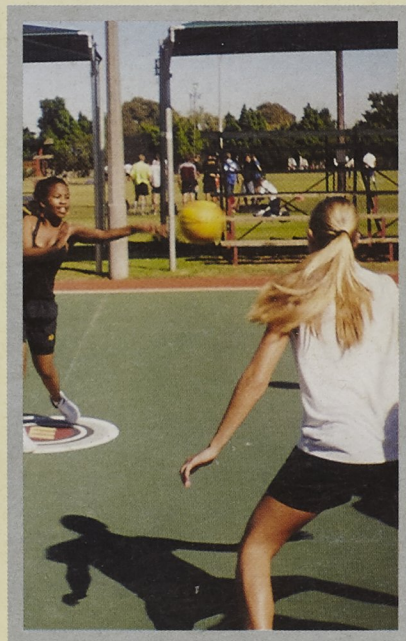


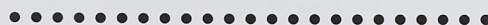
# St John's D.S.G. 2004







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**MAGAZINE REPRESENTATIVES:** Many thanks to these girls for their enthusiasm and ideas, for checking names, for running around to fetch, use and return cameras, and for the unenviable task of asking people to write articles, reports etc.



Lisa Frangs Natasha Driescher Kevoulee Sardar Sundus Altalib Antje Eggers Kelly McBean Stacey Kaye

## Editor: Mrs Mary-Lynne Tennant

The editor wishes to thank all those who wrote, collected and proof-read articles and essays, or submitted photographs - especially Miss Sally Davies for her *Try to Remember* photographs. For their much-valued advice and assistance, thanks are also due to Mrs Angela Burn, Mr Quintus van Rensburg, Mrs Jenny Westwood, Mrs Jean Weitsz and Mrs Bridget Hornbuckle.





**ST JOHN'S D.S.G.**  
PIETERMARITZBURG

## SCHOOL SONG

*St John's! The call comes ringing clear and clearer:  
To labour and to pray with all our might;  
Still seeking noblest truth and gazing upwards,  
To mount on eagles' wings towards the light.*

*Then later, school-gates passed, life's wider service  
Shall claim us and demand our fullest strength;  
Not less we'll labour, pray, love one another.  
On then, St John's! We'll reach our goal at length!*

WORDS AND MUSIC BY CYRIL WRIGHT



# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

*Bishop Rubin Phillip (visitor)*

*Sister Margaret Anne*

*Sister Mary Evelyn*

*Mr Barry Clarke*

*Mrs Diana Fitzsimons*

*Mr Peter Fowles*

*Bishop Michael Nuttall (Chairman)*

*Mrs Dianne Perrett*

*Adv. Rob Seggie (retiring in Dec.)*

*Dr Geoff Soni (retired in June)*

*Mr Tim Stent*

*Mr Howard Timm*

*Mr Reg Zammit*

*New members:*

*Ms Jabu Bhengu*

*Mr Aroo Naidoo*

*Dr Volker Wedekind*

# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*Mrs Jill Champion*

*Mrs Allison Gunning*

*Mrs Annette Symes*

*Mr Malcolm Taylor*

*Mrs Diana Witherspoon*

*Ms Sally Davies*

*Mev. Frith Malherbe*

*Mrs Bridget Hornbuckle*

# ACADEMIC STAFF



*front row: J. Westwood, S. Davies, Dogmatix, A. Symes, J. Champion, , A. Gunning, F. Malherbe, A. Harris*

*2nd row:*

*C. Coombes, K. Anderson, A. Tivcheva, A. Burn, P. Middlebrook, V. Schlebusch, Y. Langeveldt, E. Murray*

*3rd row:*

*P. Rhodes, K. Stakemire, C. Beattie, N. Foss, D. Murugan, R. Cruikshank, J. Grové, B. Willows, B. Kidd,*

*4th row:*

*C. Morgan, M. Cunnama, R. Freese, S. Zartmann, C. Stewart, J. Attwell, A. Jones, M-L. Tennant, D. Adam, W. Griffiths, T. Whitfield*

*back row: J. Smallie, C. Grey, L. Smit, M. Filmer, G. Ducasse, T. Moir, L. Joubert, F. Forbes,*



# ACADEMIC STAFF 2004

## MANAGEMENT

**Mrs Jill Champion**, BA, UED  
**Mrs Allison Gunning**, BA, BEd, DIP DAT, MM  
**Mrs Annette Symes**, NTSD, HDE  
**Miss Sally Davies**, BSc Hons, GCE  
**Mrs Frith Malherbe**, BA, HOD  
**Rev. Lloyd Smith**, Rector of St Alphege's  
**Rev. John Read**, Assistant priest

## HEADMISTRESS

**DEPUTY HEAD / Mathematics**  
**DEPUTY HEAD / Headmistress Junior School**  
**HOD (Sciences) / Biology**  
**HOD (Humanities) / Afrikaans**  
**School Chaplain / Divinity**  
**Assistant School Chaplain / Divinity**

## TEACHING STAFF

**Mrs Désirée Adam**, NTSD, HDE  
**Mrs Kim Anderson**, HDE, FDE  
**Mrs Joan Attwell**, BA Hons, HDE  
**Ms Chantél Beattie**, BA Fine Arts, HDE  
**Mrs Angela Burn**, Dip Ed, FDE  
**Mrs Candy Coombes**, HDE, FDE  
**Mrs René Cruikshank**, BA, HDE  
**Mrs Margaret Cunnama**, BA, H Dip Lib  
**Mrs Gillian Ducasse**, NTSD, HDE  
**Miss Moira Filmer**, BA Hons, HDE  
**Mrs Fay Forbes**, D Ed  
**Mrs Natalie Foss**, BSc, HDE, BEd  
**Mrs Rowena Freese**, NTSD, HDE  
**Mrs Yvonne Fritsche**, NTSD  
**Mrs Clemency Grey**, BSc, GRAD CE  
**Mrs Wendy Griffiths**, NTSD, HDE  
**Mrs Judith Grové**, BA, HED, Dip ZULU  
**Mrs Antoinette Harris**, NTSD, HDE  
**Mrs Alison Jones**, HDE  
**Mrs Lynne Joubert**, NTSD  
**Ms Belinda Kidd**, BA, HDE, BEd  
**Mrs Yvonne Langeveldt**, NCTD  
**Ms Patricia Middlebrook**, BA HDE  
**Mrs Tania Moir**, BA Music  
**Mrs Colleen Morgan**, BSc, HDE  
**Miss Joyce Ngcobo**, Dip Ed  
**Mrs Patricia Rhodes**, NTSD, HDE  
**Mrs Janet Smallie**, NTSD, DSE Rem Ed  
**Miss Lisa Smit**, BA (HMS)  
**Mrs Kay Stakemire**, TD  
**Miss Cara Stewart**, IMM  
**Mrs Mary-Lynne Tennant**, BA, H Dip Lib  
**Mme Atina Tivcheva**, MA  
**Miss Linda van Breda**, BA Hons (HMS)  
**Mrs Jennifer Westwood**, HDE  
**Ms Teresa Whitfield**, HDE  
**Mrs Brenda Willows**, BSc, HDE  
**Mrs Simone Zartmann**, BA HDE

**GRADE 6**  
**GRADE 7**  
**DRAMA / ENGLISH**  
**ART**  
**COMPUTERS**  
**GRADE 5**  
**ENGLISH**  
**SENIOR LIBRARY**  
**GRADE 4**  
**DRAMA / DIVINITY**  
**GUIDANCE**  
**GEN.SCI./ PHYS. SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY**  
**GRADE 1**  
**GERMAN**  
**GEOGRAPHY**  
**GRADE 0**  
**ZULU / SPORT**  
**AFRIKAANS**  
**MATHEMATICS**  
**GRADE 3**  
**ENGLISH**  
**COMPUTYPING**  
**HISTORY**  
**MUSIC**  
**GEOGRAPHY**  
**ZULU**  
**GRADE 2**  
**JUNIOR REMEDIAL**  
**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**  
**MATHEMATICS**  
**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**  
**JUNIOR LIBRARY / ART**  
**FRENCH**  
**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**  
**HOME ECONOMICS, TECHNOLOGY**  
**ACCOUNTING, EMS**  
**BIOLOGY**  
**ENGLISH**



# SPEECHDAY 2004

## PRIZE LIST 2004

### CLASS PRIZES

#### Grade 8 Merit certificates

Sinehlanhla Allie; Kate Anderson; Jaimie Atkinson; Ashton Botes; Caitlin Gardiner; Christy Gebers; Olivia March; Ashleigh Mc Duling; Cristine Naidoo; Kimberly Noble; Catherine Pennels; Sonalia Ramnarain

#### Grade 9 Merit certificates

Jessica Anderson; Maryam Cassim; Meghan Crosby; Tamryn Greyling; Sharleen Hollick; Julia Kirkby; Nicola Meyer; Kevoulee Sardar; Anjuli Soorju

#### Grade 10

**1<sup>st</sup> and a merit certificate** Linsday Kirkby  
**Merit certificates**

Megan Blore; Jenna J Brown; Alice Durnford; Deborah Gouweloos; Sudha Krishna; Katherine Robertshaw

#### Grade 11

**1<sup>st</sup> and a merit certificate** Toni-Lee Sterley  
**Merit certificates**

Kate Attwell; Rebecca Burne; Rayne Cockburn

#### Grade 12 Honours Certificates

Robyn Bowles; Ashly Dorkin; Emma du Preez; Jennifer Campbell; Jeanne Cuenod; Candice Gallagher; Jessica Gouweloos; Jessica Jenkin; Kerryn Moolenschot; Andrea Müller; Anndrea Naidoo; Jennifer O'Neill; Erica Stephen; Katelyn Warren

### MATRICULATION SUBJECT PRIZES

Computyping	Stacy-Lynne Graham
Speech and Drama	Jessica Jenkin
Geography	Erica Stephen
Home Economics	Katelyn Warren
Art	Kerryn Moolenschot
Biology	Kerryn Moolenschot
English	Ashly Dorkin, Andrea Müller
French	Ashly Dorkin
History	Ashly Dorkin
Accounting	Andrea Müller
Advanced Mathematics	Andrea Müller
Afrikaans	Andrea Müller
German	Andrea Müller
Mathematics	Andrea Müller
Physical Science	Andrea Müller



*The Headmistress, Mrs Jill Champion, with Head Girl, Sthabisile Gwala, Dux of the School, Andrea Müller, and Deputy Head Girl, Candice Gallagher*



*Stacy-Lynne Graham*



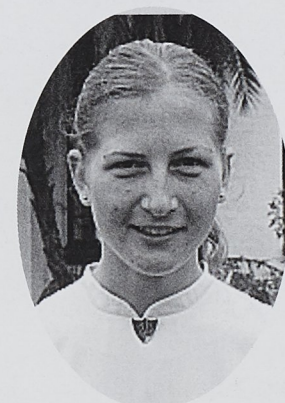
*Jessica Jenkin*



*Erica Stephen*



*Katelyn Warren*



*Kerryn Moolenschot*



*Ashly Dorkin*



## SPECIAL AWARDS

**Music:** Middle School  
Senior School  
(*Francine Bowker Shield*)

Tanja Williams  
Megan Cowie

**Labistour Cup**  
(*best individual debater*)

Candice Gallagher

**Kate Holmes Trophy**  
(*most promising actress*)

Kate Attwell

**Practical Art Award**

Robyn Bowles

**Practical Home Economics Award** Joanna Bird

**Speech and Drama Award**

Emma du Preez

**Pinny Mapham Memorial Trophy**  
(*for altruism*)

Candice Gallagher

**Joanna (Dalton) Beattie Memorial trophy**  
(*for Creativity*) Robyn Bowles and Emma du Preez

**Ashleigh Wienand Cup**

Megan Cowie

**The Greyling Cup**  
(*for Sportsmanship*)

Romi Hillermann

**Goodman Cup**  
(*for all-round sporting achievement*) Robyn Bowles

**Long Attendance Award**

Stacy-Lynne Graham

**Sacristan Award**  
(*presented by the Old Girls*)

Jessica Gouweloos

**Senior Chorister**

Emma du Preez

**Gem Award**

Jessica Gouweloos

**Debi Shreeve Trophy**  
(*for fellowship*)

Lindsay Smaill

**Getcliffe Cup**  
(*for care of juniors*) Niki Heenan and Lindsay Smaill

**Deputy Head Girl's award** Candice Gallagher

**Head Girl's Award**

Sthabisile Gwala

**Abbott Cup (Dux)**

Andrea Müller

**St John's Cup** Sthabisile Gwala and Candice Gallagher



*Romi Hillermann*



*Emma du Preez*



*Joanna Bird*



*Jessica Gouweloos*



*Megan Cowie*



*Robyn Bowles*



*Lindsay Smaill and Nikki Heenan*



# ACHIEVEMENTS 2003 - 2004

## 2003 MATRICULATION RESULTS INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION BOARD

100% Pass, 48 Candidates Entered,  
43 Matric Exemptions, 5 Senior Certificates,  
8 A Aggregates, 71 Distinctions  
56 Higher Grade Subject As,  
15 Standard Grade Subject As

## HONOURS BLAZERS

Head Girl: **Sthabisile Gwala**

Deputy Head Girl: **Candice Gallagher**

Academics: **Andrea Müller, Ashly Dorkin,  
Emma du Preez**

Squash: **Anndrea Naidoo**

## HONOURS BARS

Academics: **Ashly Dorkin, Toni-Lee Sterley,  
Kerryn Moolenschot, Jessica Gouweloos,  
Jennifer O'Neill, Anndrea Naidoo,  
Erica Stephen**

Drama: **Jolene Crous, Hayley Schoeman,  
Lindsay Smaill, Jessica Jenkin,  
Emma du Preez, Robyn Bowles**

Hockey: **Sally-Anne Snyman, Romi Hillermann**



*Jolene Crous*



*Kate Attwell*



*Toni-Lee Sterley*



*Hayley Schoeman*



*Sally-Anne Snyman*



*Rebecca Burne*



*Alexandra Stewart*



*Rayne Cockburn*



*Jennifer Campbell*



*Jeanne Cuénod*



*Anndrea Naidoo*



*Jennifer O'Neill*

## COLOURS BARS

Academics: **Jeanne Cuénod, Candice Gallagher,  
Jessica Gouweloos, Kerryn Moolenschot,**

**KateAttwell, Rebecca Burne,  
Alexandra Stewart, Rayne Cockburn,  
Jennifer Campbell, Jessica Jenkin**

Debating: **Candice Gallagher**

Drama: **Kelly McBean, Nondumiso Shabalala,  
Katelyn Warren, Bridget Meyer,**

**Toni-Lee Sterley, Katherine Robertshaw**

Cross-Country: **Megan Blore**

Equitation: **Rebecca Burne**

Hockey: **Tristan Duthie**

Indoor Hockey: **Romi Hillermann**

Squash: **Deborah Gouweloos**

Swimming: **Lindsay Kirkby**

Tennis: **Amy Joubert**

Waterpolo: **Melanie Haralambous**



# ACHIEVEMENTS 2003 - 2004

## ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL

### HISTORY

Olympiad, final round: **Sarah Dawson**  
UN General Assembly Debate Competition:  
**Katie-Lee Essom, Alexandra Stewart**

### GERMAN

Guest of *Padagogischer Austauschdienst*  
**Kirstin Lawrie**

### MATHEMATICS

In top 100, 2nd round, junior section, Mathematics  
Olympiad: **Tamryn Greyling, Nicola Meyer**

### MUSIC

UNISA Grade 6 Organ: **Megan Cowie** (merit)  
UNISA Grade 4 Theory: **Toni-Lee Sterley**  
(distinction)  
Trinity Grade 8 Piano: **Toni-Lee Sterley** (merit)  
Trinity Grade 1 Piano: **Tanja Williams** (merit)

### AFS INTERCULTURE SOUTH AFRICA

School and cultural exchange to Italy:  
**Ntonhle Sokhela, Thandeka Ndlovu**

### BASKETBALL

KwaZulu-Natal U16A: **Roxanne Vale**

### EQUITATION:

KwaZulu-Natal Equitation and Showing Teams:  
**Rebecca Burne**

### HOCKEY

KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Teams:  
U18A - **Sally-Anne Snyman, Romi Hillermann**  
U16A - **Tristan Duthie**  
U16B - **Amy Joubert, Alexandra Stewart**  
U14A - **Olivia March**  
U14B - **Zamahlasela Gabela**

### INDOOR HOCKEY

KwaZulu-Natal Midlands U21B: **Romi Hillermann**

### MOUNTAIN BIKING:

KwaZulu-Natal Team: **Jenny Pickles**

### SQUASH:

KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Teams:  
U19A: **Anndrea Naidoo, Jessica Gouweloos**  
U16A: **Deborah Gouweloos**  
U14B: **Monique Cronjé**

### SWIMMING:

KwaZulu-Natal Midlands A Team:  
**Robyn Bowles, Romi Hillermann**  
KwaZulu Natal Midlands A Team: **Kate Symons**

### TENNIS:

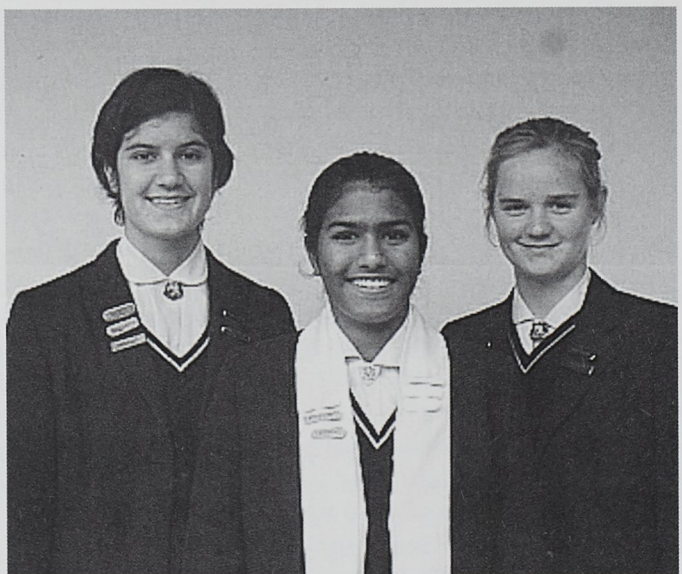
KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Teams:  
U18A: **Sally-Anne Snyman**  
U15A: **Amy Joubert**  
Natal Team  
U14 - **Nicola Meyer**

### WATERPOLO:

KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Teams:  
U18A: **Natasha Haralambous**  
U18B: **Melanie Haralambous**  
U16: **Paula de la Hey**  
U14: **Paula de la Hey, Jenna J. Brown**  
KwaZulu-Natal Teams:  
U 19A: **Natasha Haralambous**  
U19C: **Paula de la Hey**

### NATIONAL TEAMS:

Hockey: South Africa U16B - **Tristan Duthie**  
Squash: South Africa U19A - **Anndrea Naidoo**  
Waterpolo: SA U16-**Natasha Haralambous**  
SA U17 - **Natasha Haralambous**  
Tennis: South Africa U16 - **Amy Joubert**  
(also ranked 2nd in South Africa)) *see page 75*



*Natasha Haralambous, Anndrea Naidoo and Tristan Duthie*

*This page kindly sponsored by Fieldsend Wood & Coal*



# Address... by the Headmistress

As Bishop Michael mentioned, this is my 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive Principal's report. When I look back on 2004, I feel inclined, like Dr Spencer Johnson, to ask 'Who moved my cheese'? I realize now what a comfortable position I was in with a deputy of long standing and a personal assistant, who, somebody joked, (when Erica announced her departure to Dubai at half year): "But we thought you would take over the Head's position when she retires at the end of next year!" Consequently, I have chosen the theme of change for my report.

Isaac Asimov states: "It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today." With our school being a microcosm of society, it is not surprising that we reflect this change. However, I also emphasise that certain aspects of this school are unchanging. I agree with Jimmy Carter's advice: "Adjust to changing times, but cling to unchanging principles."

I am pleased to report consistently excellent Matric results, (the details are in your programme). The school is full, with our first ever Matric group of over 50 girls (there are 51) about to write their final examinations. With three of them having been awarded white Honours blazers for Academics - Andrea Müller, Ashly Dorkin and Emma du Preez - we are expecting our top results, in particular, to be exceptionally good. Our Matric group clearly reflects the balance we try to achieve at St John's in encouraging excellence in academic, sporting and cultural achievement. Anndrea Naidoo, who later this morning will receive an Honours certificate for her Academic achievement, also wears a white Honours Blazer for her selection to the South African U19 Squash team this year. The cultural

life of the school has been deeply enriched by Megan Cowie's piano and organ playing, Jeanne Cuénod's violin, Emma du Preez's and Nothando Hlatswayo's voices - to mention just a few of the exceptionally talented individuals in this Matric year group of sportswomen, musicians, actresses, artists and dancers. Many of them excel across the board and are weighed down by the number of badges of achievement they have earned!

But, Matrics of 2004, it is your compassion for one another through some of life's cruellest trials, that has earned you the love and respect of all. Your loyalty to the school and exemplary behaviour make you a hard act to follow. To all of you, Matrics and Prefects, thank-you for your leadership and for providing the rest of the school with excellent role models. Well done! You make us proud. I have great trust that you are going out into the world to change it for the better. Anne Frank stated: "How wonderful it is that nobody needs wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." I feel sure you will waste no time.

One of the most rewarding ways to help improve the world, in my opinion, is to join the teaching profession. It is a source of pleasure and pride that every year, against the national and international trend, St John's girls choose to become teachers, and this year's group of Matrics is no exception. Girls who understand the rewards of service, perceive the short-term satisfaction of materialism and have role models of the stature of the teachers they encounter in this school, see a difference. Our revered past president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." To



Mrs Jill Champion

wield that 'weapon' is the power and privilege that teachers have. To continue the good that has been achieved in this first decade of democracy in this beloved country, South Africa, should be the wish of us all, but especially of the new generation entering the changing world of work. So once again, I encourage girls to consider teaching as a career, and parents to celebrate this choice by their daughters. From my experience, you won't regret it.

One of the greatest challenges for teachers today is keeping abreast of changes in education, and specifically, adapting to changing curricula and forms of assessment. The academic staff at St John's is extremely professional and capable, and continuously manages these changes most effectively.

Changes of a different kind in the staff this year have been the births of two baby girls, Lindsay Foss in February, and Elizabeth Kidd in September - a great source of joy and celebration in a girls' school like ours. Their arrival necessitated some staff changes, and we welcomed locums Mrs Bridget Schofield and Mrs Joyce Broadbent teaching in the



Physical Science department for six months, and have Mr James Black with us in the English department until Easter. Mrs Elmarie Kruger was also a locum for Afrikaans while Mrs Antoinette Harris was on long leave in the Second term

New teachers in the Senior School this year are Mrs Simone Zartmann in the English department, Miss Cara Stewart in Physical Education and tennis coach, Mrs Loraine Osborne. It has also been a pleasure to welcome Mrs Allison Gunning as Deputy Head since the beginning of the year. Her experience of leadership, teaching of Mathematics, and her commitment to our Anglican ethos, have all facilitated an easy transition into the School and Management team. Thank-you, Allison, for taking on this new task with such energy and enthusiasm, and for your solid support.

St John's is blessed with a strong Management team on whom I rely. I thank them, the Heads of Department and my Deputies, Mrs Allison Gunning and Mrs Annette Symes.

The support staff give excellent service in maintaining our offices, shop, boarding establishments, clinic, kitchen, laundry, grounds and gardens. Mr Chester Harris, our estate manager, and Ms Patti Naidoo, our catering manager, must be singled out for their extraordinary loyalty and commitment to St John's. I thank all the staff for what they do. I am indeed fortunate to work with people of the calibre and commitment of those here.

A key person for me who left earlier this year was Erica McDonald, my secretary of 5 years, whom I mentioned earlier. She was a rare gem! In her place now is Mrs Meredith Torr, who has been plunged into the deep end of a very busy and demanding front office. Your calm manner and willingness to take on everything are admirable, Merry, as we all adapt to change.

Matron Mrs Yvonne Wintgens, who has worked in our Senior Boarding establishment for almost 7 years, resigned to take up a different kind of position in the Midlands. Thank-you for looking after many, many girls over the years. Your loving care and concern have been appreciated by us all.

An icon on our staff, who first arrived at St John's 50 years ago in 1955, when she returned to Pietermaritzburg from the UK, is music teacher, Miss Elaine Murray. Although she did go to Kingsmead, another girls' independent school in Gauteng for a while, she has spent by far the majority of her life at this school, teaching piano, flute and clarinet as well as many lessons of life. Miss Murray, you have been a wonderful constant in the midst of change, a role model for both girls and staff, the epitome of someone whose resilience and modern outlook have ensured that your spirit will never grow old. I would like to salute you now, and thank you for everything you have meant to St John's these past 50 years.

As I have just been speaking of Old Girls, I thought I should let you know that, although she felt unable to be with us here today, our oldest Old Girl, Miss Marjorie I'Ons, in true St John's fashion, sent a handwritten note, declining our invitation. Many of us have fond memories of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration last November, and Bishop Michael and Dorrie spoke with her at the recent Centenary celebrations of the Victoria Memorial Homes, where she resides, and she is well.

A new Old Girls' Committee is once again under the Chairmanship of Mrs Di Fitzsimons, who is also a Board member. The Old Girls and Members of the Board and the Foundation continue to support the school in many ways, and I thank them all most sincerely. I especially thank my Chairman, Bishop Michael Nuttall, for his leadership

of the Board and empathy with me. The school community (no one has more so than I!) is delighted that he has agreed to serve another 3 year term as Chairman. Thank-you Bishop Michael – and special thanks too, to Vice-Chairman, Reg Zammit, for his persuasive powers and long-standing commitment to St John's.

It was a delight to have Sisters Margaret Anne and Mary Evelyn back at the last Board meeting. Sister Mary Evelyn originally came to St John's from England as a young Physical Education teacher called Miss Coffee. The state of the swimming pool has been an issue close to her heart since those days, so it was appropriate that she was present when the Board approved the cost of the swimming pool project. I hope the Sisters will be at our first Inter-House gala in the new pool in February! Thank-you, Sisters, for all you do for our school.

It is not only the Sisters whose prayers and spiritual guidance benefit our school. Chaplain Father Lloyd Smith and his assistant, Father John Read, are extremely faithful to us. This year Rod Capon and his *Scripture Union in Independent Schools* team, influenced the lives of many here through their mission. They have left a tangible legacy, with new Bible study groups flourishing in the school since their visit. The group of *Mothers Who Care* meet all kinds of needs in the school, not only through prayer. I thank them all. You ensure that the principles of love, faith and charity endure here - the 'unchanging principles' to which I referred earlier.

The Parent Committee goes from strength to strength and I reiterate the thanks of the Chairman for all they do. To me there appears to be a growing involvement, a generosity of spirit and support for the school from a wider and wider spectrum of parents. It is most gratifying and strengthens our position as a leading school. Thank-you.



One family deserves special mention. Mark and Cathy Robinson, thank-you for the many trips to St John's over the past 11 years. Your four daughters have made a wonderful contribution here and we shall miss not having one Robinson in the school next year.

Girls, St John's tries to teach you sound values, and develops life skills and qualities which will prepare you not only for success in life, but most importantly, happiness. That ancient Chinese philosopher, Confucius, said: 'They must often change, who would be constant in happiness or wisdom'. For survival itself, the ability to change is essential. Charles Darwin said 'It is not the strongest of the species that survive, not the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change'. You also need to heed the example of an unknown author who said "I can't change the direction of the wind. But I can adjust my sails."

So to be good sailors through life, you need to develop the qualities of flexibility and resilience. You are global citizens whose lives and education are already dramatically different from those of your parents and teachers. For you, change is much easier than it is for us. Many

of us fear or resent change and have to be persuaded to adopt Ann Blair's philosophy: "Change is fun and exciting and, like a haircut, looks funny at first; but once you get used to it, it's great."

