë-Jayne Neumann, Sthabile Ngcobo, Maeve Schalkwyk, Kyra Singh, Keira van Huyssteen
- ♥ **JUNIOR SCHOOL PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES**
Khwezi Cele, Elizabeth Cole-Edwardes, Zanothando Dlamini, Yusra Khan, Unathi Kunene, Meghan Kyle, Nongcebo Malevu, Sthabile Ngcobo, Maeve Schalkwyk, Kyra Singh
- ♥ **JANINE GEBERS TROPHY FOR PERSEVERANCE**
Keira van Huyssteen
- ♥ **GRADE 7 COMMENDATIONS**
In Grade 7, girls who have achieved an average of 75 – 79% for the year, received a commendation.
Sthabile Ngcobo, Kyra Singh

HIGHEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS IN GRADE 7

- ♥ **THIRD IN CLASS (WITH MERIT*)**
Kimia Deonundhan and Carla Hart
- ♥ **SECOND IN CLASS (WITH MERIT*)**
Maya Bishop
- ♥ **FIRST IN CLASS (WITH MERIT*) AND DUX** Yusra Khan
- ♥ **GOOD FELLOWSHIP CUP**
Nongcebo Malevu
- ♥ **LISA AND JENNA BROWN TROPHY (BEST ALL-ROUNDER)**
Nongcebo Malevu and Sthabile Ngcobo

**Merits are awarded to girls who have achieved an average of 80% or higher for the year.*



Drama PRODUCTIONS

“Annie Jr.”

In August, our Senior Primary girls lit up the stage in their production of “Annie Jr.” – the heartwarming story of a little orphan with big dreams, boundless optimism, and a song that reminds us all that “the sun will come out tomorrow.”

Well done to our incredible staff for their guidance, our dedicated parents for their support, and of course, our talented girls for all their hard work and passion.



Nativity Play

In November, our Junior Primary stars captivated their audiences with their year-end nativity play, “Simply the Nativity”. This unique and heart-warming production kept both the youngest (and oldest!) audience members thoroughly entertained while beautifully sharing the true message of Christmas.

A BIG “well done” to our talented actresses and the wonderful Junior Primary teachers for bringing this special performance to life.



OUTREACH FIGHTING HUNGER, One Meal at a Time

In the last week of Term 3, the Grade 4 – 7 girls, along with the St Charles College boys, teamed up with Rise Against Hunger for an incredible cause – packing meals to make a real difference.

With enthusiastic SJS and SCC volunteers, the kids managed to pack a whopping 42,120 meals, which will feed 183 children, five meals a week, for an entire year. Along with the meals, the schools held a civvies day, collectively raising R18 000 for this wonderful cause!





all about heart • all about heart • all about heart

SENIOR School





Grade EIGHT



Back Row: A. Mabuza; K. Morrison; A. Horsten; H. Bennet; A. Makhathini; V. Maritz; M. Truter; C. Buys; I. Linfield; Z. Fish; M. Holzhausen; G. Dube; A. Taylor.
Fourth Row: L. du Toit; T. Lötter; B-M. Leggat; A. Slabber; R. Dray; S. Alberts; K. Galloway; M. Lütge; S. Link; A. Moodley; G. Dickason; M. Boswell.
Third Row: I. Alexander; E. Moodley; P. Govender; M. Balfour; A. Wilken; S. Coleman; R. Wiseman; A. van Breda; J. Stott; B. Vermaak; J. Shand; M. Osman; M. van den Berg.
Second Row: J. van Wyk; E-J. Nelson; S. Msomi; K. Kershaw; A. Hoatson; S. Schwikkard; A. Ramdhani; R. Gomes; G. Goldie; T. Pillay; M-J. Erskine; L. Green; G. Dent; B. Carter.
First Row: Z. Ndlela; K. Moodley; L. Seele; G. Cole-Edwards; H. Saunders; R. Khazi; S. Hawkins; H. Wessels; E. Tarr; A. Mkhize; C. van Tonder.
Seated: E. Lister; Miss J. Anderson; Mrs I. Evans; P. Reitz; Mrs A. Rugbar; L. MacDonald; T. Braithwaite; Miss L. Erasmus; F. Camara; Mrs M. Barnsley; Mrs M. Evans; E. May.
Front Row: J. Rossouw; K. Motsatsi; S. Macquet; E. Payn; K. Baldson; J. Nicholson; M. Appleford; J. Reeve; G. Greene; K. Duvenage; P. James; L. Mkhize; L. Tedder; S. Massyn.

WELCOME TO GRADE 8

The day that we had waited for began with great anticipation and excitement – a mixture of emotions as we prepared to leave Junior School behind and start afresh. We will all vividly remember the day that we, the “babies” of St John’s D.S.G. were officially welcomed into the Senior School. Although it was quite daunting, it was reassuring to know that we were all in the same boat with new people, starting a new chapter.

From the second we walked through the school gates, we immediately felt at home and that we were meant to

be there, and that feeling is still with us. The culture of kindness at St John’s D.S.G. continues to astound us, and we are sure that our peers will agree when we say that every girl is made to feel valued and that she belongs.

As we began to find our feet, we started making friends, meeting teachers, and finding our way around the school. We are so proud to be called St John’s D.S.G. girls and are excited to wear our yellow dresses for the next four years with our heads held high.

Georgia Dent and Rachel Wiseman



Orientation WEEK

A new school, new faces and straight into the deep end. The first week of Grade 8 was tough, but I got through – we all did. The first day, I was sick with nerves, but everyone was so kind that it felt like I had nothing to worry about. We went to Cumberland on the second day and took part in a range of activities in different teams. I tried so many things that I never thought I would do, which helped me grow as a person and realise that just because I might think that something's not to my liking, it might be something that I really enjoy. On the third day, we met the prefects and got told that our theme for initiation was 'Big Cook, Little Cook'. We each got given an apron (which we all painted), a spatula and a recipe.

For the rest of Term 1, until we'd written the New Girl's test, we had to wear the aprons and carry the spatula and the recipe with us while we were on school property. Most of us were very annoyed with this, especially when the prefects added that we also had to walk around the Grade 11 lawn singing, "Big Cook, Little Cook, welcome to our café!" at the tops of our voices, but now when we look back, we made so many memories and had so much fun that it didn't even matter. All in all, Orientation Week was very helpful; it helped us all to get to know the school and the people in it. In my opinion, St John's D.S.G. is the best, and I wouldn't have chosen anywhere else to spend my high school career.

Kelsey Galloway



Rite of PASSAGE

We walked into the big auditorium as a grade, scared yet curious. It was our first formal occasion, so it was our first time wearing our white dresses with our beach bronze stockings (which looked awful on everyone). We sat down quietly and listened to Mr Moore's message, waiting in anticipation for our own names to be called. My heart was pounding as I watched our grade go up to the stage, one by one, to collect their Bibles and get formally welcomed into the school as official St John's D.S.G. girls. When my name was called, I walked proudly up to the stage, where Reverend Di was waiting, holding a gorgeous, white and floral Bible. She said a blessing over me and gave me my Bible, and I stood on the stage with the rest of my class. We sang songs of worship, and Reverend Di also said a prayer over our families. I felt proud and happy to be officially part of my new school, St John's D.S.G. We celebrated this wonderful occasion with delicious eats and many photos with our friends and families, and our new Bibles.

Julia Rossouw



Creative WRITING

Dáárdie dag by die saalbyeenkoms sal ek nooit vergeet nie

Gister was definitief 'n blou Maandag gewees! In gister se saalbyeenkoms het iets gebeur wat ek nooit sal vergeet nie! Dit was regtig baie onverwags, maar ook tog 'n bietjie opwindend gewees!

Meneer Moore het die byeenkoms geopen. Meneer Venter het toe na die verhoog toe gekom en vir juffrou Nel geroep om hom met iets te help. Hy het verduidelik dat hulle 'n eksperiment gaan uitvoer. Op daardie oomblik het almal se oë gerek. Meneer Venter het eienaardige stowwe van agter die verhoog uitgebring. Hy het een stof met 'n ander stof gemeng, totdat almal 'n snaakse reuk begin ruik het. Juffrou Nel het doodsbleek in die gesig geword. Dis toe ek geweet het dat die poppe gaan dans.

Die volgende oomblik het ons net 'waps' gehoor! Daar was 'n groot ontploffing! Almal het begin lag oor hoe verleë die spekvet meneer Venter en die beeldskone juffrou Nel gelyk het. Die onderwyseres het op die verhoog gestaan en doodskaam gelyk! Die hele verhoog was vol grasgroen en potblou stowwe gewees.

Vandag is dit al waarom almal praat. Almal vind gister se toertjies in die saal skreeusnaaks. Almal was dankbaar dat die onderwysers nie afgedank was nie.

Mila Truter

Dear Future Grade 8

Hello there. I am going to give you some tips and stuff I learnt while I was at Twinstreams.

Well, starting off, you should pack what you actually need. Don't overpack because there is no one to help you carry your bags, because other people need to carry their own stuff. Pack lots of water because trust me, you are going to need it. There is water at Twinstreams, but it isn't the best tasting. Be prepared to walk a lot, so wear walking shoes, ones that are comfortable to wear for a long time. Have lots of snacks because you are going to want sweets during the day. Your backpack should be light, but also keep a few snacks in there. There is enough hot water for everyone if you don't take a long-time showering, so I would advise you to have a shower early in the morning while there is still hot water. There are lots of monkeys by the dorms, so close your dorm doors, so the monkeys don't get in.

You will have a fun time if you actually do the activities that are set for the day. Just make the most of it because it is actually an amazing time.

Thalya Pillay

The love-talker is no sweet myth
no silly, comforting lie –
only honey drips from his lips
a mischievous glint in his eye.
You think that he is magic,
You think you are in love
the angels say it's tragic
laughing from above.
You think that they are clueless,
but little do you know
their mortal bodies are only hueless
for he buried them in the snow.

Isabella Alexander

To Future Grade 8s

I know you might be scared to go on this camp to Twinstreams, but I just want to let you know that it was actually a lot of fun. I would just advise you to bring a bedding sheet and to stay in a dorm with people you like spending time with. Also, just be yourself and try new things and just have fun and don't think about anything bad at the moment.

I know you will be ok because I honestly was a little nervous before, but I had one of the best times there. I learnt to just be myself and to be positive in the tough times. It might be hard in the beginning, but trust me, you will be just fine.

The guides are also really nice and funny, and will help you with anything. The food was really good, and the dorms are quite nice.

It is really important that you have fun and be yourself and really soak in all the memories you make because it is a one-time journey, and you could possibly never experience it again.

So just go out there and have fun.

P.S. Beware of the rhino.

Love from: Brodi Vermaak

Subject Highlights

Grade 8s Mastering New Skills

The Grade 8 Technology girls embraced the challenge of hand-sewing their own felt pouches. Using the blanket stitch, they carefully stitched the edges, showcasing their individual designs and colour choices. Although some were initially apprehensive, each girl successfully created a beautiful and personalised pouch while mastering a new skill.



Collaboration with Hilton College

Ten of us in Grade 8 had the privilege of visiting Hilton College for an English Collaboration, and we are so grateful for the experience! From a delicious lunch to interactive activities, meaningful conversations, and lots of brainstorming, we learnt so much from one another. Together, we read the thought-provoking short story, "The Island", and explored powerful themes like identity, community, acceptance, vulnerability and belonging.

It was such a special day, and we truly hope to visit again soon. Thank you to Mrs Akerman and Hilton College for making this wonderful opportunity possible!

Georgia Dent

Grade 8 Girls Shine at MathsFest Challenge

In Term 3, ten of our Grade 8 girls participated in the Mike Nicholson MathsFest at The Wykeham Collegiate. This event brings together top young mathematicians from Pietermaritzburg and the Midlands, who are randomly grouped to tackle a series of challenging problems. Our girls showed great teamwork, behaviour and work ethic, and we are proud of the way they represented St John's D.S.G.

Twinstreams

Our Grade 8 trip to Twinstreams was an unforgettable experience. Our excursion started with meeting the fantastic group leaders and getting split into teams. In our teams, we made new friends and participated in team-building activities. There were fun beach games and a special walk along the ocean to an actual mangrove estuary, where we went on canoes and walked through the mangroves with the little crabs running between our feet. We got to learn amazing facts about the mangroves and the creatures that depend on mangrove swamps to survive. At the end of fun-filled days, we got marvellous food and even chocolate pudding! In the evenings, in our dorms

(when we were supposed to sleep), everyone would share their amusing and entertaining experiences of the day, laughing, giggling and eating sweets. The one adventure everyone talked about was the thrilling night hike when the group leaders frightened us with a fake rhino that was hidden in the bushes.

At the end of the three days, all the girls were ready to go tell their families about their exciting adventures. The trip would not have been a success without the lovely teachers who encouraged us when we needed it.

All in all, I think our trip to Twinstreams was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that every girl will cherish forever.

Abigail Slabber





Grade NINE



Back Row: H. Pringle; E-K. Holley; K. Do Vale; A. Smit; C. Greyling; D. Lock; E. Kirsten; D. Steyn; I. McReynolds; B. Coppez; O. Lowe; N. Edkins; J. Saville; C. Redeker; L. Allwood; C. Frost; O. Balmer.
Fourth Row: J. Visvanathan; O. Cloete; K. Wang; K. Ramos; M. Garden; A. Maziya; B. Xaba; C. van Tonder; S. Schaefer; E. Cole-Edwards; C. Conway; K-L. Morcom; E. Roylance.
Third Row: P. Smith; N. du Plessis; A. Chetty; S. Catlett; C. Evans; A. Whiteman; S. van Wyk; P. Williams; S. Bates; P. Cocks; E. MacGregor; M. Beket; A. Fourie; G. Bryden.
Second Row: S. Hugo; M. Murdey; M. Schulz; L. Dlamini; A. Hardman; M. Byron; R. Hellberg; I. Earle; I. de Jager; A. Mahlaba; P. Govender; L. Ntshangase; N. Roberts; M. Blackburn; R. Kendall; R. Glutz; J. Hall.
First Row: E. Storah; K. Maharaj; T. Mjamekwana; M. Taylor; L. Cindi; G. Lindsay; A. Bergh; N. Modikwane; L. Booyens; T. Ratsey; L. Bolland; B. Leslie; A. Ramjathan; A. Cavero.
Seated: K. Grundy; Mrs K. van der Vyver; S. Erskine; Miss A. Zondi; T. Chambler; Mrs A. Rugbar; H. Seele; Mrs B. Willows; G. Tucker; Mrs C. Laubscher; M. Mncube; Mr B. Kerr; V. Govender.
Absent: E. de Jager; E. Hamilton-Brown.

WELCOME TO GRADE 9

The Ultimate Guide to Surviving Grade 9.

Time management:

This is the year that Senior School starts to feel real, and when good grades aren't as easily earned, so you're going to have to start studying more than just the night before your Ns test. "I'll do it tomorrow" is the most dangerous sentence said in Grade 9.

Stay organised:

Even though it's only the year after Grade 8, the workload will tell you different, so staying organised is a key factor unless you want your backpack to become a solid brick – who needs PE when your workout is walking to class.

Don't overwork yourself:

Keep a secret stash of sanity, a playlist, a favourite TV show or even your own personal stash of sweets for motivation. Mental breaks are crucial; don't underestimate the power of alone time.

School assignments:

For group projects, pick your teams wisely, one slacker, one overachiever and one quiet genius equals balance.

Friendships:

Grade 9 is the year when your friendships start to become real and life-long, so say goodbye to awkward Grade 8 interactions and hello to friends who are there for you even when you're hanging off the edge of a homework mountain.

Laugh at yourself:

Everyone has that moment when the next step decides to disappear, and you end up face-planting in front of the entire school, but if you learn to laugh about it, then you'll be ready to survive Grade 9.

Lily Booyens

uHambo





I was fortunate enough to be part of Group 1 on my uHambo journey. This group, and the people in it, played a huge role in shaping my whole experience! Although we had many weird and quirky adventures, one stands out to me the most.

It was a challenge-filled quest with obstacles like brambles, getting lost, and especially locked gates we definitely weren't meant to go through. After walking up and down the same road for what felt like ages (playing fun games along the way), we finally got the directions right, and reached the greatly anticipated waterfall. When we arrived, our mouths dropped in awe at the beautiful, magnificent sight before us. The water was icy to the bone, a turquoise blue that faded into a pitch-black, terrifying deep end.

But without hesitation, we dove straight in, teeth chattering from the cold. Some of us even decided to take on the challenge of swimming all the way across the dark, icy water to the source of the waterfall. All I remember is the shock and panic my body went into – which, judging by the splashes and screams, was very entertaining for everyone else to watch!

Everyone had a turn to jump in, making this a deeply appreciated, bonding, and truly unique experience that I don't think any of us will ever forget. Despite all of Group 1's faults and flaws, I couldn't have been happier with the connections we made and the friendships we built along the way.

Rebecca Hellberg



uHambo was a remarkable experience, not only because of the journey itself but also because of the girls who shared it. In Group 2, we had girls who had never spoken to each other before, our social circles never having overlapped; yet we walked away three weeks later deeply connected, with strong friendships that will last a lifetime. We were a team, equals, in it together.

We did everything together – mealtimes, hiking, and playing Uno – which was filled with laughter, competitiveness... and a slight bit of cheating! Before bedtime, we would all gather around and just talk. We discovered so much about one another, things we likely never would have known if we hadn't gone on this journey together.

Some hikes and days were challenging, both mentally and physically, but with our group's constant support, we were able to persevere. A common thread that tied Group 2 together was humour, with every day feeling like being on the set of an "America's Got Talent" audition. There was always someone doing cartwheels down a hill, pulling off hilarious impressions, acting out dramatic dreams from the night before, and of course, singing. We all joined in, especially the choir girls!

uHambo was a journey of a lifetime. Many of us went from strangers to each other's biggest supporters. At the end of the day, we completed this journey not only as a group, but as a family. This is a journey we will treasure forever.

Camryn Redeker



When I first heard about uHambo, I was five years old. Now, ten years later, after finally completing the journey myself, I can say that you will never truly understand its impact unless you have experienced it. My group and I went through difficult times, but we persevered and were able to enjoy the joyful moments too.

