



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

the yellow pages

Edition Eight



Some of the exciting things in this edition...

- ♥ Parents' Association Updates
- ♥ BergVenture Adventure
- ♥ KZN Representatives
- ♥ Matric Music Recital



General News

A Warm Welcome

Welcome to our new staff members who have recently joined us this term. (From L-R)

- Nosipho Zondi (Senior Bookkeeper - Creditors)
- Lara Wells (Head of Learning Support)
- Nozipho Sihiya (Cleaning Department)



Parents' Association

Hearts of Gold

Hearts of Gold, a Parents' Association-led initiative, has been quietly working away in the background of everyday school life, with a simple mission: small acts of kindness that build and support our community, especially during life's more challenging moments.

HoG, as they affectionately call themselves, generally prefer to fly under the radar, but we thought it would be good to shine a little light on some of the wonderful things they have been doing recently. Who knows - perhaps you've already experienced a little HoG kindness without even realising it! Since its inception this year, the HoG team has arranged meals for SJS families going through a difficult time, hospital packages, bereavement care packs, support packs, notes of encouragement, and more – offering a little practical care when it is needed most.

None of this would be possible without the wonderful community we have at SJS. To everyone who reaches out, checks in, cooks a meal, sends a message, donates an item when needed, or simply notices when someone might need a little extra kindness - HoG is grateful.

After all, sometimes the smallest acts of kindness really do make the biggest difference.

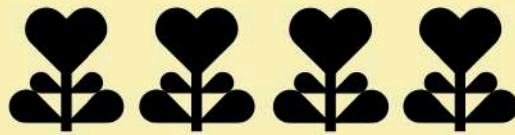


Brushstrokes and Blooms

Earlier this month, our Parents' Association hosted the most beautiful "Brushstrokes and Blooms" painting afternoon in honour of Women's Day.

Created especially for our St John's D.S.G. moms and daughters, local artist and SJS mum Carrie Bennett lovingly guided our ladies through a relaxed and creative afternoon filled with laughter, connection and plenty of colour.

More than just a painting session, it was a lovely opportunity for moms and daughters of all ages to slow down, get to know one another, and enjoy a little creativity side by side, and judging by the stunning artwork that came out of the afternoon, we have some seriously talented artists in our community!



Burger and Bubbles - Invitation

Following the incredible success of the last Burger and Bubbles evening, our Parents' Association is hosting another one on Saturday, 12 September, and would love parents in all grades to join.

100 Club Connection

At the start of the half-term weekend, our Parents' Association Committee hosted their Term 3 100 Club Draw. Congratulations to the following main prize winners:

- 1st Prize (R4000): Reshee Govender
- 2nd Prize (R2000): Jade Westhorpe-Pottow
- 3rd Prize (R1000): Marize Fourie

One of our lucky parents also walked away with an amazing Fieldbar, donated by the Grade 2 class.

Don't miss out on next term's Christmas 100 Club Connect – this one includes the whole family. More information will be sent out next term.



Junior School News

Grade 4 and 5 Fun Week

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Grades 4 and 5 overnight excursion was cancelled. Thanks to our wonderful community, the girls still enjoyed a memorable alternative two days. Highlights included a game drive at Tala, a visit to the African Raptor Centre, exciting experiments with Experi-Buddies and painting custom bird pillows designed by local artist and SJS mum Carrie Bennett. Although the week did not go as planned, the girls embraced the unexpected and enjoyed a range of fun, hands-on learning experiences.



Eaglets Grandparents Morning

The Eaglets was a hive of activity last week as the girls spent the morning celebrating their grandparents. Our grannies and grandpas were treated to an energetic sing-along and a scrumptious tea. The girls enjoyed helping their grandparents pot colourful spring flowers to take home as a special keepsake.



BergVenture Adventure

The Grade 6 and 7s have recently returned from a trip to BergVenture in the Drakensberg. The girls were treated to an awesome show at Falcon Ridge where numerous Birds of Prey were on display, and they learnt amazing facts about falconry. Back at camp, the girls took part in lots of activities: A hike to the waterfall, team-building through the obstacle course, abseiling, tree-climbing, zip-lining over the dam and even attending the Drakensberg Boys Choir Concert. In between, numerous fun games were enjoyed, which they happily participated in. You know they have had a good time when they want to stay longer or go back next year!