I think of how well several foreign pupils have adapted to St John's this year, including our German Rotary exchange student, Sarah Broszeit, who will be with us until half year 2005. I am proud, too, of our own two Inter-culture short-term exchange students, Thandeka Ndlovu and Ntonhle Sokhela, who showed those essential qualities of flexibility and resilience, living with Italian families for 8 weeks at the end of last year. You girls are already proven global citizens.

As internationalism becomes more and more the way of the world (just think of how many of our families here today have mothers, fathers, our children and other family members living and working as South Africans in foreign countries), it is essential not only to have the world class education we believe we offer here, but strength of character to adapt and change, while holding on to unchanging, sound values.

What lies ahead for you girls, no-one can predict. People are full of

advice about how to cope, though sometimes they expect us to be contortionists. Try doing this, for example ... all at the same time, of course: keep your shoulder to the wheel and your nose to the grindstone; your back to the wall and your ear to the ground: your head level and both feet on the ground. Meanwhile, you are supposed to be putting your best foot forward and paddling your own canoe! Perhaps you will find a way!

Finally, let us never forget to *Love one another*, (the inscription in our Chapel stained glass window). I leave you with a quote from James Baldwin, which embraces both the ideas of change and loving one another.

"For nothing is fixed, forever and forever and forever, it is not fixed; the earth is always shifting, the light is always changing, the sea does not cease to grind down rock. Generations do not cease to be born, and we are responsible to them because we are the only witnesses they have. The sea rises, the light fails, lovers cling to each other, and children cling to us. The moment we cease to hold each other, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out."

*Jill Champion  
Headmistress*

# Address... by the Head Girl

I'm sure we have all heard it said that your school years are the best of your life. I'm yet to find out if this is true, but I know that I will never forget the friendships and bonds which I have developed over the past five years.

Our Assistant Chaplain, Father John Read, is a man of great wisdom whom I admire, and he always refers to life as a journey. This leg of my journey began, like many others, with a giant leap. I made the decision of attending a high school where I knew nobody.

I was going to have no friends for the first time in my life. At least this is what I thought. But from the day I set foot in St John's five years ago, I have been surrounded by people who care for me and have helped me every step of the way.

You never know what life is going to throw at you. When I was named Head Girl 2004, I didn't believe it. The first thought that came to mind was that Mrs Champion had said the wrong name; was she suddenly going to say: "Sorry, girls, wrong person. The actual Head Girl is.."?





But then it dawned on me that I had just been given one of the biggest responsibilities of my life. I didn't think that I was ready for it, but I was actually more prepared than I gave myself credit for. From the very first day a girl comes to St John's, she contracts what I like to call the St John's virus - an environment in which we are able to grow, where we gain strong morals and values and an awareness of those around us. I have learnt to treat people with utmost respect, no matter who they are. A St John's girl does not stand out in the crowd only because of her yellow uniform, or because of her basher, which she is trying inconspicuously to keep from falling off her head, but she stands out because she possesses what seems to be lacking in many young people - a respect not only for those around her, but more especially, for herself. She has an affable manner of carrying herself, which can be seen a mile off. So when I was chosen as Head Girl, nothing spurred me on more than the fact that I would be Head Girl of a school of which I thought very highly, and which had played an integral part in making me who I am. There were times when I doubted my ability, but I was lucky enough to have people around me who cared for me and reminded me why I had accepted this position in the first place. It is to these people that I would like to say a few words today.

To my family: I know that you have borne the brunt of my frustrations, especially Sne! Thank you for always being understanding. Mom and Dad. Through you I have learnt that nothing will happen for you, unless you make it happen for yourself. You have shown me determination and perseverance and I am who I am because of you. Thank you for your unconditional love and tolerant guidance. I cannot thank you enough for the sacrifices that you have made for me.

Mrs Champion: You have to deal with so many issues and you always

manage to get things done with such grace. You show integrity and lead the school in a fair and honourable manner. You are someone I respect and admire greatly. Thank you for the endless support you have given to me and all the girls.

To the teachers: This school would be nothing without you. Thank-you for all your hard work - despite your heavy load, you always go that extra mile. I know that your pupils don't always tell you, but we are very grateful for all that you do for us. Mevrouw and Mrs. Grey, thank you for all the hours you put into looking after the matrices. Mevrouw, thank you for making the prefects' job so much easier. Thank you both for ensuring that the matrices kept their heads above water!

To the prefects of 2004: The poise with which you carried out your duties this year was admirable and praiseworthy. The school has been your first priority and you have handled all duties with humility while being able to enforce rules and mete out punishment with the right balance of sternness and fairness. Each one of you brought an element into the prefect body that was valuable. I am grateful for the friendships that I have developed with each of you and am honoured that I served with you. Candice, you have been my pillar of strength when the world seemed daunting. You've been my friend before anything else and I will treasure all that we have experienced together. You lead with a sincerity and integrity that are commendable. You have done an outstanding job this year and I thank you.

To the prefects of 2005: Congratulations! It is an honour to have been chosen by your peers as leaders. Keep in mind that a leader is a server. It's not always clear skies and sunshine: you will have cloudy days, but if you all pull together, and communicate, I know that you will reach your full potential. I wish you all the best of luck.

To the rest of the girls who will be returning next year, I have heard it said countless times how your high school years fly by. You will never realise how fast it all goes by until it's almost time to leave. Treasure every moment and don't let opportunities pass you by, because when you realise how much you could have done, or wish you had done, it might be too late. You have many opportunities here - seize them with both hands and use them to your advantage.

And now to the matrices of 2004: The past five years have been unforgettable! I could never have asked for a better group of people to share my life with. Every single one of you has unique traits. We have been through many good, bad and quite a few bizarre times. We have shared so much that I can't imagine going through life without you by my side: I've always known that all of you were special, but I took it for granted and only now do I realise how much I will miss all the little things. So now, as we part and take our separate paths that destiny has laid out for us, I wish you the best of luck. Go out into the world and make your mark. And know that you have all left a mark in my heart!

I can say with utmost confidence that St John's and the past five years have made me want to achieve only the best and to persevere with courage until I reach my goal in life. I would never trade the past five years for anything in the world.

Now that my foundation here at St John's has been laid, I know that I am equipped to start building my life and am now ready, and I quote from Steven Covey: "to live, to learn, to love, to leave a legacy."

*Sthablsile Gwala*  
*Head Girl*



# Address... by the Guest Speaker



In January this year I received an e-mail with the interesting subject heading: *I'm Out*. My first reaction was: who is coming *out of the closet*, now? The message was from a young Johannesburg woman by the name of Chantal Herman. She was making a bold announcement that she was stepping out in confidence and informing everyone that she was no longer going to live in obscurity, but was going come into the full light of day with her creative gifts and talents. Her first offering was her own Children's TV show that was to begin on SABC 2.

Chantal had conceptualized the show, written the scripts and directed the first 30 episodes. I marvelled at her bravery and thought back to our first meeting, the previous year.

I mused that the first time I met Chantal, I did not notice her. She was one of 60 people who were attending one my workshops on discovering one's personal purpose and life vision. A smaller group wanted to meet again a few months later for a follow-up and to train as facilitators of this workshop. That is when I first noticed and got to know Chantal more closely. She was shy and more introverted than the rest of the group. She offered opinions, but often in a guarded manner. Chantal was attractive and described herself as a budding actress, but

revealed that her heart's desire was to write and direct children's programmes. We had no further contact until the intriguing e-mail.

I wrote back to her and congratulated her on her decision to move towards her vision: to inspire, enliven and electrify Magic in others through the performing arts. Magic, for her, encapsulated personal truth and freedom. She said that this was the joy of being truly herself 24/7! I had personally discovered the peace in just being me and connecting to my purpose, and it was special to notice it in others. Surely, this was an intrinsic principle that ensured more than a measure of authentic happiness – to tap into and be all that you were created to be! Not what someone else expects and not what you are supposed to do – but what God intended in the first place! As with Chantal, I too have learnt that the secret to a life worth living was locked up inside me and that I had to unravel the layers every day... a process that was always filled with mystery, excitement and adventure. A journey that was about: No Excuses, No Games, No Race, No Competition...Just Me!

What other principles are necessary for a fruitful and abundant existence? I have learnt that, in order to grow as a psychologist, it is always important for me to sustain an inspired curiosity about people. In preparation for today's speech and my ongoing search for personal wisdom, I decided to pose a question to ten people who are living in their purpose and are giants in government, corporates, academia and their own thriving businesses. I have met these incredible individuals through my own journey and they are firm friends and colleagues. I knew their answers would provide more personal wisdom for all of us. The question posed was:

**What would you have liked to know when you were in Grade 12, that would have made your life journey easier and more meaningful?** They reported that the question brought much introspection as well as hilarious input. There were, however, a few common threads and central themes.

The first was that they all agreed that being empowered by purpose and fulfilling their divine assignment was something they wish they had clues about in Grade 12. Many reported that they would have had fewer 'unproductive' days, months and years. Interestingly, many spoke about the futile quest in trying to be perfect. They sent a clear message that the quest to live by your own lights was more important than trying to be the perfect daughter, student, wife or boss...you just had to know that you need to strive to be the perfect you! This meant living your dreams and not the un-lived dreams of your family or larger social community.

I was surprised that almost all sent the message that they wished that they had been gentler on themselves and competed less. A senior director of a multinational company shared that it would have been great if she had been less serious and more fun-loving. While the distinctions and degrees were valued, many felt they would have achieved them anyway, but with time for more friendships, and fewer lone-ranger activities. This fed directly into the theme of interdependence – the notion that two is better than one. One woman, an entrepreneur, clearly wrote: "I wouldn't go it alone – I will ask for help, more often". Most felt that there was no need to be fiercely independent and that the best results were achieved when they were part of an exciting team – rather than building their own lonely empires.



While many more insights were shared, a prominent one (which I strongly agree with) was the need for spiritual understanding and awareness. Most indicated that they hoped that you would build on the roots and seeds that are sown now...and that there will be a harvest of abundance as you build on these spiritual seedlings. I encourage you today to nurture and protect your spiritual life and you will reap a feeling of being anchored, despite the challenges that come your way. This will be the lighthouse that will always lead you to the safe harbour. Guard it at all costs. You are also encouraged to diet less and eat more chocolate, ice-cream and fudge...(there are fewer consequences, now).

Ultimately, I believe that all this personal wisdom is summed up in the New Testament Book of Matthew in which we are called to be the 'salt' and 'light' of the world. Salt does not have to try to be salty and light is well...light (no effort required). So as you venture through the double doors of opportunity and the real you comes out, remember the reflective words of my fellow psychologist and dear friend Lingum Pillay, who poignantly answered my question in the following way: "Too many times, I have chosen the easier path, walked the safer way and given less of myself to myself. I believe now that was unfair. Maybe I should not have wanted my life's journey to be easier.

Today, I am aware that my best of times is always after the storm, after the challenges, after the obstacles. What I would have really liked to have known then (in Grade 12) was that it is okay to have these obstacles and to rattle the chains, take in the chaos and wrestle with meaning and purpose.

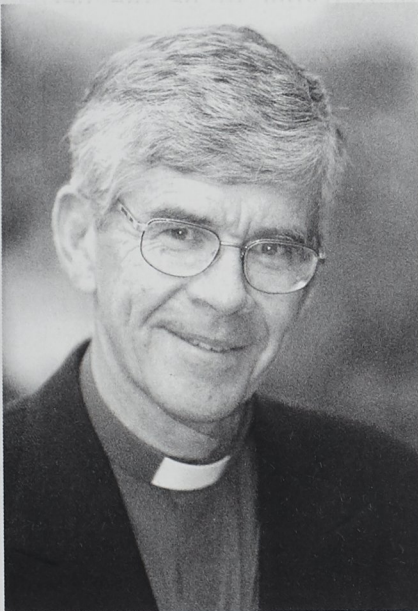
Everybody has prescriptions, but I know now that there is no set way. I sometimes wish that I had a greater sense of awareness, of how powerful I really am, how powerful we all really are.

So, today I conclude by encouraging you to move out of the shadows and walk in your magnificent light!

*Rani Moodley*

.....

# Report... by the Chairman of the Board



*Bishop Michael Nuttall*

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, girls of St John's,

I welcome you warmly to our Speech Day and Prize Giving, and in particular I welcome on your behalf, our Guest of Honour, Ms Rani Moodley, about whom I shall be saying a little more later in the programme.

Among our guests are a number of school principals who have nobly made a special effort to be here. They are:

Mrs Judith Brown - The Wykeham Collegiate  
Mr Mike Ford – St Nicholas'  
Mrs Eleanor Hough – Maris Stella (in Durban)  
Mrs Elizabeth Klug – Epworth  
Mr Kevin Marais and Mrs Marais - Northern Park Primary  
Mrs Jill Molloy – Longmarket Girls'  
Mrs Jean Rose – Russell High  
Mrs Astra Russell – (all the way from) Umhlali Primary  
Mr Simon Weaver and Mrs Weaver – Cordwalles  
Mr David Wilkinson and Mrs Wilkinson – St Anne's

In addition, Girls' High, Michaelhouse, Clifton Preparatory at Nottingham Road and Carter High have designated representatives of their Principals present. Carter High includes prefect representatives in keeping with a well-established tradition between our two schools. We welcome you all.

We are delighted to have our very busy Deputy Mayor making time to be here. She is Councillor Zanele Hlatswayo, representing the municipality. We also know her here as one of our Matric parents this year.

I extend a special welcome also to past and present Board members, including Tony Hesp, Roger Raab and Tim Stent, each of whom chaired the Board with distinction in his time. I would like to single out Mr Graham Clarke, past member of our Board and now in his very alert nineties. His presence here this morning is a sign that he is as eager and as concerned as ever about a worthwhile education for our young people.

Among present Board members I mention in particular Mr Reg Zammit who, as Deputy Chair, acted on my behalf during my absence for three months this year. Reg has given the Board eighteen years of very distinguished service and we all continue to rely greatly on his



expertise and wisdom. Two SSJD Sisters, Margaret Anne and Mary Evelyn, serve still on the Board, representing the community which, in a great act of faith and courage, founded this school over 100 years ago. They are here, with Sister Sophia. We are especially grateful that Sister Mary Evelyn and Sister Sophia have recovered well from a nasty car accident some months ago.

Dr Geoffrey Soni retired from the Board during the year after many years of service and Advocate Rob Seggie will be retiring at the end of this year. He too has given lengthy service and will be greatly missed. We have three new members of the Board, all of them outstanding in their own way. They are:

Ms Jabu Bhengu, a former school principal, mother of a former deputy head girl here, and currently a director in the office of Provincial Minister of Education, Ina Cronjé; Mr Aroo Naidoo, retired school principal, now Donor Services Manager for the Pietermaritzburg and District Community Chest; Dr Volker Wedekind, Head of the School of Education, Maritzburg, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

It is a huge blessing for the school to have such talented people being willing to join the Board

The Parents' Association plays a pivotal role in the life of this school and I express our gratitude to Mr Trevor Cowie, Chair for 2003-4, and to Mr Arnie Meyer, the current Chairman. This Association has spearheaded the acquisition of the new chairs in this theatre. We are thankful for those who made one-off gifts for the purchase of chairs.

There is also a group called *Mothers Who Care* - an interesting combination of intercessory prayer and fundraising. Perhaps it could be described as a heavenly-minded group with its feet firmly on the ground. - quite a rare combination, for which we can be grateful.

You will have noticed the new entrance gate from New England Road. Apart from the convenience and safety that this entrance represents, it should enhance the school's image in these highly competitive times.

The other even more exciting development is the Board's decision to go ahead with the renovation and extension of the swimming pool into a standard 25-metre pool. In addition, we are to have a smaller, shallow, learn-to-swim pool made for our little people.

Lorraine Raab, continues to nurture and care for the indigenous garden she has created in the school grounds - a very special feature of St John's. This year's Nobel Peace Prize has not only been awarded to an African woman for the first time, but to an environmentalist. In Kenya, Wangari Maathai is known as "the tree woman". In addition to fighting for human rights and against government corruption, she has empowered rural women in 15 African countries to plant an estimated 30 million trees, and she has campaigned for the protection of remaining natural forests.

Some have wondered how an environmentalist can be awarded a Peace Prize. There is a very close connection between human well-being and care for the environment. Deforestation and the advance of desert create distress for human communities which can lead to conflict and strife. The chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee said this year: "We have expanded the peace concept to include environmental issues because we believe that a good quality of life on Earth is necessary to promote lasting peace." It seems to be primarily the world's women who are drawing our attention to this very important aspect.

Lorraine Raab is made in a similar mould to Wangari Maathai, and we salute her.

We have flowers before us right here, and in the foyer and in the gym hall where refreshments will be served afterwards. We thank Claire Burn, Kirsten Dales, Jane Furniss and Sandy McKenzie, all of them St John's mothers, for these beautiful arrangements.

I would like to assure you that the school is in good shape. Our pupil numbers for next year are looking very healthy; in fact it looks as if we are to reach our ceiling of 450 girls. Even boarder numbers are going up slightly. The fee increase is less than it was for this year. Staff morale is high, and Jill Champion will, we hope, have a fulfilling final year as our Headmistress. Yes, 2005 will be her last year among us as she prepares for a well-earned retirement. This Prize Giving is her tenth and it is said that any reasonable human being can take ten years in this highly demanding job, and that is about it. We shall be able to express our gratitude properly about this time next year, but there is no harm in saying a big 'thank you' to her now as well.

The Board has already put a selection committee in place and criteria for the choice of a new Head are about to be finalised. The aim is to have the new Head appointed by the middle of next year. Lest there be any anxiety about this period of transition, I give you some words spoken at the end of one of his addresses by a former Archbishop of Cape Town, Geoffrey Clayton. He said: "Say your prayers, keep the commandments, and don't flap."

My final comment is this. I think the girls will agree with me that the best day of the year was the one when they were invited to leave their classrooms, climb into four buses and travel out to see the amazing snowfall in the Natal Midlands. This tells us something revealing, I think, about this special school. All of us who love this place plan to keep it special.

+ Michael Nuttall



# Report... by the Chaplain



The Gospel writers tell us that Jesus cleansed the Temple and cast out those who traded there. He told them: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations". In quoting from Isaiah 56:7c, Jesus challenged his people to reclaim the Temple as the place set aside for all people to worship the living God. The Temple should be at the heart of all the people of God.

During the June/July holidays the school Chapel was re-furbished. The roof tiles were lifted to install plastic sheeting and then replaced, together with some of the wooden battens. The walls were painted; the floor tiles were cleaned; the woodwork was cleaned and treated (ceiling, pews, altar, sanctuary rood and candle stands). The Prayer Books were repaired. New Hymn Board numbers and a cruet set (for water and wine) were purchased. The storage of prayer books, altar linen and other Chapel requisites has been taken care of in a more appropriate way. It looks as though we have a new Chapel.

It seems that Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem speaks to us as a school community as we relate to the Chapel that lies at the heart of our School. Before the 'cleansing' of our chapel, Mrs Gunning introduced the concept of 'loving the Chapel'. To facilitate this, volunteers from different grades have made it their responsibility to care for the Chapel, to ensure that it remains neat and tidy and in good repair. I commend this new venture in the life of our School, and trust that an increasing number of our

school community will make it their business to 'love the Chapel', not only in word, but also in deed. It is my prayer that we will indeed have members of the school community as a praying and loving presence in our Chapel. Perhaps some of the parents and younger 'old girls' will join us in doing so.

The Chaplain conducts Chapel Services for the Junior School once a month. The way the girls engage in the services, singing and listening to the 'sermon' is both rewarding and refreshing. During these services, the Chapel is not the quiet place that Senior School is accustomed to.

The Senior School has once again been the major focus of the Chaplaincy. The Chapel services are conducted by the clergy team made up of Revd Mabel Dalby, Fr John Read and myself. The highlights of the year include the St John's Day Eucharist, the Confirmation Service, and Valedictory Eucharist. There is always something special to look forward to, as the Senior Choir lead our singing.

The close working relationship between the work of the SCA and the Chaplaincy has borne good fruit. On 5 May, Mrs Clem Gray was commissioned as a cup-bearer in the Chapel. This is an indication of the way in which the SCA and Chapel ministry are seen as components of the same ministry in the school. The SCA Committee for 2005 was blessed and commissioned during the Eucharist on Wednesday 22 September. I am truly grateful to Mrs Clem Gray, teacher in charge of the SCA, for the way in which we continue to work closely together.

An evaluation of the Divinity Classes was done in May to prepare for the introduction of this component of OBE in grades 10 and 11 in the near future.

A team from Scripture Union Independent Schools, under the able

leadership of Rod Capon, conducted a mission to the school in April. This proved to be a time of deepening commitment to Christ for many in the school. It also resulted in the introduction of cell group meetings on Fridays, initiated and ably co-ordinated by Mrs Clem Gray.

The school Confirmation service took place on Friday 10 September. During this service, Bishop Funginkosi Mbhele baptised 3 and confirmed 24 of the St John's learners and 5 young people from St Alphege's Church. It was a wonderful service, well supported by parents and family members. I wish to record my thanks to Fr John Read, Mrs Tanya Moir, Mrs Allison Gunning, other members of staff and parents for the preparation and arrangements that were made for the Confirmation.

The work of the Chaplaincy is, to a large extent, dependent on the generosity of the people of St Alphege's Church, who release their clergy to fulfil this ministry. I am grateful for their support.

I also wish to extend my thanks to Revd Mabel Dalby and Fr John Read for their willingness to be part of the ministry team at St John's DSG.

Finally, thanks to Mrs Jill Champion for all her support and encouragement of the work of the Chaplaincy in the School.



*The Revd Lloyd C Smith  
Chaplain.*



# Report... from the PTA

I quote from paragraph 2 of our constitution:

## 2. AIMS OF ASSOCIATION

### 2.1.

The Association aims to support and help develop existing management and academic structures.

### 2.2.

The association aims to offer a forum for research and debate relating to a variety of topics of concern and/or interest to members.

### 2.3.

The Association aims to function as a voice or channel representing the members need or points of view to existing members management with the sole purpose of assisting management and enhancing the development of the school.

During the third term of this year, Fay Forbes and her team put on the production of *Try To Remember* from the 10th - 14th August with a theatre supper on the 13th and 14th August. What a tremendous show it was - involving the whole school. Your Association was involved in providing some of the logistics for this show. I personally, congratulate Fay and her team on an excellent production.

I now quote from a thank-you letter from Fay Forbes to the Parents' Association: "The reward for me has been not only in seeing young people develop and grow through this experience, but also in the wonderful relationships and friendships which have

developed within our school community. If we as teachers, parents and pupils are united and work towards common goals, we can only succeed!"

This, to me, is the great thing about St John's; we need to keep it growing.

Other issues that were dealt with by the Association this year were:

◆ Completion of new seats in theatre. Additional free-standing chairs have been purchased and our theatre is now able to seat 450 people.

◆ My School Card project. All cards have now been issued. If in doubt, or unaware of this project, kindly contact your class teacher or a member of this committee.

We record with sadness, the passing of Lee Day, the initiator of Our School Card project. She passed away in the U.K. in April, following major surgery.

◆ St John's Day. A very successful St John's Day was held during May - a day of meeting Old Girls, existing St John's families and prospective St John's families

◆ Communication. SMS/e-mail. My School Card has a system which can be used through their server. This is currently being investigated.

◆ Public Relations. Members assisted with flower arranging and tea duties at functions.

My thanks and appreciation are extended to all members of the committee. Special mention must be made of Kirstin Dales, our secretary, for always providing such precise and accurate minutes of meetings. Thanks also to Jill Champion and Annette Symes and the other members of staff for their support during the year and lastly, to all the parents who are not members of this committee, who have contributed to the success of our school this year.

*Arnie Meyer - Chairman*



## PTA COMMITTEE 2004

Mr Arnie Meyer (Chairman)  
Mrs Kirsten Dales (Secretary)  
Mr Greg du Preez (Treasurer)  
Mrs Louise Clarke  
Mr Trevor Cowie  
Mrs Anne Dawson  
Mrs Tracey Edwards  
Mr Tony Egner  
Mrs Denise Essom  
Mrs Laura Fleischack

Mr Peter Fowles  
Mr Amed Osman  
Mrs Helen Reynolds

## STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Jill Champion  
Mrs Fay Forbes  
Mrs Tish Rhodes  
Mrs Annette Symes  
Mrs Bridget Hornbuckle



# Report... by the Lady Warden



*Mrs Di Witherspoon  
Lady Warden*



*Mrs Pat Moodley and Miss Patti Naidoo*



*Mrs Jean Weitsz*

There has been much exciting work going on in and around the Boarding Establishment this year. We are very proud of the new décor downstairs in the Foyer, in the Lady Warden's Office and in the Matron's Lounge.

Our Marketing Manager now works from what used to be the Old Archives (Mrs Forbes's Office for Old girls from the 50's and 60's), and this room has also been beautifully painted and refurbished.

In the July holidays, the Chapel's old roof was replaced and the antique candlesticks and furniture were restored before being put back. We have had a few Old Girl weddings since and the chapel is pristine.

Renovating of windows, painting of interior and exterior walls and replacing of curtains are ongoing, and life for the girls continues as before.

We are still very fortunate to have Miss Patti Naidoo supervising our kitchen with her assistant, Mrs Pat Moodley, and the brothers, Joe and Big Boy Mkhize, our excellent chefs. Still in place are Mrs Blignaut in St Joseph's, Sister Chris Seggie in the clinic, and Mrs Jean Weitsz and Mrs Yvonne Wintgens, seeing to it that the Boarding Establishment runs smoothly.

The Boarder mistresses come and go as they graduate and move on, but we rely on them greatly and they are always good role models for our girls.

Our appreciation goes also to our prefects this year - and every year - who often have to put the needs of their school before their own, and do so graciously.

*Di Witherspoon*



*Mrs Yvonne Wintgens  
...is retiring after a seven-year  
stint at St John's.*



*Sister Chris Seggie*



# SUPPORT STAFF 2004

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

peripatetic staff:

Ms Elaine Murray, **LRAM** (PIANO, FLUTE, CLARINET)

Mrs Elize Loeb van Zuilenburg, **BMus (Hons)** (PIANO)

Mrs Tessa Govender, **BA, BEd, ATCL** (PIANO)

Mr Warren Shone (GUITAR)

Mrs S. Wallis, **BMus, BBibl, MA** (VIOLIN)

Mr R. Brown (TRUMPET)

Mrs Sandra Bower, **BMus (Ed)** (RECORDER, FLUTE)

## BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT

Mrs Diana Witherspoon - Lady Warden

Mrs Jean Weitsz - matron

Mrs Yvonne Wintgens - matron

Mrs Eleanor Blignaut - matron, St Joseph's

Sister Chris Seggie - sanatorium sister

Mrs Thandi Zimu - housekeeping

Mrs Rita Mchunu - housekeeping

Ms Nomsa Magwaza - gardening

## LOCUMS



*Mrs Bridget Schofield*  
*Mathematics*



*Mrs Joyce Broadbent*  
*Physical Science*



*Mev. Elmarie Kruger*  
*Afrikaans*

## TRANSPORT

Mr Ross Payne - Transport Manager

Mr Albert Thabethe - Driver

## LAUNDRY

Mrs Agnes Tomlinson - supervisor

laundry assistants:

Ms M. Tsolo

Ms M. Mjoli

Ms A. Mbona

Ms S. Nzimande



*Mr James Black*  
*English*

## ADMINISTRATION

Mr M. Taylor - Business Manager

Mrs C. Guest - Administrative assistant

Mrs S. Miller - Bursar

Mrs B. Hornbuckle - Public Relations

Mrs M. Torr - Headmistress' secretary

Ms N. Bhengu - Reception

Ms P. Msomi - Administration Clerk

Mrs S. Dinkelman - Jnr School secretary

Mrs E. Barthorpe - Uniform Shop

## GROUND

Mr Chester Harris - Estate Manager

Mr C. Mkhize - Supervisor

Mr Dennis Jasson - Carpenter

Mr Sherrif Moses - Painter

Mr Christopher Mazibuko

Mr I. Ndebele

Mr J. Ndebele

Mr S. Ngubane

Mr C. Mhlomeni

Mr A. Buthelezi

Mr N Gwala

Mr Petrus Ngobese

## KITCHEN

Miss Patti Naidoo - school caterer

Mrs Pat Moodley - assistant caterer

Mr Bigboy Mkhize - chef

Mr Joseph Mkhize - chef

Mr Lenos Maduna - stores

Mr Amos Ngcobo - scullery

Mr Welcome Mkhize - vegetables

Mr Anton Maduna - dishwasher

Miss Margaret Zuma - maid

Miss Joyce Dlomo - maid

Miss Zanele Zikalala - maid

Miss Thembi Zulu - maid

## WAFFER ROOM

Mrs Rosabel Hittler - supervisor

Mrs Gwen Reddy - cutter

Mrs Mary Fasson - cutter

Mrs Michelle van Amsterdam - baker

Miss Lizzie van Wyk - baker



# Tribute... to Elaine Murray



Miss Elaine Murray

At the end of her matric year, Elaine was one of five top Grade 8 piano exam pupils invited to Pretoria for an exhibition. The result was a tie between Elaine and another and, in a second round of judging, she lost the study scholarship by one vote (probably because the other was a male) and so, turned to another of her talents...