Twenty-one days away from home can seem like a long time, but once you're out there, away from everything, it goes by quite quickly. The days were filled with long hikes and occasional stops for lunch and snacks, but our group's favourite time of day was the evening.

We would sit and talk over supper, then play card games late into the night. Those games and the small moments we shared brought us so much closer as a group and as a family. I believe that uHambo was the most rewarding journey and experience I will ever have.

Seeing the way the Basotho people live taught me to be grateful for everything I have and to recognise that you don't need material possessions to be happy or at peace. uHambo also taught me skills that will be incredibly valuable as I grow older and helped me build connections that will last a lifetime.

Vamikaa Govender



UHAMBO Group 4

uHambo started with many nerves, no one feeling very comfortable with each other and everyone sticking close to the friends they already knew. But after a few days, we became a solid team. I think the first time we truly felt like a family was at Khosto, after making a meal together and sitting in the lounge, laughing until we were almost crying.

It didn't take long for each member of the group to fall into a routine, and we learnt so many important skills that made us more independent, washing our clothes, setting up tents, and cooking meals. Yes, uHambo was not easy, and on some days we really struggled. Yes, sometimes we complained. But through it all, we were there for one another, encouraging, pushing, and cheering each other on.

Time flew by so quickly, and in the final week we all began to realise that we had almost completed uHambo. This brought mixed emotions, for we missed home, yet we were having the most incredible time. Some of us loved being surrounded by nature and breathing in the fresh air, while others cherished the time spent with friends the most.

Lastly, we were very privileged to have Mrs Taylor, Mr Mveli, and, for a short time, Mr Gobbler as our leaders. Thanks to them, we arrived home safely.

Megan Byron



UHAMBO Group 5

uHambo was an experience none of the members of Group 5 will forget anytime soon. With our very accurate nickname, "The Funky Fence-Hopping Fives," we conquered steep mountains and bouts of homesickness with many, many songs and conversations about our childhoods, which almost always led to one topic – what our coming-home meal (or meals!) would be.

Our afternoons were filled with swimming, laughter, fishing, and long naps. Although the first week was spent adjusting to being around each other 24/7, we quickly became a tight-knit group, bonding over long bike rides and even longer hikes. Our amazing leaders, Mrs G and Mrs C, brought such a caring, loving, and funny energy to the group, setting the tone for the weeks to come.

By the second week, we had really found our rhythm, waking up early, hiking, and then relaxing when we arrived at camp. Before we knew it, the third week had arrived, and even though it felt like the time would never come, we were finally heading home. Our emotions were mixed, sadness that this incredible experience was ending, but also excitement about returning home. Lesotho was definitely a highlight for all of us and an experience we will never forget. We loved getting to know one another better, and we have formed lasting friendships and made memories that will stay with us for a lifetime.

Charlotte Greyling



UHAMBO Group 6

We all came into uHambo filled with nervous energy and laughter. The thought of spending twenty one days with mutual strangers was daunting, but that feeling soon disappeared. Our first hike was tough and forced the group to face the challenge together. We were all falling so much that we eventually resorted to bear crawling our way up. That night, we went stargazing and talked about everything, revealing our vulnerabilities to people who were quickly becoming our newfound family and source of support.

We had sumo wrestling competitions in our sleeping bags and played some very intense games of Uno. We went swimming in the most beautiful natural pools and drank some questionable water. Through these shared experiences, we became a team. Through shared tears, frustration, and laughter, we began to trust each other.

Our group learnt patience and the importance of taking frequent breaks – not rushing through uHambo but embracing it as a journey. We regularly stopped to admire the view, looked back to see how far we had walked, gambled Super Cs when someone was running low on snacks, or even attempted cartwheels with our backpacks on. This is something we all learnt to apply to our busy lives, to just stop and breathe.

What began as a group of strangers turned into lifelong friends. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity we were given and for the incredible people who walked alongside me.

Gabriella Tucker



Grade TEN



Back Row: E. Mostert; T. Kyle; R. Jackson; B. Lambert; A. Santos; P. Balmer; T. Siebert; M. Naidoo; L. Pepu; J. McAllister; M. Armour; B. Galliers; R. Temple; L. Fyvie; C. Pringle; I. Martinson.
Fourth Row: R. Zammit; H. Holzhausen; M. Ndanganeni; C. Du Plessis; K. Clarke; K. Newlands; K. Schulz; O. Mkhize; B. Viljoen; Z. Knatten; K. Sclanders; K. Goldie; J. Byron; O. Mkhize; A. Cutter.
Third Row: A. Doidge; D. Millward; M. Ogilby; J. van Breda; E. Bruyns; Z. Fyvie; M. Erasmus; A. de Wet; L. Gordon; C. Moor; M. Maharaj; A. Mjali; E. Speed; T. Hogarty; H. Slaughter; S. Drakopoulos.
Second Row: M. Jooste; P. Lutchman; T. Tucker; C. Bryden; K. Govender; J. Hughes; B. Howie; E. Ash; S. Minnaar; A. Stanistreet; R. Ferndale; S. Tallapaneni; A. Munro; M. Mpoyi; H. Wiseman.
First Row: A. May; B. Mapetla; R. Vumbukani; M. Mashigo; A. Julius; A. McDonald; C. Howells; R. Macquet; E. Hoatson; M. Chamblor; J. McPherson; M. Tudor; R. Reynard; E. Nonxuba; T. Brisset; A. Warr.
Seated: T-L. Makhanya; Miss K. Hohls; O. Mbili; Miss M. Skinner; E. Roos; Mr A. Sharkey; Mrs R. Kirsten; Miss K. Hudson-Reed; Z. Karrim; Mrs M. Greyling; W. Ndaba; Mrs C. Meyer; Y. Lalloo.

INTRODUCTION TO GRADE 10

When I started Grade 10, I had extremely high expectations for the year. Countless girls in older grades had told me that this would be the best year of my Senior School career, I would be a senior, I would have completed uHambo, I would have chosen my preferred subjects, and by the Term 3 mark, I would be closer to finishing my journey at St John's D.S.G. than to starting it. All of these things filled me with hope and excitement, except for the last point.

This small school had slowly tiptoed its way into my heart and built a home just for me. The short time I had spent at St John's D.S.G. had taught me more than just Algebra and Chemistry; it had developed my morals, cemented my path with God, and highlighted the importance of accepting myself and those around me for who we are. The thought of leaving this safe place of structure, joy, and laughter terrified me. But after a few breathing exercises and some calming essential oils, that scary idea transformed into a reminder of how important it is to live each day at school to the very best of my abilities and to embrace every opportunity with gratitude and enthusiasm.

That mindset helped me see that Grade 10 became the "best year" because I chose to make it that way. It wasn't all sunshine and rainbows, though; there were disappointments and hard decisions I had to face. Even during those trials, I knew that no matter what choices I made, there would be a strong support system of coaches, teachers, and students backing me and lifting me if I fell.

This incredible grade I have been blessed with takes pride in being the perfect example of a united sisterhood. This was evident in many of my favourite memories: Wednesday mornings during hymn practice, when our competitiveness shone through as we worked together to sing the loudest; brainstorming interhouse gala themes a year in advance because we were too excited to wait; and, of course, seeing everyone for the first time in their elegant dresses at the Formal Dinner.

All of these small moments throughout the year accumulated to show just how lucky we are to have experienced this perfect year with the perfect people.

Rachel Macquet

Subject Highlights

Breathing Comes to Life in Life Sciences

This year, the Grade 10s dived into the fascinating world of lungs and breathing in Life Sciences!

To bring their lessons to life, they got hands-on with a fun and creative experiment – building working lung models using cooldrink bottles, straws, and balloons. By pulling down on a plastic sheet (representing the diaphragm), they watched as their "lungs" inflated with air, and when they pushed it up, the balloons deflated – mimicking the action of the diaphragm and the movement of lungs during breathing. A fun and interactive way to see science in action!



Grade 10 Quiz

In Term 3, three Grade 10 teams participated in the annual Michaelhouse Quiz. One of the teams went through to the final round, ending up in third position overall.

This was a wonderfully organised, much-anticipated event run by the Michaelhouse Library team.



Grade 10 TOUR to Tala

Our Grade 10 tour to Tala Game Reserve was an unforgettable adventure filled with laughter, discovery, and moments that brought us closer together. From the moment we arrived, excitement filled the air as we took in the beauty of the bush and the promise of new experiences. The days were packed with thrilling activities. We had a fascinating guided walk through the reserve, where we learnt about the delicate balance of the ecosystem. The exhilarating game drive let us spot graceful giraffes, curious zebras, and herds of antelope roaming freely. At the Raptor Centre, we were amazed by the power and elegance of the birds of prey, which deepened our respect for wildlife conservation.

A heartfelt afternoon at Lily of the Valley Orphanage saw us laughing and sharing stories with the children, rediscovering the happiness that springs from kindness and connection. The team-building obstacle course pushed us to be brave, inventive, and united, sparking cheers and high-fives at every turn. One of the trip's most

inspiring moments was hearing Molly de Jager recount her awe-inspiring climb up Mount Everest. Her message of perseverance and self-belief stirred something in us all, urging us to chase our dreams, no matter how towering they may seem.

As night fell, laughter echoed beneath a sky scattered with stars. We played Stalk the Lantern, cooked mouthwatering potjies in our groups, and swapped stories late into the night. Between shared jokes, midnight snacks, and chocolate, our grade's bond grew tighter with every passing day. The caring staff at Tala added a special touch, making us feel at home and ensuring every moment unfolded seamlessly.

By the journey's end, our hearts brimmed with gratitude, our minds filled with memories, and our spirits enriched by lessons in friendship, resilience, and the wonder of the world.

Katelyn Newlands





Grade ELEVEN



Back Row: T. Kendall; O. Appleford; D. Freese; E. Williams; D. Garden; E. Pringle; M. Howie; R. Porritt; R. van Zuydam; E. Warr; R. Hoatson; T. Bishop; E. Godbold; J. Glutz.
Fourth Row: N. Rautenbach; L. Mkondweni; E. Eaglestone; K. Marais; G. Foster; K. Teichmann; V. Burczak; A. Bolland; L. Kennedy; E. Du Plessis; R. Walton; D. Cantarelli; C. Howard.
Third Row: K. Smithers; C. Tredgold; M. Whitley; R. Mackenzie; J. Welsh; A. Balmer; R. Phongo; M. Schuss; T. Hayward-Butt; L. Chitja; O. Greyling; A. Steyn; S. Ntombela; M. Coertze.
Second Row: G. Slevin; R. Sclanders; T. Lowe; K. Apostolides; C. Hayward-Butt; E. Blackburn; K. Steenkamp; A. Maynard; J. Hoatson; T. Finch; S. Steenberg; K. Heynes; A. Johnson.
First Row: S. Jugdeep; M. Cloete; S. Carolan; O. Potter; J. Casey; K. van Breda; Y. Chathu; A. Wetherill; Y. Jozi; A. Norman; K. Perumal; K. Harrilall; D. Ramchander; L. Pandoo.
Seated: S. Solms; S. Balfour; Mrs E. MacFarlane; L. Memela; Mrs J. Liebenberg; M. Hadebe; Mrs R. Kirsten; L. Amod; Mrs P. Luthuli; G. Macleod; Miss K. Davids; O. Mackenzie; T. Khoele.

INTRODUCTION TO GRADE 11

Grade 11 has definitely been a year full of new responsibilities and big adjustments. The workload was heavier than before, and at first it felt a bit overwhelming, but it taught us how to manage our time and stay organised.

Along with all the extra responsibilities came some new privileges too. One of the highlights of the year was our Spirit of Adventure trip – it really pushed us to work together and showed us both our strengths and where we could improve. By the end, we'd learnt how to communicate and support each other so much better.

Grade 11 challenged us in new ways, but it also brought a lot of growth, memories, and laughter. Looking back, it's crazy how much we've learnt, not just in class, but about ourselves and each other. Here's to carrying those lessons (and all the fun moments) into Matric and the future.

Jessica Hoatson and Ella Blackburn

Subject Highlights

Business Studies Dinner

In Term 4, the Grade 11 Business Studies class enjoyed an educational (and delicious!) evening at Pepere Café in Hilton. They had the opportunity to hear firsthand from the manager about what it's like to run a restaurant.

Over a scrumptious meal and dessert, the girls learnt that there's a lot more to managing a restaurant than what customers see. Behind the scenes, long hours are spent preparing before opening and cleaning up afterwards. The manager also shared some of the challenges they face, such as dealing with theft and handling impolite or dissatisfied customers.

They were even treated to a tour of the kitchen and received front-row seats to watch the staff plate their delicious desserts. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and the girls left smiling and far too full for another bite!



Grade 11 Life Sciences Field Trip: Learning Comes to Life at Emanzini

Our Grade 11 Life Sciences students enjoyed a fun and unforgettable day out at Emanzini Private Reserve this year, where the wonders of population ecology leapt off the textbook pages and into real life.

Surrounded by the rich biodiversity of the reserve, the girls explored a range of ecological concepts, from studying termite social structures to observing ecological succession around Albert Falls Dam. They even got their hands dirty while collecting samples to estimate population sizes, a truly hands-on learning experience!

A special highlight was the interactive bird call challenge, led by Rod de Villiers, who co-developed the learning material for the day. Armed with his Roberts bird song wand and a stash of chocolates, Rod quizzed the girls on bird calls, rewarding the keenest listeners with sweet treats.

A scenic 1.5 km walk gave the girls time to spot wildlife and enjoy the peaceful surroundings, ending with a breathtaking view over the estate and Albert Falls Dam – the perfect wrap to a memorable day of learning, laughter and connection.



Creative WRITING

‘n Brief aan my jonger self!

Liewe Anja, dit es ek – Anja van die toekoms! Dit is sekerlik snaaks om van my te hoor, maar ek wil graag, nou dat ek ‘n oomblik het, ‘n paar goed met jou bespreek.

Noudat ek ouer is en deur die lewe gekom het, wil ek jou graag raad gee oor al die lesse wat ek geleer het. Anja, leef voluit en glo in jouself! Moenie angstig wees oor die toekoms nie, want die Here het ‘n plan vir jou lewe. Probeer om die menings van ander mense te ignoreer, en fokus liever op jouself, en groei in jou selfvertroue. Die lewe gaan moeilik word en mense gaan jou hart breek – maar in die toekoms is dit ‘n goeie ding, want hierdie laat jou ontwikkel in die outentieke mens wat jy wil word.

Moet nie jou lewe wegwens nie, want jy kan baie dankbaar wees vir die wonderlike vriende en familie wat al klaar in jou lewe is. Maar ek kan jou raad gee: bespreek alles met jou ouers, en toon vriendelikheid teenoor almal – dit sal jou ‘n gloeiende persoonlikheid gee! As ek een ding kon verander, sou ek sê dat jy meer in jou dagboek moet skryf, sodat jy eendag, in die toekoms, oor al ons wonderlike herinneringe kan lees. Jy wonder sekerlik of ons nog steeds in Suid-Afrika woon. Ja, ons doen ... Suid-Afrika is waar my hart lê, en dit is die land van my voorvaders. Ek wil nooit die familie agterlaat nie, en ek dink Suid-Afrika is ‘n pragtige land waar mense die asemrowendste natuurskoon kan ervaar.

Sien uit na die toekoms, Anja! Moenie bekommerd wees nie, want jy gaan ‘n vreugdevolle lewe ervaar. Onthou net om jouself te vertrou, dan sal jou identiteit elke dag groei!

Anja Steyn

To be a Star

To be a star

You must burn

She steps out steadily onto the painted stage, a cold blue abyss underfoot. The curtains can't save her now. She stares out over an ocean of eyes, the eyes staring back. Her satin armour flutters, shielding ivory limbs from the unyielding gaze of her audience.

The music begins, the melody pulling her gracefully across the stage, her hands gliding through the air like knives. She carves planets and comets into the void, celestial bodies infinitely larger than herself.

The music builds, dissonance stiffening her motion. She seems to flicker as she falls in and out of stage lights. Shadows pass over inky makeup, sheltering, for an instant, her haunted expression.

The music reaches its climax, the crescendo unfurling her figure. Hair catching the light, a halo, she explodes. Supernova. A brilliant flash of light illuminates the stage. She holds her breath. Layers of icy silence envelope her. Absolute darkness. She is safe again. A star, for whom the blackness is reserved.

Daniela Cantarelli

Tours

The Wilderness Trail

The Wilderness Trail is an opportunity that no girl should turn down; it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that showed us a simpler life. Our guide told us that no trail is the same, which is what makes the journey so interesting. Here are two short explanations of our experiences.

“My wilderness trail was filled with breathtaking views, and some absurd experiences, such as being surrounded by two pairs of leopard one night while the baboons went berserk, but the trail is not just filled with animals; it is also filled with history. On our day walk, we went to Shaka's Rock, and our guide filled us with knowledge that you could never just learn from a book. Our guides were also quite the chefs – the food was amazing.”

“Connecting with the people in my group through this experience was so refreshing, because although we were not all close friends at school, we were able to get to know ourselves and each other better without the pressure of school. We swam in the rivers, played cards, and shared stories. Being immersed in God's creation really taught me to put my problems into perspective and live in every moment. I learnt not to fear what I cannot control because if the lion's coming, no amount of worry will stop it.”

We encourage other girls to do this trail because it isn't an experience that can be created over a screen or explained by words. It is one you need to do firsthand to understand fully.

Rebecca Porritt and Mia Howie



Tours

Spirit of Adventure

Our experience at Spirit of Adventure was one we'll never forget. Over the days, we discovered just how much teamwork, perseverance, and a positive attitude can accomplish.

We learnt that supporting our classmates through tough moments was key, and every activity pushed us out of our comfort zone in the best way possible. We learnt to trust others, to lead with confidence, and to find joy in every challenge.

We were so grateful for how wonderfully it all ended, though it was bittersweet knowing it was our last ever school trip together. By the end of our time there, we didn't just leave feeling the same – we felt a deeper connection with our peers and left feeling upbeat and inspired to use our different strengths to lead others.

Spirit of Adventure truly lived up to its name, giving us memories and lessons that will stay with us forever.