Senior School News



Shanna – Visit to Ireland

Shanna M recently had the privilege of attending the University College Dublin's Science School of Discovery for International Students. The UCD Science School of Discovery is an enrichment programme designed for international students especially interested in learning more about the wide spectrum of sciences available at the University.

"I recently went on a week-long trip to Dublin, Ireland, for University College Dublin's Science Discovery Program, where we explored the degrees and opportunities that their Science Department offers. We did experiments in all the Science disciplines, including chemistry, where we looked at Hydrogen as a source of energy for cars. We also witnessed many chemical reactions and balancing, as well as Absorption Spectroscopy. In Physics, we proved the speed of light. In Biology, we did multiple experiments in different sections such as Zoology, where we looked at birdlife on campus and microscopy, which is the study of cells. In Microbiology, we experimented with germ colonies and DNA, and in Earth Science, we developed a hypothetical space mission and observed rock formations on Killiney Beach. Lastly, we took part in a Maths demonstrations involving probability, weather patterns and weather predictions. As well as all the Science things we also did many other fun other activities, like experiencing Gaelic games, hiking through the Lake District and walking through Dublin city centre. Overall, it was an incredibly exciting and influential trip that taught me so much about the reality of university life. I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in any of the Sciences, even if you are unsure of the exact degree you wish to pursue."

Grade 11 Wilderness 2026

Time in the Wilderness

Time slows in the wilderness,
where the stars, the moon,
the wind and the trees
bring me back to what once made us
believe.

Away from the noise,
we begin to hear the things
we never knew were calling —
the whisper of leaves,
the rhythm of our footsteps,
and the quiet beating of our hearts.

We live each day wanting more,
always searching for somewhere else
to be, yet in the midst of the
unexpected, I find myself exactly where
I need to be.

The mountains stand tall with pride,
unchanged by the passing of time.
They remind me that strength
does not always need to be loud.

The new day brings us life
and food for all living things,
from dusk to dawn, the
wilderness never truly sleeps.

And as the sun rises one more,
painting the sky with colour,
no hand could ever recreate,
I realise how small I am —
but somehow, never insignificant.

For in the wilderness,
surrounded by everything untouched
and free, I do not feel lost.

I feel found.

Maddison C



Sports News

Val Fowler Basketball Tournament

Our 1st and U16A “Yellow Hoops” recently attended the prestigious annual Val Fowler Basketball Tournament, with both teams having a very successful weekend and demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and competitive spirit.

1st Team played three pool matches, winning all three and progressing to the playoffs. They beat Pretoria Girls 15–9 in their first playoff before losing 9–22 to PMB GHS. With three schools tied on 12 points, the team narrowly missed out on a semi-final place due to goal difference. They went on to convincingly beat Dominican Convent School Zimbabwe 21–7 in the 7th/8th playoff, finishing 7th out of 16 schools.

U16A had an outstanding tournament, winning all their pool and playoff matches. They secured a hard-fought semi-final victory against St Anne’s College to reach the final against PMB GHS. Despite a strong fight, they unfortunately lost by two baskets in the final minute, finishing second out of nine teams. The team won five of their six matches and can be incredibly proud of their performance.

The tournament was a valuable experience for both teams, with our girls showing wonderful commitment, resilience and teamwork throughout.





KZN Representatives

We are incredibly proud of the following St John's D.S.G. girls who have been chosen to represent KwaZulu-Natal in sporting events.

Soccer

U19

Lamia A

Erin P

Non-travelling reserve: Michaela T

U16

Alexi W

*Rebecca H

Non-travelling reserve: Holly P

U15 (18-man squad)

*Julia N

*Emma-Joy N

*Emma T

*Samukeliswe M

*Sophie M

*Amy vB

A final 16 player team will be chosen before going on Midlands Soccer tour.

U14

Yusra K

Jess G

Maya B

Mihla S

Kabinda M

Polocrosse

U16

Sophia S



Congratulations to Sophia, who was recently presented with the Fellowship Award at a recent tournament after selflessly giving up her horse so that another player could continue competing when her horse was injured. What a wonderful example of sportsmanship.

*Missing from photos.



Music News



Matric Recital

On Friday, 28 August, with hearts full of gratitude, we celebrated our exceptional Matric Subject Music students who shared their advanced recital programme in a warm candlelit evening. Each performer brought not only technical skill but genuine heart. It was truly a joy to see their growth as musicians. We wish them calm focus and every success in their final upcoming IEB practical exam on the Friday, 11 September.