The adjudicator of the Natal Eisteddfod that year had named Elaine as the best tap dancer in Africa, let alone South Africa, ("I have seldom seen better overseas") and she auditioned for a talent scout from England, for a show on Brighton Pier. She left (with her mother, and aged only 17) to be solo dancer with the troupe for two years.

In 1937 she went up to London to play in Robert E. Sherwood's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Idiot's Delight*, with none other than matinée idol, Raymond Massey, as the leading man! (At this point, all really Old Girls may gasp, sigh, or even faint.) How did tap dancing get her a part in a play that was a passionate indictment of war? Massey played a vaudeville agent travelling to the Balkans with a troupe of dancing girls, one of whom was Elaine - but she also played the piano (in the wings) for Massey, who was miming his piano-playing on stage!

To continue with the name-dropping... the leading lady in the show was Tamara Geva, first wife of ballet choreographer, Georges Balanchine!

When war was declared, theatres shut down overnight, cutting short her theatrical career, and Elaine joined the WAAF. After a year, she got a commission and eventually left as a flight officer in the Security Department.

Because she was still very young, she was in one of the last groups to be demobbed, but, for the same reason, was eligible for training of some sort.



She attended the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she studied under Harry Farjeon (brother of the poet, Eleanor) for four years.

There followed four years of teaching piano to girls at Downe House in Berkshire, after which Elaine returned to South Africa to take up a post at St John's for one year (1955), followed by eight years at Kingsmead in Johannesburg.

Elaine returned to St John's in 1964 - which means that she has exceeded forty straight years of teaching at St John's!

If Elaine's story is a fascinating bit of history, those of us who've been fortunate enough to know her, or even more fortunate, to study with her, can vouch that her good nature, interest in the school and mischievous sense of humour are legendary, as is her modesty. Indeed, it took considerable detective work to discover the extent of her Long Service, and some insistent "bullying" to get hold of these photographs, and to uncover just how accomplished and remarkable her background is.

Mary-Lynne Tennant



## Farewell... to Erica MacDonald



One of the Senior school staff summed it up perfectly when she admitted questioning Erica's timing, when Erica broke the news in the first term that she and the girls would be leaving to join Gary in Dubai in August. Frith explained that everyone was expecting her to be my successor, when I retire next year!

For the past five years she has been pivotal to the smooth-running of the school and been a pillar of support to me. As Admission Secretary, she became a key figure in our public relations because of her warmth, charm and friendliness. Her memory of names and faces endeared her to all newcomers, and her caring nature and mischievous sense of humour made her a much loved member of staff and friend to all. Her area of influence extended to the furthest boundaries of the wider St John's community: Old Girls, past and present staff, girls, parents and Board members all grew to trust, love and rely on her – no-one more so than I.

Her loyalty, discretion, patience and kindness created a wonderful working environment in the front office. She trained other staff and taught them her high standards of professional behaviour and

efficiency. Her generosity of spirit meant she committed herself to take on much more than was expected of her, both as my Personal Assistant and as a parent within the school community. She loved helping with tours and fund-raising activities, supporting her children without ever expecting time out of the office, always giving of herself. Her other talents outside of school extended to exquisite sewing and handwork, and many of us treasure her beautiful handmade gifts.

Erica enriched my life here at St John's for five years. She is an exceptional person - intelligent, lovely and good. What a blessing she has been to St John's! I am really happy to know that the McDonald family are well settled in Dubai now, relishing being together again. But we miss them.

*Jill Champion*  
Headmistress



It was with a great sense of accomplishment that the staff of St John's welcomed back Linda Van Breda who matriculated from St John's in 1995. She returned as a teacher with a BA in Human Movement studies and Honours in Business Management (cum laude).

## Farewell... to Linda van Breda

Linda's biggest claim to fame is her success on the hockey field. How proud we were when she represented South Africa at the Commonwealth Games in 1998. What a thrill to see her on TV scoring goals with ease.

Linda also represented South Africa at Indoor Hockey. In 2001, the new Multi – Purpose centre was the venue for an international tournament – and the first South African goal was netted by Linda.

When Linda joined the staff in 2002 as a Physical Education teacher, she brought with her a fresh, fun-loving approach to life and teaching. She also excels at basketball and tennis. Her knowledge of both these sports

she passed on to the current St John's girls. Linda was much appreciated by the really little girls in the junior school who couldn't get to their sports lessons quickly enough. The hockey season of 2004 will always be remembered by the 1<sup>st</sup> XI girls who, under Linda's guidance, went from strength to strength. With great enthusiasm she encouraged each girl to reach her full potential. We all had a great deal of fun too!

Linda will spend two years in Britain coaching and playing hockey. Her humour and zest for life will be missed by all of us. We wish her well and hope to see her back home before long.

*Kay Stakemire*



# NEW STAFF



*Mrs Allison Gunning  
Deputy Headmistress*



*Mrs Simone Zartmann  
English*



*Mrs Rowena Freese  
Grade 1*



*Mrs Meredith Torr  
Secretary to the Headmistress*



*Miss Cara Stewart  
Physical Education*



*Mrs Lorraine Osborne  
Tennis*

## NEW BABIES



*Mrs Natalie Foss with her daughter,  
Lindsay Jenna, born on 5th February*



*Mrs Belinda Kidd with her brand new  
baby girl, Elizabeth Sarah, born on  
the 15th September*



Aan die einde van die tweede kwartaal is 'n eretoekenning vir twintig jaar van diens aan Mev. Harris oorhandig. Mev. Harris het ook welverdiende langverlof gedurende die derde kwartaal geniet.



# MATRICES OF 2004



*Kirstin Adam*



*Joanna Bird*



*Cassilouise Blesovsky*



*Robyn Bowles*



*Jessica Bünger*



*Jennifer Campbell*



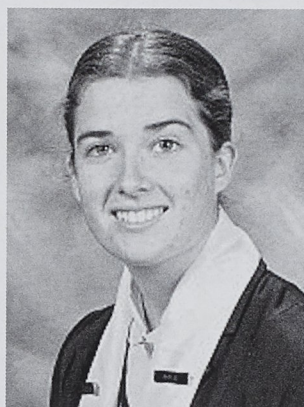
*Megan Cowie*



*Kirsten Craik*



*Jolene Crous*



*Jeanne Cuénod*



*Linda Dickinson*



*Ashly Dorkin*



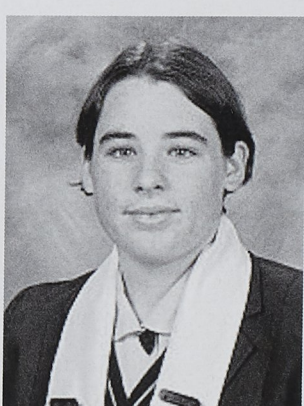
*Kim Drummond*



*Emma du Preez*



*Ashlea Evans*



*Lindsay Everson*





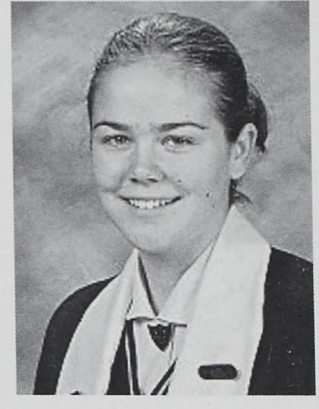
*Ashleigh Fowles*



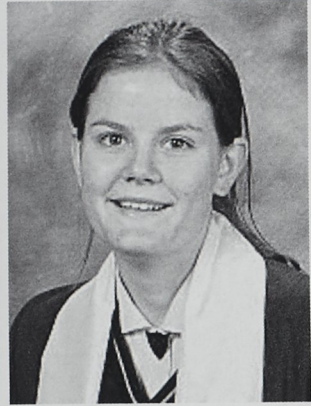
*Amy Furniss*



*Candice Gallagher*



*Jessica Gouweloos*



*Stacy-Lynne Graham*



*Sthabisile Gwala*



*Melanie Haralambous*



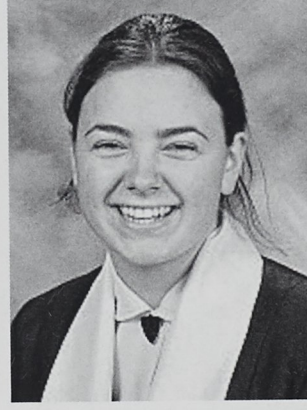
*Nikki Heenan*



*Romi Hillermann*



*Nothando Hlatshwayo*



*Natalia Ing*



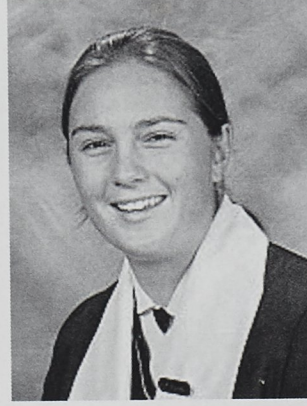
*Jessica Jenkin*



*Tarryn Jones*



*Stacey Kaye*



*Alexa Labuschagne*

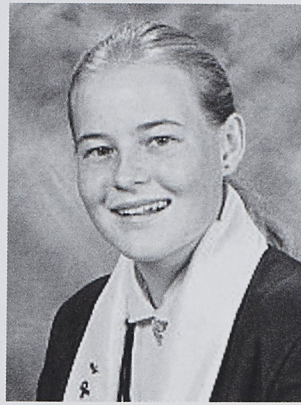


*Carey Lindsay*





*Kelly McBean*



*Tanya Meyer*



*Lerato Mfeka*



*Kerryn Moolenschot*



*Andrea Müller*



*Anndrea Naidoo*



*Justine Naidoo*



*Sarah Nellist*



*Jennifer O'Neill*



*Patience Ostrich*



*Penelope Ralfe*



*Elizabeth Robinson*



*Nicola Schröder*



*Lindsay Smaill*



*Linzi Stead*



*Erica Stephen*

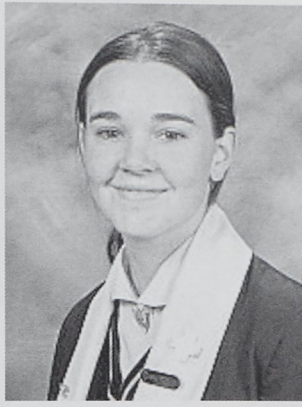




*Donna Stokes*



*Robyn Taylor*



*Katelyn Warren*

## PREFECTS OF 2004



front row:

*Mev. F. Malherbe, Sthabisile Gwala (Head Girl), Mrs J. Champion, Elizabeth Robinson, Mrs A. Gunning*

2nd row:

*Katelyn Warren, Robyn Bowles, Jessica Gouweloos, Jessica Jenkin, Alexa Labuschagne, Nikki Heenan*

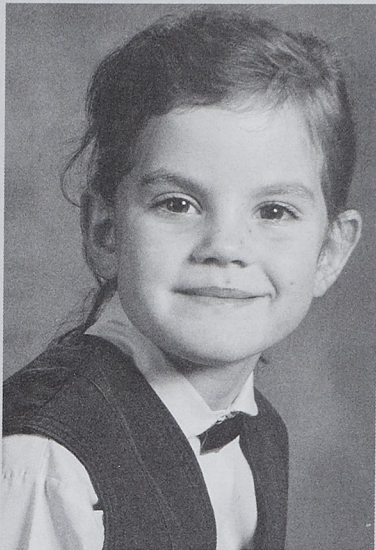
back row:

*Nothando Hlatshwayo, Melanie Haralambous, Lindsay Smaill, Joanna Bird, Emma du Preez*



# Senior Academic... MATRICS 2004

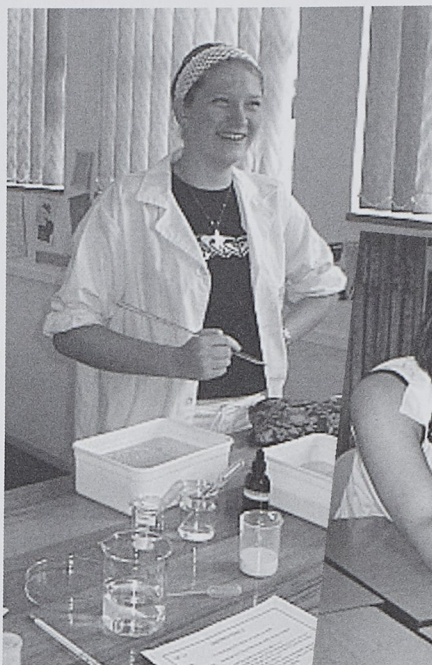
*Stacy-Lynne Graham has been  
at St John's from Grade 1*



*...right through to matric*



*and is still the same sweet girl!*



## SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY



### GOAL-SETTING WORKSHOP

In the first term of this year the matrics were involved in a goal-setting workshop with Smith and Black. The course was based on the Covey course of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. The course taught us the importance of good Time Management, which we have found very helpful, especially when it came to learning for Trials. The course was for the whole day and involved many different aspects of goal-setting, including the importance of goals and striving for them. The Smith and Black company used Lance Armstrong and the Tour de France as an example, which was very interesting and very effective - Lance Armstrong has not only won the Tour de France several times, he is also a cancer survivor. The Tour de France was a good example because of the amount of teamwork, determination, effort and planning that goes into the race. Mr Black and Mr Smith also shared some valuable advice with us: the things that are important are: to live, to love, to learn and to leave a legacy. I am sure that each and every one of us found the workshop most worthwhile.

*Kelly Mc Bean*



**“I HAD COME TO THE EDGE  
OF THE WATER, SOOTHED  
BY JUST LOOKING”**

(from *Station Island* by Seamus Heaney)

She opens the door, slides out of the car, her ankles weak with the sudden weight of her body. Many hours of sleepy excitement have made her body heavy, but now, as her bare feet touch the soil and grass, she is awakened - awakened and made light again.

All is as it was months before. The little house is still white and peeling, with its rusty orange door and creaky, secure shutters. The sea's waves draw back and throw themselves against the rocks over and over again in the near distance. Time has affected nothing.

Screws and tools whistle and dance as the shutters and locks are torn off in a bustle of hurried anticipation. There's a scrape of metal on stone and the door is open. The smell of enclosed laughter fills the slowly-airing inside as people rush in and out, anxious to check, to examine; to look at all that was locked and left behind for so long.

Bags and boxes are thrown from the truck, ropes are untied, clasps unfixed. Her brothers loudly sing in local language, her sister yells for the window bed. The little fat dogs scurry about, sniff at the Transkei dogs, bark at the new, but familiar air. Mattresses and pillows and blankets, like piles of soft treasure, are dragged across the cool, cracked floor as old stories begin to emerge from every chink in the spongy plaster walls. Chaos surrounds her - wonderful, wonderful chaos.

Even when time is of no consequence and each instant is endless, tiny, insignificant rituals are liberating. She runs against the

wind like a child wild with eagerness towards the beach. She knows that now her rapidity stems from a deep agitation, a frustrated passion, and that her intensity is not truly that of a child's. But with the wind comes a disengaging from all that is real, or perhaps all that is not. In the colourless water, masses of miniscule fish dash round and round searching and striving, undisturbed by her staring.

Sometimes, in the everydayness of life, she feels more isolated surrounded by people, but now, with only herself and the wind and the waves and the sand and the newness of the arrival, there is no loneliness, no sense of fighting for the unattainable. There is only the beauty and liberty that nothing but vast expanses of land and nature can give. There is a very real lightness within her, a deep knowing that there is so very much inside and around, that her very dreams are glimmering and alive, that her breath is not retreating and not challenging, but moving in harmony with her world.

Once she was told that the sea, with its eternal movement, brings the music of sadness and human misery, and that the tireless ebb and flow of water reflects the melancholy of a world gone wrong. She knows though, that while the sea into which she gazes has seen centuries and ages of a changing world, and lies in silent judgment of her and of all that there is, the full, vast expanse of depth is a constant, an invariable comfort.

And so, with her re-found, but refreshed freedom, she strolls back to the little house further, but not far from the sea. Her mind is full, but clear. She is soothed.

*Jennifer Campbell*

**FORMAL DINNER**





## SELF-DEFENCE

His mission: To turn 52 Matrics into 52 fighting machines.

In Grade 9 we were introduced to the world of self-defence by Mr Don Gold and his capable assassins (or is it assistants?) namely, his wife and daughter. In our first course we were taught the basic principles of self-defence, how to cause maximum damage with minimal effort and how to react in different situations that we might encounter in the world outside the nest that is St. John's.



2004... This time around things got a lot more...hands-on. We were physically and mentally stronger although we couldn't really prepare - as being thrown across the gym hall was an entirely new experience.

We were again reminded of the importance of self-defence, the importance of vigilance and we acquired some new anti-rape techniques. By the end of the afternoon his mission had been successfully completed and we now officially leave ready to take on whatever may come our way.

Be scared, be very scared!

*Stacey Kaye  
and Justine Naidoo*

## SONG OF MYSELF

Meeoow! It is pitiful, heart-wrenching and completely irresistible. It is My Call – the weapon with which I render any human helpless. For I am the Cat.

You humans think you own Me, when the truth is that I own you. Do you not give Me milk when I wind around your legs? (Which, by the way, is an art in itself, for I do not think that you realise just how clumsy your feet are.) Do you not open the door for Me when I wish to go out, and open it again when I feel like coming in? (By inventing doors you have achieved nothing other than making yourselves doormen for Me.) Do you not coo and call when you want Me to come to you, because you know that I will just walk away if you come any closer? You humans may have conquered the world, but you cannot rule over Me. I live by My own rules.

I sometimes wonder why you put up with Me: you humans seem to have the irrepressible urge to be master of all. But the answer is quite simple. You want what you cannot have. If you pull Me onto your lap, I will jump down. If you push Me off your lap, I will jump back on again. If you give Me food without My asking for it, I will not eat. If you want Me to come down from the wall, I will wait until you are gone before I descend. I do as I please.

Why? Because I am sure you would not appreciate Me as much if I did as *you* pleased. But you do because I don't. How you love it when I grace you with My Presence. I have known you to sit still for hours, just for the fear that I will jump down from your lap in disgust if you disturb Me. (You

would not do this if I sat on your lap every day.) You will feed Me whenever I am hungry and give Me milk whenever I am thirsty. (I would have to wait longer if I didn't sit with My Back to a full food bowl every now and again.) And if I allow you to stroke Me, you do it with an eagerness, clearly spurred on by the honour I am showing you. (Face it, there is nothing as satisfying as stroking Me.)

As a Kitten, I spoiled you: I played with you, slept with you and tolerated your cooing and constant need to hold and pet Me. But you have to grow up sometime - I am training you to leave Me in peace when I want it and to come when I call you. And I can't complain – you do make a reasonably good companion.

Do I sound detestable and conceited? Maybe. But it is really just a survival tactic - for I am totally at your mercy. I have been domesticated and now I need you: for food, for shelter and for love. But fortunately I have understood the human nature well enough to realise that by doing exactly as I please, I have the best chance of not boring you fickle humans. And this has worked well for Me.

As for you, I have watched you; how you try to impress others. It cannot make you happy. Perhaps you should try to be more like Me. Your freedom would be endless and peer-pressure would be an alien concept to you. (I am just not sure if the other humans would like you very much anymore.) As it is, I fail to understand you.

For I, the Cat, sing to My own tune.  
*Andrea Müller*



## MATHS CAMP

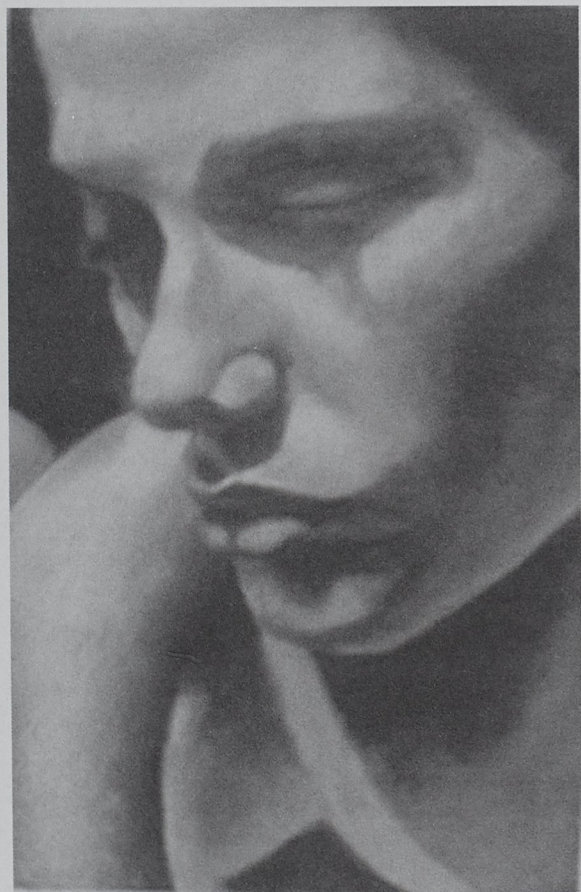
This year saw the birth of what we hope will be an annual event – matric maths camp.

With the syllabus completed, early October was an ideal time to do some serious revision and to analyse exam techniques. Thirty Grade 12 girls and their two teachers spent a weekend at a Drakensburg resort doing sums – and more sums – and even more sums – all with the sole purpose of improving that all-important matric symbol. The studious moments were peppered with hysterical laughter. Three days of trig, geometry and calculus is enough to drive most normal people up the wall – if it were possible to define the gradient!!

*Mrs Kay Stakemire*



*Mrs Stakemire and Mrs Gunning took the matric maths pupils into the 'Berg for a weekend of revision and hard work.*



*Self-portrait by Ashly Dorkin*

## Pudding evening or Annual Prize Moot?

It was a tough decision to miss the Old Girls' Pudding evening, but Beth Robinson, Kelly McBean, Nicky Schröder and I did exactly that. Mrs Forbes took us to the Law Faculty at the University of Natal one evening to be at the Annual Prize Moot.

A moot is part of the practical component of a Law degree and it is compulsory for all third year students. These students have to present their prepared cases (on a mock situation that is, however, usually based on reality) to judges who judge the case as if it were real.

It was the most amazing thing to watch and it inspired us all to consider following in their footsteps. As all four of us are interested in studying towards Law degrees, the moot has helped to guide us in deciding what route we would possibly like to take, and it was invaluable and most enjoyable exposure to studying law and what we can expect. A hundred thank-you's, Mrs Forbes, for giving up your time and joining us for a fantastic experience!

*Candice Gallagher*



*A warm shaft of sunlight, motes dancing on the beam, reaches into the darkness.*

I lie enshrined in luxuriously velvet darkness, entombed by the thick, still silence that surrounds me. I breathe in the dark and feel it churning inside me, in my lungs, plasmatic and glorious. Here in the vast shadowlands, in the immense peace and silent turbulence, I find purification, atonement.

In the darkness, nightly, I seek and find oblivion, obscurity, infinity. Some it petrifies with its occult promise of danger, of things unknown. Me, it sucks in. I suck it in. I commune with the underworld, the creatures of the dark. Every night I journey to the edge of the real and looking out on the valley of dreams, I marvel at what I see.

Once again sleep evades. Or I evade sleep. My tired body yearns for it, aches for it, chases it down the dark alleyways of nighttime, the nocturnal labyrinth of seconds, minutes, hours. But my mind is sharp, alert, and knows the cavernous night and its secret passages all too well. My body gets left behind, gets lost, forgotten. It's a burden of the day and there's no place for it here, in my nightworld.

In the depths of the dark, the surface of things gets eroded, stripped. In dissolution, distortion, the starkest truth is revealed and the blackest lies told. The memory of day warps and twists, its sturdy reality becomes distant and strange. Chaste light casts her scrutinising look over the world and her

probing fingers leave nothing untouched. She violates, invades, fanatically dividing and defining. Things are exposed.

It is the darkness I crave. I fall back into its mysteries. I wrap and pull it around me, submerging myself deeper and deeper into the blue-black. Into the vacuous cavity where all exists and nothing is real.

It is in these dark and feuding hours that the perverted and the debauched reign free. Murderous thoughts, deranged ramblings, float heavy on the air. Wild whisperings wander on the dark wind. They tease my ears with tales unbelievable. I become a visionary, a seer. I wander through endless forests, vast seas and barren deserts of visions: visions miraculous, fantastical. I am a pleasure-seeker. A hedonist. I run after images, snatching them greedily up. I slurp unquenchably the paradoxes and contradictions of the night - the great emptiness, squirming and electric; the violence and danger that is my refuge, my haven. I'm seduced, enticed by the noise and the chaos and the silence and the peace. In the company of night's creatures, I hoard up her secrets...

...until I return, saturated, to my body, my bed. A warm shaft of sunlight, motes dancing on the beam, reaches into the darkness. Now the virginal dawn cruelly and methodically shatters my darkness.

*Ashly Dorkin*

## MATRIC DINNER

On Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, the annual Matric dinner was held. It was rather a cramped start, with 50-odd people trying to fit into the Board Room, but the social side soon took over and we started having a good time. The food was excellent and there wasn't a shortage in cooldrinks (what more could we want!) and the evening was topped off with some amusing and some confusing charades. The dinner was a great success and many thanks to Mrs Champion, Mrs Gunning, Mevrouw Malherbe, Mrs Grey and Mrs Symes for being there.

*Andrea Müller*

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHERS



**Kim  
Drummond**



**Ashleigh  
Fowles**



**Kirstin  
Adam**



**Jennifer  
Campbell**





*Stacey Kaye and Penny Ralfe are the first two St John's girls to complete the ICDL course.*



*Romi Hillermann, Tanya Meyer, Jessica Bünger and Andrea Müller haben Deutsch als Fremdsprache als Matrikfach, mit Frau Fritsche und M. Renken als Lehrerinnen.*

### **MATRIC DANCE** (photos on pages 34 & 35)

Once we were all ready (hair, makeup and nails, dress and everything else), we arrived at school with our partners - ordinary schoolgirls transformed into something magical. While standing there, it hadn't really sunk in that we were actually at our matric dance, a huge event in our lives which we've been waiting for our whole school career.

We were then called up table by table, all suddenly looking like typical schoolgirls, lined up in perfect stripes, waiting anxiously to enter the hall.