Emma Williams and Danika Freese



2026 Prefects

Lamia
Amod

Victoria
Burczak

Megan
Cloete

Danika
Freese

Olivia
Greyling

Mihlali
Hadebe

Mia
Howie

Somila
Jozi

Tholwana
Khoele

Anna
Maynard

Lwandisa
Memela

Rebecca
Porritt

Cassidy
Tredgold

Kate
van Breda

Eleanor
Warr

Emma
Williams



Senior Boarder Prefect:
Annabelle Balmer

Senior Boarder Prefect:
Rebecca Hoatson

Deputy Head Girl:
Rachel Phongo

Head Girl:
Lelomso Mkondweni

Confirmation



HAPPY SNAPS





Grade TWELVE



Back Row: J. van der Byl; O. Gowa; E. Moor; S. Quin; G. Kyle; J. Linfield; S. Lavagna-Slater; E. Jonker; L. Hancock; K. Hein; E. Mitchell-Innes; K. Lütge; C. Campbell; C. Rohrs.
Fourth Row: D. Norman; G. Brien; R. Gafoor; T. Ardé; T. Rohrs; M. Michaux; M. Drakopoulos; K. Hohls; R. Pringle; E. Culverwell; T. Stegen; R. Kendall; Z. Mjamekwana.
Third Row: O. Pillay; H. Goble; I. Kirby; N. Khumalo; E. van Rooyen; M. Soden; S. Meter; R. Ekerold; K. Metcalf; J. Mecklenborg; T. Evans; L. Majiki; D. du Plessis; C. Kohne.
Second Row: N. Evans; C. Sates; C. Lund; C. de Villiers; S. Kelman; K. Leighton; S. Greig; O. Leisegang; E. Kloppers; N. Dladla; I. Zondi; C. Houart; S. Armour.
First Row: Y. Makhanya; K. Pillay; I. Armstrong; I. van der Berg; F. Flemington; F. Morrow; R. Evans; E. Chandler; A. Falala; E. De Klerk; S. Lewis; H. Spencer; J. Chen; S. Soni.
Seated: R. Maharaj; C. Naidoo; Ms J. Keevy-Muir; A. Mshumpela; Mr C. Barnsley; K. Wynne; Mrs A. Pillay; V. Usher; Mrs T. Zammit; E. Hamilton; Mrs J. Jeary; G. Do Vale; A. Sigaba.

WELCOME TO GRADE 12

As I pack up my room, the memories of the past five years at this special place come flooding back. I find myself reflecting especially on my Grade 12 year, on the silly jokes shared with teachers and classmates, tea with my sister, and sports days spent with family and teammates.

I would describe my Matric year as full. Full of love and laughter, and full of new lessons and exciting moments every day, from driving lessons to Matric Dances and fun days in between. However, that doesn't mean everything was smooth sailing. Matric is also full of

challenges, exams, farewells, and the kinds of goodbyes that are never easy. But, this year has taught me that these moments become lighter when you surround yourself with like-minded people who share the journey with you. I will be forever grateful to St John's D.S.G. for giving me these people.

The collection of sentimental memories I hold is full of the wonderful people who made this wonderful place feel like home.

Rebecca Pringle

Subject Highlights

Chemistry in Action

This year, the Matrics delved into the fascinating topic of rates of reaction during their Chemistry lessons. Through a series of engaging and hands-on experiments, they were able to explore how different factors influence the speed of chemical reactions.

One of the highlights was a demonstration, an experiment also showcased during our Senior School

Open Day to spark interest in the sciences. What made this lesson especially rewarding was watching the students begin to understand the science behind the spectacle they once viewed as mere entertainment. Now, with their growing knowledge, they can appreciate the real chemistry at play and explain why the reaction occurs the way it does.



Matric CLASS of 2025



Achulumancile
Mshumpela



Amahle
Falala



Anika
Sigaba



Caitlyn
Houart



Caitlyn
Sates



Casey
Campbell



Caycee
Lund



Cevana
Naidoo



Claudia
Kohne



Claudia
Rohrs



Courtney
de Villiers



Deanne
du Plessis



Diané
Norman



Edie
Jonker



Elizabeth
De Klerk



Emma
Culverwell



Emma
Kloppers



Emma
Mitchell-Innes



Erin
Chandler



Erin
Hamilton



Erin
Moor



Erin
van Rooyen



Fallyn
Morrow



Freya
Flemington



Gabriela
Do Vale



Georgina
Kyle



Grace
Brien



Hayley
Goble



Hope
Spencer



Imogen
Kirby



Asande
Zondi



Isabelle
van der Berg



Isobel
Armstrong



Jemma
van der Byl



Jessica
Linfield



Michelle
Chen



Jude
Mecklenborg



Kailia
Pillay



Kaitlyn
Hein



Kate
Metcalf



Kayla
Hohls



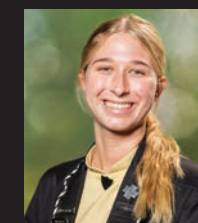
Kaylee
Leighton



Keira
Lütge



Kerrin
Wynne



Layla
Hancock



Khomotso
Majiki



Micah
Soden



Milan
Michaux



Milla
Drakopoulos



Naomi
Evans



Nkosikwenzile
Khumalo



Nobuntu
Dladla



Olivia
Gowar



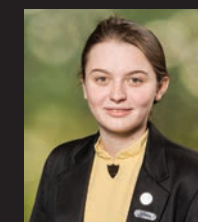
Olivia
Leisegang



Olivia
Pillay



Rachel
Ekerold



Rachel
Evans



Rebecca
Pringle



Rheasha
Maharaj



Rookaya
Gafoor



Rylee
Kendall



Sage
Lavagna-Slater



Sarah
Kelman



Savannah
Lewis



Shannon
Meter



Sonali
Soni



Sophia
Armour



Sophia
Greig



Sophie
Quin



Tara
Stegen



Tayla
Rohrs



Taylor
Ardé



Tia
Evans



Victoria
Usher



Yanhle
Makhanya



Amanda
Mjamekwana

Matric and Prefect Blessing



Matric DANCE



There is really only one word that can describe the evening of the Matric Dance: breathtaking. It was a characteristically warm night in Pietermaritzburg; the air was buzzing with excitement, and the setting sun sent a golden glow over the girls as they gracefully climbed out of their cars and, met with the cheers of the younger grades, onto the red carpet. The top hockey field soon turned into a kaleidoscope of colour as the girls arrived in their glittering dresses and posed for photos with their friends (and their beloved teachers, of course!)

The indoor centre had been completely transformed into an utterly magical scene for this year's theme: Sakura Nights. Gorgeous parasols floated above every table and cherry blossoms in all shades of pink burst from every angle. A highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the dad's and daughter's dance, which brought plenty of smiles and hysterical laughs as girls (and even a few dads) twirled around the dance floor. The Matric Dance was not only beautiful, but an absolute blast for the girls, their dates and their parents too. The Matrics are incredibly grateful for all the hours of hard work that was put into making this dance so special; it was truly an unforgettable evening.

Hope Spencer



Releasing OF THE PIGEONS



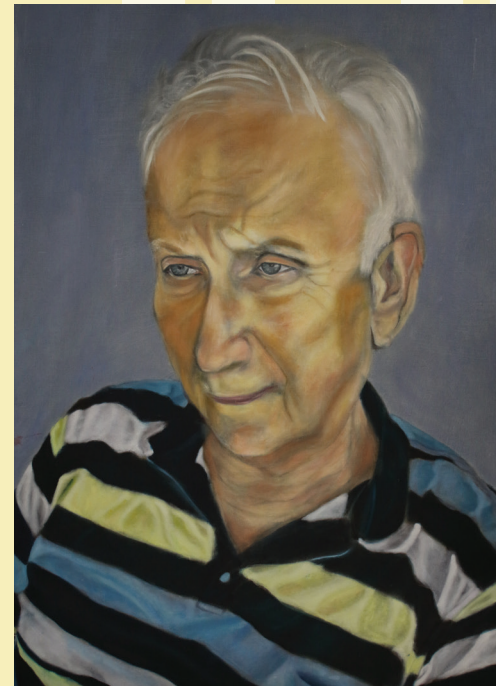
Matric ART



Rachel Ekerold



Elizabeth De Klerk



Layla Hancock



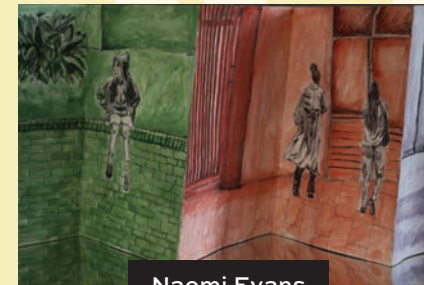
Milan Michaux



Sarah Kelman



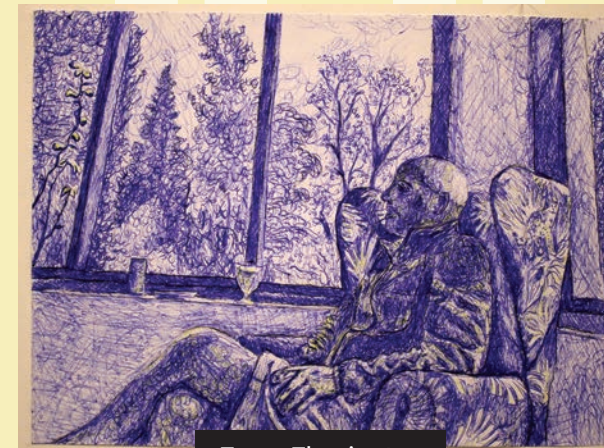
Caycee Lund



Naomi Evans



Emma Mitchell-Innes



Freya Flemington



Kayla Hohls



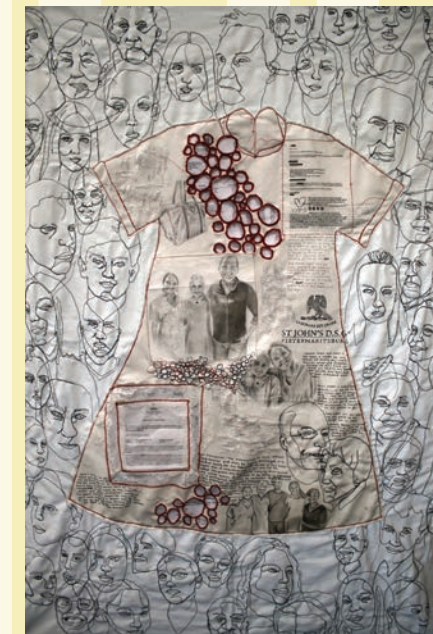
Rebecca Pringle



Jude Mecklenborg



Victoria Usher



Erin Chandler



Tia Evans

Speech DAY

In Term 4, we held our annual Speech Day, and we're beaming with pride at all that our girls have accomplished during their time at St John's D.S.G.

We were honoured to welcome Mrs Audrey Mbuyazi – mom to Old Girl, Tsungai (Class of 2019), accomplished singer, songwriter, IT consultant and St John's D.S.G. Board Member – as our guest speaker. She shared heartfelt and entertaining reflections on what she would tell her younger self if given the chance.

Her inspiring address concluded with a moving performance of one of her original songs, "One Simple Prayer," performed alongside two of our talented St John's D.S.G. music students.



SERVICE AWARDS

- ♥ SACRISTAN AWARD Rheasha Maharaj
- ♥ THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD Khomotso Majiki
- ♥ SERVICE TO OUTREACH Claudia Rohrs
- ♥ SENIOR SCHOOL MUSIC AWARD (Francine Bowker Shield) Kerrin Wynne
- ♥ SENIOR CHORISTER Amahle Falala
- ♥ SERVICE TO THE THEATRE TECHNICAL TEAM Jessica Linfield
- ♥ SERVICE TO BOARDING (The Getliffe Cup) Amahle Falala
- ♥ DEPUTY HEAD GIRLS' AWARD Gabriela Do Vale and Victoria Usher
- ♥ SENIOR BOARDER PREFECTS' AWARD Erin Hamilton and Achulumancile Mshumpela
- ♥ HEAD GIRL'S AWARD Kerrin Wynne

SPORTS AND CULTURAL AWARDS

- ♥ THE ASHLEIGH WIENAND CUP Rachel Ekerold
- ♥ THE DEBBIE GROVE TROPHY FOR NATIONAL SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT Milla Drakopoulos and Cevana Naidoo
- ♥ THE SPORTSWOMEN OF THE YEAR Milla Drakopoulos and Cevana Naidoo
- ♥ THE GREYLING CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP Layla Hancock and Nkosikwenzile Khumalo

ACADEMIC AWARDS

♥ MERIT CERTIFICATES: (Average of over 75%)

Grace Brien, Erin Chandler, Michelle Chen, Gabriela Do Vale, Rachel Ekerold, Naomi Evans, Freya Flemington, Rookaya Gafoor, Layla Hancock, Claudia Kohne, Olivia Leisegang, Jessica Linfield, Kate Metcalf, Emma Mitchell-Innes, Amanda Mjamekwana, Kailia Pillay, Claudia Rohrs, Tayla Rohrs, Caitlyn Sates, Micah Soden, Hope Spencer, Isabelle van der Berg, Kerrin Wynne

MATRICULATION SUBJECT PRIZES

- ♥ ACCOUNTING (PWC Trophy) Rookaya Gafoor
- ♥ ADVANCED PROGRAMME ENGLISH Freya Flemington
- ♥ ADVANCED PROGRAMME MATHEMATICS Rookaya Gafoor
- ♥ AFRIKAANS Rookaya Gafoor
- ♥ BUSINESS STUDIES Amanda Mjamekwana
- ♥ CONSUMER STUDIES Gabriela Do Vale
- ♥ CONSUMER STUDIES PRACTICAL RESEARCH TASK Imogen Kirby
- ♥ DRAMATIC ARTS Amanda Mjamekwana
- ♥ DRAMATIC ARTS PRACTICAL Nobuntu Dladla and Sophia Greig
- ♥ THE BERRY JENNINGS TROPHY FOR ENGLISH Rookaya Gafoor
- ♥ ENGINEERING GRAPHIC DESIGN Kate Metcalf
- ♥ EGD PRACTICAL (Angstrom Trophy) Kate Metcalf
- ♥ FRENCH Hope Spencer
- ♥ GEOGRAPHY Milla Drakopoulos
- ♥ GERMAN Kiera Lütge
- ♥ HISTORY Naomi Evans
- ♥ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Jessica Linfield

- ♥ ISIZULU Asande Zondi
- ♥ LIFE ORIENTATION Olivia Leisegang
- ♥ LIFE SCIENCES (Rosalie Franklin Memorial Cup) Rookaya Gafoor
- ♥ MATHEMATICAL LITERACY Edie Jonker
- ♥ MATHEMATICS (PWC Trophy) Rookaya Gafoor and Michelle Chen
- ♥ PHYSICAL SCIENCES Michelle Chen
- ♥ VISUAL ARTS Freya Flemington
- ♥ VISUAL ARTS PRACTICAL Freya Flemington
- ♥ THE JOANNE (DALTON) BEATTIE MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR CREATIVITY Erin Chandler
- ♥ PIETER BREYTENBACH AWARD Proxima Accessit to Dux with an average of 93,45% Michelle Chen
- ♥ THE ABBOT CUP FOR DUX, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA DUX SCHOLARSHIP with an average of 94,74% Rookaya Gafoor

SPECIAL AWARDS

- ♥ THE JILL CHAMPION AWARD FOR ALL-ROUND ACHIEVEMENT Kerrin Wynne
- ♥ THE PINNY MAPHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR ALTRUISM Kerrin Wynne
- ♥ THE NATALIE MILLER MEMORIAL AWARD Grace Brien and Emma Culverwell
- ♥ THE DEBI SHREEVE TROPHY FOR FELLOWSHIP Nkosikwenzile Khumalo
- ♥ THE PRINCIPLE AWARD Layla Hancock
- ♥ THE ST JOHN'S CUP Kerrin Wynne
- ♥ THE GEM AWARD Gabriela Do Vale





PRIZE
Winners

VALEDICTORY Service

This year's Grade 12 Valedictory Service was a moment of reflection, gratitude, and celebration. It marked the culmination of the Class of 2025's school journey and provided an opportunity to honour their achievements, acknowledge their growth, and bid them a heartfelt farewell.



Creative WRITING

Peppermint Crisp Tart

Yesterday I made Peppermint Crisp tart, just as I did every year for his birthday. It was different this year though. Everything is different this year. Since he died, I have carried on with my same routine. I go to school, laugh with friends, read my books, talk to my family – but it all feels different.

I knew the moment “Sven’s gone” left my father’s lips my life would never be the same again. His death changed my perspective on everything.

I’m not sure what compelled me to make the tart. It wasn’t as if he was going to eat it. It was just something I had always done, and I did not want to change that. After his death I clung to routines thinking that I could pretend the huge change did not happen if I carried on as normal. I now know that the imprint his death left on my life was far too deep to be scrubbed away by feigning normality. It clarified how I view life and all the experiences it has to offer.

This became evident as I was making the tart. The process was always quick and easy. Crush the biscuits. Whip the cream. Beat the caramel. Dice the chocolate. Add it all together. Let it set. Every time I crushed a biscuit I remembered how, in the years before, he would have eaten almost half the biscuits before I got the chance to crush them. I was saddened when I did not have anyone to give the bowl to lick afterwards. When the tart was done it just sat on the kitchen counter, it was not in his arms where it belonged.

That was the first time I realised that I did not just lose a person. I lost hearing him laugh at my stupid jokes. I lost hearing him sing to country music with Karsten. I lost him infinitely.

After his death, how I do things has not really changed, but why I do them and how I feel while doing them has been completely altered. Every moment in my life is now an experience I can learn from, always bittersweet. I am grateful for the fights with my friends, the annoyance of Karsten, my parents nagging. I appreciate these things because they are there. Now I can see that they all indicate a deep sense of love and so I welcome them with open arms.

I celebrate everything. I celebrate Karsten making 10 runs even if he does not think it is impressive. I celebrate my mother making dinner despite it being burnt sometimes. I celebrate my friends choosing to talk to me. I choose to celebrate all the wonderful people and every moment I have in my life because I now know that they are not permanent. Sven’s death has taught me that everything matters.

Claudia Rohrs

Before it is too late

Just seven months ago, my nāinaī (grandmother) was full of life. She was a vibrant force in our family, always active, always laughing, always showing her love in her own ways. She would hum songs from her youth while she swept the balcony, pausing every now and then to dance with me. On weekends, she would often wake up early to make bao buns from scratch and insist that everyone gather around the table to help her stuff them. She would joke around, criticising how we were putting in too much stuffing while proceeding to use twice as much filling as us. In the garden, she would plant cabbages and carrots while I sat nearby, listening to her tell stories of her childhood in Fujianese – a language I do not know well, yet through her hand gestures, facial expressions and tone, I understood her as if I were fluent. My nāinaī was constantly moving, constantly giving and constantly present. She was a flame of warmth and joy.

Things have changed now.

My grandmother can no longer eat on her own. She no longer speaks. Her legs have given up, and now she spends most of her time lying in bed, too weak to move. Her eyes, which were once so bright and filled with recognition, now stare into the distance as if the light and life within her is slowly fading. Besides her, a growing cluster of medication bottles sit like quiet witnesses to a battle she is slowly losing. We say the medications are helping. We want to believe they are helping. However, deep down, I know they are only delaying the inevitable.

And I am not the only one who is struggling to grasp everything. I see the turmoil in my father, too. Over the past month, he has flown to China twice to be with my grandmother. Each time he returns, he carries something heavier than just jet lag. There is a weight in his eyes, a silent grief that clings to him. In quieter moments, there is something deeper than sadness in him: Regret. It is the regret for not spending more time with his mother, the regret for all the years that slipped by while he was too busy working to simply be with the woman who raised him.

Seeing my grandmother fade and the regret that shadows my father’s face made me realise something I should have known all along: Time is limited.

That thought scared me, but it also changed me. Now, I try to be more present. I put my phone down and sit with my parents. I spend more time at family dinners, even when there is studying to do. I ask my family how their day was, not out of habit, but because I genuinely want to know. Through my nāinaī, my dear grandmother, I have come to understand how precious time is, and how important it is to live with intention, to be present, and to love those around me, before it is too late.

Michelle Chen

18:07

The air conditioner thrums soothingly as the engine of our car rumbles into the dusk. “18:07”, declares the pixelated screen of the car console. It’s a Tuesday evening; my tattered Maths textbook is slumped in the footwell of the passenger side and copious amounts of notes and formulae written in a hasty scrawl are spread out on the dashboard in front of me. These are my school evenings. It’s the rhythm of every week: Monday to Friday, in the car and on the highway.

My mother’s veiny, sun spotted hands clutch onto the steering wheel. She has always been a nervous driver. Orange-gold sunlight crawls over her head and spins intricate webs in her tangled hair. The light warms the side of her face as the sun desperately attempts to evade the moon’s inevitable arrival. We continue to glide serenely among the stream of soft headlights, racing away from the city.

Voluminous clouds hang frozen in the sky outside of the car window. Fine golden filaments have

spun themselves around the wispy clouds, gently tethering them to the kaleidoscopic mass of colour that is suspended above the proudly glittering sun. An abrupt slash of blue prevents the heavenly display from meeting the horizon and bleeding away like watercolour paint onto the black farmland that lies dormant on either side of the highway.

A fresh earthy scent oozes in through the air conditioning vents. It is thick and heavy with the sweet odour of cut grass from the sea of pasture surrounding us. The sugary smell of honeysuckle

injects itself into the air sporadically like puffs of an exotic perfume. The distinct smell of the evening creeps in discreetly. It is the smell of the earth winding down.

The car’s tires roll on over the darkening tar-river that stretches infinitely before us. The dazzling display of colour has been painted over with a dusty purple. If perfection is lots of little things done well, or done beautifully, then every one of my school evenings is perfection.

Hope Spencer

Subject TOURS

Grades 10–11 French Tour

A few of our Grades 10–11 French students, in partnership with St Anne's Diocesan College, jetted off on an unforgettable French Tour during the June holidays!

From immersive language lessons at the Centre International d'Antibes to exploring the charm of Èze, Monaco (hello, Princess Charlene!), Nice, Cannes,

Grasse, and more, every day was filled with learning, culture, and a touch of French flair.

Basing themselves in the beautiful seaside town of Antibes, the students soaked up the sunshine, practised their French, and made memories to last a lifetime!



Grades 10–12 isiZulu Tour

This year, the isiZulu Grades 10–12 girls enjoyed an enriching cultural excursion to Indlondlo Cultural Village, nestled in the scenic surroundings of Cato Ridge. This experience offered students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in authentic Zulu traditions and customs.

During the visit, the girls explored various aspects of traditional Zulu life, including the significance of

naming a child, the values and responsibilities involved in raising a girl child, and practices related to animal care and livestock. These lessons were shared through engaging storytelling and interactive demonstrations that brought the culture to life.

To round off the day, the girls were treated to a delicious, traditionally cooked Zulu meal, an experience that was both educational and satisfying!



Grades 11–12 Consumers Tour to Cape Town

Over half-term in Term 1, our Grades 11–12 Business and Consumer Studies students, led by the wonderful Mrs Luthuli and Mrs Jeary, set off on an exciting tour to Cape Town, bringing their classroom learning to life in the best way possible.

They explored top manufacturing facilities like TFG, Suzi Products and Atlantic Studios, gaining real-world business insights, and even met with D.A. Chief Whip, Mr George Michalakis, at Parliament.

But it wasn't all about business! The trip was packed with unforgettable adventures, cruising on the Jolly Rodger, taking in breathtaking views from Table Mountain, soaking up the sun on the beach, and singing along to ABBA, Bee Gees, and Roxette at an outdoor cinema.

From corporate governance to epic sunsets, this trip was the perfect mix of education and fun – definitely one for the books!



Service TO THE SCHOOL



Blood Donors



Enviro Club



Marketing Forum Committee



Theatre Tech Team



Outreach Committee



Sisonke



RCL

The President's Award

GOLD STANDARD

Isabelle
van der Berg

BRONZE STANDARD

Okuhle Mbili
Isla Martinson
Amalie Chetty

SILVER STANDARD

Molly Whitley
Ruth Reynard
Kiran Perumal
Demi Garden
Diané Norman
Rebecca Jackson

Michaela Tudor
Jessica Byron
Abbie Julius
Katelyn Newlands
Sanvi Tallapaneni
Mila Armour

Bridget Galliers
Alexandra Warr

Megan Coertze
Keira Wang
Kimaya Govender

Yaana Laloo
Megan Byron
Amelia Smit
Sophie Catlett
Ryeli Ferndale

Derryn Millward



President's Award Committee



Senior Performance Dance Company

In Term 2, the St John's D.S.G. Performance Dance Company returned from an extraordinary international tour across the Netherlands and Belgium, where they explored breathtaking cities and showcased their talent on a global stage.

The tour took the girls through Amsterdam, Breda, Antwerp, Bruges and Ghent. From canal cruises and tulip fields to the WONDR Experience and Van Gogh Museum, every day was packed with discovery, laughter and unforgettable memories.

At the heart of the tour was the Dance Waves Competition, where our dancers competed with

grace and power against some of Europe's top dance schools. Placing 4th and 5th in both the Netherlands and Belgium legs of the competition, respectively, is an extraordinary achievement.

To represent South Africa internationally is a privilege; to place twice is an incredible accomplishment. This tour was more than a competition – it was about growth, connection, and proudly flying the flag for our school and country. Our dancers were ambassadors of excellence, resilience, and unity, and we couldn't be prouder of how they carried themselves on and off the stage.



Library Life IN FULL BLOOM

The Library has been buzzing with excitement! On St John's Day, we joyfully welcomed back past pupils who loved seeing the beautiful new Library design and enjoyed flipping through old school magazines. Our special display celebrating decade anniversaries was a big hit, both with alumni and current girls who had fun spotting familiar faces from the past.

Our Grade 8 History students also impressed us with creative projects about the role of animals in World War I.

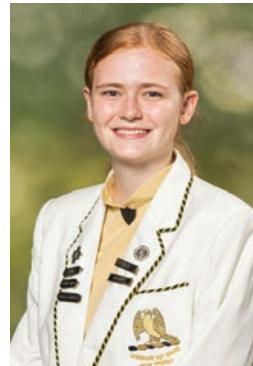
We were honoured to host Siyanda and Nolu from WILDTRUST, who met with the Enviro Club to receive a donation for the Library: "The Natal Parks Board: A Conservation Adventure" by George Hughes. This inspiring book, along with a generous gift of indigenous trees for our garden, celebrates the important work of the former Parks Board, now known as Ezemvelo Wildlife.



Library Assistants



Leadership



Kerrin

The Matric class began our St John's D.S.G. journey in the midst of COVID-19. Despite the challenges of those early years, we chose to move forward and refocus on what matters most: our faith and our commitment to growing girls of character at St John's D.S.G. With this in mind, the Matric class chose this year's theme, "A recipe for a golden heart."

St John's D.S.G. is more than a building; it is a home. It is more than a group of people; it is a family. And the reason I can confidently say this is because of our heart. As a Matric group, we wanted to honour this, continue its legacy, and help preserve St John's D.S.G.'s golden heart.

Kerrin Wynne – Head Girl 2025

Recipe for a *golden heart*

Ingredient list:

- A large amount of **Integrity**
- A generous cup of **Empathy**
- A handful of **Enthusiasm**
- A jugful of **Determination**
- A scoop of **Courage**
- A heaped tablespoon of **Leadership**
- A heap of **Motivation**

Signed by: Sous chef _____
Head chef _____



SPECIAL MOMENTS



all about heart • all about heart • all about heart



Grades 10–11 FORMAL DINNER



CUT FOR CANSA

We were so moved by the incredible support at our 2025 Cut for CANSA event!

Thank you to everyone who “made the cut” or sprayed their hair – together, we collected 38 ponytails and raised over R3880 for this wonderful cause.



Farming God's Way

This year, the Grade 8s were introduced to a subject called Cross Curriculum – a double lesson every two weeks where the project “Farming God’s Way” was used to explore a variety of interlinking subjects and skills. During their Orientation Week, the girls planted 24 “Gardens of Faithfulness”, which they continued to nurture and grow during the year. Their harvests were put to good use and were incorporated into the

EMS curriculum, where packaging, pricing, sustainability and other concepts were covered. The girls also monitored the growth rate of each plant and analysed this data in Mathematics.

This is the second year we have run this programme, and we are grateful to Irritech for donating a much-needed sprinkler system.



Fashion WITH HEART

In March, our Grade 12s “wowed” the crowds with their stunning dresses, at the annual Matric Dance Fashion Show.

The event was well supported by the St John’s D.S.G. community and raised close to R16 000 with all proceeds being donated to The Pietermaritzburg SPCA and Thandanani Children’s Home.



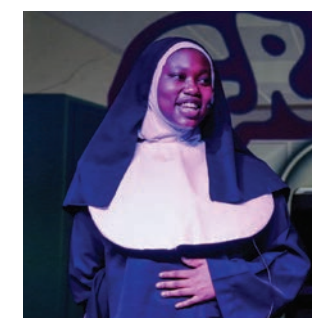
FUNK



“Nunsense”

In Term 1, our Senior School’s hilarious production of “Nunsense” had audiences in stitches! With side-splitting moments and outstanding performances, this feel-good show was an absolute crowd-pleaser, leaving everyone thoroughly entertained.

A huge round of applause to Mrs Anica Scholtz (Theatre Manager) and her incredible team for bringing this brilliant production to life! It was a joy-filled, laugh-a-minute way to end the term.



INTERHOUSE LIP-SYNC Battles

The girls brought energy, vibes, and a whole lot of “slay” to a gloomy Wednesday morning at the Interhouse Lip-Sync Battles this year!

Each House took on songs from four categories – Queen, 90s, 2000s, and Current – delivering unforgettable performances. From Michael Jackson moonwalking across the stage to Britney Spears and Spice Girls stealing the spotlight, the talent and enthusiasm were off the charts!

A BIG “congratulations” to Hermann for taking the win and to every performer who gave it their all.



Boarding



Introduction



The annual Closed Weekend at the beginning of the year was filled with laughter, sunshine, and a true sense of community. On the Saturday evening, the girls relaxed under the stars while enjoying a screening of “Mamma Mia” – a magical moment of music, friendship, and joy.

On the Sunday, all the boarders came together for a creative project: a collaborative painting now proudly displayed in our new entrance. This artwork is especially meaningful, as it features the handprints or fingerprints of every boarder, a lasting reminder that each girl is an important part of our boarding family.

We are delighted to share some of the upgrades that continue to enhance life in boarding. This year, these include:

- A new roof covering for St Elizabeth and St Joseph’s.
- A refreshed, stylish look for our juice area.
- New toilet paper holders throughout the BE.
- Beautiful new cushions and décor in the Grade 8–11 common rooms.
- Fresh blinds in St Theresa, St Anne’s, and St Elizabeth.
- New carpets in St Theresa.
- Elegant new wooden floors in the Grade 10 bathrooms and Grade 11 common rooms.
- A new boarding entrance.

Boarding life is always evolving, and we are excited about the progress we continue to make – from joyful weekends and meaningful traditions to thoughtful upgrades across our spaces.

New Staff

This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming four new Boarder Mistresses – Miss Moolman, Miss Mazibuko, Miss Holtz, and Miss Erskine – together with two new House Mothers, Ms Starke and Miss Shezi, to our Boarding team.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all 191 of our wonderful girls who have made Boarding such a happy and vibrant place. We truly have something very special here – an atmosphere that can only be understood once you are part of it and experience it for yourself.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our 2025 Boarder Prefects. Your hard work, commitment, and support throughout the year have been invaluable. To our Head Boarder Prefects, Achu and Erin, thank you for your loyal dedication and exceptional leadership. We are deeply grateful for all that you have done for Boarding this year.

Ronel Taylor
Head of Boarding

Boarder Council Members:

Grade 12:

Achulumancile Mshumpela | Erin Hamilton

Grade 11:

Jessica Hoatson | Tholwana Khoele

Grade 10:

Leah Gordon | Philippa Balmer

Grade 9:

Elisabeth Roylance | Lesedi Cindi

Grade 8:

Tatum Braithwaite | Aysha Mabuza

Boarder Food Council:

Grade 12:

Achulumancile Mshumpela | Yanhle Makhanya | Erin Hamilton

Grade 11:

Rebecca Hoatson | Danika Freese

Grade 10:

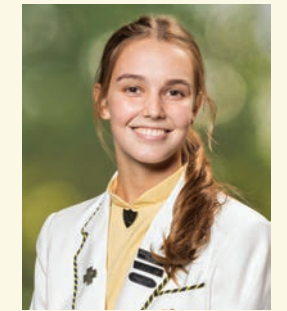
Rachel Macquet | Tyler Kyle

Grade 9:

Bronwyn Leslie | Gabriella Tucker



Head Boarder Prefects



The past year as a Senior Boarder Prefect has been arguably the most challenging and rewarding in my school career so far. Moving into the role at the start of the year, I was aware that it would mean assuming great responsibility-duty management, support to boarding staff, and being a role model for the boarders – but I could never imagine how much I would grow into it. Handling the pressures of leadership with academic demands as a Grade 12 student was not always simple. Particularly when attempting to make sure every boarder felt heard, cared for, and included, there were times of pressure and tiredness. Nevertheless, the experience has been incredibly fulfilling despite everything. The sincere relationships I have formed with students from different grades have been one of the most unique parts of my experience as a Senior Boarder Prefect.

So many memorable moments made it such a special year. The Boarder Fun Weekend stays in my mind, when laughter, energy, and bonding united the boarders from the most junior to the seniors. It was rewarding to see everyone enjoying themselves and to know that I helped create this communal sense of happiness. The Outdoor Movie Evening is another standout event; so simple yet filled with so much warmth and bonding under the stars. These moments reminded me why I took on the role in the first place – to contribute to the building of a stronger, happier, more united boarding family. Of course, none of it would have been possible without my amazing Senior Boarder Prefect partner, Erin. Every obstacle was easy, and every victory had greater meaning while she was by my side. Her support, dependability, and sense of humour made the year genuinely delightful by transforming difficult situations into tolerable ones. We overcame obstacles as a team and discovered the real value of cooperation. In addition to enhancing my leadership abilities, serving as a Senior Boarder Prefect has given me friendships for life and taught me the value of cooperation, compassion, and resilience. Although it came with a lot of responsibility, I will always view it as an honour and a privilege.

Achulumancile Mshumpela

This past year, as Head of Boarding, has truly been one of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my time at school. I was honoured to be elected for the role, but I knew it would come with big responsibilities. Admin around the B.E., supporting the boarding staff, and being someone the younger boarders could look up to. Balancing leadership with the pressures of Grade 12 wasn’t always easy, especially when I would try to help a younger boarder when I was struggling myself, but the journey has been so worthwhile. Having two older sisters who also passed through this school made this experience even more special. Boarding has always felt like a second home to me, a place filled with laughter, late-night talks, and friendships that feel like family. Being able to give back to a community that has meant so much to my family and me has been such an honour.

I’ve been incredibly lucky to have shared this role with my amazing partner, Achu. From the busy nights of planning to the funny, chaotic moments in between, she has been such a constant source of support and positivity. Her kindness, humour, and reliability made everything easier. I couldn’t have asked for a better person to lead alongside. Together, we faced challenges head-on, celebrated small victories, and learnt to lean on each other when things became overwhelming. I’ll always admire the way she brings people together with such genuine warmth and care, and she will always be someone I look up to. This year has taught me so much about teamwork, empathy, and resilience. More than anything, it’s shown me the importance of caring for others and creating a sense of belonging. I’ll always look back on this year with gratitude for the people, the memories, and the chance to make a difference in a place that has given me so much. I’ve learnt from this year that sometimes the most meaningful moments come from quiet conversations, shared laughter, or simply being there for someone who needs it.