Walking into the hall was enchanting, although at the same time it turned out to be quite an obstacle

### **PASSIES**

Om sonder 'n passie deur die lewe te gaan, is amper soos die lewe deur te gaan sonder om te voel... of te lewe. Dis passies wat vir jou 'n regte lus vir die lewe kan gee en wat jou soggens uit die bed kan laat spring.

Passies hoef nie groot of wêreldbewegend te wees nie. Dit kan 'n passie wees om saam met jou vriende te wees, of te lag, of na musiek te luister. Dít is 'n groot passie van my: daar is altyd musiek wat in my kamer speel. Ek is ook dol oor krieket kyk en as dit laat in die aand weer 'n opwindende slot word, waar hulle meer lopies moet kry as wat daar balle is, kan ek die nag omtrent nie aan die slaap raak nie. Maar een groot passie is iets wat ek onlangs op my Duitslandreis ontdek het: groot, ou geboue en kerke.

Ek het uur op uur spandeer om in stede soos Dresden, Hamburg en Bautzen (1000 jaar oud!) rond te loop en die ou kerke te beskou. Dit is nie net hulle ouderdom wat jou stom slaan nie - dis hulle yslike grootte. Maak nie saak hoeveel keer ek al in die kerk was nie, dit het elke keer my asem weggeslaan toe ek by die deur inkom. En as jy alleen in die kerk is, is dit eenvoudig net ongelooflik. En dan is daar ook die pragtige versierings. Ek het so verlief geraak op hierdie ou geboue, dat ek nou al my volgende reis beplan, waar ek met 'n rugsak per trein en bus of dalk fiets deur Duitsland wil reis om hierdie mensgemaakte wonders te sien.

Ja, dit is belangrik om passies te hê, solank jy hulle onder beheer het, sodat jy hulle kan geniet sonder om perspektief te verloor. Maar as jy jou passies goed uitleef, kan hulle jou lewe soveel ryker maak.

*Andrea Müller*

course - what with jumping from tree stumps, to crossing the bridge over a "river", to smiling ever so nicely at the camera. Then it was introducing your partner to Mr and Mrs Champion and almost tripping up the stairs to the stage. But once up there it was sheer satisfaction, with clapping from rather over-excited parents.

With big smiles, we ventured cautiously down the steps and then, finally, sat down. That's when it sunk in. It was everything we had wanted and more. The hall was amazing, the amount of detail was amazing and the theme was amazing! We were in awe. A very big thank-you to the grade 11s. Well done!

*Tarryn Jones and Megan Cowie*



## ART EXHIBITION







from top left,  
clockwise:

*Sarah Nellist*

*Amy Furniss*

*Penny Ralfe*

*Robyn Bowles*

*Carey Lindsay*

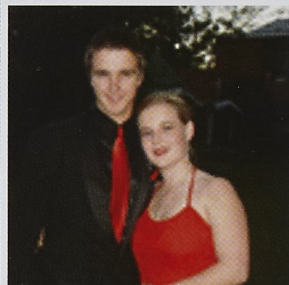
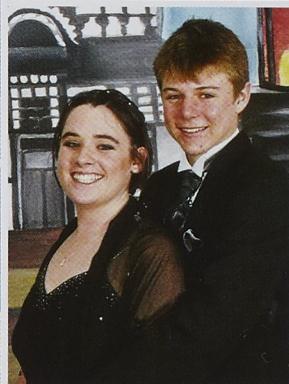
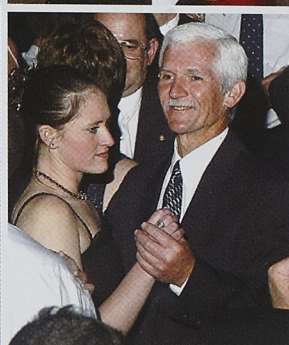
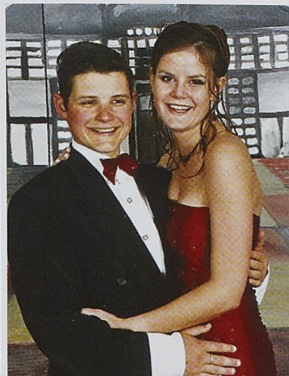
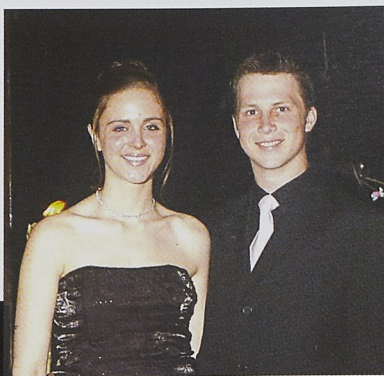
*Donna Stokes*

# MATRIC ART

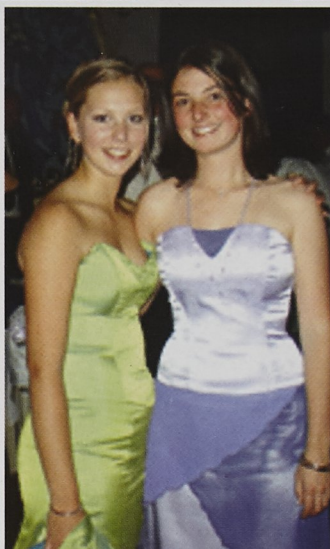
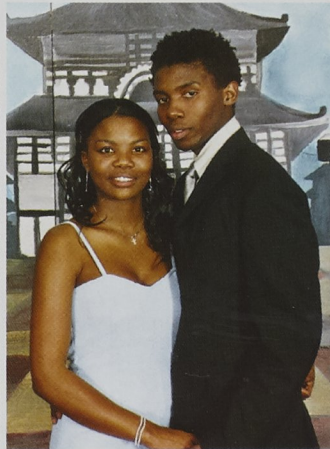
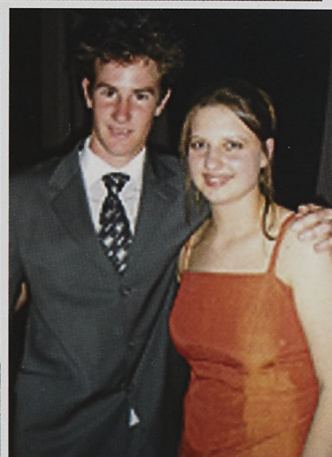
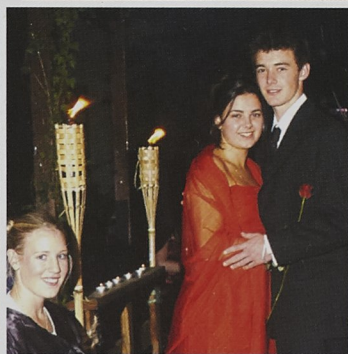
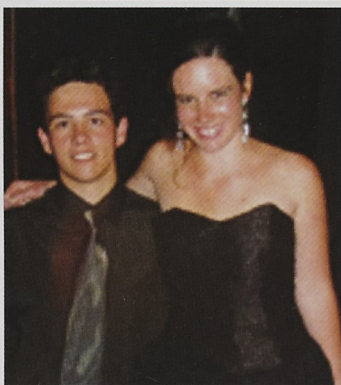


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# MATRIC ART



*from top left,  
clockwise:*

*Ashlea Evans*

*Stacey Kaye*

*Jessica  
Gouweloos*

*Kirsten Craik*

*Jessica Büniger*

*Kerryn  
Molenschoot*





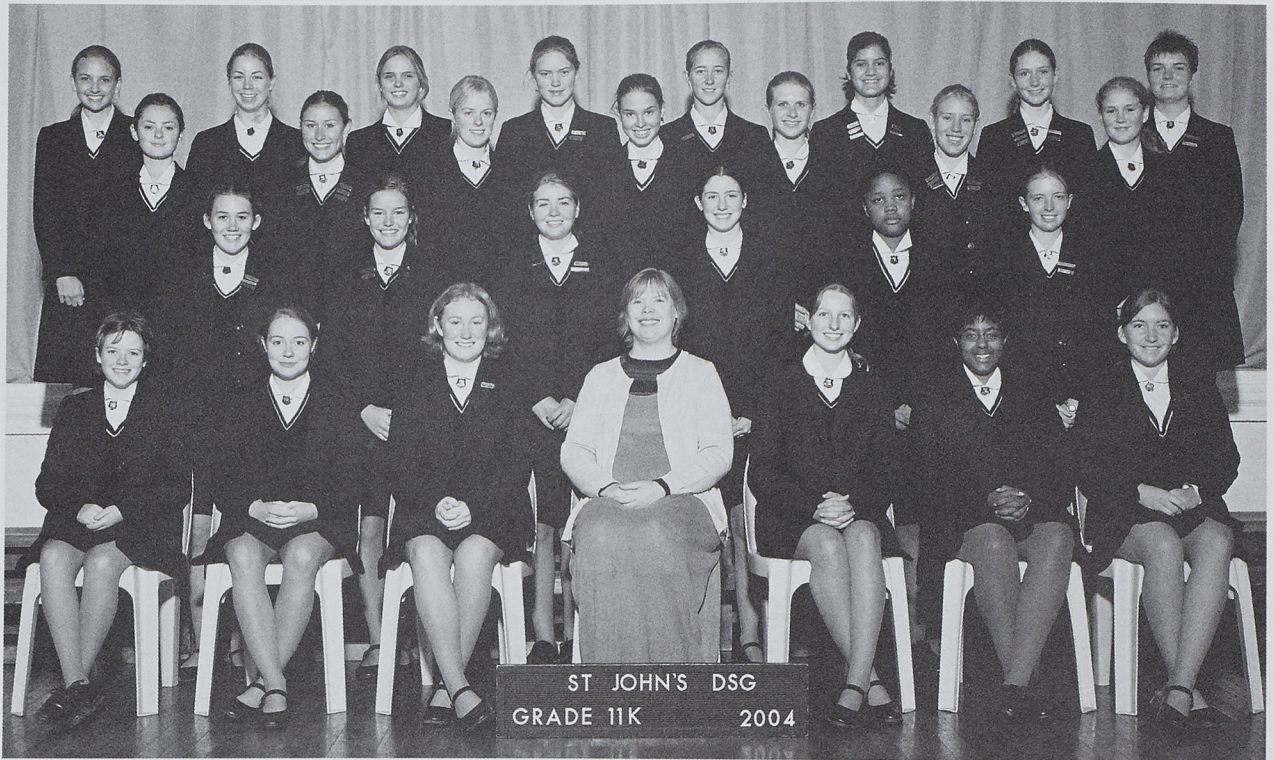
# PREPARATION FOR THE DANCE



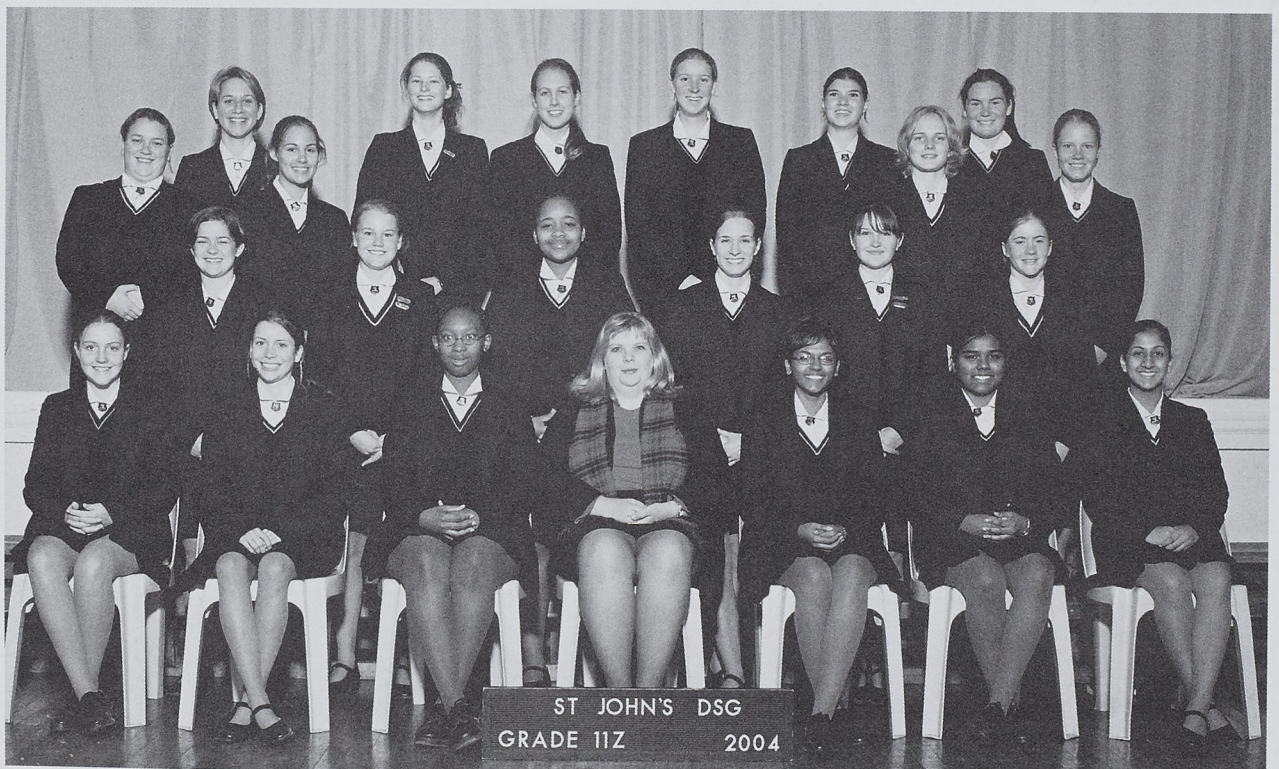
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# Senior Academic... GRADE 11



front row: Mary Campbell, Lauren Boyd, Derryn Percival, Mrs Kidd, Anne Fleischack, Paulette Josiah, Catherine Lee  
 2nd row: Kate Attwell, Kerry Hedges, Lee-Anne Morris, Katherine Main, Ntonhle Sokhela, Rebecca Burne  
 3rd row: Karma Hart, Bridget Meyer, Katie-Lee Essom, Megan Cunnam, Milena Gevers, Sally-Anne Snyman, Natalie Britz  
 back row: Rayne Cockburn, Cara Hackland, Kirstin Lawrie, Alexandra Stewart, Antje Eggers, Natasha Haralambous, Toni-Lee Sterley, Lee-Anne Meyer



front row: Dominique Cronjé, Amy Hylton, Sithembile Majola, Mrs Zartman, Sharlene Moodley, Alycia Murugesson, Trisha Maharaj  
 2nd row: Courtney Thompson, Katherine Wood, Thandeka Ndlovu, Chardonnay van Zuydam, Hayley Schoeman, Amy Quinton  
 3rd row: Julie Shewan, Teri-Ann Burroughs, Janice Southey, Roxanne White  
 back row: Kara Schladenhauffen, Gillian Pooler, Tasha Ross, Caitlyn Nothard, Phillipa Floros, Samantha Acutt



## FORMAL DINNER



When we studied Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca*, based on the life of Helen Martins in the desolate Karoo, we had an interesting introduction. We were given a tile or small mirror which came with glue, bits of differently coloured glass, bits of mirror and half-marbles. We had one lesson and the instruction was to "Be Creative!"

I had an idea of what the Owl House was as I had visited the small community of New Bethesda whilst on a trip to Cape Town. It was an experience that took me into Miss Helen's world. She created the most original and enchanting things, from biblical wise men to owls with headlights for eyes to bottle-skirt hostesses, and not a wall or ceiling in her house is not covered with crushed glass. Pictures in books or magazines do not capture the unique beauty that this place holds.

To set the scene and give a feeling of the atmosphere Helen made in her home, we decorated the Lecture Theatre with our tiles, pictures of the Owl House and candles. (because the Owl House had no electricity).

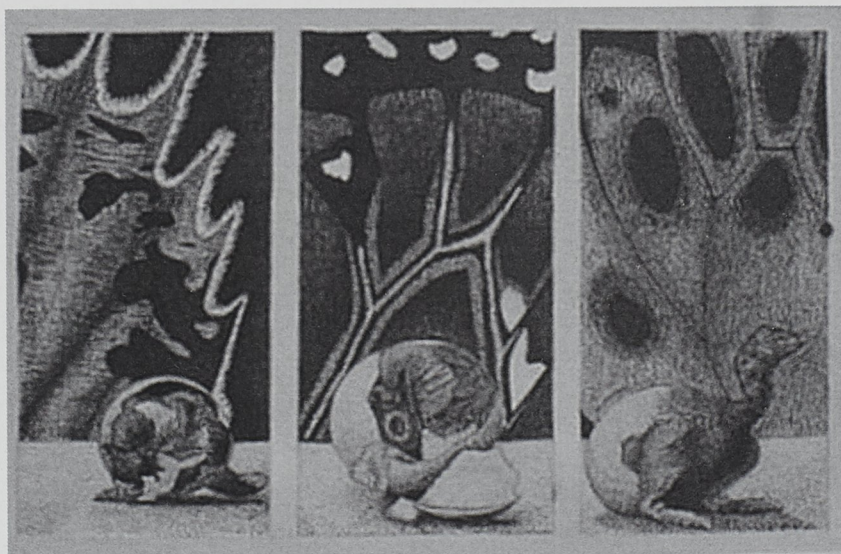
It took obsessive dedication to create a whole home and garden like hers in the strict, Afrikaans church community living around



her. It is surprising to think that there really was someone like her, swimming against the tide and fulfilling her life through creation.

It was an inspiring set book to all the Grade 11s and many of us treasure the tiles we made.

*Milena Gevers*



*Sally-Anne Snyman*



## ROMANCE IN G MINOR

The soft tips of her fingers move slowly, tenderly, hesitantly. Left and right, up and down. She runs her nail down the grooves between each key, listening to the low scratching against the soft wood, like dry leaves on a cement path. Gingerly, her finger presses down on the one chosen, so slowly that string and hammer barely meet, and a quivering, haunting sound escapes. The ghost lingers in the air, smoky and vague, until it finds its entrance - it swims inside her, ricocheting off bone and flesh; passes down her arm, buzzing electricity, till it arrives at the finger from which it was born. It slams through the skin and out the tip.

The ghost is gone, and replaced by the strong, powerful, untainted purity of the fresh note. A single gong, lonely but determined. A partner is added - the lowest, most desolate sound on earth. The two combine, swirling in and out - water rushing into a pool- till they settle in perfect, absolute harmony: the reflection of silence.

Then it's sudden. An electric shock rushes into her face, lights up down her arms, into her hands and spills out onto the keys. And the melody begins, solitary and unwavering. Her chest and hands are bound tight together, moving as one, lurching and rolling like a galleon.



*K.A. with K.A. by K.A.*

A young girl, she's running: only a speck on the earth. A bird: floating between pockets of air, free, unchained. A man: walking backwards through a crowded street. The images appear, tangible within the room. And she plays them all. New worlds are born, rising like steam from the rows of black and white. Her hands know where to go, though her mind is numb and tingling. More violent now, aggressive, panicked; the melody is writhing in its wooden cage.

The child trips; she falls and her hands bump; bump against the ground. She rises, staggers, lunges forward, moving in slow, arhythmic jolts. Her shoulder goes down first and her legs come last. The bird is raging against the currents. Overpowered, it's nothing but a frenzy of desperate limbs, soaked and trembling. The storm plays with its tiny ball. The man runs. He has no idea where he's heading, but he keeps going - feeling blindly for a sign of something familiar.

But gentler now, her fingers are tired, joints creaking. The dust particles that were forced to the ceiling are shimmering back down. Back to the singular, crystal melody. Her fingers dance gently; the notes like the last few couples at a party - upright, but only standing because they hold one another up.

The once hypnotic, hologram-like images are beginning to flicker. The girl gets up; smears back her wisps of hair, and continues walking, slowly. The bird has been left to rest on its leafy cradle. The girl finds it. It's still, not solid, but limp; almost life-like as she moves it from side to side. Why does someone have to die, she wonders.

The man turns around. He stands on one spot, though people keep pushing past.

She has to die so that the rest of us might learn to fight the storm, he thinks.

He laughs. She smiles. The bird is frozen, with fear twisting the tiny muscles around its eyes.

She brings her fingers slowly back to earth, sobering them from their dizzy, ivory drunkenness. The tips hold slightly to their last position before coming free. The final chord filters out of every crack in the walls, the keyhole in the door, the air vent, until the sound has floated away completely - under bridges, between trees and park benches.

The girl, bird and man are gone. She snaps the dark, polished lid over the keys, imprisoning them for their crimes.

*Kate Attwell*

## GOD KAN NIE ORAL WEES NIE. DAAROM HET HY MOEDERS GEMAAK

Ek dink dit is so waar! God het onvoorwaardelike liefde vir elkeen van ons, sy kinders, so het 'n moeder. Hy is altyd daar om ons te beskerm, Hy dink aan ons en ken ons. Hoe beter kan 'n persoon 'n moeder beskryf? 'n Mens kan nooit van God af wegkruip nie, dit is onmoontlik. Op dieselfde manier is jou ma altyd daar en ongelukkig weet sy op een of ander manier altyd as jy iets verkeerd gedoen het en in die moeilikheid beland! 'n Ma is definitief 'n massiewe geskenk van God en moet met volle harte waardeer word!

*Karma Hart*





The Grade 11 trip to Mpumalanga was led by three members of the staff who, it would appear, have been with the school since its inception. They were wonderful chaperones to our precious Grade 11s, and ensured that no harm, in the guise of masculinity, could in any way ruin their trip - not an easy task. (see why not - page 42, bottom left)

**God kan nie oral wees nie.  
Daarom het hy moeders  
gemaak (Joodse spreekwoord)**

Ek stem saam! As jy klein is, en seergekry het, of as iemand iets leliks vir jou gesê het, loop jy altyd na jou ma en huil by haar, of vertel haar jou storie. Dis presies hoe ons verhouding met God moet wees. Oop. Maar ons kan nie na God loop en Hom vashou nie, dus het ons 'n ma. 'n Mens kan God vertel as jy probleme het, en jy kan ook huil as jy met Hom praat, net soos met 'n ma, maar jy kan Hom nie vashou nie. Vir klein babas is 'n ma die een en alles. Die baba kan nie sonder die ma grootword nie, net soos ons nie sonder God kan lewe nie. Hy het moeders gemaak sodat hulle Hom hier op aarde kan verteenwoordig.

*Antje Eggers*

**ROTARY LEADERSHIP COURSE**

During the second week of the July holidays, 47 candidates from various schools in and around Pietermaritzburg attended a Rotary Course held at St Christopher's boarding establishment.

We arrived there on the Monday morning, expecting the worst. The suggested schedule seemed to comprise lecture upon lecture, and as we were supposedly on holiday, the prospect of heavy and serious discussions was not exciting!

We were glad to discover, however, that it turned out to be completely different to what we had expected. The lectures that we had least looked forward to were, in fact, interactive and gripping: they fed us as individuals, attending to our every need. The atmosphere was relaxed, while at the same time maintaining a level of respect and maturity.

We both agreed that we had never met so many nice people before. The fact that we shared common interests, but were all so incredibly different, made us a group that got along very well with each other.

There were people from different races, different upbringings,

different backgrounds, different schools and even pupils who were physically challenged. And while this was potentially problematic, it proved to be beneficial to everybody. The people were genuine and honest, and we made loads of wonderful friends.

Some of the activities included visiting local businesses to witness leadership in action; joining members of the Rotary Club for a delicious dinner - where we had the opportunity to spend the evening with successful leaders in Pietermaritzburg; and, on the last day, we got the chance to put all we had learnt into action. Fifty children from local orphanages were placed under our supervision and we entertained them for an evening. This included making them supper, playing games and performing a talent show.

Being St John's girls, we were very interested in the standard of the food, as well as the quantities, and in both respects, it was excellent. We left the course feeling enriched and motivated, and with many new friends.

*Alexandra Stewart  
Lee-Anne Meyer*



*The best Geography lesson ever!*



## MPUMALANGA TOUR

Waking at four o'clock in the morning to travel on a bus for many hours was not very exciting, but the reminder that this was going to be our last school trip made us all perk up and think positively. We left St John's and headed to our first destination - Moholoholo Forest Camp.

Many of us slept on the bus, but as soon as we smelt breakfast we were all bright-eyed and awake. After some stops, which were very much needed and appreciated, we arrived at our first destination. Set in the middle of nowhere, or so it seemed, this setting was stunning and the views of the mountains were awesome.

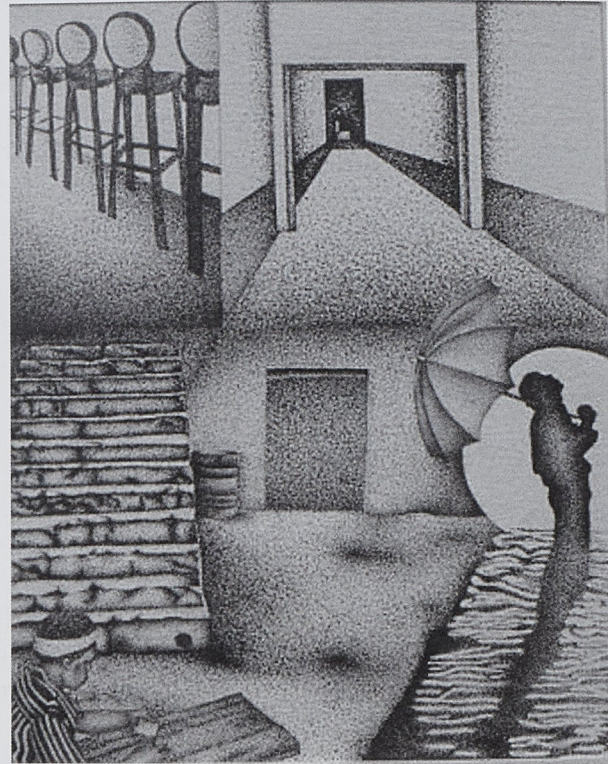
From there we travelled to Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre, the Cheetah Project, Hoedspruit Airbase, Swadini Reptile Park and Bourke's Luck Potholes. Before moving onto our next accommodation in Pilgrim's Rest, being St John's girls, food was on our mind, so *Harry's Pancakes* was on the itinerary.

The next destination was the picturesque town of Pilgrim's Rest. On arrival we were shown our houses and were then let loose to explore the town and Grave Yard. During our two-day stay we visited the Gold Diggings, Alanglade House and finally, Sudwala Caves on the way home.

There is no "best" place we went to because all our destinations were amazing, enjoyable and educational. Our geographical, historical and the social skills were extended on this trip.

Friendships were made and also strengthened. This trip was definitely the best. It was our last and most interesting. We enjoyed every second.

*Courtney Thompson and Derryn Percival*



*Rayne Cockburn*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Every year, the Grade 11 pupils are given the opportunity to go out into the working world and experience a career of their choice. Some of us were greatly inspired by the people we worked with and have an idea of which career path we would like to follow. Others of us, however, know exactly which career paths we will not be following! Work experience is very beneficial for the reason that it assists us in making decisions about our future careers and studies based on hands-on experience.

My own four days were spent at the vet where I helped to spay a cat. This is, in fact, a very complicated and specialised operation and I was fascinated at the skill with which the vet I visited carried it out! I have decided, however, that I do not have a vocation to be a vet, not only because it involves far too much studying, but also because vets have to carry out about seven spays a day and that requires a huge amount of concentration!

*Alexandra Stewart*



## IF YOU SHOUT LOUD ENOUGH... Her malnourished belly is bloated, but completely

A young, black child plays in the dirt outside her poor excuse-for-a-home. White children, dressed beautifully, run past with their expensive toys. Sometimes the black girl will try to keep up, but most times her small, fleshless legs can't manage. This child's name is Africa.