Erin Hamilton

Grade 8



Boarding truly is a home-away-from-home. The round-the-clock care, love and support provided by our House Mothers and Border Mistresses makes the bumpy transition from Junior to Senior School a whole lot smoother, and without them, we don't think it would have been as easy. We really value the bonds we have made with our friends and dorm mates, and often find ourselves on the swing chair outside on the verandas, a warm cup of tea in hand, made by one of the "famous" tea ladies – probably one of our favourite activities.

When we're not playing sport or in the Library, even on our worst days, the warm, comforting meals always manage to make us feel better, especially the cheese scones! Although lots of boarders were a bit hesitant to become boarders at first (we thought we would miss home too much), we have grown to love it and appreciate the sisterhood and all its great aspects. Boarding at St John's D.S.G. is a true privilege.

Graciela Greene, Keabetswe Motsatsi, Aysha Mabuza

Grade 9



I honestly love being a boarder at St John's D.S.G. It's been such an awesome experience, and I've made so many great memories here. From the moment I arrived, I felt like I was part of something special.

Grade 9 has been super fun and full of adventures. There have been early morning wake-ups, afternoon Soccer games with goals made out of slops and a random ball we found in lost property, late-night study sessions (and fire drills), and so many fun activities with my friends. I've learnt a lot, not just about schoolwork, but also about being independent and working together with others.

The best part about boarding is the friends I've made. We've shared rooms, laughed together, and supported each other through everything. The boarding community is like my second family.

Looking back at this year, I feel grateful for all the memories I've created. I can't wait to see what's next, but I know I'll always remember my time with these amazing people in this amazing environment. It's truly been the best experience ever!

Elisabeth Roylance

Grade 10



Boarding at St John's D.S.G. continues to be one of the most memorable and enriching aspects of a girl's high school career. The boarding house truly feels like a home away from home, filled with warmth, laughter, and strong friendships that grow deeper each day. It is a space where girls support one another through every challenge, celebrate each other's achievements, and share countless unforgettable moments, from late-night chats to the great excitement that comes along with "bombing," an all-time favourite tradition. Life in the boarding establishment fosters a sense of belonging and unity, where friendships evolve into sisterhoods built on trust, care, and shared experiences. These cherished bonds extend far beyond the walls and corridors of the boarding house and will keep us sisters connected long after our time at St John's D.S.G.

Rebecca Jackson

Grade 11



Boarding life this year has been an absolute treat. With the fresh decor and revamped areas, we have seen a transformation into a more comfortable and homely space for our spirited community of boarders.

The Grade 11s stepped up into our more senior positions, and this has been a highlight. During our Prefect Shadowing period, we accepted these greater responsibilities, which have taught us a thing or two about the courage and perseverance necessary to guide, mentor and discipline the younger grades as well as our own peers and equip us with some essential leadership skills as we look toward our final year.

I have personally loved connecting with the younger grades; it has been a learning curve to define the fine line between fun and mutual respect, but it has helped me keep some of our 'night owls' who love a chit-chat in check! Ultimately, we are just so fortunate to live in this large, well-loved boarding house where laughter constantly echoes in the halls, creating strong cross-grade bonds that truly define our vibrant boarding experience.

Annabelle Balmer

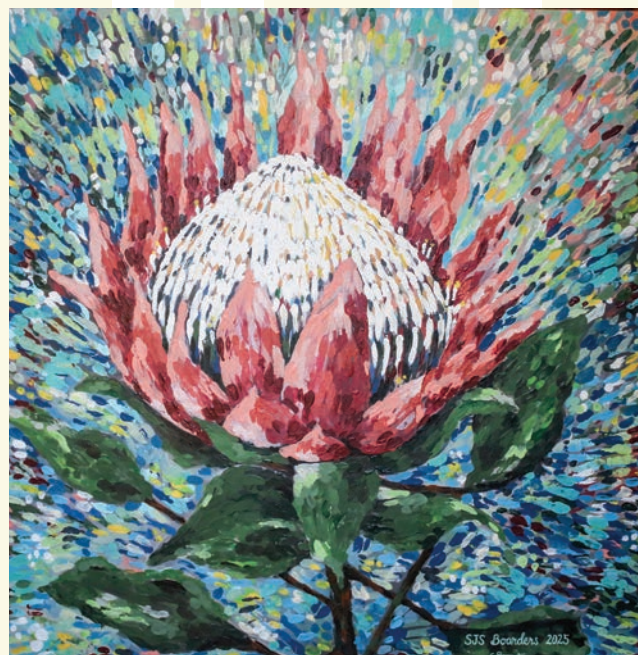
HAPPY SNAPS



Highlights

Closed WEEKEND

During the first closed weekend of Term 1, our boarders came together to create a unique piece of art for the Boarding Establishment (B.E.), guided by the creative talent of Carrie Bennet (mom to Hayley, Grade 8). Every girl (and boarding staff member) left their mark with their fingerprint, coming together to create a masterpiece they can all be proud of!



Grade 12 BOARDER DINNER

During Term 4, the Grade 12 boarders enjoyed a delightful evening at Fire and Vine! A special night to celebrate together before the stress of Finals began. It was a wonderful opportunity to relax, share good food, and enjoy great company.



Sports



Junior School SPORTS

2025 has been a year of great sport, teamwork, camaraderie, skill development and action. Our teams have participated in local fixtures, festivals, tours and tournaments. Our St John's D.S.G. girls have participated enthusiastically in both individual and team events and have taken great pride in representing their school. Most importantly, we have made the best memories and had great fun!

We are very grateful for the time, energy and expertise of our numerous external coaches as well as the Junior School academic staff. Their commitment to developing, supporting and growing our girls is so appreciated.

Some highlights for 2025 included our Swimming Galas, Parent & Daughter Doubles Tennis, Buddy Sports Activities, our annual St John's Junior School Sports Festival, Soccer Matches and the U13 Eunice Hockey tour.



Provincial and Regional Representatives



Hockey Open A



Indoor Hockey Open



Netball Open A



Soccer Open A



Squash League



Swimming Squad



Basketball Open



Cross-Country



Tennis Open

HAPPY SNAPS



Special Moments

JUNIOR SCHOOL Sports Festival

We hosted our annual Junior School Sports Festival in Term 2. We had a total of 12 Hockey teams, nine Netball teams, eight Tennis teams and five Squash teams participating this year. 275 enthusiastic players from 12 schools experienced a great day of competitive sport, healthy competition and good sportsmanship. Our Grade 7 parents and girls provided much appreciated refreshments for all our visitors, sportswomen and coaches. What a fun event!



HOCKEY TOUR TO Bloemfontein

This year, our Junior Open A Hockey team participated in the Nika Coertzen Hockey Festival at Eunice School in Bloemfontein. The girls competed against many top schools from around the country and gained valuable experience. We finished 13th overall. A great weekend of camaraderie, fun and happy memories made this tour so special.



Highlights

Swimming

Our annual Championship and Interhouse Galas, where our Senior School and Junior School come together, are always a highlight for many. Both galas displayed some top-level swimming and wonderful school spirit.

This year, we hosted the Interschools' B Gala at TWC. It was the first year that boys, girls and co-ed schools participated against each other, raising the level of swimming as well as the competition. Our B squad finished 4th in the girls' section and 9th overall. It was a successful event with wonderful catering from our kitchen and incredible help and teamwork from all staff involved. Our A team participated in the Interschools' A Gala, where we finished 4th overall.



Tennis

This year, we hosted a Parent's and Daughter's Tennis Event which included many laughs and fun memories, as the girls thoroughly enjoyed having their parents spending some quality time on the court with them.



Soccer

St John's D.S.G. was able to field 12 Soccer teams in Term 3, which is three more than last year. It was wonderful to see so many girls enjoying the sport, increasing their skills and fitness. A highlight in the Soccer calendar was the Parent's and Daughter's Soccer event. The parents and girls thoroughly enjoyed spending time together in a fun morning of Soccer.



Buddy Sport

The Grade 1 and 2 girls engaged in interschool non-competitive mini Hockey matches, Netball, Soccer, obstacle courses and other fun games. The focus of these activities is enjoyment and teamwork. The girls are taught basic skills, and these activities allow them to practise these techniques and develop their confidence. Their enthusiasm and enjoyment are always clearly evident from the smiles on their faces. A strong foundation for good habits and sportsmanship is laid for future development in the various sports.

Awards AND ACHIEVEMENTS

HOCKEY

- ♥ **U12 UMGUNGUNDLOVU HOCKEY TEAM**
Mijelo Mkondweni
- ♥ **U13 UMGUNGUNDLOVU HOCKEY TEAM**
Yusra Khan
- ♥ **KZN U13A HOCKEY TEAM**
Elizabeth Cole-Edwardes
- ♥ **KZN U13B HOCKEY TEAM**
Meghan Kyle
Sthabile Ngcobo
- ♥ **KZN U13C HOCKEY TEAM**
Khwezi Cele

NETBALL

- ♥ **U13 UMGUNGUNDLOVU NETBALL TEAM**
Khwezi Cele

SQUASH

- ♥ **KZN U13A SQUASH TEAM**
Kyra Singh

SWIMMING

- ♥ **UMGUNGUNDLOVU SWIMMING TEAM**
Meghan Kyle

TENNIS

- ♥ **UMGUNGUNDLOVU U13B TENNIS TEAM**
Elizabeth Cole-Edwardes
- ♥ **UMGUNGUNDLOVU U13C TENNIS TEAM**
Georgia McCleary

SPORTS LEADERS

- Swimming**
Elizabeth Cole-Edwardes and Meghan Kyle
- Netball**
Kimia Deonundhan and Sthabile Ngcobo
- Hockey**
Yusra Khan and Khwezi Cele



Senior School SPORTS

It has been another busy, action-packed and exciting year of sport in the Senior School.

We recognise and celebrate the participation, commitment, dedication and achievements of individuals and teams at every level in every sport at St John's D.S.G. We are proud of all our teams and their outstanding success. We are even more proud of the improvement, commitment, sportsmanship, dedication, participation, fun and great memories that we have made along the way. Sport has given our girls life lessons that have transcended the parameters of any court or field. Passion, commitment, sacrifice, grit and determination are among the greatest values that sport develops. Whether our girls have played competitive sport or joined our lifestyle programme, our girls are always building a foundation for a healthy, happy lifestyle.

St John's D.S.G. has provided opportunities in all sports, and many of our historically smaller programmes have grown and are set to continue in their growth. In particular, the offering and opportunities in Water Polo, Soccer, Running and lifestyle programmes have grown tremendously in 2025.

We are proud of all our sportswomen who have been selected for various national, provincial and regional teams.

	Number of athletes
REGIONAL TEAMS (uMgungundlovu and Midlands)	43
PROVINCIAL TEAMS (KwaZulu-Natal and KwaZulu-Natal Inland)	66
NATIONAL SELECTION, RANKING AND REPRESENTATION	13

In Term 1, our Swimming Squad performed outstandingly in all their galas. Both our A and B Squads swam in various local galas. At the Senior Girls' Relay Gala, St John's D.S.G. won an incredible 19 out of 24 races, broke one record in the U19 backstroke and claimed 10 out of 11 trophies. This is the third successive year we have won this gala, which was the cherry on top of a really successful season of swimming. Our top swimmers have represented St John's D.S.G. on the world stage as well as at various national events.

Our Tennis programme continues to grow, and our teams have excelled in the league with our 1st team winning both the 1st and 3rd Term leagues. They finished in a creditable third place in the annual Smythe Trophy Interschools' tournament. Between the competitions, our Tennis girls have enjoyed some mixed social Tennis and Padel with some of the Midlands boys' schools.

The "Yellow Trail Blazers" had a competitive and enjoyable season of Cross-Country. Our Junior Girls A team ran away with the trophy and gold medal place in the Junior Girls' category. Our St John's D.S.G. B team finished in a creditable third place in the same category. Our Senior A team placed second in the Senior Girls' section. Five of the Top 10 places in the Individual Midlands Junior League were awarded to St John's D.S.G. girls, and the winning athlete in both the Senior and Junior leagues was one of our Trail Blazers. An exciting addition to our programme this year was entering a group of our runners in the Giants Cup Trail, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our Hockey programme is exceeding all expectations, fielding a total of 11 teams through the age groups from U14 to U18. The depth and talent of the players in our Hockey programme have resulted in them being top achievers in our uMgungundlovu league. Our U16A team were unbeaten in the league, and our 1st team finished in silver medal position at the Spar Central regional tournament, narrowly losing to Epworth in the final.

We are very grateful to the Parents' Association for the Astro lights that have enabled us to extend our time on the turf, especially in Winter. It means that all 11 of our teams can practice on Astro twice a week.

Our U16A team has really put St John's D.S.G. on the South African Hockey map! They had a great set of results both at the St Mary's, Kloof Festival and in our Pietermaritzburg league. Finishing in 10th place on the U16 Rankings list, they were invited to participate in the Top 12 U16 tournament in Paarl. In the pool games, they were unbeaten and went through to the playoffs, beating Rhenish and then Waterkloof in a penalty shootout to be crowned U16 National Champions.

Indoor Hockey in Term 4 has been a whirlwind season of derby matches and festivals, giving our teams maximum exposure and experience. We have fielded nine teams

across the three age groups. A number of our girls have been selected to play in the inaugural National Schools' Indoor tournament. Our internal franchise league has provided matches for another 60 Indoor Hockey players who have had a fun season of skill development and matches.

The St John's D.S.G. Equestrians have represented the school with pride and aplomb at the annual KwaZulu-Natal Interschools' Equestrian event. This prestigious event has been held for 50 years, and this year we had 12 riders represent the school in various teams and disciplines. The Team Turnout Parade and the Team Show Jumping were the highlights of a great weekend of competitive riding, camaraderie and teamwork. Congratulations to all the riders who have competed throughout the year at various shows and have been selected to represent KwaZulu-Natal. Special congratulations to our two National Eventing Champions who represented South Africa at the Africa Nations Cup – Jaime Welsh and Jordan Reeve.

Netball has run throughout the year, except for Term 3. Our pre-season league in Term 1 was great preparation for the Term 2 Winter league, where our seven "Yellow Nets" teams had a tough season of exciting matches against all our local schools. We are proud of the grit and determination that they have shown, particularly in the tight matches. In Term 4, a short Fast 5 season has been enjoyed by all. Our 1st team narrowly lost in the final of the Spar Regional 1st Team Fast 5 Tournament. We are so proud of the sportsmanship, tenacity and growth of this team over the season.

As one of the fastest-growing women's sports in the world, Soccer is thriving at St John's D.S.G. Both our U15A and U16A teams won the Pietermaritzburg leagues. Our four teams played matches against various Midlands schools, and the remainder of our Soccer players participated in weekly franchise Soccer practices and matches. Most importantly, despite the fierce competition, the fun, spirit and camaraderie have been clearly evident.

Our Squash players have excelled both locally, nationally and internationally. Their training ethic and commitment have shown in their results in both the local tournaments and national events. We congratulate the girls who have represented their province at Growthpoint National events and at National Schools' tournaments, as well as our St John's D.S.G. #1 ranked player, Makayla Naidoo, for her selection to attend the World Junior Squash Championships in Egypt.

Term 4 Basketball is always a loud and physically demanding season. Our teams acquitted themselves with skill and finesse in the Pietermaritzburg league against our local rival schools. The 1st team Basketball season culminated in them losing in a shoot-out after extra time at the St Peter's Festival.

Our sporting teams that have participated in various festivals, tours and tournaments this year have represented our school with pride and distinction both on and off the field. Our teams have had the chance to play against some of the very best schools in the country, pit ourselves against different strength opposition and meet and compete with different people, not to mention travelling to new and exciting places.

On top of all the competitive sport that takes place at St John's D.S.G., our lifestyle programme is really thriving despite the challenges of finding spaces to run classes and sessions. The girls have loved the Pilates classes and Dance Fit. Our Canoeing girls are still practising weekly at Midmar Dam and have grown in confidence.

The Strength and Conditioning programme, under the able management of Mrs Jenna Dermick, is reaping rewards. This aims to manage our athletes, and we are delighted to note a reduction in overuse injuries.

In amongst the business of school activities, it is so encouraging that so many of our girls are taking part in external activities and are doing things they love. We have girls taking part in Rowing, Sailing, Mountain Biking, Polocrosse, Fencing, Enduro Motorbike Riding, Golf, Surfing, Irish Dancing, Biathlon, Road Running, and the list goes on. It is great to be able to encourage these girls in their pursuits and we applaud them.

We are so grateful for the incredible sports staff, coaches and support team that enable us to run a rich and diverse programme at St John's D.S.G. We love that our girls are passionate about what they do, and while they love to win and be successful, we will always hold firm to our principles and sportsmanship. St John's D.S.G. is CEILED by its values – Courage, Enthusiasm, Integrity, Leadership, Empathy and Determination.

2025's successes have been another one for the record books, but most importantly, it has been a year of enjoyment and making memories.

As author and inspirational speaker Alexander Den Heijer says, "Champions don't show up to get everything they want; they show up to give everything they have."

Our girls have certainly demonstrated that. What a great sporting year 2025 has been!

Tracey Schwegmann
Head of Sport



Basketball 1st Team



Canoeing



Cross-Country



Equestrian



Fast 5 Netball



Hockey 1st Team



Indoor Hockey Senior 1



Netball 1st Team



Soccer 1st Team



Sports Assistants



Squash 1st and 2nd Teams



Swimming Senior Team



Tennis 1st Team



Water Polo 1st Team Squad

INTERHOUSE SPORTS WINNERS

Basketball: Lucas	Indoor Hockey: Hermann	Squash: Lucas	Water Polo: Bayly
Cross-Country: Lucas	Netball: Hermann	Swimming: Lucas	
Hockey: Bayly	Soccer: Hermann	Tennis: Lucas	

OVERALL HOUSE WINNER

♥ **D'Oliviera Cup for Champion House** | 1st: Lucas | 2nd: Hermann | 3rd: Bayly |

SPORTS CAPTAINS

- ♥ **Tennis:**
Captain: Kate Metcalf
Vice-Captain: Erin Hamilton
- ♥ **Swimming:**
Captain: Caitlyn Sates
Vice-Captains: Milla Drakopoulos and Deanne du Plessis
- ♥ **Soccer:**
Captain: Gabriela Do Vale
Vice-Captain: Jude Mecklenborg
- ♥ **Water Polo:**
Captain: Shannon Meter
Vice-Captains: Tayla Rohrs and Courtney de Villiers
- ♥ **Squash:**
Captain: Cevana Naidoo
Vice-Captain: Isobel Armstrong
- ♥ **Hockey:**
Captains: Layla Hancock and Diané Norman
- ♥ **Netball:**
Captain: Nkosikwenzile Khumalo
Vice-Captain: Asande Zondi
- ♥ **Cross-Country:**
Captain: Hope Spencer
Vice-Captain: Kerrin Wynne
- ♥ **Basketball:**
Captain: Nkosikwenzile Khumalo
Vice-Captain: Olivia Pillay

HOUSE CAPTAINS

- ♥ **Bayly:**
House Captain: Caycee Lund
Vice-Captain (Sport): Jude Mecklenborg
Vice-Captain (Cultural): Anika Sigaba
- ♥ **Hermann:**
House Captain: Layla Hancock
Vice-Captain (Sport): Diané Norman
Vice-Captain (Cultural): Amahle Falala
- ♥ **Lucas:**
House Captain: Khomotso Majiki
Vice-Captain (Sport): Emma Culverwell
Vice-Captain (Cultural): Casey Campbell



National Representatives and Rankings



Provincial Representatives

NATIONAL					
1	JAIME WELSH	Equestrian	8	CEVANA NAIDOO	Squash
2	JORDAN REEVE	Equestrian	9	MAKAYLA NAIDOO	Squash
3	BAILEY LAMBERT	Swimming	10	STORME HAWKINS	Squash
4	MILLA DRAKOPOULOS	Swimming	11	KAYLA HEYNES	Polocrosse
5	JAMIE SHAND	Swimming	12	MOLLY-JANE ERSKINE	Polocrosse
6	JULIA ROSSOUW	Biathlon	13	DEBORAH LOCK	Hockey
7	KAITLYN RAMOS	Biathlon			

PROVINCIAL					
1	ABBIE JULIUS	Athletics	31	ABIGAIL MOODLEY	Swimming
2	ABIGAIL MOODLEY	Hockey	32	EMMA COLE-EDWARDES	Swimming
3	AMY VAN BRED	Hockey	33	SHANNON HUGO	Swimming
4	APHELELE MKHIZE	Hockey	34	CHANEL VAN TONDER	Swimming
5	MILA TRUTER	Hockey	35	ALEXANDRA SANTOS	Swimming
6	EMLYN MAY	Hockey	36	REBECCA ZAMMIT	Squash
7	GRACIELA GREENE	Hockey	37	REBECCA JACKSON	Squash
8	HANNAH WESSELS	Hockey	38	MADISON BOSWELL	Squash
9	JORDAN REEVE	Hockey	39	GEORGIA MACLEOD	Equestrian
10	SAMUKELISIWE MSOMI	Hockey	40	ZARA KNATTEN	Equestrian
11	LUCY FYVIE	Hockey	41	ELLA MOSTERT	Equestrian
12	ALEXI WHITEMAN	Hockey	42	TAYLA TUCKER	Equestrian
13	OLIVIA BALMER	Hockey	43	APHELELE MKHIZE	Equestrian
14	DERRYN MILLWARD	Hockey	44	BRONWYN LESLIE	Equestrian
15	PAIGE WILLIAMS	Hockey	45	RACHAEL MACKENZIE	Equestrian
16	PHILIPPA BALMER	Hockey	46	JOANNE MACALLISTER	Cross-Country
17	RACHEL MACQUET	Hockey	47	SAMUKELISIWE MSOMI	Soccer
18	GABRIELLA TUCKER	Hockey	48	EMMA-JOY NELSON	Soccer
19	REBECCA HELLBERG	Hockey	49	REBECCA HELLBERG	Soccer
20	TIARA BRISSET	Hockey	50	HOLLY PRINGLE	Soccer
21	JADE VAN BRED	Hockey	51	DEBORAH LOCK	Soccer
22	TYLER KYLE	Hockey	52	ALEXI WHITEMAN	Soccer
23	LAMIA AMOD	Hockey	53	LAMIA AMOD	Soccer
24	ANNABELLE BALMER	Hockey	54	LUCY BOLLAND	Cycling
25	EMMA WILLIAMS	Hockey	55	JESSICA STOTT	Surfing
26	SAM CAROLAN	Hockey	56	CHRISTEL VAN TONDER	Golf
27	SIENNA SOLMS	Hockey	57	LAMIA AMOD	Basketball
28	JEMMA VAN DER BYL	Hockey	58	TATHAM SIEBERT	Netball
29	KATE VAN BRED	Hockey	59	EMMA KIRSTEN	Netball
30	ANNA MAYNARD	Hockey			

REGIONAL		
1	JESSICA HOATSON	Hockey
2	BRONWYN LESLIE	Hockey
3	ANNA HOATSON	Hockey
4	GRACE COLE-EDWARDES	Hockey
5	JAMIE SHAND	Hockey
6	ZESIHE NDLELA	Hockey
7	JENNA CASEY	Hockey
8	DIANÉ NORMAN	Hockey
9	AMBER MCDONALD	Hockey
10	AMY MUNRO	Hockey
11	MOLLY OGILBY	Hockey
12	RACHEL PHONGO	Hockey
13	ABBIE JULIUS	Hockey
14	JULIA ROSSOUW	Swimming
15	KAITLYN RAMOS	Swimming
16	KYLIE DUVENAGE	Swimming
17	VIOLET MARITZ	Swimming
18	ABIGAIL SLABBER	Swimming
19	LISA DU TOIT	Swimming
20	JESSICA VAN WYK	Swimming
21	EMMA WILLIAMS	Swimming
22	JULIA NICHOLSON	Swimming
23	DEANNE DU PLESSIS	Swimming
24	KATE VAN BRED	Tennis
25	JADE VAN BRED	Tennis
26	PERRIN REITZ	Tennis
27	AMY VAN BRED	Tennis
28	APHELELE MKHIZE	Tennis
29	ELLA MACGREGOR	Tennis
30	REBECCA HELLBERG	Cross-Country
31	LUCY BOLLAND	Cross-Country
32	HANNAH SEELE	Cross-Country
33	LUCIE SEELE	Cross-Country
34	GABRIELLA BRYDEN	Cross-Country
35	KERRIN WYNNE	Cross-Country
36	SOPHIA MACQUET	Soccer
37	MADISON TAYLOR	Soccer
38	ABBIE JULIUS	Soccer
39	RACHEL PHONGO	Basketball
40	MEGAN BYRON	Netball
41	REBECCA ZAMMIT	Netball
42	LWANDISA MEMELA	Netball
43	LELOMSO MKONDWENI	Netball



Basketball 2nd Team



Hockey 2nd Team



Hockey 3rd Team



Indoor Hockey Franchise League



Netball 2nd Team



Soccer Franchise League Team



Tennis 2nd Team

External Sports Participation AND ACHIEVEMENTS

We are so proud of all our St John's D.S.G. athletes who spend many hours participating in activities and sports that are not offered on the school sports programme. We congratulate them on their achievements and commend them for the dedication and commitment to their chosen disciplines.

- ♥ Athletics: Abbie Julius
- ♥ Biathlon: Julia Rossouw and Kaitlyn Ramos
- ♥ Cycling: Lucy Bolland
- ♥ Fencing: Daniela Cantarelli
- ♥ Golf: Christel van Tonder
- ♥ Irish Dancing: Rachel Ekerold
- ♥ Motorbike Enduro Riding: Emily Du Plessis
- ♥ Polocrosse: Kayla Heynes and Molly-Jane Erskine
- ♥ Rowing: Hayley Bennet, Isabelle Linfield, Sarah Schwikkard, Georgia Dent, Lily MacDonald
- ♥ Sailing: Daniela Cantarelli
- ♥ Surfing: Jessica Stott



Abbie Julius



Christelle van Tonder



Rachel Ekerold



Lucy Bolland



Biathlon
Julia Rossouw



Biathlon
Kaitlyn Ramos



Emily Du Plessis



Kayla Heynes and
Molly-Jane Erskine



Surfing
Jessica Stott



Hayley Bennet, Isabelle Linfield, Sarah
Schwikkard, Georgia Dent, Lily MacDonald



Sailing
Daniela Cantarelli

Music



ST JOHN'S D.S.G. ST JOHN'S D.S.G. ST JOHN'S D.S.G. ST JOHN'S D.S.G. ST JOHN'S D.S.G.

Junior School MUSIC

Together in Song



Junior Primary Choir ❤️

JUNIOR PRIMARY CHOIR

Our youngest singers began the year with bright enthusiasm and pure joy. Through regular rehearsals and assemblies, the Junior Primary Choir learnt the power of teamwork, rhythm, and stage confidence. Their performances during the Night of the Saints concert and the Junior Ensemble Evening were charming and



Senior Primary Choir ❤️

SENIOR PRIMARY CHOIR

The Senior Primary Choir continued to build on their musical foundations with impressive maturity. Their performances at Night of the Saints and the Combined Choirs Evening at Cordwalles Prep demonstrated poise, blend, and expressive control. The audience was particularly moved by their heartfelt renditions of "Who Can Say" and "Tsaba Tsa Rona",

spirited, a beautiful reminder that courage often starts with a single note sung from the heart. Capturing the spirit of unity, the Junior Primary Choir ended the year with a heartwarming performance of "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "Silent Night" in three languages (English, Afrikaans, and isiZulu) at the Recognition Ceremony.

the latter, a Setswana song meaning "our matters," reflected the collective experiences, faith, and values of our community. Both pieces captured the themes of unity and shared identity that resonate deeply within our school. The year concluded with a beautiful finale celebrating harmony and growth, "Gloria for All Seasons", at the Recognition Ceremony.

ORFF ENSEMBLE

The Grade 3 Orff Ensemble explored music through movement, rhythm, and play, which combines instruments and body percussion to develop creativity and coordination. At this stage, girls build a strong sense of pulse, teamwork, and confidence while learning to listen and respond musically to one another. Their joyful performance of "Pirates of the Caribbean" at the Junior Ensemble Evening and at the Junior Gala Concert showcased their rhythmic flair.



Grade 6 Marimba Band ❤️

GRADE 6 MARIMBA BAND

The Grade 6 Marimba Band embraced every challenge with infectious energy. This year, they learnt a vibrant selection of pieces, including "Viva La Vida", "Mango Walk", and "Praise" by Elevation Worship.

Their performances were rhythmic celebrations of teamwork, precision, and joy. At events like the Junior Ensemble Evening, they impressed with their coordination and musical confidence.



Grade 7 Marimba Band ❤️

GRADE 7 MARIMBA BAND

The Grade 7 Marimba Band had an outstanding year, learning "Blinding Lights", "Double Life", "Ra Sila Mielie", and an arrangement of "Canon in D". Their dedication and teamwork paid off when they achieved second

place in the Primary Schools' Section of the National Marimba Competition, a remarkable accomplishment that reflected their enthusiasm, discipline, and love of performing together.

GRADE 4 RECORDER GROUP

Our Grade 4 Recorder Group made wonderful progress this year through the Recorder Karate series, earning their way up to the coveted black belt level. Along the way, they developed solid technical skills in rhythm, note reading, articulation, and ensemble coordination,

all with enthusiasm and teamwork. They showcased their growing confidence with a lively jazz piece, "Bop! Bop!" at the Junior Ensemble Evening, and a spirited rendition of "Oh, When the Saints" at the Junior Gala Concert, a joyful tribute to St John's D.S.G.

GRADE 5 STRING ENSEMBLE

This year, the Grade 5 String Ensemble focused on repertoire and technical work from Trinity's Take a Bow series, which strengthened their tone production, bow control, intonation, and ensemble listening skills. This foundation built confidence and

musical awareness. They showcased their progress with a performance of "Boogie" at the Junior Ensemble Evening, followed by "Trolls, Orcs and Goblins" at the Junior Gala Concert, both moments that reflected their developing musicianship.



Stellar Soloists

Our soloists shone brightly throughout the year, performing in the SASMT Eisteddfod and St John's Mini-Eisteddfod with exceptional results.

The SASMT Eisteddfod saw an outstanding average of 85% across all entries, a reflection of our girls' hard work and the dedication of their teachers. A special congratulations to Luhle Mncube (Grade 5), who was awarded Best of Eisteddfod for Classical Singing.

Across the Junior and Senior Schools, our students collectively earned 5 Bronze, 32 Silver, and 72 Gold Certificates, demonstrating the strength and excellence of music at St John's D.S.G.

The St John's Mini-Eisteddfod, later in the year, created a nurturing platform for all musicians to grow. Adjudicator Mr Luke Holder provided invaluable feedback to help students refine their technique and artistry.

The week concluded with the Junior Gala Concert, where our top performers showcased artistry and joy before a proud audience.

- ♥ **BEST JUNIOR PRIMARY PIANIST**
Lucy Meeding (Grade 3)
- ♥ **BEST JUNIOR PRIMARY INSTRUMENTALIST**
Makenzie Dancer – DRUM KIT (Grade 2)
- ♥ **BEST SENIOR PRIMARY PIANIST**
Luhle Mncube (Grade 5)
- ♥ **BEST SENIOR PRIMARY INSTRUMENTALIST**
Maeve Schalkwyk – DRUM KIT (Grade 7)
- ♥ **OVERALL WINNER**
Luhle Mncube (Grade 5)

Moments that Moved Us

JUNIOR PERFORMANCE WEEKS (MARCH AND MAY)

Our two Junior Performance Weeks were wonderful celebrations of courage and growth. These sessions, held during class time, gave students the chance to share their musical progress in a supportive and

familiar environment. Parents were welcomed to Term 2's performances, strengthening the bond between home and school and reminding us that music education flourishes in the community.



JUNIOR SCHOOL ENSEMBLE EVENING (15 MAY)

This new event was a highlight of the year, from choirs and marimba bands to guest groups from The Wykeham Collegiate and the Maritzburg Junior Ensemble (MJE).

The evening radiated warmth, excitement, and pride. Each performance reflected the heart of our department's philosophy: authentic expression, collaboration, and character.



COMBINED CHOIRS EVENING AT CORDWALLES PREP (4 JUNE)

A beautiful Winter night of music and unity. Performing alongside choirs from Cowan House, Longmarket Girls' School, and Cordwalles Prep, our Senior Primary Choir stood out with exquisite tone and emotional connection.

The audience joined in community singing, creating a warm, inclusive atmosphere. The highlight was our choir's two-part arrangement of "Who Can Say" and the heartfelt "Tsaba Tsa Rona", both of which resonated powerfully with the crowd.

NIGHT OF THE SAINTS (20 JUNE)

Our annual collaboration with St Charles College was a celebration of shared artistry. The Junior Primary Choir performed "Die With a Smile" by Bruno Mars and "Chooka Chooka Train", an original composition by Mr Johan Grobler.

The Senior Primary Choir moved audiences with "What If" by Cody Fry and the timeless "Agnus Dei". The evening culminated in a stirring combined performance of "When You Believe" by all choirs, bands, and orchestras, a fitting symbol of unity and faith.

"ANNIE JR." PRODUCTION (27-28 AUGUST)

This year's "Annie Jr." production was a triumph of teamwork and talent. Under the musical direction of Miss Marina Solomon, Miss Nicole Louw, and

Mrs Nafas Frenzel, our girls brought depth, humour, and musical brilliance to the stage.

ST JOHN'S MINI-EISTEDDFOD AND JUNIOR GALA CONCERT (1-5 SEPTEMBER)

Our seventh annual Mini-Eisteddfod and Gala Concert were joyful celebrations of musical growth and perseverance. With performances from every Junior School group and numerous soloists, these events showcased the depth of talent in our community. The Gala Concert, featuring award winners and top scorers from the SASMT Eisteddfod, was a fitting culmination to a year defined by excellence, enthusiasm, and heart.



Senior School MUSIC

Ensembles of Excellence



Singing Society



Senior School Choir

SINGING SOCIETY

The Singing Society, a student-run ensemble led this year by Amahle Falala and Yanhle Makhanya (Grade 12), opened the year with their Valentine's Mini-Concert and later performed at the Gospel Choir Evening hosted by St Nicholas. Throughout the year, they have pushed

their musical boundaries with advanced harmonies and expressive stage presence that truly captivated audiences. They concluded the season with a heartfelt rendition of "Who Am I" from the film adaptation of "Annie" at our annual Senior Gala Concert.

SENIOR SCHOOL CHOIR

The Senior Choir embraced a rich and varied repertoire this year, balancing technical challenge with emotional depth. Highlights included Eric Whitacre's "Seal Lullaby" (SSA arrangement) and Benjamin Britten's "This Little Babe" and "Deo Gracias" from "A Ceremony of Carols", both works that demanded refined tone control, expressive shaping, and ensemble precision. Their performance of "My Song" by Ēriks Ešņvalds, featured at both the St John's Music Festival and

Night of the Saints, was a moving display of sustained lyricism and expressive nuance. The choir's versatility shone through at the Fusion Concert at Thomas More College, where they performed a powerful "Gloria" and the vibrant "Jai Ho", and again at the ATKV-Apploous Choir Competition, earning a Silver Award for their artistry and professionalism. Throughout the year, they have continued to embody unity and the heart of choral performance.

SENIOR BAND

The Senior Band has continued to grow in confidence and cohesion, performing a vibrant mix of contemporary and classic repertoire. Alongside lively performances, the ensemble took on "Maison" by Emilio, a trending favourite known for its modern classical elegance, and

"MiCasa Magic!", a medley celebrating South Africa's beloved fusion group, MiCasa. From Open Day to the annual Music Festival, their performances radiated polish, energy, and a sense of fun.

MARIMBA ENSEMBLES

JUNIOR MARIMBA BAND

Comprising our enthusiastic Grade 8 and 9 learners, the Junior Marimba Band brought youthful energy and infectious rhythm to every stage. This year, they

mastered upbeat favourites such as "Can't Stop the Feeling" and "Don't Let Me Down", performing with confidence, teamwork, and an unmistakable sense of joy.