Her head seems large in comparison to her fragile body. She knows very little, as education is not an option in her life. Her sunken eyes are dark and blank for they can't see a brighter future. Her mouth is covered in sores making it difficult to speak, and although she has a lack of education, she longs to speak her thoughts.

Somewhere deep, beneath her cage of ribs, lies her heart – a heart that has been broken by apartheid and continues to bleed sorrow for her people. She yearns to forgive, forget and love. But the wounds are still too deep and only time can heal. This heart, too, strives for a dream – a dream to overcome the hardship she suffers. Her eyes may fail to see a future, but her heart holds hope.

empty. There is no employment to supply food, so children go hungry. Occasionally, a limited amount of food will be received around election time. There is a single tap for her entire community to share, therefore many don't receive. Water cannot always be purified before drinking, thus causing diarrhoea and vomiting. Due to a lack of hygiene, many people, including Africa, suffer from diseases. Nothing can be done to cure the pain that slowly hollows a being, as this child cannot afford a cure. Or, most commonly, there is no cure!

Africa helps her family where she can: carrying water, sowing seeds, cleaning their shelter. But her thin, bony legs battle at times and fail to support her. Bites and burns disguise the skin and her open wounds attract flies.

At the base of her legs are her feet: tired, cracked and worn thin from her everyday lifestyle. At times her sore feet just manage to walk to the stream where she can wash. She sings too, in the hope that her sorrows will wash away too.

"Yizwa imithandazo yethu,  
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo"  
(Hear our prayers, God bless us, we her children.)

*Bridget Meyer*

### Contact with Germany



Sarah Brozeit ist eine Austauschschülerin der Rotarier, die im August aus Deutschland zu uns kam. Sarah wird ein Jahr in St Johns verbringen, in der Klasse 11 und im nächsten Jahr in der Klasse 12.



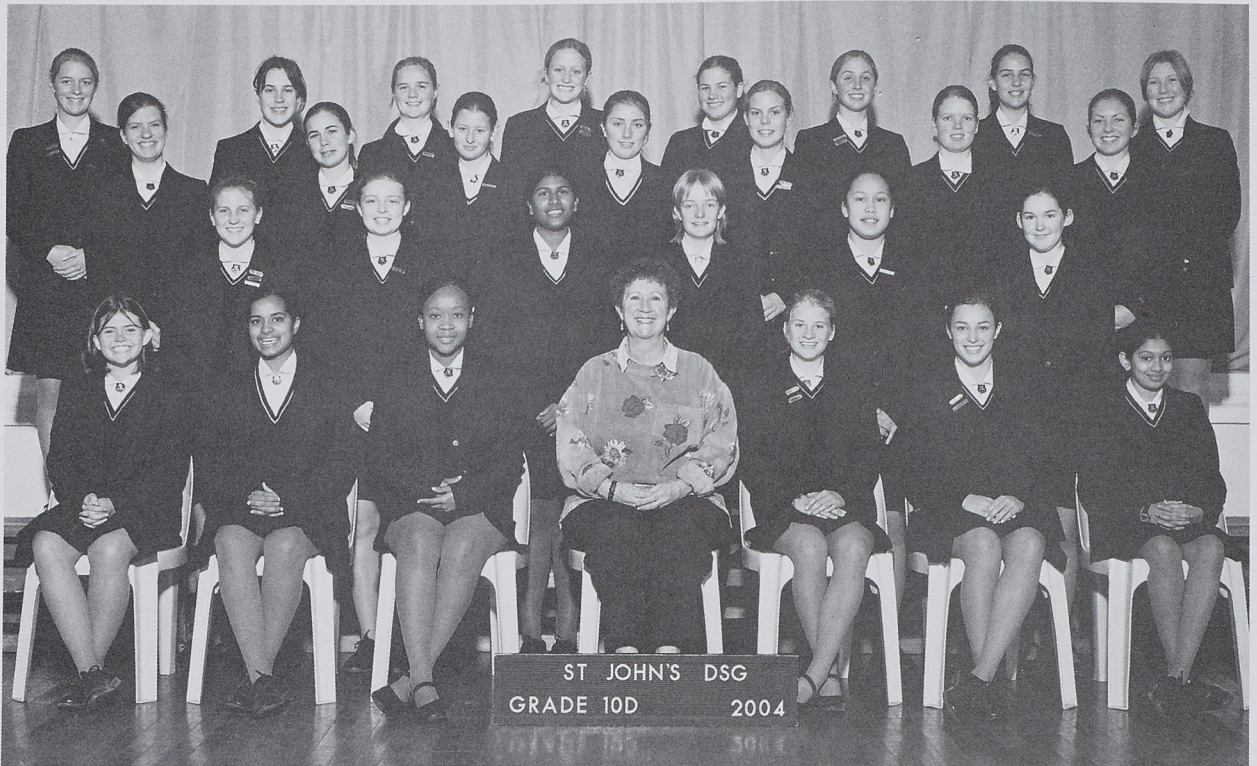
Stephanie Neugebohren, Gast der Eggers familie, verbrachte 7 Wochen des 3. Quartals bei uns im Heim, in der Klasse 11. Dies war während ihrer Sommerferien in Deutschland.



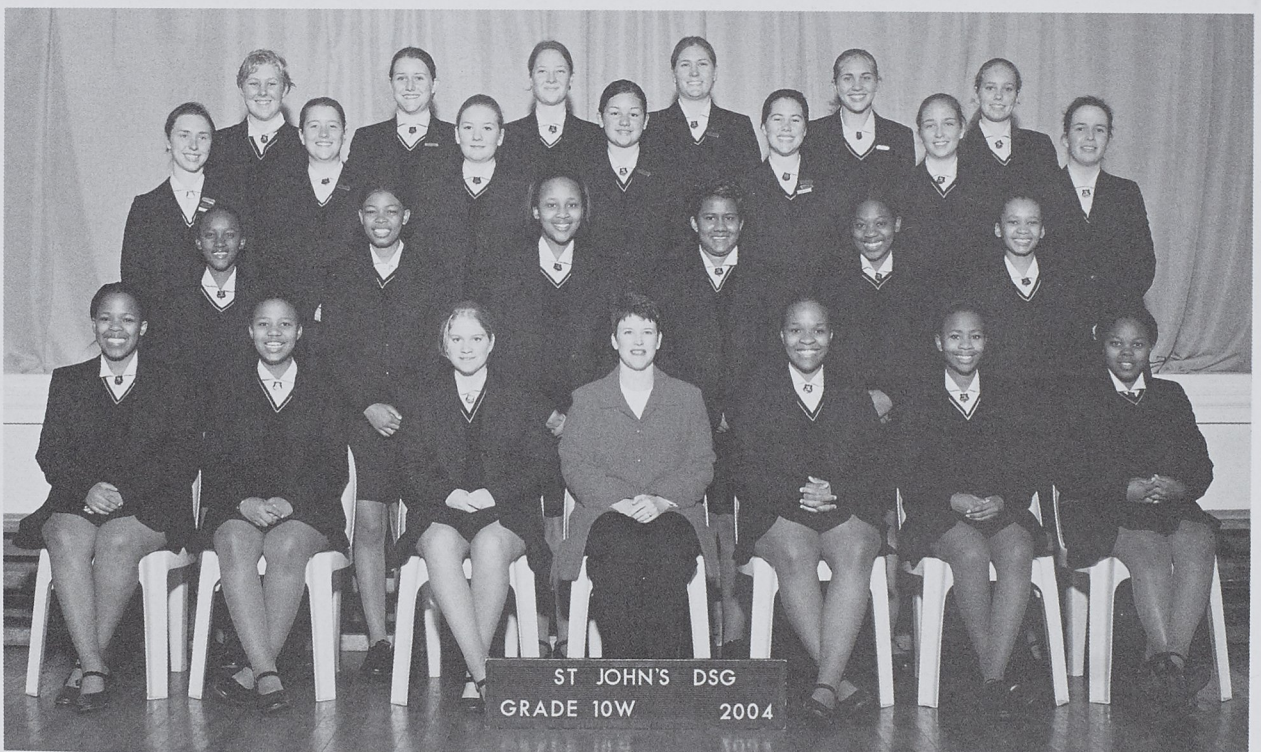
Kirstin Lawrie machte im letzten Jahr bei einem Aufsatzwettbewerb mit und gewann aufgrund ihrer guten Leistung, eine Reise nach Deutschland im Juli dieses Jahres. Sie kam Anfang des Jahres zu uns aus Hermansburg.



# Senior Academic... **GRADE 10**



*front row: Alexandra Hainsworth, Darelene Chengan, Mbali Ngcobo, Miss Davies, Jenna Brown, Lindsay Kirkby, Sudha Krishna  
 2nd row: Natalie Miller, Lauren Horner, Katelyn Naidoo, Nicola Withey, Sasha Gunter, Keetah Biggs  
 3rd row: Laura Dohogne, Katherine Robertshaw, Alice Durnford, Bianca Westhorpe-Pottow, Kayleigh Leisegang, Rozanne van Zuydam, Lauren Stratford  
 back row: Amy Joubert, Shannon Milojkovic, Tristan Duthie, Lee Symons, Deborah Gouweloos, Megan Blore, Birgit Krusekopf, Anthea Taylor*



*front row: Sanele Ndlovu, Octavia Moloi, Philippa Taylor, Mrs Westwood, Zinedile Mahlobisa, Nondumiso Shabalala, Mbali Mdlalose  
 2nd row: Mesuli Bhengu, Thobile Manzi, Retlotluoe Nakin, Melisha Durais, Nellie Ndimande, Zama Mtolo  
 3rd row: Bronwyn Koch, Jenny Pickles, Rosalind Adkins, Jodi Theron, Kelly de Charmoy, Jenna Lynne Brown, Joanna Spain  
 back row: Chloë Clegg, Jenni McKenzie, Kate Lister, Cara Stone, Jessica Lawrence, Nadine Visser*



## GETHSEMANE

Sitting in the garden, He cries out a prayer.  
His disciples, His friends, are the only ones there.  
He cries to His father to spare Him the pain;  
He calls out to God again and again..  
He wishes it weren't his - this poisonous cup;  
He doesn't want to drink it; He knows He must.

He's borne this burden for three long years:  
He's had all the laughter, the pain and the tears;  
He's walked with mortals upon their earth  
For thirty long years since his birth.

He has healed the lepers, helped the lame,  
He has performed many miracles in His Father's name.

Now it is time for Him to go home.  
He's saving our souls 'till the day God comes.

*Kate Robertshaw*



*Le 12 août était une journée de théâtre pour la classe de Grade 10! Chaque école devait présenter une pièce à St Mary's. Nous avons choisi une version française de "Romeo and Juliette". C'était très drôle et le public l'a aimé. Madame Tivcheva était un metteur en scène magnifique!*



*Mrs Cunnama with the Grade 10 library monitors - Sasha Gunther, Alice Durnford and Lauren Horner*

## TEAM BUILDING

On Friday, 5th March, our Grade left for a team-building camp at Forest Lake on the banks of Albert Falls Dam. Everyone was excited to see what was in store for us. Ms Beattie and Mrs Westwood joined us on our excursion. The camp leaders, Quinton and Sally, taught us about working in a team and also problem-solving skills. By Sunday, nobody wanted to go home. A great time was had by all.

*Tristan Duthie*

A Cape Town company, *From the Hip*, visited the school in September.

Here the Grade 10s are enjoying a workshop, *Afro-Confusion*, a combining of African and contemporary dance.





## BABANANGO

Babanango, a place of peace, quiet and tranquility... Until the St John's Grade 10s arrived.

We got in touch with nature, in fact so much so, that we spoke to trees. Crazy you may say. Yes, those were our first thoughts too, but it turned out to be rather educational. Days were crammed with exciting geographic and historical activities. Climbing Isandhlwana was an exhausting, yet worthwhile activity. We probed about in rivers attempting to catch minute and crafty river animals. It wasn't long before we out-smarted them and returned with at least three creatures to show for our efforts. The enthusiasts of the group raced to the mud pool and armed themselves with thick, black mud. What started out as a civilized battle soon turned into a chaotic riot. Night activities included *stalk-the-lantern*, where those who weren't skilled in leopard-crawling soon became masters. Running into cacti was a common occurrence. Stargazing was magical and we appreciated the fantastic views. The nights were bone-chilling and sleeping was a difficult affair.

We left Babanango filled with memories and let Babanango return to its peaceful self, our raucous war-cries and peels of laughter no longer ringing across the valley.

*Kayleigh Leisegang  
and Alice Durnford*



## NIEMAND VIR MY NIE

Hoekom? Wanneer? Wat het ek gedoen? Was ek net 'n fout? Ek sit op die vloer en huil; ek is geskok en hartseer asof iemand my 'n doodsvonniss gegee het. My hele lyf is verwoes. En sy sit net daar en kyk vir my.

Ek is net tien jaar oud. Die vrou wat ek as my ma geken het, sit daar en sê vir my dat ek nie haar kind is nie, en dat ek nie 'n ma het nie. Nou wil sy my ook nie hê nie, net soos

my gebore ma, net soos almal. My hart is in my keel, vir tien jaar was ek Sasha Bello en nou sê sy vir my dat ek Sasha Villegas is. Haar stem is hard maar koel; sy sê dat ek 'n aaklige kind is en dat ek net 'n onnodige verantwoordelikheid is. Sy het my nooit liefgehad nie; sy het net jammer vir my gevoel, maar nou sien sy sy was verkeerd. Ek is niemand se kind nie. Sy sê sy haat my. Sy haat my. En toe verstaan ek hoekom sy my so baie geslaan het; hoekom ek altyd alles in die huis

moes doen, hoekom sy so min met my gepraat het. Nou weet ek hoekom sy my altyd agter grendel gehou het. Sy draai haar rug en stap weg.

Ek draai om; kyk na die deur en hardloop uit. Daar is niemand vir my nie. Niemand wat ek *ma* kan noem nie. Daar was nooit 'n pa nie. Ek is alleen in die wêreld.

Maar ek is nou beskerm.

*Sasha Gunter*



### THE FORMAL

The Formal dance this year was certainly an occasion to be remembered. The Grade 11s had done a fantastic job decorating the hall in a sophisticated manner to the theme *Black Tie*.

The food was delicious and it was, all round, a fabulous evening: stunning dresses, good friends, music and food. What else could a St John's girl ask for?

*Alice Durnford*



### WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY...

"Grade 10s, pack up your books." "Grade 10, this is very serious." "Grade 10s, we expect the boarders to be very generous: give over whatever clothing you can...because we are going to the snow!" YAY!

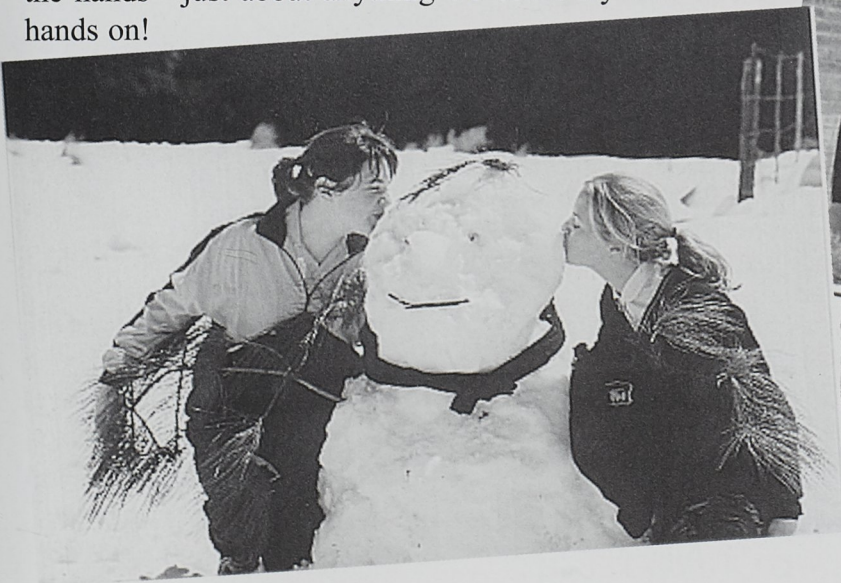
Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September is certainly a day to remember - the day the entire senior school hopped into buses and headed for an unknown, snowy destination.

What a sight we must have looked! The daygirls scrounged warm bits and bobs from generous boarders - uniform rules certainly didn't apply: blazers with pyjama pants, school shoes, socks on the hands - just about anything we could lay our hands on!

Our day at the snow was filled with lots of snow fights, super cool snowmen and eating snow cone competitions. Although Mrs Grey's talk was definitely educational, the highlight of the day was watching the teachers slide down a snowy slope on a metal tea-tray. We witnessed a much more bouncy side of Mrs Gunning as she slid with gusto.

What a treat the day was, and thanks must go to Mrs Gunning, in the absence of Mrs Champion, for organizing such a fun-filled, impromptu outing.

*Jenna Brown and Alice Durnford*



*This page kindly sponsored by the Danielsen family*



## TIME

Time to breathe,  
To let it fill the space between.  
Time to smile,  
To remember awhile.  
Time to look at every piece of me  
And see what no one else can see.  
Time to discover,  
Time to uncover.  
To find that needing, that wanting,  
That wish worth granting.  
I'll write about the things I'll never know,  
I'll take a moment just to slow down;  
Take time to relinquish the doubt  
And figure it all out.

Sasha Gunter



Girls admiring a clay model of ciliated columnar epithelium cells.

## GENDER WORKSHOP – Life Lessons for Boys and Girls about Boys and Girls

On 14th and 15th September, the grade 10 girls were treated to a feast of boys. The Grade 11 St Charles boys came to attend a Gender Workshop with the lucky girls. The workshop was a look at different aspects of adolescence, focusing especially on gender differences. The aim of the workshop was to enable teenagers to acknowledge their differences and rejoice in them.

We girls learnt a lot from the boys and the boys left with a better understanding of girls. The Great Question of “How Does a Girl’s Mind Work?” was answered to a large extent, and the St Charles boys now have an advantage over their College, Michaelhouse or Hilton counterparts.

In groups we discussed topics such as traditional and modern gender roles, abusive relationships, perceptions of the opposite sex and dating. Teenage sexuality was a big topic and a real eye-opener. We were able to share honestly and openly in our discussions and people were encouraged to participate. Many issues were cleared up and we are definitely more aware of what is happening around us in the world



today. We’re also better equipped to deal with difficult situations that may arise in our lives; especially concerning the opposite sex.

Another topic that we covered was public and private etiquette. It was quite surprising to see that, although many people criticised the traditional gender roles, they supported ideas like “The man should open a car door for the lady” and “The man should pull out a dining chair for the lady”. We ‘ladies’ were quite enchanted by their good manners, which were best illustrated when they were required to serve our lunch. They did an excellent job and made sure we had everything we needed. They were the perfect gentlemen and we definitely enjoyed the two days that we spent with them.

The two days were a wonderful lesson in life skills and understanding of the opposite sex. I’m sure many of the boys will learn to dance soon!

Kate Robertshaw



In the fourth term, Grade 10 welcomed two new girls, Emma Crook and Chantal Wessels.



## EINE KLEINE MAUS MUSIEK

Alice Durnford found that playing Mozart to her (most appreciative) mouse, made him calm and intelligently-behaved. Listening to Rap had the opposite effect on him!

(Enough said - Ed.)



***It is a truth universally acknowledged...***

...that yawning is contagious. Trust me. I sit here in Science experiencing it firsthand, practically yawning just realising it. I gaze around the class following the yawn from person to person, watching how each one attempts to conceal it so as not to offend the teacher. Is it worth it, though? Why should we harbour our own feelings and suffer continuously rather than let that person know how we feel and come to a compromise?

My mind begins to wander from boring fusions of Magnesium and some-or-other allotrope of Nitrogen to something so complex that we can barely begin to comprehend. Life. It strikes me as strange how something as simple and natural as a yawn can spark off such intricate thoughts that run wild through my mind, wreaking havoc in every section. I start to analyse, doubt and then give up. Why do I focus on the negative? Once again the question flickers through my mind. Is it worth it? I don't know

why I cause upheaval and confusion within myself over a silly yawn. The word that constantly pops up in my train of thought is depressing me. Bland.

I again begin to evaluate aspects of both my life and myself. I glance up and, still submerged in my thoughts, something catches my eye. Alice. Alice and her poor excuse of an attempt to conceal her obvious desire to consume the entire class with a single yawn.

Suddenly I was caught unawares by something just as contagious as a yawn - maybe more so, depending on whether you want or need it. A smile. My thoughts and mood alter so quickly that I sit here only half aware of the stupid grin smeared across my face. My mind flashes back over the past few weeks and I'm surprised at how many good points there are to linger at. My friends. My family. Some really fun times that I will never forget.

I start to feel warm and fuzzy inside as I realise how many special people I have in my life.

I wish I could keep this feeling of safety and warmth within my reach all the time. I snatch blindly for it as it is wrenched from my grasp and forced from my mind with the arrival of a new distraction. Something is flying through the air. A paper ball.

Rubbish. Millions of thoughts flash through my mind and I reject most of them in the hope of maintaining my smile. I don't want to dwell on faults, failures or times when others have "thrown" me to the ground or discarded my feelings. Instead, I'm intrigued to follow the more mysterious path: I wonder who threw it.

The investigation commences. I compile the evidence; search for a motive. I contemplate whether or not this method would work for more serious issues in my life. Things become clear and I conclude that...

Suddenly my mind is thrust back into chaos and I'm wrenched back into reality as the bell rings. I smile.

*Deborah Gouweloos*

**EXTRAORDINARY BEAUTY**

She does for love pose.  
Through her radiance she does prove  
That young hearts she can move,  
Yet from her blossom beauty flows  
The symbol of fragrance she does impose  
As does she loveliness improve.  
Her beauty your soul can soothe;  
An extraordinary flower is the rose.  
But not only love does this beauty hold,  
But hatred do her thorns symbolize.  
But how could such beauty hurt you so?  
Her warmth does now turn cold.  
This love-hate flower does us surprise:  
That an oxymoron it does show.

*Lee Symons*

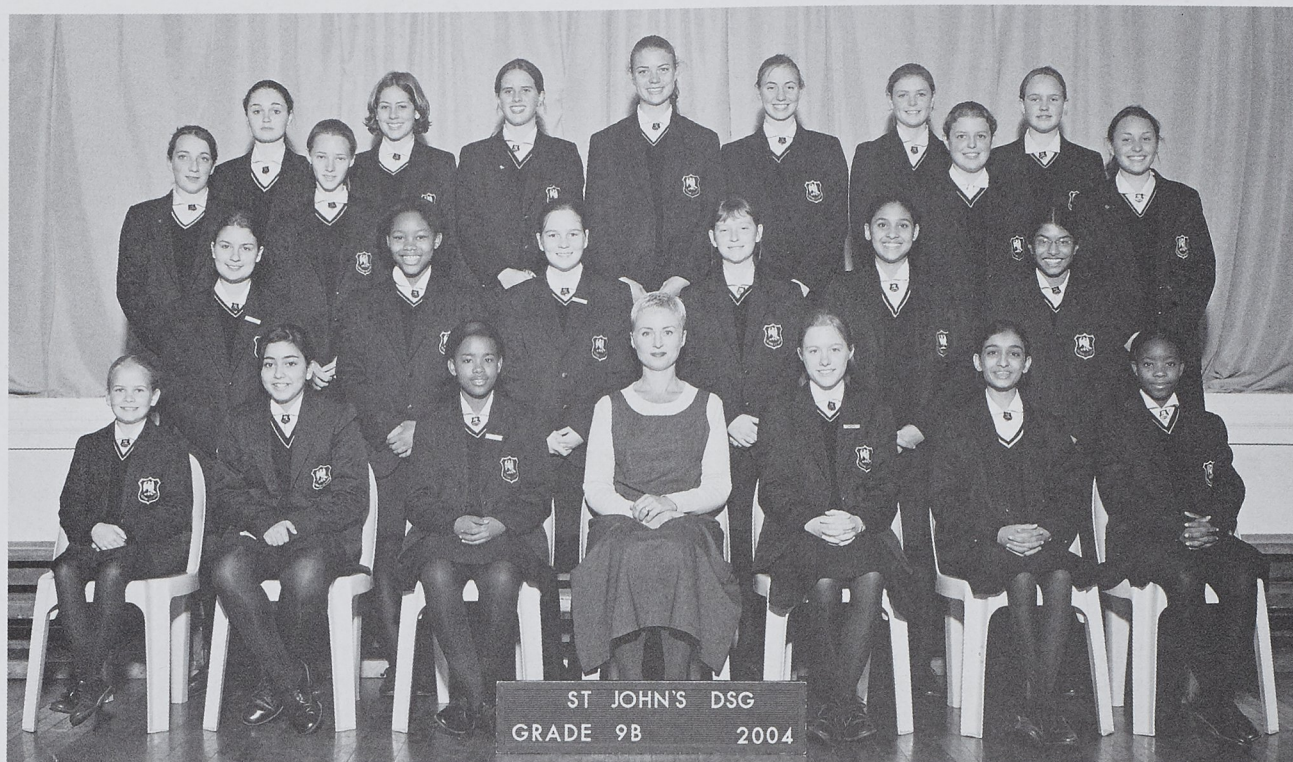


THESE GIRLS KNOW IT'S INNER BEAUTY THAT COUNTS

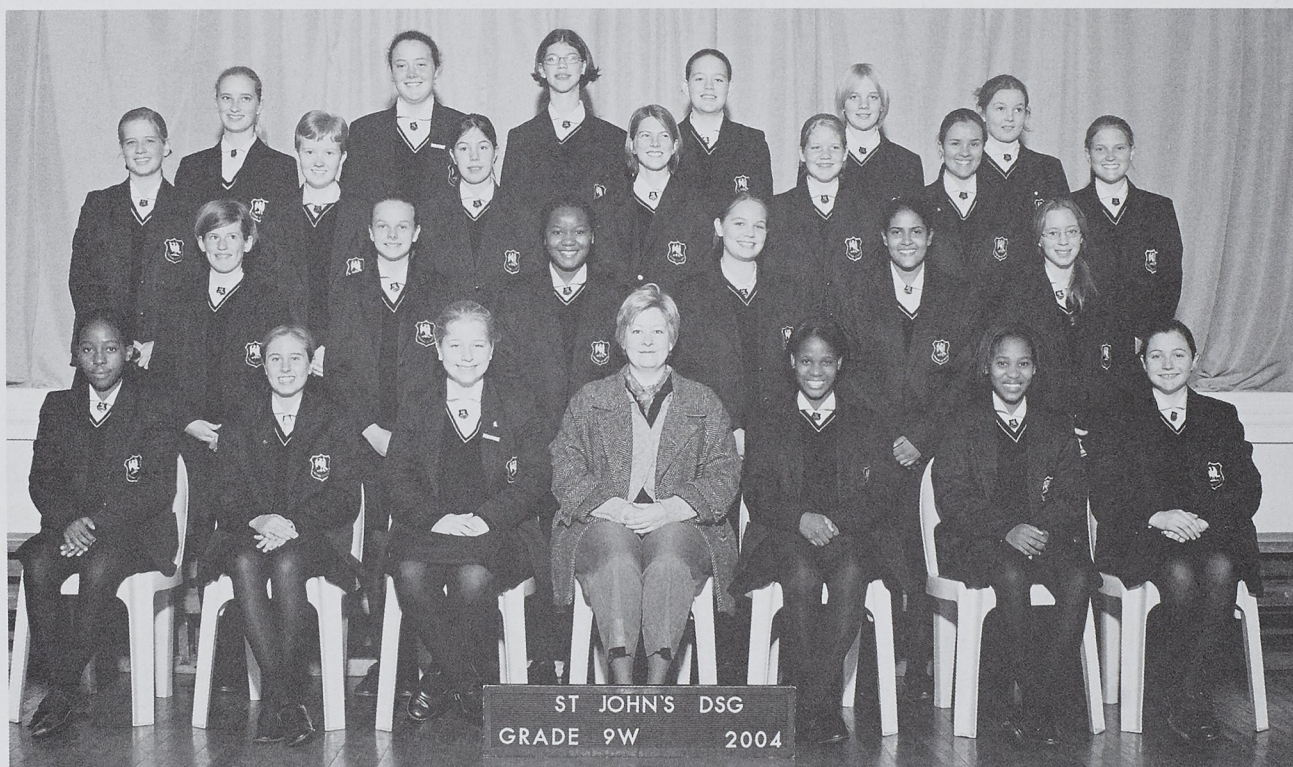
*This page kindly sponsored by the Stone family*



# Senior Academic... **GRADE 9**

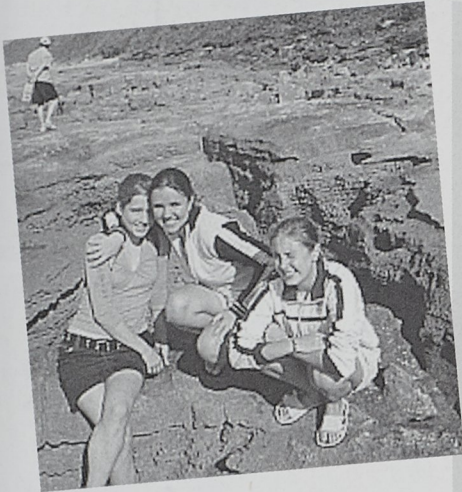


*front row: Kate Dent, Sundus Altalib, Nokulunga Shabalala, Ms Beattie, Tamryn Greyling, Maryam Cassim, Nkosi Zondi  
2nd row: Linley Rall, Tokelo Seturumane, Lauren Whyte, Tracey Johnson, Ashleigh Reid, Anjuli Soorju  
3rd row: Jolene Scheuer, Ashleigh Griffiths, Misty McDonald, Julia Kirkby  
back row: Angels Strüwig, Paula de la Hey, Sandy Harris, Nicola Meyer, Jessica Cochrane, Jessica Edmunds, Amy Jensen*



*1st row: Sphindile Mlipha, Joanne Raath, Tessa Cockburn, Ms Whitfield, Nomthandazo du Toit, Palesa Nzuzi, Kristen McSeveney  
2nd row: Roxanne Green, Camilla Coertse, Mimmy Mkhari, Sian Waldron, Kevoulee Sardar, Candice Moodie  
3rd row: Meghan Crosby, Tarryn Page, Tamryn McFadden, Jessica Anderson, Sarah Akerman, Bronwyn Barthorpe, Ashley Turner  
back row: Kirsten Schröder, Malory Sterley, Lisa Coetzee, Sharleen Hollick, Sarah Southey, Amy Dawson*





### ST LUCIA TOUR

When we sat in the rehabilitated forest of Richards Bay Minerals,  
I was reminded of how delicate the environment is.