MIXED MARIMBA BAND

Made up of learners from various grades, the Mixed Marimba Band serves as a vibrant "in-between" ensemble, a space for creativity, collaboration, and fun. This year, they showcased rhythmic flair and musical

versatility through their dynamic African Medley, along with crowd favourites "Fall" and "Cheerleader". Their performances captured the joy of ensemble playing and joyful energy.

PERFORMANCE MARIMBA BAND

Our Performance Marimba Band has had an extraordinary year of achievement, combining technical excellence with musical artistry. Their Healing SA Pop Medley, featuring "Heavenly Sent", "These Tears", and "Spin My World", was an absolute crowd favourite. Beyond local performances, they achieved first place in Category C at the SASMT KZN Manic Marimba Competition and proudly represented St John's D.S.G. in Cape Town during the Guinness World Record attempt for the largest marimba ensemble, a historic event featuring over 1,100 players. The band also performed at Epworth's Marimbas to the Max, the V&A Waterfront, and La Rochelle Girls' School in Paarl, receiving a standing ovation for their spirited performance.

At the National High Schools' Marimba Competition held at Michaelhouse on 29–30 September, our Performance Marimba Band performed with passion and precision, earning 1st place in the Development High Schools Section and 3rd place in the Global Harmony Category. Their vibrant performances stood out among 22 competing schools from across the country, with adjudicators praising St John's D.S.G. as "a force to be reckoned with." The Performance Marimba Band continues to set a benchmark for excellence, creativity, and dedication. Their success is a true testament to passion, perseverance, and the power of music to connect hearts and communities.



Junior Marimba Band



Mixed Marimba Band



Performance Marimba Band

Spotlight Soloists

SOLOISTS' SOIRÉE

The *Soloists' Soirée* provided a platform for 30 talented musicians across the Junior and Senior Schools to share their artistry in front of an appreciative audience of parents and staff. The evening opened with our

Head of Music, Miss Louw's inspiring address on performance readiness and commitment, setting the tone for a night that celebrated both individual growth and the supportive community behind our musicians.



SASMT EISTEDDFOD

During Term 3, our Senior and Junior School musicians participated in the annual Pietermaritzburg *SASMT Eisteddfod*. This year's *Eisteddfod* drew over 1,000 entries from music students across the region, celebrating not only talent but also courage, perseverance, and character.

A record number of our Senior School girls were selected for the prestigious *Best of the Eisteddfod* showcase this year:

PERFORMER	INSTRUMENT / PART	GRADE
HADASSAH SLAUGHTER	Voice	Grade 10
LELETLE CHITJA	Voice	Grade 11
DANIELA CANTARELLI	Voice	Grade 11
LELOMSO MKONDWENI	Voice	Grade 11
PRIYASHA LUTCHMAN	Violin and Violin Duet	Grade 10
MULALO NDANGANENI	Violin Duet	Grade 10
KATELYN NEWLANDS	Cello	Grade 10
SOPHIE CATLETT	Flute	Grade 9
SOMILA JOZI	Piano	Grade 11
VICTORIA BURCZAK	Piano	Grade 11

We are incredibly proud of each musician who participated and of the vibrant musical culture that continues to flourish at St John's D.S.G.

MOMENTS THAT Defined our Year

FREEDOM DAY CONCERT (30 APRIL)

Our vibrant Freedom Day Concert was one of the highlights of Term 2. As part of the Grade 9 Subject Music IBL project, girls explored the theme Our Pivotal 1994, combining music, drama and poetry to reflect on

the journey toward democracy. The concert concluded with a guest performance by the Michaelhouse Competition Marimba Band, adding a celebratory and collaborative finale to this meaningful event.

ST JOHN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL (13 JUNE)

The St John's Music Festival continued to grow as one of the cultural highlights of the year. Featuring outstanding performances from our Senior Choir, Marimba Ensembles, Senior Band, and Singing Society, as well as guest schools including Maritzburg College, Epworth, Hilton College, St Mary's, Kloof, St Charles College, and Michaelhouse, the festival celebrated excellence

and community. Headlining acts, The Kickstands and DJ Celso Fabbri, elevated the festival to new heights; The Kickstands with their electrifying live performance and unmistakable coastal sound, and DJ Celso Fabbri with his unforgettable South African house and EDM mixes that had the crowd on their feet.



NIGHT OF THE SAINTS (20 JUNE)

Our annual Night of the Saints concert was a spectacular collaboration between St John's D.S.G. and St Charles College, celebrating unity through music. The evening featured everything from intimate vocal performances to full orchestral works, including a moving arrangement of "Now We Are Free" by Hans Zimmer from "Gladiator", performed by the combined orchestras and an ensemble of St John's D.S.G. singers.

The mass choir items, "Thou O Lord" by Lisa Ireland and "When You Believe" from the film "The Prince

of Egypt", were nothing short of breathtaking, with the latter producing one of those rare, goosebump moments where voices, emotion, and purpose aligned in perfect harmony.

St John's D.S.G. ensembles also shone individually, with the Senior Band performing "Lovely" by Billie Eilish and "MiCasa Magic!", while the Performance Marimba Band thrilled the audience with "Saints Special" and "I Always Wanted a Brother". The concert was a true celebration of unity, excellence in music and importantly, faith.

SENIOR GALA CONCERT (15 OCTOBER)

This year's Senior Gala Concert was, without doubt, our best yet, showcasing the exceptional talent of our Senior School musicians. Each performer earned their place through an audition process, ensuring an afternoon of artistry across genres from classical and jazz to contemporary. The concert featured captivating solos,

duets, and ensemble performances, each radiating passion and musical maturity. The event concluded with a dynamic performance by the Performance Marimba Band, whose infectious energy brought the audience to their feet. This year's theme, Beauty and Aesthetics, shone through in every performance.



BEHIND THE MUSIC: "NUNSENSE"

From a musical perspective, "Nunsense" was as demanding as it was delightful. The show's playful energy required each singer to balance strong vocal technique with expressive storytelling. Our talented cast, Claudia Kohne (Mother Superior, Sister Mary Regina), Alexandra Santos (Sister Mary Hubert), Erin Chandler

(Sister Robert Anne), Somila Jozi (Sister Mary Amnesia), and Tekoa Hogarty (Sister Mary Leo), worked tirelessly to capture each character's unique voice, humour, and charm. Their performances reflected both vocal skill and emotional connection, proving that music and theatre together create unforgettable moments of joy.

MUSIC HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

We proudly recognise the outstanding musicians who received Music Honours Blazers this year:

- ♥ MIHLALI HADEBE Grade 11 (Subject Music)
- ♥ VICTORIA BURCZAK Grade 11 (Subject Music)
- ♥ DANIELA CANTARELLI Grade 11 (Subject Music)
- ♥ LELETLE CHITJA Grade 11 (Subject Music)
- ♥ SOMILA JOZI Grade 11 (Subject Music)
- ♥ LELOMSO MKONDWENI Grade 11
- ♥ KERRIN WYNNE Grade 12

Their dedication, leadership, and consistent excellence in both performance and contribution to the department embody the highest ideals of music excellence.



Spirituality & Wellbeing

AT SJS



Spirituality

SENIOR School

This year, and every year, we practise something Jesus Himself treasured: silence and solitude. Each grade from Grade 6 to 12 is given the chance to step away from the busyness of school and spend a day in nature, quiet and still before God. If Jesus made time to be alone with the Father, how much more do we need it?

Solitude draws us close to Him in a way that everyday life simply can't. In the quiet, we are reminded that we don't need to run the world, achieve constantly, or always be "on." We slow down, let go of control, and make space to listen. Silence isn't about emptying our minds; it's about clearing the noise so we can hear God speak through His Word. Jesus often withdrew to quiet places, and we follow His example.

When we return, we don't come back louder; we come back deeper, calmer, softer, more grounded. It changes the way we speak, the way we treat others, and even the way we treat ourselves. Less striving, more grace. Less hustle, more holy peace. Solitude works on the heart from the inside out.

Along with these days, our girls are encouraged to take a few minutes each day (even just five minutes) to sit quietly with our Lord Jesus and with themselves, a simple "chair time" that keeps their souls anchored. Time with the Lord is essential, and this is a discipline we never want to lose.

And it has been so beautiful this year to see girls come into the Kingdom – accepting the precious gift of God's grace through Jesus, responding to His call, repenting, and choosing to be baptised. What a privilege it has been to witness their faith grow and take root.



Chapel Committee

Spirituality

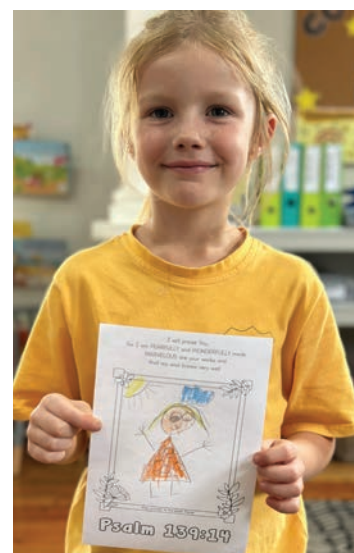
JUNIOR School

This year, our Junior School girls have been learning about Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, the stories of our incarnate God walking the earth, bringing people to Himself, healing and loving ordinary people, forgiving transgressions, and offering hope and life eternal through His death and resurrection. They have learnt how dearly Jesus loves and protects them, and that they are held by a God who is close and caring.

Memorising God's word is essential for growth. This is why memory verses have continued to be a big part of the Junior School. The Bible tells us that "His word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path." God's word illuminates the darkest places of our lives and guides us when we don't know where to go.

We learnt the importance of trusting God above our own ideas, remembering the verse, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight"

From Grade R through to our older girls, these truths are being planted deeply, shaping hearts, grounding their faith, and reminding them that they are loved and led by the God of the Bible. May His word continue to light their steps, today and always.



Wellness

AT ST JOHN'S D.S.G.

This year, the Wellness Department has continued to promote a culture of holistic wellbeing throughout the Junior and Senior schools.

"Character Counts": BUILDING WELLNESS IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

With the overarching theme in the Junior School being "Character Counts," the focus has been on empowering every girl at St John's D.S.G. to grow in confidence, empathy, and self-awareness – both individually and as part of our wider community.

Wellness has been intentionally woven into the Junior School Life Skills curriculum across all grades. Through discussions, activities, and reflection, girls have explored how character counts in sport, online spaces, and relationships. The Eaglets have also enjoyed weekly Life Skills sessions that include fine and gross motor activities, supporting early emotional and physical development.

Beyond the classroom, a number of initiatives enriched the wellness focus this year. Highlights included Christy Herselman's sessions with parents and Grade 4–7 girls

on cultivating a Healthy Digital Culture, as well as awareness drives such as Neurodiversity Celebration Week, the Kindness Campaign, and Anti-Bullying Week. Staff across the Junior and Senior schools also benefited from professional input on sensory processing and strategies to support girls with sensory differences in the classroom. The Senior School girls also responded very well to a similar workshop where they were introduced to sensory regulation and learnt more about self-regulation and understanding their own sensory needs.

The role of the Wellness Facilitator is to support both individual and group wellbeing through individual sessions, classroom-based Life Skills input, and school-wide initiatives. The Wellness Department is committed to growing the hearts of our young ladies through all stages of their development at St John's D.S.G.



Growing Strong: Wellness Skills Training for our Grade 8 Girls

By the Wellness Team

This year, our Grade 8 girls started something a little different – and something very important. Each class took part in Wellness Skills Training sessions designed to help them build the kind of inner toolkit that will carry them confidently through Senior School and beyond. Think of it as learning to "drive" your mind, emotions, and relationships, with awareness, courage, and kindness.

Executive Functioning – OR “How to Get Life Organised”

We all know the feeling of juggling schoolwork, sport, friendships, family commitments, and... sleep. The first part of our course focused on Executive Functioning – the mental “manager” that helps us plan, prioritise, stay focused, and keep track of time.

THE GIRLS LEARNT TO:

- Set realistic goals (and adjust them when needed).
- Use planners and timetables effectively.
- Break big tasks into manageable steps.
- Manage distractions.

The goal wasn’t perfect diaries or never missing a deadline, it was finding strategies that work for each girl, in her own unique way.

Emotions: Name Them, Tame Them

Senior School is exciting, but it can also feel overwhelming. Instead of ignoring difficult feelings, we created space to notice, name, and manage them.

WE EXPLORED:

- How emotions show up in the body.
- Calming strategies (from breathing to grounding techniques).
- How to support a friend without carrying their problems.
- How to be gentle with yourself.

We want every girl to know: having big feelings doesn’t mean you’re “too much” – it means you’re human.

The Science of Gratitude: A Faith-Filled Foundation for Wellbeing

During our emotional awareness sessions, we explored the science of gratitude and how something as simple as saying “thank you” can transform the mind and heart. Research shows that practising gratitude can ease anxiety, lift mood, and improve focus and sleep. When we make a habit of noticing what’s good (even in small, ordinary moments), our brains begin to look for the positive instead of dwelling on worry.

Through journaling, reflection, and discussion, the girls discovered that gratitude is more than a feeling; it’s a way of seeing. It anchors us in peace, strengthens our faith, and opens our eyes to God’s blessings all around us.

Conflict, Assertiveness & Friendship

Friendships are one of the best parts of school life and sometimes the hardest. WE EXPLORED:

- What healthy friendships look like.
- How to disagree respectfully.
- How to set boundaries.
- How to repair friendship bumps when they happen.

The girls were encouraged to use assertiveness, not aggression or avoidance, because a confident voice doesn’t have to be a loud one.

Study Skills: Learning to Learn (And Yes, It Can Be Fun!)

In Term 3, the girls expanded their study toolkit and helped shape the programme themselves. Each class identified what they needed most and set their own goals, guiding our Study Skills module.

WE EXPLORED WAYS TO MAKE STUDYING
LESS STRESSFUL AND MORE EFFECTIVE:

- Sketch-noting and the Cornell note-taking method.
- Whole-brain learning strategies.
- Adding colour, diagrams, and creativity.
- Choosing music that supports concentration.
- Replacing procrastination with healthy habits.

The emphasis was on personalising study methods so each girl could find what works best for her.

Wellness isn’t about always being calm or organised or getting everything right. It’s about knowing yourself, supporting yourself, and showing up as your best possible you, even on the messy days.

Our hope is that these skills travel beyond the classroom, into friendships, study sessions, teams, and home life.



Mrs Lyndal Nicholson and
Mrs LiAnne Oberholzer

Parenting with Heart 2025

This year, as part of our ongoing Parenting with Heart programme, we were delighted to welcome Christy Herselman, founder and leader of The Chat – an organisation devoted to equipping parents to have meaningful, open conversations with their children about life’s big topics.

At St John’s D.S.G., we believe in walking alongside parents, building a partnership grounded in encouragement, wisdom and care. Together, we can explore the latest research and practical tools to help navigate a world that often challenges the core values of family. Our hope is to nurture not only young minds but also strong, connected families.

Christy’s talk, “#wellconnected – Raising Healthy Digital Users,” was both insightful and thought-provoking. She offered parents practical guidance on setting healthy boundaries with digital devices while also helping to foster open, ongoing conversations at home. Our Grade 8–12 girls also had the benefit of listening to Christy’s talk earlier in the day.

By continuing to come together through the Parenting with Heart programme, we believe we can strengthen the foundation between home and school – ensuring that every child feels seen, supported, and deeply valued.



Nurturing Wholehearted Wellbeing

at St John's D.S.G.

The Wellness Team continues to embody the values of care, connection, and compassion that lie at the heart of pastoral care at St John's D.S.G. This year, the team has hosted a series of meaningful workshops designed to support the holistic wellbeing of our girls (and their parents) – physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually.

To encourage kindness, courage, and empathy, Grades 9 and 10 participated in anti-bullying workshops presented by TruLife. These sessions invited students to reflect on the power of their words and actions and to take a stand for respect and inclusion within our school community.

Grades 8 and 9 engaged in Healthy Sexuality Workshops with Christy Herselman from The Chat, where discussions were grounded in truth and grace. Christy guided students in understanding how today's culture can impact personal wellbeing – both in the short and long term – and how to make thoughtful, values-based choices.

Recognising that family plays a vital role in each young person's growth, the Wellness Team also hosted a Parenting with Heart evening with Christy. This engaging session equipped parents with practical tools to navigate their children's online lives, encouraging open, honest, and faith-filled conversations at home.

In every initiative, the Pastoral and Wellness Team strive to care for individuals and their families through authentic connection and trust. We follow a strengths-based, solution-focused approach, helping students uncover their gifts and build resilience through grace, kindness, self-awareness, and an intentional approach to managing thoughts and emotions.

By fostering honest conversations and promoting peace and reconciliation, the Wellness Team reminds our school community that we are all on a shared journey of growth – and that, with God's help, we can each face life's challenges with renewed hope, courage, and strength.

WELLNESS SKILLS Training Classes



This year, our wellness skills classes have been such a gift to our girls. I often catch myself thinking how different my own high school experience might have been if I'd had a space like this, a dedicated time not just for academics, but for learning how to manage life. Imagine being 13 or 14

and already equipped with emotional vocabulary, time-management tools, healthy communication skills, and the confidence to set boundaries and build real, supportive friendships. I know my journey would have felt lighter, less overwhelming, and far more grounded.

Starting high school is no small thing, new faces, new routines, new pressure, and the challenge of figuring

out who you are in the middle of it all. A little guidance during that transition truly makes a world of difference. These wellness sessions help our girls navigate that season with intention. Whether we're discussing how to plan effectively, exploring different study styles that fit each unique personality, or practising how to express emotions respectfully and assertively, we are equipping them with lifelong skills.

It has been beautiful to witness their growth, not just as students, but as young women learning how to think, feel, speak, and show up in the world with confidence and kindness. They are learning to know themselves, to care for themselves, and to handle life's challenges with maturity and resilience. And seeing them thrive reminds me why this work matters so deeply.