When we held snakes after the snake demonstration,  
I was reminded of the splendour and complexity of the animals  
in the world.

When we had a soccer match against French tourists on the beach,  
I realised that different nationalities can understand each other perfectly  
and that sport brings the world together.

When we completed the obstacle course,  
I felt a great sense of unity and of camaraderie between classmates.

When we participated in group dynamics,  
I was reminded that hardly anything could be achieved without the  
hand of a friend, and that in some cases, individuality is good,  
yet a greater success is achieved when one works well in a team.

When we stared at 5 million year old fossils,  
I was humbled by the past.

When we saw black and white mangroves,  
I was amazed at the ecosystems, existing only because of each other.

When I held a sea cucumber in my hand at Mission Rocks,  
I was bowled over by the greatness of God's creations.

When we sat on Cape Vidal beach,  
I was awe-struck at the size and power of the great Indian Ocean.

When we watched the Zulu dancers,  
I felt proud to be a South African.

When we went on a boat cruise on the estuary and saw baby hippos,  
I felt blessed to live in this beautiful country.

When we left our place of accommodation and sang  
*Oh When the Saints,*  
I felt privileged to come to St John's and meet the greatest friends ever.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity and allowing us  
to experience all these things.

Kate Dent



## SECRET SECRETS

The door creaked open slowly and quietly. Tim edged in, hiding in the shadow of the door. He glanced round the room nervously, his eyes darting like pinballs in their sockets. He slid to the corner of the room, put his back against the bare wall and disappeared into the shadow.

I watched the shadow: Tim's catlike eyes flickered in the darkness – watching and waiting. His eyes glowed. No one else had noticed the silent-natured boy drift into the classroom like a ghost. Except me.

All anyone knew was his name and sometimes not even that: it was just "catboy". It was obvious why he was labelled: the way he slunk around, noiselessly and solitary. The curtain whipped up in the wind. Light poured through and highlighted Tim's pale complexion, his sharp chin, thin scarlet lips and his diminutive nose. He was sweating and his emaciated hair stuck to his forehead like a wet mop.

Tim looked at me: his piercing stare looked right through me. I felt that he knew all of my intimate secrets and awkward memories. He beckoned me. Was I imagining it? Even if ever so slightly, he had given me an invitation to walk alongside him into his world.

I dwelled on the thought of knowing his secret. I had dwelled on the thought everyday. But now things had changed. He was leading me straight into his thoughts; straight into his reality.

I followed him outside. He stumbled ahead of me, darting in and out of the shadows. I was wary of him. The grass crunched under my feet, dry, brittle and dead. Every step I took brought me closer to finding out Tim's secret.

As the forest loomed over me, it was obvious that winter had arrived. She had come too soon

this year; she had devoured all the leaves, taken the lives of animals and destroyed their homes. She had placed her icy finger on every tree, every rose, and hardened the hearts of many. She lingered all around us with an air of authority and her hostile nature warned everyone.

Where had he led me to? What was this place? My heart hammered in my ribcage. I could hear it in my ears, echoing down a corridor and banging my eardrum like a common gong. I was scared. Tim knew it too, but my curiosity was stronger than my fear. I was not about to let go the answer I had been yearning for, for so long. This was my chance. Curiosity had engulfed me, taken me over and led me to a place I didn't know. Who is Tim? What is he hiding from everyone? He wanted to tell someone, that is why he led me here and I was going to find out.

I stepped over the twisted roots of an old oak, placing my bare feet carefully on the frosty ground. We walked further and further into the depths of the forest. I was nervous; anxiety seeped out of every pore in my body. Tim sensed it, as he did with every feeling, and he said three words: "It's OK, Lucy." It was so close to a whisper that I only just heard it.

Finally, Tim started to slow down. He stopped. We were standing in front of the only place that winter hadn't yet grasped in her icy claw. Tim gazed at me; a look of fear, fear of my reaction, was in his eyes. Whatever lay behind that thick curtain of ivy was the answer to all my questions. What lay behind there would change the way I looked at Tim forever. My breath caught in my chest and the cold air burned my throat. My tongue was stuck to my palate and a lump had formed in my throat. I stepped forward and pulled the ivy back. I gasped at the sight in front of me...

*Julia Kirkby*

## ENGLISH

A classroom presentation of  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

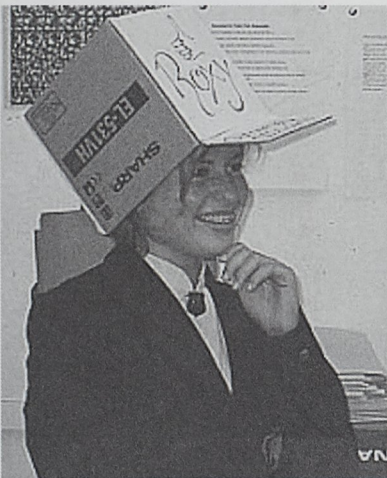




OUTCOMES OFFICER

I am in Mrs Stakemire's Gr 9 Maths class. My job as that of an outcomes officer isn't too difficult. At the end of every topic, I read out the specific outcomes for the topic, and everyone will answer as to whether the outcome has been achieved or not. I was chosen at random by Mrs Stakemire and I enjoy what I do with a passion, as it is incredibly amusing. Don't get me wrong: I do actually do my job, but, as always, there is very often some rather strange humour involved in what I do. We all get a good laugh out of my hat! It was designed by our class and it is the best part of my job. My job is a rather strange one, with bizarre tasks involved, but we all love to participate!

Roxanne Green



A uniform lends dignity and prestige to one as important as an Outcomes officer



π Queen 2004, Camilla Coertse, with Anjuli Soorju, runner-up.



In Home Economics, Grade 9 was given the task of making an educational wall hanging. Our group decided to make one for the children at Grey's Hospital Occupational Therapy Unit. When we gave our wall hanging to them, they were very glad. We took photos and every time we took a photo the children would start laughing. It made me see how much we take for granted. From that day I decided to treasure the laughter that I am blessed with.

Lisa Ann Coetzee

DIE SLANG

Die slang kronkel  
in en uit  
die bosse.  
Die nag is stil  
en rustig.  
Skielik word die  
stilte deur  
'n geskree versteur.  
Die slang is nou stil  
en hy wag.  
Die haas val  
op die grond.  
Die slang vreet stadig.  
Uiteindelik kronkel  
die  
slang weg  
En alles is  
weer stil.

Roxy  
Green

1960s PARTY...



Gary Sobers and Bobby Moore  
were there...



Jackie tried her  
diplomatic best to keep Hendrik  
Verwoed and Winnie Mandela apart



and Elvis felt positively old when  
he met the Beatles!





In Home Economics we tested how different materials react to the flame of a candle. Unfortunately, we had a slight mishap when a piece of material started to melt too quickly and made a mess all over the tongs and table - much to Mrs Westwood's horror! Our group tested synthetic fur and every time we brought the fur near the flame the strands of fur pulled back away from the flame. Some groups even tried burning actual sheep's wool!

*Sharleen Hollick*



### TIME MACHINE

We were given the task of making a time machine in History. It was great fun designing and making it. Our machine (*see right*) took a person back to whatever year they wanted and prepared them for what they were going to experience. We chose to decorate our machine in a 1960s, funky sort of way and we named it the Twig Ken 2000 because I was Twiggy and Kirst was J.F.Kennedy at our history party.

*Jess Anderson*



## DRAMA



*The Pumpkin Kids*



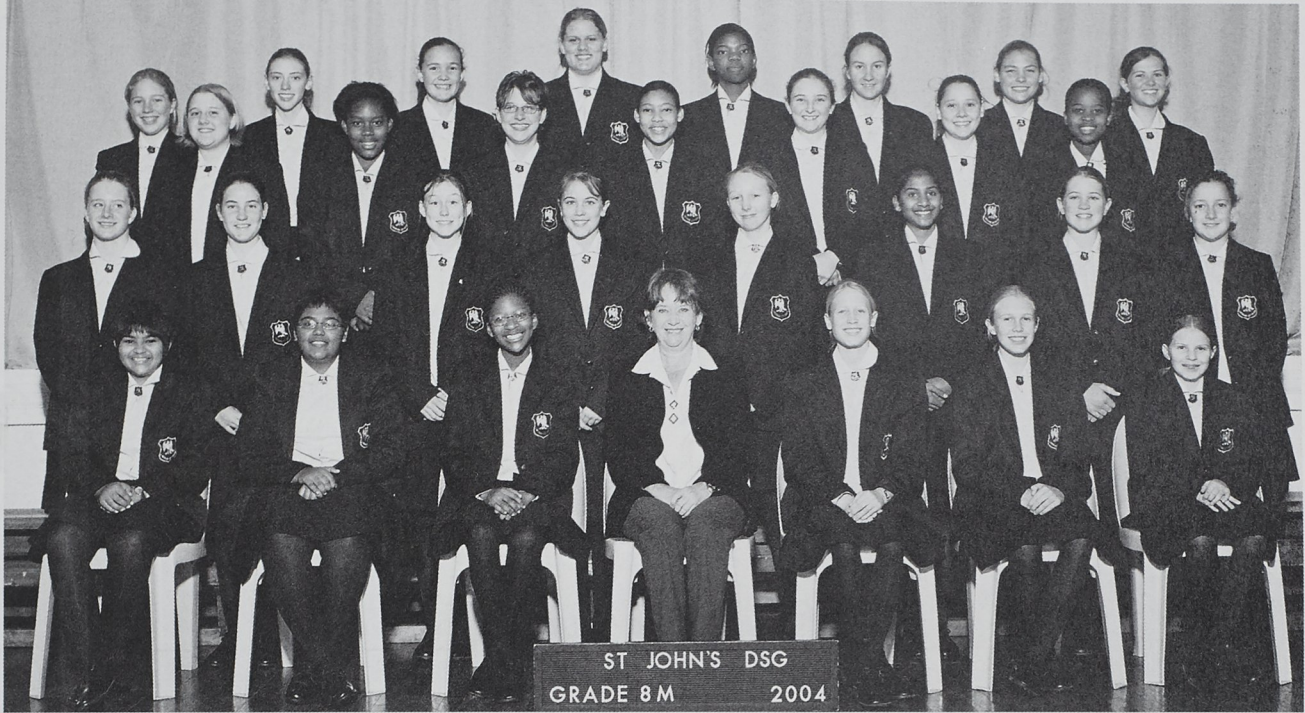
*The Magic Water Pot*



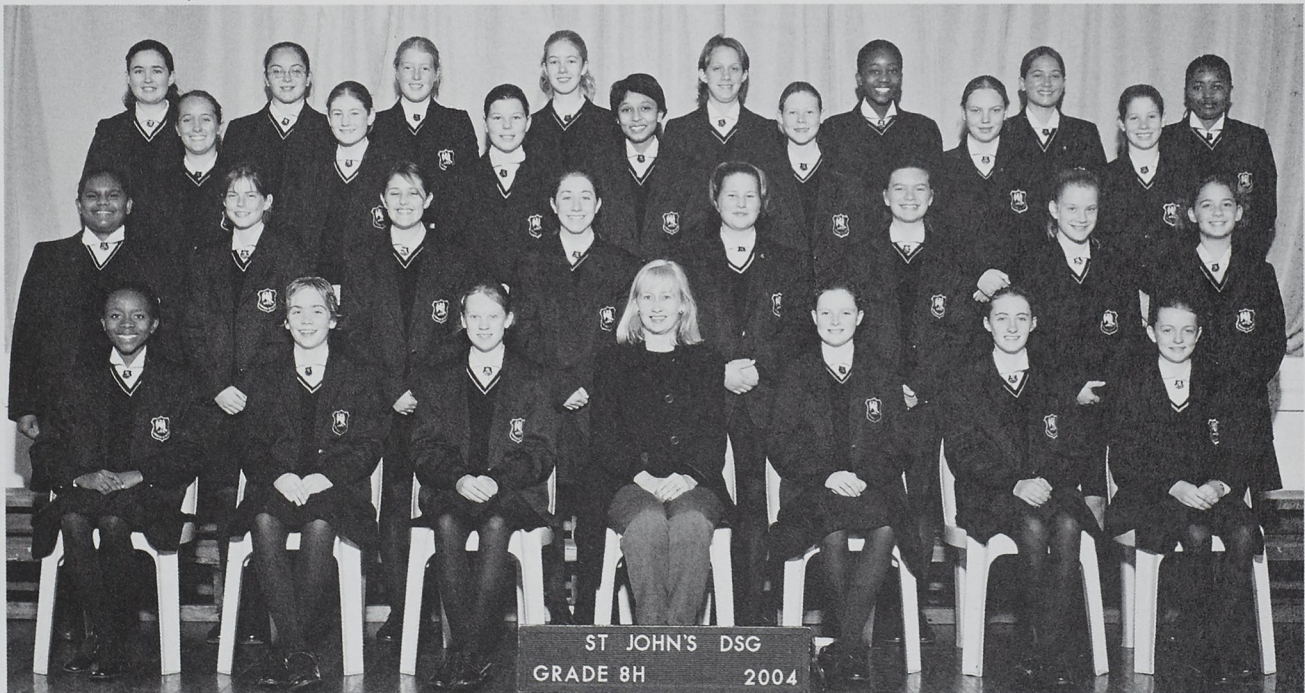
*The Pumpkin Kids... again*



# Senior Academic... **GRADE 8**



*front row: Sonalia Ramnarain, Chenël Moodley, Sinehlanhla Allie, Ms Middlebrook, Kate Symons, Aimee Savage, Storm Clark*  
*2nd row: Sarah Goodman, Donna Rowe, Ashleigh McDuling, Olivia March, Samantha Bailey, Cristine Naidoo, Gemma Cholwill, Camilla Philp*  
*3rd row: Kirsty Bezuidenhout, Nolwazi Majola, Kristy Schladenhauffen, Lerlin Bennett, Lisa Frangs, Amanda Stone, Nokwazi Mkhathshwa*  
*back row: Kerry-Leigh Bruce, Kate-Lynne Dales, Tanja Williams, Chanèle Evans, Nqobile Mangena, Laura Wyrley-Birch, Christy Gebers, Catherine Pennels*



*front row: Zamahlasela Gabela, Monique Cronjé, Ashton Botes, Mev. Kruger, Genevieve Hesse, Liska Schramm, Sarah-Leigh Horner*  
*2nd row: Sumesha Durais, Kate Anderson, Lauren Hendry, Rachael Birtwhistle, Sarah Emery, Rebecca Petzer, Kate Goodman, Melissa Melrose*  
*3rd row: Katya Just, Kimberly Noble, Heleen De Boer, Roxanne Soorajlal, Kathryn Beaton, Natasha Driescher, Michelle Borain*  
*back row: Alice Ogram, Lindie-Mariet Roux, Jaimie Atkinson, Caitlin Gardiner, Sheridan Impey, Phumelele Mahlinza, Sarah Bateman, Lungelo Msimang*



# GRADE 8 MARKET



## SHE SMILES

As I walk through the bustling street, I see a woman staring into unknown bliss. She smiles, unmoved by the trudging people weighed down by life's troubles. She sends her radiance to all who glance at her, and there's a sense of upliftment in these particularly lucky people!

Her sun-kissed face is wrinkled, as is her unironed clothing, and filthy shoes seem to be her norm. Her teeth are like the desert sand, brown and crumbly, but that doesn't seem to matter to her as she reveals them in all their undignified glory anyway. Why does she smile so, when the negativity around us is suffocating me?

"Hello young lady," says a bright voice, breaking into my confused thoughts. "What seems to be so interesting to make you stare so?" "Your smile," I reply warmly, "Just your smile!"

*Sarah Emery*

## WILLIE THE WIMP

Willie was a weakling;  
He wasn't very brave.  
He was always very kind and sweet,  
He always would behave.

But there was just one problem,  
Willie was too shy:  
He didn't want to shout aloud,  
He didn't want to cry.

So Willie had a great idea,  
To make him big and strong.  
He ran and hopped and skipped  
And jumped - nothing could go wrong.

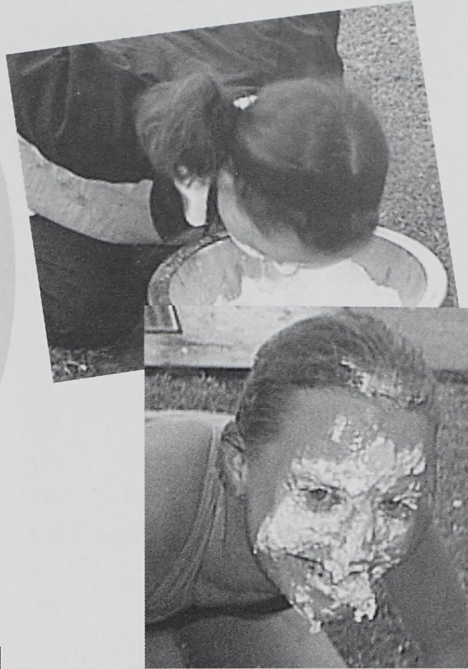
Then Willie was a giant.  
He was feared by all...  
But inside he was small and shy;  
He wasn't brave at all.

*Kerry-Leigh Bruce*



### BALLET

The girl leaps  
On to the stage  
She twirls  
She swirls  
She points  
She bends  
And with a bold movement  
Signifies the end  
*Catherine Pennels*



### LIEWE DAGBOEK...

Vandag was die gelukkigste dag van die jaar. My baba suster is gebore. Haar naam is Mika Noel Nipper en sy is baie oulik. Sy het blonde hare en baie vet rolletjies op haar bene. Sy het blou oë en is baie klein. Sy is die enigste suster wat ek het.

Sy is in St. Anne's hospitaal gebore. Toe het sy huis toe gekom, en ek het haar baie gehelp, maar die meeste van die tyd het sy geslaap want sy was baie moeg.

Ek is baie lief vir my baba sussie, en ek kan nie wag tot sy oud genoeg is om alles te verstaan nie, want ek wil vir haar sê dat ek haar baie liefhet en ek hoop sy sal vir my sê:

"Ek is ook lief vir jou."

*Monique Cronje*

### ORIENTATION

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January we had an orientation weekend. We were split into groups to play various games and to do team-building exercises. There were many absurd activities like balloon-popping, egg-throwing, and smartie-hunting, but we all had a great fun and made lots of new friends.

*Kirsty Bezuidenhout*



before they

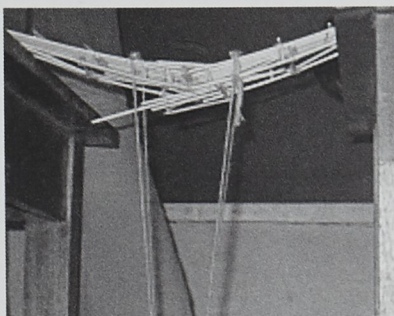


hatch...



In a science lesson on elements and compounds we were amazed and delighted by the purple smoke and sparks of fire when we combined aluminum and iodine.

*Sinehlanhla Allie*



Oops! Bridge building

Don't count your chickens



## ESHOWE

This year, fifty-eight excited Grade 8 girls and two not-so-excited, but very brave teachers, were let loose on Eshowe to have fun, learn and build life-long relationships. The result – an awesome camp that will long be remembered. On the first day of camp, we all piled into the bus, fresh and ready to go. After fifteen minutes of scrambling around and booking seats, we were off. The usual followed – the singing and laughing and scrunching of chip packets. The ride went quickly and soon we arrived at Mtunzini.

The plan was to have a relaxing barge trip along the river mouth, ending in a braai on the beach. The barge trip was lots of fun, and the relaxation was mixed with interesting facts about the river and its inhabitants. We even got to see old Frankie, the croc. The braai on the beach was a wonderful time to mix with our friends and splash in the river.

Our first night was spent at the Eshowe Environmental Centre. Once we had booked our beds and unpacked a bit, we got ready to go out to supper at the George hotel. Being typical St John's girls, we were all anxiously awaiting the arrival of our dinner. And our expectations were outdone with the scrumptious food we were served. We went to bed happy, full and tired.

Day two of our tour we went to the breath-taking Boardwalk in

the Dlinza forest. The view from the top of the aerial tower was absolutely stunning. It was a bit scary for those afraid of heights, but otherwise it was an outing well enjoyed. The next place we went to was the Eshowe Fort. The fort was built in the Anglo-Zulu war, and is still standing. The museum was very interesting and we learnt lots about our country and its history.

We also went to the basket museum, where huge displays of Zulu baskets are kept. It was amazing to hear what the different colours meant and what significance they held.

That same night we went to Shakaland which I think was the highlight of our tour. We drank Zulu beer, learnt about the Zulu traditions, and had our own turn at Zulu dancing. It was a night well enjoyed by all.

The last day was spent travelling around and visiting all kinds of different places: we saw a suspension bridge, visited a craft shop, spent time at a mission and visited a school. We all thoroughly enjoyed the morning, especially the time we spent with the AIDS babies at the mission.

Ms Whitfield and Mev. Harris spoiled us rotten on the bus home with a lunch of sandwiches, Oreos, juice, yoghurt, Rascals and Cheddars. It was a wonderful trip and will always be thought of fondly.

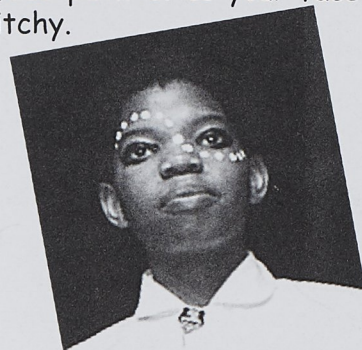
*Catherine Pennels*

## EATING AN ICE-CREAM

I tore off the wrapper eagerly, as I hurried to indulge in the new fruit ice-cream, *Eye Boggler*. As it reached my mouth a burst of tropical fruit exploded in it and my taste buds tingled. I could feel it ooze down my throat, leaving a cold trail of melted ice behind. As I bit into it, a delicious sensation of apple sauce trickled into my mouth, making it even more exciting to explore the rest of the ice cream. I licked very slowly, trying to make my ice cream last longer. But I couldn't help myself - as quick as lightning piercing through the deep dark sky, it was gone. It did live up to its name, because it certainly did make my *Eyes Boggle*.

*Zama Gabela*

In drama we did an exercise where we had to paint each other's faces. When my face got painted, the face paint felt cold. When the face paint dries your face feels itchy.



We then had to go onto the stage in the theatre and the lights were put on.

We talked about which colours worked best for different characters.

It was interesting and great fun.

*Christy Gebers*



## SEPTEMBER SNOW

On the 7th September, Grades 8 - 12 went to the snow; for some people it was the first time ever to see snow!

The trip up seemed to go so slowly - we kept seeing the perfect place to go, fields covered in snow, but we just carried on. When the bus finally stopped (at an even better place), we all raced out of the bus and immediately started snow fights. After playing for a long time, the teachers called us to come and sit down for a Geography talk.

The talk was very interesting: Mrs Grey told us why there was snow - because of global warming. After the talk we were allowed five more minutes to run wild!

It was a wonderful day and, apart from the fun we had, we would like to thank our teachers for a lifetime experience.

*Amanda Stone*

## ART LESSON



## CARE CENTRE VISIT

On the last day of our Grade 8 tour we went to a convent where there was a crèche that cared for little children. A few of them had AIDS and it was so sad that we were playing with people who could die in a matter of years or even months.



A FLAME  
A flame flickers  
it gleams  
it glows  
it sparkles with light  
it rages  
it grows...  
and then slowly it dies  
lifeless it lies.  
*Kate-Lynne Dales*



Grade 8 Drama prac, apparently!

We all loved playing and interacting with the children; it was a very fulfilling and heart-lifting experience just to be near them. The caretakers of AIDS babies deserve so much credit - if they weren't so dedicated to their work, those children might not be as healthy or happy as they are today. They reached out and touched our hearts and we, hopefully, have touched theirs.

*Kathryn Beaton*



# Senior Academic... **DRAMA**



We began this year with a production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertolt Brecht, which we did in conjunction with Maritzburg College. The play was a huge challenge, but one which we entered into with energy and commitment as it is a play with a set of ideas and themes which we find both fascinating and deeply worthwhile.



The play is currently a matric set-work for drama and the playwright is studied every year in some way, and so we felt that we were providing a fantastic opportunity to our drama students, both current and in the future. The cast of this play were dedicated and enthusiastic, and gave us their best at all times. It was a privilege to work with such outstanding young people who showed most thoroughly, that young people are not just interested in "fun", but can accept a challenge, work through extremely complex and dense writing, and produce fantastic outcomes in the end. We commend our

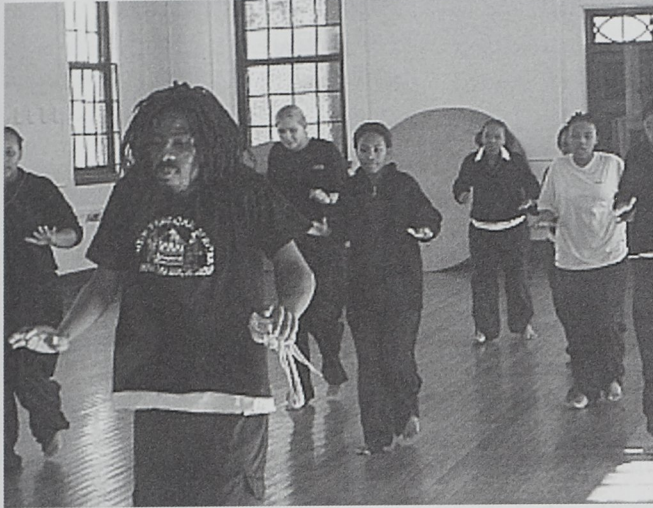
cast for all their hard work and dogged determination, and thank them for a thoroughly enjoyable working time together.

The second term began before we felt we had left the first one behind, but the annual dance production involving the schools in the district, *Millennium Funk*, was just around the corner and we had to shift our focus to that. Our piece was called *Rio Abajo Rio*, which means, "the river beneath the river". We were exploring the notion of the creative world that lies hidden beneath the daily activities of life and that is often made visible through our connections with others. We once again called on the dedication and commitment of our cast in an enormous way as the rehearsal period was short and intense and very demanding, and their performance work was once again of a very high standard. Also in the second term were the performances of the matric Practical projects. This is the last time that this will be a requirement for matric and we are sad to see the last of them as they are often innovative and unusual pieces of work that introduce our audience to other ways of thinking about theatre. This year we had projects that involved performances exploring how the body language changed the meaning of a scene by repeating the scene with changes each time. We also had pieces involving fusion dance, sacred dance, and dance that explored body image. There was also a piece that involved the combining of two live performance arts. Megan Cowie played the theme from *The Piano*, to which she had choreographed a dance piece exploring relationships. All of these pieces were wonderful and we commend all the girls involved, both the matrics, and their casts.

This year we have been privileged to have had two outstanding professionals to run drama workshops with the grade 10, 11 and 12 girls. At the start of the year we had Jeroen Kroenenberg, a well known local performer, who ran voice classes with the groups. It was an extremely valuable series and everyone learned a lot. Later in the year we were fortunate to have Mzo Gasa, a local dancer who is



currently dancing for the *Frittitti Dance Company* in London, run some dance workshops with the grade 11 and 10 classes. Again this input was greatly appreciated.



Still to come this year are workshops by Rob Murray and his Cape Town based Company *From the Hip*, primarily focusing on physical theatre. This workshop will be accompanied by a performance at the St John's Theatre of their Grahamstown Festival piece entitled *Water Pockets*. Earlier this year we had Siwele Sonke Dance company performing in our theatre which was a fantastic introduction to contemporary dance for the whole school. We have also had numerous theatre outings this year.

Half the Grade 9 class entertained the Junior Primary school with their plays which were based on African stories earlier this term, and the other half of the class will perform theirs early in the fourth term. These have been most successful, and enjoyable.

As the third term drew to a close, the matric girls completed their final practical exams. Once again an extremely high standard of work was achieved, despite their huge commitments, as anyone who saw their showcase evening will acknowledge.

The house plays were presented on the final day of the third term. This year, the Grade 11s responsible for directing house plays chose to tackle a complicated project in producing Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular*, with each house directing one of the three acts. This was a larger and more complex project than house plays have been before

and the girls achieved an outstanding level of performance. Congratulations to Connaught House for winning, and well done to the Gr. 11 directors who worked incredibly hard!



The fourth term will bring the nativity play in the Junior Primary School and we look forward to the angels and shepherds and stars and their re-telling of the Christmas story.



Once again, it has been a busy and productive year. Exhausting, but enjoyable.

*Joan Attwell and Moira Filmer  
Drama department*



# Senior Academic... MUSIC

In 2004, the Music Department boasted the following peripatetic staff: Ms Murray, Mrs Govender, Mrs Wallis, Mr Shone, Mr Brown, Mrs Bower, and, new members, Mrs Visagie, Mrs van Zuilenburg, Ms Calitz and Mr Lewis. The department now offers tuition in piano, church organ, keyboard, violin, flute, clarinet, recorder, saxophone, guitar, trumpet and drum kit. The number of girls continuing with instruments well into their high school career (and beyond) has increased and more girls are taking up a second instrument.

The choir, a whopping 68 girls accompanied by Ms Claire Wright, had their first performance at the Easter Service in the chapel, followed by a Communion Service on St John's Day. One of the highlights of the year was "In Praise of Song", held in the Indoor Centre at the beginning of September. The Band, Junior Choir, the orchestra of Durban Girls' College and the inspiring Natal Youth Symphony



*Megan Cowie performing at the Tatham Art Gallery*

Orchestra, conducted by Ted Brien, joined the choir in a concert, which was essentially a celebration of our musical youth. Next on the calendar was confirmation, followed shortly by Grandparents' Day and the annual Music Department Evening at the end of September. The last term was, as always, a very busy one for the choir, with Prize-Giving, Carol Service and Valedictory Service making sure everyone kept their (choir) noses – or maybe ears? – to the proverbial grindstone.

I would like to thank every member of the choir for their hard work and commitment during this year. I am always amazed at how many things the girls seem to fit into their schedules, with hardly a dip in their energy levels. Their humour and enthusiasm have contributed to making 2004 a memorable and successful choir year, and I can definitely see a possible career as stand-up comic for quite a couple of the 2004 Senior Choir members. . .

A number of girls did practical and theory exams (UNISA, ABRSM and Trinity College) with good results. The girls and their teachers must be commended for the long hours they put in, both in preparation for the exams, and for taking on the added pressure and stress often connected with, specifically, more advanced music exams. Even the best-prepared candidate finds these exams stressful, especially the

practical ones where it is a case of 'one impression only'. Still, even if one sees music exams as only as a necessary evil, their value in setting a standard and supplying a goal to work towards, cannot be ignored.

Another new acquisition to the Music Department is a set of 25 Djembe drums, for use during Class Music. Drumming is becoming increasingly popular worldwide, with scientific research being conducted at various centers around the world, focusing on the social, musical, and even physical impact thereof. Just a look on the Internet is enough to convince even the staunchest of cynics of the value drumming have on all age-groups, not just children, as the staff can vouch for after spending a very happy afternoon at Queen Elizabeth Park earlier this year, drumming away with master-drummer, Jonathan Pimenta. And no, it's not as easy as it looks!

The Music Ministry Group is still going strong and supplying accompaniment during Afrikaans Assemblies. As girls playing an orchestral instrument reach a certain level, they are encouraged to join the group to gain experience in ensemble playing. A word of thanks to all the girls and staff involved in the Music Department. Your talent and dedication to music are commendable, and your enthusiasm contagious.

*Tania Moir  
Head of Department*



# Senior Academic... COMPUTERS

The senior computer room had a major upgrade this year. The room now has 14 Intel Celeron 2.4GHZ computers running 256MB of ram. This means that we now have fast, efficient machines for all aspects of computing. In addition, all computer rooms have received an operating system upgrade to Windows XP SP 2.

The Internet has been upgraded and we now have double the bandwidth we had previously. This means faster access to a wider variety of data. The girls also have worldwide access to their email via the online webmail system.

Computer classes are geared towards the International Computer Drivers Licence which is an international qualification.

*Senior Computer room monitors:*

*back row:*

*Chloë Clegg,  
Megan Blore,  
Jenny Pickles,*

*and in front:*

*Kelly de Charmoy,  
Bronwyn Koch and  
Kayleigh Leisegang.*



We were delighted to have the first of our girls receive their full ICDL certificates.

In addition to ICDL we have IT Schools Intellect online examinations which are written by the girls, providing additional certification in a range of IT fields.

Our outreach programme to Ashburton Farm School continues with great success.

My thanks go to the monitors for their help in the computer room and to Mr Quintus Janse Van Rensburg, our technician, for his ongoing support and patience.

*Mrs Angela Burn*

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### ...Youth Forum

This last year has been an incredibly busy year in the St John's life, and especially busy for the Youth Forum Committee.

We started the year with a lovely afternoon together with the Grade 8s at their orientation. We enjoyed getting to know them and helping them to understand more about Youth Forum and what we do as a committee. Our aim this year was to support children's organisations which weren't well-funded, and to make small differences in their lives.

We felt very humbled after spending the afternoon together with Pam Boake and the fourteen children who were living with her at the time. We had a party and spent the rest of the afternoon running around and playing with all the children, while learning from Pam the true meaning of giving of yourself. We soon learned of all the needs of the children which led us to buy a special cream for a baby boy who had terrible rashes all over his body.

Throughout the year we have held movie and DVD evenings with coffee and doughnuts, sweets and many yummy treats for all Grade 8 and 9s. We hosted a very successful sports social with Weston Agricultural College and had a civvies day.

I would like to thank my committee and Mrs. Stakemire for all their help, support and advice during this last year.

I really appreciate it!

*Lee-Anne Meyer*

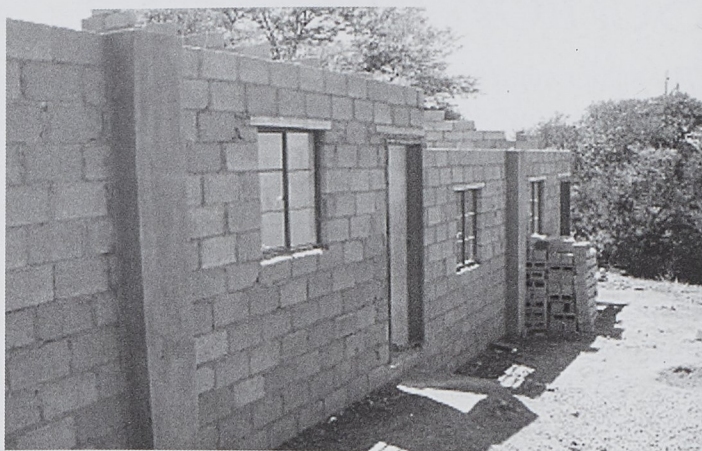
*This page kindly sponsored by Mr & Mrs K.N. Koch*



## ...Outreach



*Paper bricks become real bricks....*



*Building began in January on the new classroom.*



*Mrs Pat Moodley, the School's assistant caterer, and Mrs Desirée Murugan, the High School Laboratory assistant, through their church, donated very early Christmas parcels to the children of Ashburton Farm School.*



*For some of the children, this was the first gift that they had ever received.*



*Mrs Stakemire with overwhelmed children who clung on to their parcels all morning.*



*The children line up for their breakfast.*

*The parcels, which came from the United States, contained clothing sweets, stationery, toys - even watches and calculators.*

*Outreach has also begun a scheme which ensures that every child at the school gets "breakfast". This comprises a bowl of **Go-Ahead**, which is a meal substitute rather like Pro-Nutro.*



## ...Interact

Interact have had a very productive year. We started off with a well-supported 'Make Your Own McFlurry' evening, followed by a tuckshop at the Interhouse Gala. We've also had various pizza and entertainment evenings, a relaxing beauty evening with massages, foot treatments and facial masks.

Interact coin chain went smoothly and the proceeds were donated to Father Dick of Padre Pio Mission in Harding. In addition, we have regularly supplied him with groceries and money alternately each month.

The squares from last year's 'granny hour' were sewn together and donated to Home of Comfort in Kokstad, who were extremely grateful for them.

"Feed a Friend" day, where pupils brought extra sandwiches to school, was a great success and

the food collected was given to the Youth For Christ Organisation in Pietermaritzburg who then distributed it to needy street shelters.

Patty Naidoo, the school caterer, donated 20 warm blankets (from her church) which we gave to Pam Boakes to pass on to an AIDS home in the Zululand area.

A very big thank-you goes to all the senior girls who have supported us throughout the year. Although

*Every year, the Coin Chain money raised by the Junior School is used to train a puppy for SA Guide Dogs for the Blind.*

you may not realise it, in your support of us, you are supporting the wider community. Your generosity is very much appreciated by all.

Thanks to Mevrou and the committee for the team spirit of Interact 2004.

"It is in giving that we grow, in growing that we learn, and in learning that we find the will to succeed."

*Lee-Ann Morris*



## ...Junior Debating

This season of debating for all members of the team, both old and new, has been a most rewarding, fulfilling experience, which has left us all brimming with confidence and geared up for next year's season.

Our relatively small team of six members managed to get off to an excellent start at the beginning of the year, when we won a major victory against Wartburg's very experienced

first team. Thereafter we went on to beat their second team in a rather interesting debate on the subject of parental rights.

For the rest of the season, with much swapping and changing of team members, (giving our coach, Mrs. Zartmann, many sleepless nights), we managed to come extremely close to victory in two nail-biting debates, against the burly boys from St Charles and Hilton.

Unfortunately, their deep voices, which gave them an air of confidence, managed to sway the judges to vote in their favour.

The incredibly dedicated Junior team members, who were both supportive and accommodating, led us to bag four best speaker awards, three of which went to our second speaker, Sharleen, and one of which went to Maryam, who was third speaker.



Special thanks must also go to Camilla Coertse, Mbali Ngoba, Tessa Cockburn, Joanne Raath and Alice Durnford who showed incredible loyalty and support for the team throughout the season. I am happy to report that this year, increasing interest has

been shown in debating, especially amongst the grade 8s, who have been enthusiastic supporters and a great-confidence booster for us all.

Unfortunately, despite our efforts, the team did not manage

to reach the playoffs. We feel confident, however, that the experience we have gained this year, will serve us well in next year's season, and help us to win against some of Pietermaritzburg's biggest schools.

*Maryam Cassim*

## ...Senior Debating



The Debating season this year has been an interesting one, full of deliciously controversial issues which were keenly tackled by our sometimes muddled brains. Preparing to stand up and argue with another team just an hour before you have to start can be a very daunting task, and although we may have felt like giving up and running away, we never did. That was probably a good thing because our season proved to be rather successful. Our results may not look too good on paper, but we have all

grown into confident and skilled speakers (or so we hope anyway!). We won one out of five debates and Candice Gallagher was awarded "Best Speaker" twice. Our persuasive powers improved considerably, however, and we almost managed to get Mrs Kidd to buy us ice creams... There is time yet!!

Debating is generally an activity that is a frightening experience for many people, but it really is so much fun to participate and I wouldn't give it up for anything.

After the first debate is behind you, you can only improve. The season has been particularly successful in this regard, with much fewer attempts to lose ourselves in strange school corridors to avoid our debates.

Well done to Alexa, Tonch and Rayne, who were all part of our team, and thank you to Mrs Kidd for her constant support and guidance throughout the season.

*Candice Gallagher*



# ...SCA



This year has been amazing in the Christian life of the school. We have all grown and learnt so much from God and from each other. We, as a committee, had a pretty rocky start to the year, but after our fulfilling committee camp at the Koch's farm, we really gelled together well. We have all become such close friends and in turn have become closer to God, enabling us to lead others to Him as well.

Our Tuesday evening meetings have always been eventful and very well attended. Most weeks, we have over 40 girls who come together to praise God, by singing, sharing and through fellowship with other Christians.

We held a most successful rally, which made up a part of the SUI S mission.

This mission did wonders for St John's. 5-Fold (the band that played at the rally) were truly inspiring and helped us to bring many hearts to Jesus.

That mission was the starting point of our Cell Groups for new and old Christians (both day scholars and boarders). These Cell Groups have gone from strength to strength and we have had a wonderful response from the girls. The Cell Group leaders really deserve a huge thank you. Thank you so much for your dedication and support, we just keep growing and growing with you, through Jesus.

Mrs Grey must be mentioned here, as I feel that I would not have been able to lead this SCA committee without her support and constant help. We have

shared laughter and tears throughout this year and I am so thankful to have had her confidence and her ever-increasing enthusiasm at my side.

Another huge thank-you goes to my committee of 2004. You guys are amazing and I truly wouldn't have survived this year without all your support. We have become such great friends and worked so well together. These are the kinds of friendships that are treasured forever.

So, St John's, good luck for the years to come, you are all always in my prayers. May God bless you abundantly everyday and may the Christian ethos of St John's grow even more in the future than it has this year.

Yours in Christ  
*Kate Warren*



# ...Blood Donors

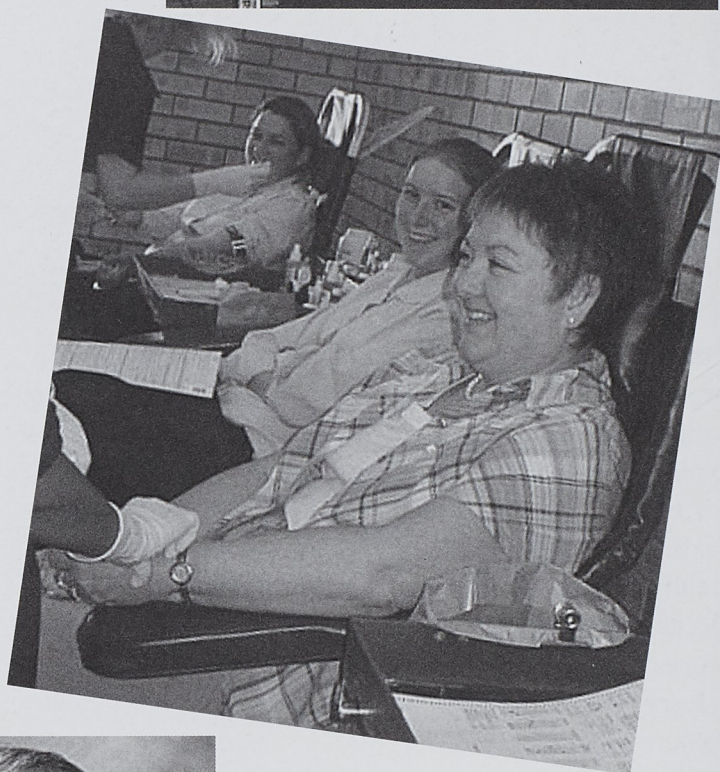
Although our blood donor group is relatively small, the girls are enthusiastic and dedicated to helping save lives by donating blood on a regular basis.

A successful Blood Donor Clinic was run from the St John's Indoor Centre on the 12<sup>th</sup> August. Fifteen St John's girls donated blood, but there were also many donations made from the general public. Miss Davies kindly made Fridge Cake for all donors as an incentive for giving blood. Thank you to everyone who attended, and for your help and support.

Our Grade 11 Blood Donor Representative is Rayne Cockburn who I would like to thank for assisting me this year. Good luck for 2005. I hope that it will be a very successful Blood Donor year.



A heartfelt thank-you to Miss Davies who constantly transports girls back and forth from the Blood Donor Clinic in town without any complaints. She is always willing to give of her time. Hopefully, with the opening of the Blood Donor Clinic Hayfields Branch, it will be more convenient to transport all the donors. Thank-you, once again, for a wonderful 2004.

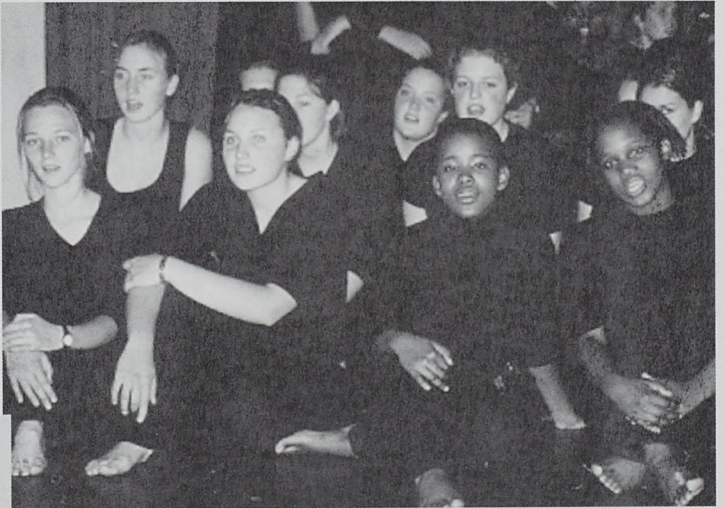
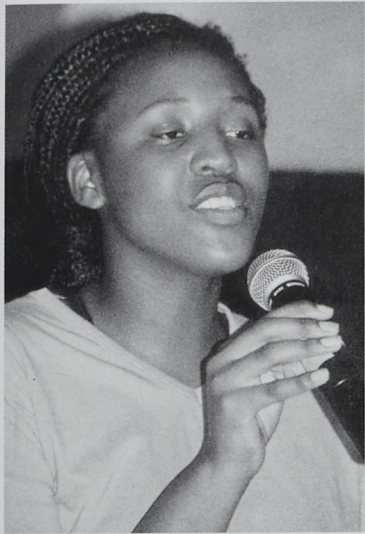


Congratulations to Linda Dickinson who has achieved 5 Blood Donations. There was a total of 28 donations made this year. I hope that next year we will be able to surpass these numbers.

*Ashleigh Fowles*



# ...Try to Remember



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# House Report...

## RHODES

This year has been a really exciting year for Rhodes house: true to Rhodes' reputation, we have shown excellent spirit and enthusiasm for all the activities throughout the year. The girls have continually outdone themselves and excelled in all they've done for the House. I have been extremely proud to have been a member of Rhodes House this year!

We have won numerous inter-house activities this year, such as the inter-house swimming gala, the inter-house hockey, inter-house public speaking and inter-house squash. But regardless of what we have won or lost or which house wins overall at the end of the year, the girls in Rhodes House have embarked on every inter-house activity with vigour and enthusiasm. The energy levels never waned and the teams participating in the various activities always had constant support from the rest of the house.

It is elating to be part of a house that will cheer and offer endless encouragement at an event where they are not even entirely sure which is the winning team, but simply want shout all afternoon in support of their friends and their House. It is this unflagging team spirit that I have experienced in my five years of being a member of the Rhodes house that makes me proud of it.

All the houses have done equally well and have participated in each inter-house activity with an overwhelming zest - it has been a great experience for all to be part of this friendly competitiveness, with Rhodes offering excellent, sometimes invincible, competition for Athlone and Connaught throughout the year!



Well done to everyone in Rhodes for a great year and thank-you to Mrs Grey for being a supportive, enthusiastic housemother.

*Beth Robinson (House Captain)*



# House Report...

It has been a very exciting year for Athlone, as they have been through tough competition with Rhodes and Connaught.

We started our year with the inter-house gala, an event no-one will forget. The Grade 11s performed an excellent play, *The Curse of the Blue Pearl*, all dressed smartly in sailor outfits. Our swimming, too, was of a high standard, with Lindsay Kirkby walking away with three trophies.



In public speaking, Athlone did exceptionally well. We were up against hard competition, but managed to pull through; with Candice Gallagher's and Camilla Coertse's speaking abilities, Athlone came first. Well done!

In netball, hockey and cross-country, Athlone came third, but the house was extremely enthusiastic about all three events; there was great teamwork from everyone. Jenna Brown had an excellent run in the cross-country, coming first with Sally Anne Snyman in second place. For hockey and netball, the support from the Athlonians on

the sideline was outstanding, and kept the girls' spirits going.

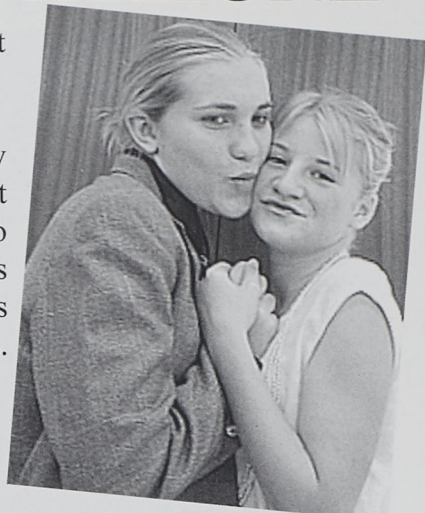
The highlight of the year was definitely the inter-house plays. A great amount of hard work and time were put into the performance. Athlone's play was of a very high standard, with humorous sections and exceptional acting skills.



In squash we played our very best and came second - special thanks to the Gouweloos sisters. Luckily, basketball is one of our strengths, so we managed to win this. Special thanks to Andrea Müller and Romi Hillermann, who scored most of our baskets. But congratulations to the rest of the house too - your playing and team spirit were fantastic! Our girls did very well this year in the tennis, winning all our games. Keep it up, girls.

Of course, Athlone would never have come this far without the help of my vice captain (and sister), Natasha. You have been tremendous! You made all the events run smoothly with your good organisational skills. Thank-you for all your help, running around, doing last minute jobs, etc. It has been a pleasure to work with you. I hope next year will be another successful year. I'm sure it will.

## ATHLONE



Mrs Stakemire, you are a true Athlonian! You are always at every inter-house event, shouting for Athlone on the sideline, and getting more involved in the game than the girls themselves. Thank you for your full support and spirit. You give much of your time to Athlone House. We really appreciate it!

All the best for next year, Athlone. I'm sure you will have another eventful and successful year. Remember to keep the spirit going!

*Melanie Haralambous*  
(House Captain)



*Haralambous x2*



# House Report...

## CONNAUGHT



The "Connaughtians" must be commended for their enthusiasm and good team spirit throughout this year. We were victorious in the swimming at the beginning of the year - a great achievement, seeing that hardly anyone could remember the last time that Connaught had won a gala! A big *well done!* to all those who have participated in the sporting and cultural inter-house events this year and thank you to the supporters of these events. Being captain this year has been much more relaxing than last year, and I should like to thank Julie (vice-captain) and the grade 11s for their help this year and for all their hard work.



Thank you to our housemother, Ms Middlebrooke, who definitely did a good job. I heard lots of juniors saying (after we had been given Sprite and marshmallows for the basketball) "Cool house mom". I could not help laughing when I walked past the board today and saw, stuck on it, two big, blue signs: one said "Who won the tennis?" and the other "Who won the basketball?" There was no doubt in my mind that the "messy" writing belonged to Mrs Stakemire -



THE WINNING HOUSE PLAY



I recognised it from my maths lessons. This reminded me that I must not forget to say *well done* to Athlone and Rhodes this year (it could cost me a maths percentage!).

In all seriousness, well done to both houses, but a special "extra well done" to Connaught, who deservedly won the Inter-house play competition (of a very high standard) in the third term. Thank you all for a wonderful year. I have been very proud to be the captain this year. Good luck for next year, Julie.

*Robyn Bowles*

*This page kindly sponsored by the Scheepers family*



# SPORT ... Cross-Country



*Ms Teresa Whitfield (Team Manager) and the cross-country team*

I think the St John's Cross-Country team has done very well this year. We have increased in numbers, therefore making our team bigger and stronger. Special mention must be made of Jenna Brown and Megan Blore who were awarded medals for coming in the top ten at the St Anne's prize-giving for the season. Jenna Brown had an excellent season coming in at 2<sup>nd</sup> place at all the league runs.

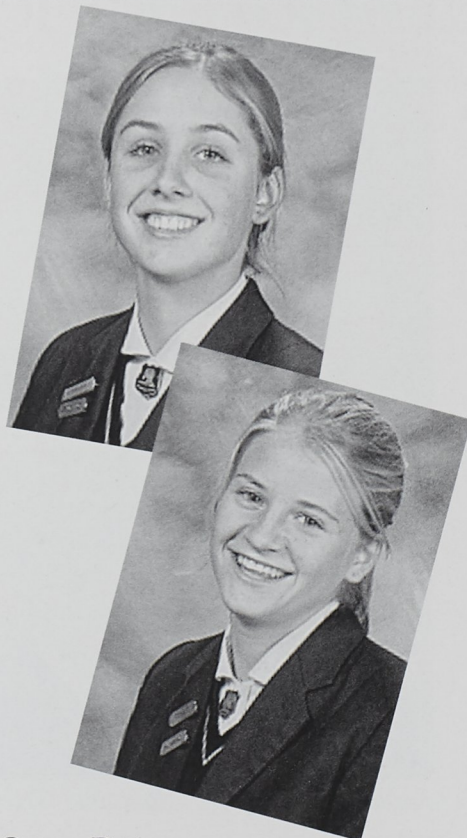
But I must also congratulate the rest of the team for being so motivated to run, even on those chilly days (Hilton run). You all

kept running and participated, with smiling faces. Well done to everybody. I am so very proud of all of you.