Reflection by Ms Nokubonga Shezi

Staff News





Academic Team

Back Row: J. Anderson; K. Hancocks; K. Hohls; K. Coutts; I. Evans; C. Meyer; K. Hudson-Reed; T. Zammit; H. Trott; B. Kerr; K. Bolland; N. Ndawo.
Fourth Row: P. Nel; C. Mtolo; V. Gurney; L. Nicholson; B. Kidd; L. Erasmus; J. Jeary; M. Skinner; L. Ndlovu; C. Schirge; J. Grobler; K. van der Vyver; A. Sharkey.
Third Row: G. Scholtz; N. Louw; M. Greyling; A. Zondi; L. Usher; M. Barnsley; N. Gordijn; A. Edmonds; D. Erskine; L. Oberholzer; A. Stopforth; C. Pillay; C. Laubscher.
Second Row: J. Loubser; M. Solomon; K. Anderson; C. de Jager; D. Murugan; S. Kempthorne; A. Brown; A. Huntley; J. Liebenberg; A. Jordaan; B. Willows; M. Evans; N. Frenzel; C. Nomvete.
First Row: K. Kerr; S. Mazibuko; N. Shezi; P. Luthuli; L. Goldman; I. Oellermann; N. Foss; P. Smerdon; E. MacFarlane; P. Ndimande; S. Olivier; P. Nipper; M. Moolman; S. Evans.
Seated: K. Jansen van Vuuren; R. Kirsten; A. Rugbar; Rev. D. Pickford; D. Tyson; W. Laatz; S. Moore; L. Akerman; T. Schwegmann; C. Beattie; A. Pillay; C. Stretch.



Admin Team

Back Row: B. Olivier; J. Cole-Edwardes; D. Parfitt; B. Morcom; N. Stewart-Burger; G. Redlinghuys.
Second Row: L. Dickason; S. Hadebe; K. Martens; M. Jordaan.
First Row: T. Meier; P. Msomi; A. Scholtz; H. Evans; S. Sithebe; T. Mtshali.
Seated: J. Westwood; N. Hardman; S. Moore; L. Garden; S. Cole-Edwardes.



Boarding Team

Back Row: M. Moolman; A. Zondi; K. Hohls; L. Erasmus; D. Erskine; S. Mzibuko.
Seated: P. Msomi; J. Dakers; Z. Starke; R. Taylor; S. Sithebe; N. Shezi.



Catering Team

Back Row: A. Maduna; M. Khomo; J. Venter; B. Mzotho.
Second Row: T. Malembe; Z. Mnikathi.
First Row: A. Ngcobo; N. Mbambo; L. Mthiyane; N. Memela; S. Zulu; N. J. Dlomo.
Seated: S. Maduna; L. Venter; P. Madlala; C. Parsons; B. Mkhize.



Cleaning Team

Back Row: P. Xaba; C. Dumakude; S. Mkhize; J. Toti; Z. Mdluli.
First Row: M. Ndlovu; E. Cele; A. Ngubane; G. Malunga; S. Thabethe; T. Zondi.
Seated: N. Nsele; H. Nzimande; T. Meier; H. Thabethe; T. Shandu.



Estates Team

Back Row: S. Malunga; N. Khwela; M. Buthelezi; S. Ngcobo; PK Mchunu; D. Mwel; A. Mbambo.
First Row: S. Ngubane; D. Mtshali; N. Zuma; TK Zondi; M. Khanyile; N. Mgwaba; J. Mazibuko; L. Sokhela.
Seated: J. Mlotshwa; F. Ngcobo; C. Mazibuko; J. Marx; T. Meier; M. Zondi; D. Malunga.



Sports Team

Back Row: S. Kempthorne; L. Ndlovu; K. Kerr.
Seated: C. Mtolo; C. Schirge; T. Schwegmann; P. Smerdon.



The Crest Team

Left to Right: J. Toti; C. Howard; S. Ngubane.



Transport Team

Back Row: Z. West; D. Mtolo; R. Taylor.
Front Row: F. Mkhulise; M. Nxele; S. Mngadi.

NEW STAFF welcome



Ruth Armitage



Locum
Teacher

Kemsleigh Coutts



Grade R
Teacher

Zola Starke



House Mother /
Sports Coach

Sanelisiwe Ngubane



School Shop
Assistant

Johan Marx



Estates
Manager

Chandre De Jager



Grade 1
Teacher

Drew Erskine



Intern /
Boarder Mistress

Annemarie Jordaan



Afrikaans /
Maths Teacher

Shirley Kempthorne



PE Teacher
Locum

Sthembile Mazibuko



Intern /
Boarder Mistress

Marli Moolman



Intern /
Boarder Mistress

Hannah Trott



Intern

Bronwyn Gebers



Mathematics
Teacher Locum

Kirstin Hohls



Intern /
Boarder Mistress

Jaclyn Loubser



English
Teacher

Clemence Nomvete



French
Teacher

Cheyenne Pillay



Head of
Dramatic Arts

Austin Sharkey



Intern

Zukiswa Stemela



Mathematics
Teacher

Gino Redlinghuys



IT
Administrator

Chloe Bonner



Cafe Assistant
Locum

Londiwe Mthiyane



Catering
Assistant

Bongekile Mzotho



Catering
Assistant

STAFF farewells



Cathryn Coetzee



Art / Drama /
Mathematics
Teacher

Lizanne Fourie



Afrikaans
Teacher

Rowena Freese



Grade 1
Teacher

Marli Moolman



Intern /
Boarder Mistress

Hannah Trott



Intern

Jessica Anderson



Subject Teacher
/ Performance
Co-ordinator

Chris Barnsley



Head of
English

Michelle Barnsley



English
Teacher

Kyra-Jade David



Science
Teacher

Marilyn Evans



History
Teacher

Nafas Frenzel



Music
Teacher

Kirstin Hohls



Intern /
Boarder Mistress

Kate Hudson-Reed



Subject
Teacher

Britt Hulley



French
Teacher

Jackie Keevy-Muir



Head of
Dramatic Arts

Ingrid Oellermann



Afrikaans
Teacher

Zukiswa Stemela



Mathematics
Teacher

Nzuzo Hadebe



General
Maintenance

Charnell Sierra



Bookkeeper

Bongi Bhengu



Cleaner

Babies

Miss Jordyn Venter

Congratulations to Miss Jordy Venter (Heart Café) and her partner, Gaige, on the safe arrival of their precious little daughter Paisley Leigh, who was born on 22 March 2025.

Mr Dumisani Mtshali

Congratulations to Mr Dumisani Mtshali (Estates Department) on the birth of his daughter, Melokuhle born on 4 April 2025.

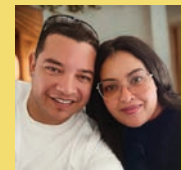
Miss Purity Xaba

We congratulate Ms Purity Xaba (Cleaning Department) on the arrival of her baby girl, Hlelokuhle Ziphozenkosi, who was born on 14 May 2025.

Mrs Jenna Dermick

Congratulations to Mrs Jenna Dermick (Junior School Sports Co-Ordinator) and her husband, Zac, on the safe arrival of their daughter, Pippa Rae Dermick on 1 October 2025.

Engagements



Miss Nicole Louw

We are so excited to share that Miss Nicole Louw (Music Teacher) is engaged! On 4 July 2025, her fiancé, Junaid Sayed, popped the question in a special private moment, at his home in Durban. They can't wait to begin this new chapter together.

Weddings



Mrs Emily MacFarlane

Congratulations to Miss Emily Hinde (Senior School English Teacher) and her fiancé, Ian MacFarlane, who were married on 5 April 2025 at Tala Valley. Wishing you both a lifetime of happiness together.



Mrs Casey Laubscher

A 'BIG' congratulations to Casey Willows (Senior School Intern), who married Tyler Laubscher on 12 July 2025. Wishing them all the best for their future together.



Mrs Anele Sibiya

Congratulations to Miss Anele Zondi (Senior School French Teacher) and Sakhile on their wedding, held in the beautiful St John's D.S.G. Chapel on 1 November 2025. Wishing them many happy years together.

Long Service Awards

15 YEARS

Delani Malunga
Dumisani Mtshali
Thandi Mtshali
Diane Pickford

10 YEARS

Sarah Cole-Edwardes
Joyce Mazibuko
Lucy Usher

Under her guidance, the St John's D.S.G. gardens flourished into something truly exceptional, so much so that they were featured in The Natal Witness Open Gardens. According to former Natal Parks Board member, Dr David Johnson, her work was described as "one of the best indigenous school gardens in South Africa."

Many Old Girls and past staff will fondly remember Mrs Raab in her signature wide-brimmed white hat and coat, walking confidently through the gardens and directing Mr Mandla Dlamini (past Gardener) on where the next plants and trees should take root. Her keen aesthetic sense also extended to the school's buildings, where her guidance and collaboration with architects helped shape the harmonious look of the campus we know today.

As Mr Reg Zammit, current Vice-Chairman of the St John's D.S.G. Board, so beautifully said:

"Lorraine was such an integral part of St John's D.S.G. for more years than I can remember. Her legacy lives on through the beautiful gardens and indigenous forest that she created and nurtured. May she rest in eternal peace."

Parents' Association



Mrs Lorraine Raab

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of St John's D.S.G. stalwart and legend, Mrs Lorraine Raab – beloved wife of Prof. Roger Raab (Past Chairman of the St John's D.S.G. Board), mother to Old Girls, Elizabeth Bursack (Class of 1982), and Caroline Birch (Class of 1984), and proud grandmother.

Mrs Raab was the visionary behind the magnificent gardens that continue to bring such beauty and tranquillity to St John's D.S.G. today. Passionate about South African flora, she dreamed that every St John's D.S.G. girl would learn to appreciate, nurture, and love indigenous plants. Working closely with the architectural landscape of the school, she carefully selected only indigenous trees that would complement the gentle scale of the buildings.

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

A YEAR OF COMMUNITY, Contribution and Celebration

The St John's D.S.G. Parents' Association once again proved itself to be an integral part of the school community, driving events, raising funds, and creating a spirit of togetherness that supports every corner of school life. From fun-filled social gatherings to thoughtful staff appreciation days, 2025 was a year filled with energy, gratitude and meaningful impact.

100 Club: A Year of Fun and Fundraising

The 100 Club continued to shine as a highlight each term. With a light meal, a complimentary drink, and exciting prize draws, featuring grand cash prizes of R3000, R1500, and R500, it brought together parents and staff in a relaxed, festive setting.

In a delightful new twist, Term 4 welcomed the Outdoor Family 100 Club, held on a beautiful evening. It was awesome to see families and young children enjoying time together in a relaxed, social atmosphere.



Golf Day and Padel: A Swinging Success

Held on Friday, 9 May at the Victoria Country Club, the annual Golf Day teed off with 132 enthusiastic golfers, glorious weather, and unbeatable camaraderie. The day combined fun with purpose, raising important funds while strengthening bonds among parents and friends. A new addition this year was the Padel Day, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our sponsors and the dedicated members of the Parents' Association who made this event a huge success.



Raffle: Generosity in Action

One of the year's fundraising highlights was the Parents' Association Raffle, drawn during Term 2's 100 Club event. Over R100,000 was raised to support projects across the school – an incredible achievement! This year's prizes included:

- 1ST PRIZE: Two-night stay at The Cavern Drakensberg Resort & Spa, valued at R10,200.
- 2ND PRIZE: Lenovo M11 Tablet, valued at R5,000 (donated by CNM IT Solutions).
- 3RD PRIZE: Thandana Hamper in Linear Preppy, valued at R4,500.

A huge thank you to our sponsors and community for their enthusiastic support!

Burger & Bubbles: A New Favourite

In its second year, Burger & Bubbles, hosted alongside the Grade 10 Formal Dance Committee, offered a fun and relaxed evening for parents. While the girls danced the night away at the Formal, their families enjoyed great food, laughter, and a much-needed moment of connection. We look forward to making this event a permanent fixture!



Honouring OUR STAFF

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY: OCTOBER 5
The Parents' Association honoured our educators with delicious doughnuts for every teacher, expressing appreciation for their tireless efforts. John Dory's generously contributed vouchers, offering teachers and their families a well-deserved treat.

SUPPORT STAFF DAY: NOVEMBER 19
Our invaluable Support Staff were treated to a thoughtful lunch and drinks, in recognition of their daily contributions to making the school run smoothly. A small gesture to say a very big thank you!

Projects
That Make a Difference

SUPPORTING UHAMBO:
A TRAILER FOR ADVENTURE

Transporting bikes to Underberg for the Grade 9 uHambo experience has always been a logistical challenge. This year, thanks to the Parents' Association, the school received a custom-built bike trailer, a practical gift that supports a core experience for our girls.

BREEZEWAY BATHROOMS:
A STUNNING TRANSFORMATION

The Senior School Breezeway bathrooms, adjacent to the Theatre, have been completely upgraded thanks to funds raised by the Parents' Association. This once-tired space is now clean, modern and welcoming, a significant improvement for both staff and students.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
WITH WOOLWORTHS

The Woolworths MySchool program has now become MyDifference, but the mission remains: giving back to the community. Simply scan your Woolworths app or linked card, and a portion of your purchase is donated directly to the St John's D.S.G. Parents' Association.

This year, a Junior School campaign led by a group of enthusiastic moms saw a record number of new signups. To celebrate, magical Unicorns visited the campus, delighting girls and thanking them for encouraging their parents to participate.



Thank You
for Your Support



Every event, every campaign, and every act of generosity this year has been made possible by the incredible support of the St John's D.S.G. community. Whether you attended an event, bought a raffle ticket, donated a prize, or simply cheered from the sidelines, you helped make a difference.

We are so proud of what we've achieved together in 2025, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead!

♥ Love, The Parents' Association 2025

Old Girls' Events



Grade 8 Moms

"Sip & Sketch"

In January, the Old Girls' Committee hosted a fabulous "Sip & Sketch" evening with renowned local artist Brent Dodd. This special event was designed for the new

Grade 8 moms to connect and get to know one another in a creative and relaxed setting. The evening was a huge success, filled with much laughter and creativity.



Matric Mom's and Daughter's Evening

At the end of Term 3, the St John's D.S.G. Matric girls were officially welcomed into the Old Girls' Association. They celebrated this special milestone with their moms

and took part in a cherished tradition – writing letters to their future selves, to be opened at their 10-year reunion.



St John's Day

On 10 May, our campus was filled with joy and nostalgia as the St John's D.S.G. community, past and present, came together to celebrate St John's Day 2025. The day began with a beautiful Chapel Service dedicated to our cherished Old Girls, followed by a delightful tea and the chance to stroll through the school grounds, spirited support for our 1st team Hockey girls and sharing stories and memories of days gone by. The celebration concluded with a delicious lunch, where laughter, connection, and sisterhood were shared in abundance.



Pretoria Visit

There was much laughter, memories and meaningful conversations shared as over 50 St John's D.S.G. Old Girls in the Pretoria area came together to celebrate friendship, shared experiences and the lasting bond of the St John's D.S.G. family.



Golden Oldies Tea

Our Old Girls' Golden Oldies Tea in Howick in Term 4 was filled with laughter, memories and the joy of reconnecting with dear friends. Thank you to everyone who joined us – your stories, smiles and spirit made it unforgettable.



End-of-Year Reflection

from the Board of Governors



As 2025 draws to a close, we pause to reflect on a year filled with growth, achievement and purpose at St John's Diocesan School for Girls. The Grade 12 Speech Day was a vivid reminder of the remarkable accomplishments across academics, sport, music, and culture. These achievements deserve celebration – but what truly matters is the development of each St John's D.S.G. girl, her journey toward reaching her full potential, and her embodiment of the school's core values.

At St John's D.S.G., success is not measured by comparison with others or by titles. Rather, it is defined by how well we deliver on our mission: nurturing confident, compassionate young women who understand who they are in Christ

and what they stand for. Our strength lies in our identity, our ethos and our commitment to remaining a school that values each individual.

The Board of Governors is privileged to support and guide this vision. We are a group deeply invested in the life and future of the school – many of us current or past parents. I am especially grateful to our Vice-Chair, Mr Reg Zammit, for his extraordinary 38 years of service; Mr Johan Riekert, Chair of Business Affairs Sub-Committee; Prof. Reitze Rodseth, Chair of Academic Affairs Sub-Committee; and members Mrs Audrey Mbuyazi, Dr Yvonne Mncube and Dr Vidette Juby. Your wisdom and dedication are invaluable. Our discussions are always rich, respectful and focused on what is best for St John's D.S.G.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr Antony Chantler, who stepped down in November 2024 after 11 years of dedicated service. His leadership of the Development Sub-Committee and hands-on involvement in key projects has left a lasting legacy. We are grateful for his continued support this past year.

A special tribute goes to Sister Hilary, the last remaining member of the Society of St John the Divine, who celebrated 35 years of Profession in October. Her quiet strength, love and spiritual support continue to be a profound blessing to our community.

While the Board oversees the school's vision, strategy and governance, the day-to-day running is entrusted to our outstanding leadership team. Thank you to Mr Moore, Mrs Hardman and the entire Management team for your tireless dedication. The school's strong enrolment, academic excellence, vibrant cultural life and sound financial health are a testament to your leadership. To all staff – Teachers, Deputies, Chaplain, Admin, Estates, Catering and Support – thank you for the care and commitment that make St John's D.S.G. thrive.

St John's D.S.G. is in a healthy and hopeful position. It is increasingly the school of choice because of its values and Christian ethos. As we celebrate success, we remain mindful of our humble beginnings and the foundation on which we stand. Our prayer is that St John's D.S.G. continues to grow in strength, remaining a school that cares deeply for each girl's development and individuality.

Mr Peter Smith

Chairman of the Board of Governors



ST CHARLES COLLEGE

A Christian independent boys' school offering a continuous journey from Year 000 to Form 6.

The St Charles College Way is lived in the daily rhythm of the school: in the classroom, on the field, on stage, in chapel, in boarding houses and in the way boys learn to take responsibility for themselves and others.

Here, character is formed through responsibility, courage, respect, honesty and self-discipline. Boys are encouraged to grow academically, socially, personally and spiritually, preparing them not only to achieve, but to live with conviction and purpose.

"For almost seven years, SCC has nurtured, encouraged, and believed in our two boys every step of the way, valuing them as individuals and supporting them to reach their full potential. We are forever grateful to be part of the SCC family."

— Dr Miranda Rodseth and Prof Reitze Rodseth



**FIVE SCHOOLS
ONE JOURNEY**

GROWING GIRLS WITH

Heart



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