I hope next year will be as successful as this year. Thank you to Ms Whitfield and Mrs Cunnamo for driving us up to our races and for shouting for us at the finish line when we are just about dead! It really made all the difference.

Good luck to all cross-country runners next year. Keep going and remember never to give up!

*Melanie Haralambous*





## ...Swimming

The squad of 2004 was full of spirit and zest, and this seems to have been a key factor to the success of the team this swimming season. With St John's being quite a small school, it is difficult to beat a larger school like Girls' High. Although we did not win any galas, we definitely did challenge many of the schools in Pietermaritzburg. A special *well done* must be made to the open team and to the U17 team for their constant effort throughout the swimming season and for providing many points for St John's. We set a goal for our squad this season and that was to try and beat Epworth who are a tough opposition. We managed to beat them twice out of the three galas which we swam against each other. I would like to emphasise again that the enthusiasm of all the squad members played a huge part in this achievement. Most importantly, I think that the majority of swimmers enjoyed the season which to me is more important than winning the galas. A *big well done* must be made to the following girls: Romi Hillermann and Lindsay Kirkby for making the Natal Midlands A team, Kirsten Craik for swimming for Malawi and Kate Symons for making the Natal Midlands B team.

Thank you to all the girls for their efforts this season. Thank you Miss Smit and Miss van Breda for coaching us this season. The early morning squad practises and the afternoon sessions paid off in the long run. I know the matrics definitely will not miss waking up at 5.30 in the morning and getting into the frosty water! Kirsten, the vice-captain, thank you for all your help throughout the season. Good luck to next year's squad. I am positive that St John's swimming will continue to improve.

*Robyn Bowles (Captain)*



*Romi Hillermann*



*Kirsten Craik*



*Lindsay Kirkby*

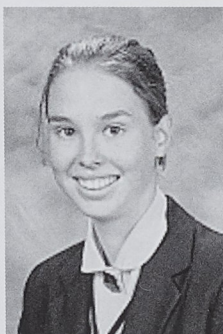


*Kate Symons*

## ...Canoeing



*Lindsay Everson*



*Megan Cunnama*



*Jenny Pickles*



*Kayleigh Leisegang*



*Roxanne Green*



*Amy Dawson*

Our canoeing team once again acquitted itself well in the Interschool League races in 2004. An able team of Megan Cunnama, Jenny Pickles, Kayleigh Leisegang, Amy Dawson and Roxanne Green supported Captain Lindsay Everson. Special mention must be made of Lindsay, Megan and Roxanne who completed the Mooi River race in very testing conditions.

Out of school we were very proud of Jenny Pickles who partnered her father to complete her first Dusi Canoe Marathon in January.

*Mrs Margie Cunnama (Coach)*



## ...Squash

St John's has had a very successful year of squash with outstanding achievements from the beginners right up to the provincial players. Since the end of 2003 girls have been given the option of social squash. This has increased the number of girls interested in squash. It has been beneficial to beginners and also to players who just wanted to have fun. In the light of increased number of players, it was decided to give the first team players a break and allow up-and-coming players a chance to play in the school league and also in the PMB Ladies League. Although not many matches were won, it was a valuable learning experience for the players.

A number of girls did well to get selected for the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands teams, and participated in the various inter-provincial tournaments during the July holidays. Monique Cronje was part of the U14 B team. Debbie Gouweloos was part of the U16 A team. Jessica Gouweloos and Anndrea Naidoo were both part of the U19 A team. Anndrea was selected as no. 7 in the South African Schools Squash team.

As a result of social squash, a new approach was taken to inter-house squash, which allowed more people, at the same level, to participate. It also changed the odds as to which house would win. Well done to Connaught for winning and a special congratu-

lations to Athlone who were last after the Juniors played, but the seniors managed to pull them through to second place. Rhodes was unfortunate as many of their players were heavily affected by 'flu. Better luck, next time.

Owing to an agreement struck with Ms Whitfield in an Accountancy lesson, I am obliged to mention her name in this report. (*OK, Ms Whitfield that's your 15 seconds worth. Ed.*) Having done so, I can now conclude that it has been a very successful squash year.

*Anndrea Naidoo (Captain)*

## ...Tennis

I would like to start off by thanking Mrs Osborne for such a successful year of tennis and to thank Mrs Stakemire for her organization and encouragement. The St. John's first team won the Lyle league which was a great achievement. Well done, Amy Joubert and Sally-Ann Snyman and thank-you to my partner, Jenna Brown. It was a pleasure playing with you.

Congratulations to Sally-Anne Snyman for making the Midlands u18 A team, and to Amy Joubert for getting into the Midlands u16 A side and the Natal u16 side.



*Amy Joubert*



*Sally-Anne Snyman*

In the third term our Mini French Open Championships were concluded. The day was loads of fun, with everyone's commitment and good spirit adding to the day's success.



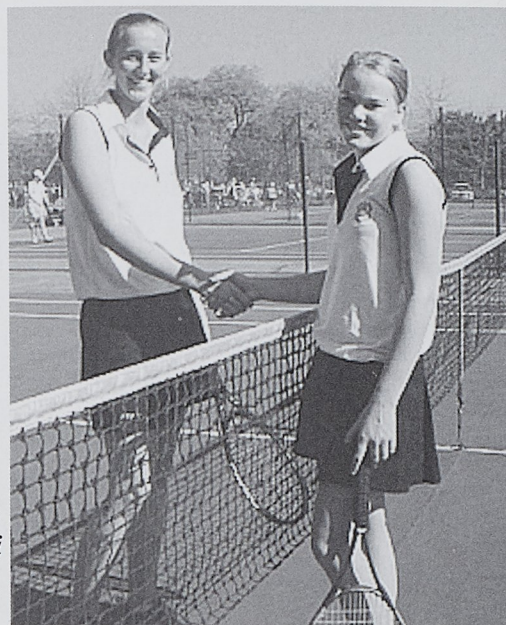
Thank-you, Mr Leisegang and the ground staff of St. John's, for the beautiful setting and many thanks to the kitchen for all the delicious eats. We even had a French announcer!

All the tennis girls have given much time and dedication to their teams. A special thanks to the captains of those teams - you did a great job.

I wish you all the best of luck next year, and hope it will be as successful as this year was.

*Ashlea Evans (Captain)*

*The champion, Antje Eggers, congratulates runner-up, Kiki Wood, at the Mini French Open.*



## ...Hockey

This season has been a particularly rewarding and successful one for all in the team. I was continually surprised by the amount of enthusiasm, team spirit and commitment that the girls showed, regardless of whether we won or lost.

Our season began in the June/July holidays when we went to the Stellenbosch training camp for a week - where we received intensive hockey training with provincial and national hockey players. It was an exhilarating week and we left exhausted yet in high spirits and excited for the upcoming season.

I hope that future hockey teams all get the opportunity to experience this hockey camp because it was a time which the team could spend exclusively with each other; I am sure this contributed to the success of the upcoming season.

We arrived back at school in the second term in great anticipation of our first hockey match. Unfortunately, it was against TWC which has one of the strongest hockey teams in Pietermaritzburg. We played extremely well, but TWC scored their winning goal in the last three minutes. It was a disappointment for us, but due to our endless reserves of spirit and determination, we proceeded into the upcoming games with just as much vigour and enthusiasm.

We played to our best ability and enjoyed every game. We both lost and won games throughout the season, yet we enjoyed every game equally, due to the fact that we always played as a team and drew as much out of each game as we could.

A high point in the season was definitely our game against Epworth (the school considered

the strongest in the league) where we won 1/0. We were all elated and it certainly boosted our confidence. We performed the "hairy cockroach" with much pride and enthusiasm.

Additionally, Tristan Duthie, a member of the team, made the South African under sixteen team which we are all very proud of.

This has certainly been a season to remember - mainly because of our wonderful and spirited team who never gave up and who always found humour in everything.

Thank-you to Mrs Stakemire and Ms van Breda who provided constant encouragement, support and guidance to all of us. You have certainly been the best managers/nurse (Mrs Stakemire) and coach (Ms van Breda) that St John's has seen!

*Beth Robinson (Captain)*



# ...Waterpolo



*front row: Nikki Heenan, Melanie Haralambous, Mrs Monique van Deventer (coach),  
Beth Robinson, Penny Ralfe, Kirsten Craik*

*2nd row: Biddy Meyer, Caitlin Nothard, Cara Stone, Natasha Haralambous, Alice Durnford*

The waterpolo season last year was a very exciting one. St John's was up against some tough competition, but managed to pull through with a few shining stars in our team. Our dedication was good, and we kept our spirits up even on those cold days. Considering that St John's only recently introduced waterpolo and it is still a comparatively new sport here, we achieved a huge amount last year, with good teamwork. I also think that not only as a team have we

grown, but our waterpolo skills have improved enormously. I have a feeling that St John's will definitely be stronger and more experienced this season. I have great faith in the current team, and I am sure we will have another good season. We just need to keep our heads up, stay focused and, most of all, have fun! It's not about losing or winning, it's about doing our best. So, all the best, girls. Keep going!

*Melanie Haralambous  
(Captain)*

For the record...

## **HARALAMBOUS x3**

Melanie H. is the captain of the St John's waterpolo team.

Natasha H. made the u19 KZN A side - to play in Cape Town in December

Christine H. has just returned from Sweden where she represented the Open Women's South African team in the Nordic Waterpolo Championships. SA won the tournament and came home with gold!

*This page kindly sponsored by Paul and Kathy Hendry*



# ...Basketball

St John's basketball has come a long way. I can recall that for the last three years, we have come second in the PMB League to GHS. To a large extent, this year's success is due to the girls for their dedicated hours of practise and hard work. More importantly, I think that it is due to the superb coaching of Miss Smit who showed us that basketball has just about as much theory as it does playing (this was shown us through numerous homework tasks!). This season has been extremely successful: GHS and Sobantu being the only schools which we were unable to beat.

The season started off with many injured people on the bench - there were the "anklets" Nikki,

Andrea and Romi (all three had sprained their ankles) and there was myself, Biddy and Sal who all had a bad case of 'flu. But as the season progressed, the sick bench eventually turned into an active one. This year has been great fun for me and I am positive for the rest of the team too.

I have truly enjoyed every minute of being on the basketball court. Well done to all the girls who participated in basketball this year and thank you to the supporters who came and supported throughout the season. Thank you Nix for all your work. I was lucky to have such an organised Vice-captain. Once again thank you Miss Smit.

*Robyn Bowles (Captain)*



*Ms Lisa Smit is taking a year's leave to teach in British schools and to travel in Europe. We wish her the very best of luck for the teaching, and a wonderful time as she travels around Europe.*



*The basketball first team girls with their coaches and the St John's Phys. Ed. staff*



# ...Netball



*front row: Stha Gwala, Nondumiso Shabalala, Candice Gallagher, Kate Attwell, Bianca Westhorpe-Pottow,*

*2nd row: Jeanne Cuénod, Retlothlue Nakin, Cara Hackland, Darelene Chengan, Nothando Hlatshwayo, Ms Lisa Smit*

The 2004 Netball season started in the April holidays at Durban airport. We jetted off to Stellenbosch with the 1<sup>st</sup> Hockey team for four days of intense, professional coaching. The clinic was unbelievable- we learnt new skills and team dynamics, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The coaching was invaluable and stood us in good stead for the season, as did all the "team bonding".

After the clinic, we joined up with the hockey girls for an unforgettable

two days in Cape Town before flying home again.

We extend a big thank-you to Miss Smit, Miss van Breda and Mrs Stakemire for organising the tour and for accompanying us.

Our season back home was not as successful as we would've perhaps liked, but it was a good one nevertheless. We won our first game against Ikusaselihle and only lost to Carter by two points. Although our results may not have been too impressive, our

team spirit definitely was!

It was a privilege to captain the 1<sup>st</sup> Netball team this year: I am very proud of them.

Well done - you are all brilliant. Special thanks to Miss Smit for her input towards our ability and attitudes - we couldn't have done it without you!

*Candice Gallagher (Captain)*



## ...Ecochallenge



Megan Blore, Jenna Brown, Megan Cunnama, Kayleigh Leisegang, Jenny Pickles, and Cara Stone were selected to represent St John's in the 2004 Epworth Ecochallenge. Both teams successfully completed the gruelling five-day event, covering 350km of mountain-biking, running, hiking and swimming, as well as environmental quizzes and other activities. Megan Cunnama, Jenna Brown and Kayleigh Leisegang finished 5<sup>th</sup> of the 11 teams competing. They also won a large quantity of Mondi paper for St John's by coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the fundraising aspect of the challenge, in support of the KZN Society for the Deaf. Jenny Pickles, Megan Blore and Cara Stone were the 6<sup>th</sup> team to finish.

*Mrs Margie Cunnama*

## ...Equestrian Report

The two equestrian competitors in the school are Rebecca Burne and Alex Stewart. Rebecca competes in Junior B grade showjumping, and up and coming Alex competes in JE. She has just started competing this year.

Rebecca and Mozart Magic competed in last year's South African Championships in December. They qualified for the Equitation Championships with the fourth highest score in the country, and came eighth in the Individual finals. In showing they won their Show Hack section and got Reserve Champion Horse on Show. They were also part of both the Equitation and Showing teams for KZN. Alex was placed in showjumping events at the July Show and came second in open jump with The Lady Alice.

With Alex and Rebecca both competing this year, (forming half a team), they joined up with two girls from GHS for the only Inter-Schools event, held in June, for the schools to show off their talent in a sport not usually considered a school sport.

Their team, though they had four very inexperienced horses, did very well to secure eighth place out of 22 teams in the very exciting showjumping team event.

*Rebecca Burne*



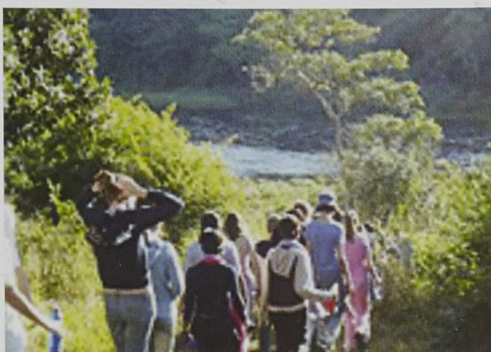
*Rebecca and Mozart Magic*



*Alex and The Lady Alice.*

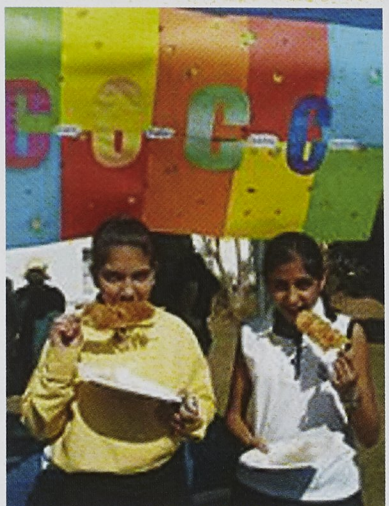
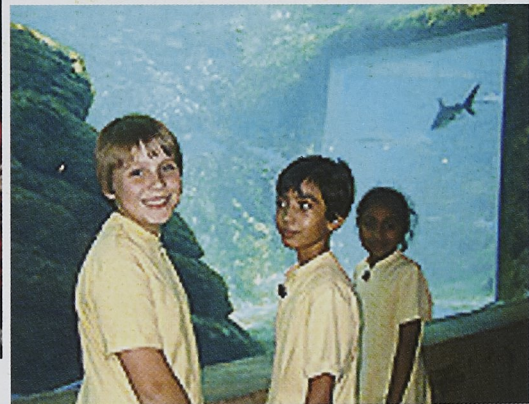
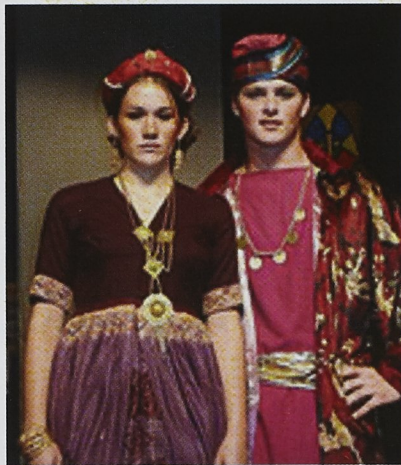
photo by Equery



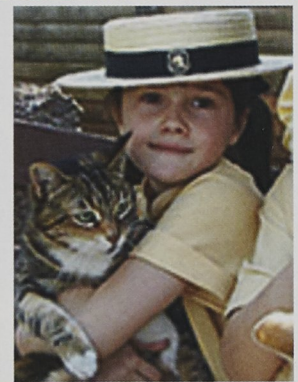


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# JUNIOR ART





# THE JUNIOR SCHOOL



*Mrs Annette Symes*



*Mrs Sybil Dinkelmann - secretary*



*Anne Lu from Taiwan spent her summer vacation as a pupil of St John's again this year.*



*Sonya and Clara Helgesson from Sweden have been at St John's since May, 2003. We are going to miss them (and their flute and trumpet music) when they leave next year!*

## HEADMISTRESS' REPORT

When writing this article for the magazine, I normally comment on the successes of the girls. This year, I wish to dedicate this space to a team of ladies whose love of their profession has ensured that our precious Junior School girls have been afforded the opportunity to find joy in learning, and in being successful.

To lead a team where every single member is committed, highly organised and fun-loving, is a privilege which not every head teacher enjoys – I count myself one of the lucky few.



*St Joseph's prefects:  
Nikki Heenan and Lindsay Smaill*

When you reach the end of the year, it's my experience that three things happen:

You speed up, then you tally up and then, all things being fair, you find some time to rest up.

The first two are pretty much inevitable, especially in the teaching profession, but teachers often find the third one difficult.

And so to my team – thank you for giving so much to the girls of St John's – but now, find time for yourselves and for your families. Relax and enjoy this time of rest – you certainly deserve it!

*Annette Symes - Headmistress*

## ST JOSEPH'S



*Mrs Eleanor Blignaut, matron, and  
Miss Claire Scott, Boarder Mistress*

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2005

### Day Scholar:

Major: Carmen Leisegang (St John's DSG)  
Minor: Kristel Ortmann (Howick Prep)

### Boarder:

Major: Robyn Johnson (Sagewood Prep)  
Minor: Lindy Ward (Treverton)

### Sports Scholarship:

Tegan Mill (St John's DSG)

### Cultural Scholarship:

Robynne Balcomb (Darnall Primary)

### Sisters of St John the Divine Scholarship:

Supriya Soorju (Scottsville Primary)

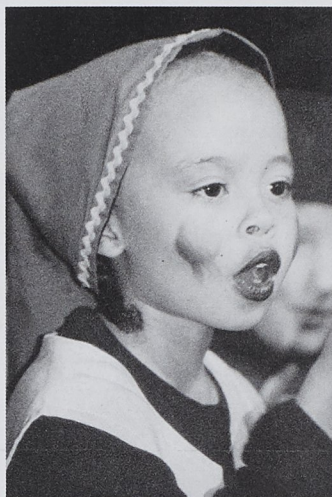


# Grade 0 Eaglets

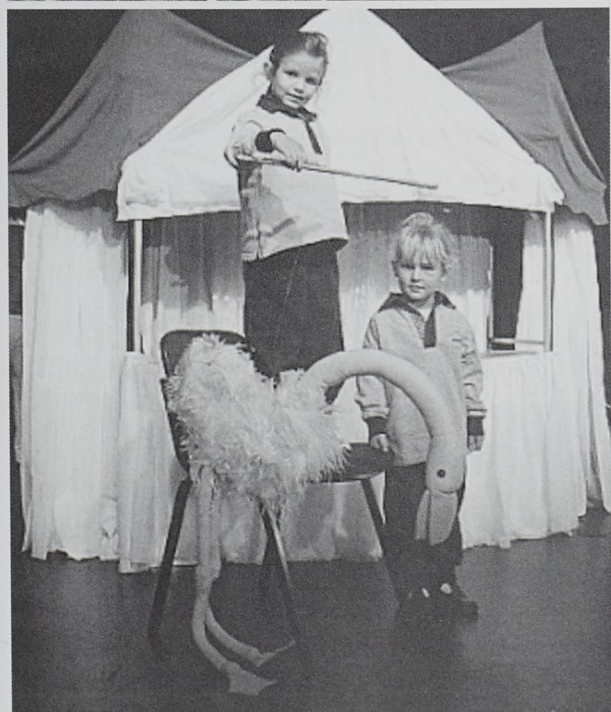
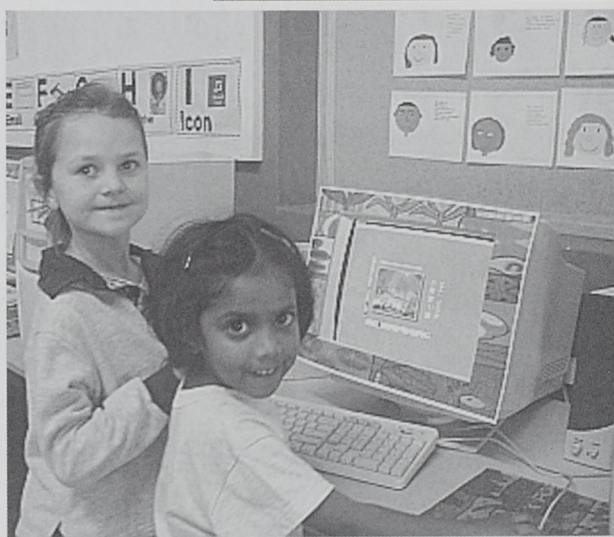
Christin Adam  
Tamera Beukes  
Emma Dick  
Omhle Duma  
Samantha duToit  
Aaliyah Edris  
Monique Fitchat  
Courtney Geyser  
Qelsee Jacobs  
Pavisha Naidoo  
Jadasia Narasimulu  
Tara Oldfield  
Naish Ramlal  
Cayleigh Rice  
Rebecca Shepherd  
Jessica Smith  
Kristen Stevens  
Sarah Trautman



Mrs Wendy Griffiths







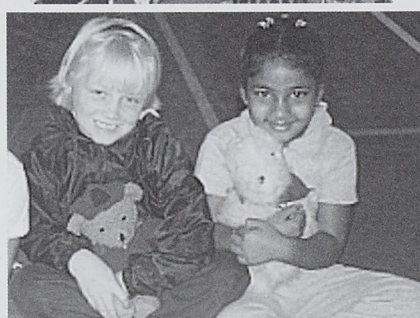
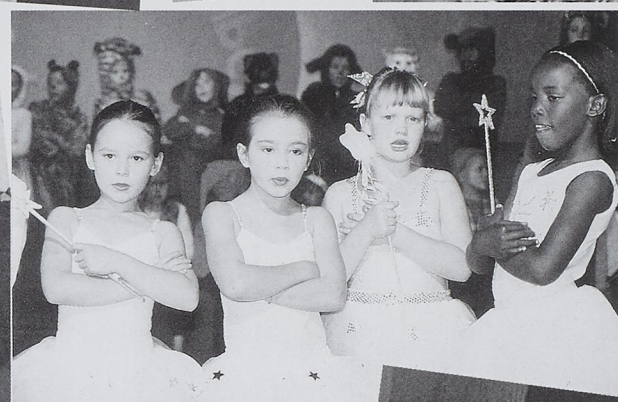


# Grade 1

Rupika Chuntarpursat  
 Kayla Coetzee  
 Dale du Preez  
 Darshana Govender  
 Erin Hartley  
 Crystal Hepple  
 Ashleigh Jennings  
 Mohini Karappian  
 Najiya Maharaj  
 Vuyiswa Mchunu  
 Sarah McLoughlin  
 Tracey Meyer  
 Ntando Ndebele  
 Khwezi Nyandu  
 Megan Parfitt  
 Samiksha Ramdeyal  
 Jamie Reynolds  
 Amy Scheepers  
 Hannah Scott  
 Fareeaa Sheik  
 Lillian Swartz  
 Katherine Usher  
 Leigh van Romburgh  
 Devoney van Rooyen



Mrs Rowena Freese





# DIARY

We watched the big girls swim. *Erin*

My friend came to play. *Megan*

I went to the Royal Show. I went in the teacups. *Ashleigh*

I played with Timothy. He caught bugs for his spider. *Hannah*

I went to the new mall and my mom bought some clothes and we went to Spur and we went home. *Dale*

I went to the Botanical Gardens. I rode my bike in the autumn leaves. *Darshana*

Charlize won an Oscar. *Fareeaa*

My granny has a new sausage dog. *Mohini*

Ntando's father is the new premier of KZN. He is going to be very busy. *Devoney*

During the holidays I went to see Shrek2. My new baby cousin is called Staisha. *Najiya*

During the holidays we went to uShaka. My brothers were scared of the penguins. *Samiksha*

I went to stay at the hotel. There were lots of shells on the beach. *Lillian*

The Olympic Games begin today. *Crystal*

On Saturday we had a play practice. I am a fairy, I like my beautiful outfit. *Ntando*

Today we saw a puppet show about the gingerbread boy. I had lots of fun. *Khwezi*

Yesterday night I went to the pet shop and I bought silkworms. *Rupika*

I went to the Liberty Mall and I saw Mrs Griffiths. *Vuyiswa*

On Friday we went to Everdon for a picnic. I had lots of fun with my teddy and Leigh. *Tracey*

I made a mask out of macaroni and popcorn and twirly whirly pasta. My gran helped me. *Katy*

I went to the bush and I saw a baby giraffe and I also saw a rhino. *Kayla*

We saw a puppet show about our beautiful country.

I enjoyed it. *Jamie*

I had fun at Peattie's Lake. The boys did not give the girls a turn on the trampoline. *Leigh*

There is a lot of snow on the mountains. *Amy*



# Grade 2

Caydwen Bause  
 Nadja Chetty  
 Lauren Clark  
 Kelly Donaldson  
 Kayla Edwards  
 Sarah Logan  
 Jowhara Mahomad  
 Alexandra Mapstone  
 Nevali Mohan  
 Larissa Mwanyama  
 Natisha Naicker  
 Tegan Neizel  
 Tejal Panday  
 Akira Pillay  
 Tayla Pope  
 Aadila Rahman  
 Nicola Scheepers  
 Bianca Sharland  
 Philippa Smart  
 Dunette Smith  
 Jessica Stegen  
 Georgie Twycross  
 Tessa Westwood  
 Samantha Wimbush

I like the wendyhouse because we can dress up pretty. We normally play mommy-mommy, baby-baby and sister-sister.  
*Caydwen*



We had a play. It was called *Try to Remember*. We had to sing and dance. The song that we sang was *The Bare Necessities*.  
*Tessa and Akira*



JP Athletics Day.



Mrs Tish Rhodes



We had a swimming gala and swam a whole length and we did a T-shirt race. We swam froggy, backstroke and freestyle.

*Kayla and Tegan*



We have done a zulu dance this year that Tisha taught us. *Natisha*



## STAFF MEMBERS WHO FEATURE IN A GRADE 2 GIRL'S SCHOOL LIFE

**MRS CHAMPION** - tells us the rules of the school and she wears a black cloak. I enjoy her speeches in assembly. *Aadila*

**MRS RHODES** - teaches us nice things and we like our lessons. She gives us lovely lessons. *Sarah*

**MRS SMALLIE** - helps me read and she helps me with numbers. I do my homework with her. *Tayla*

**MRS DINKELMANN** - wears lovely clothes. She tells me and my friends when people are away. She is very helpful. She is pretty. I like Mrs Dinkelmann. *Nevali*

**MISS SMIT** - takes us to the Indoor Centre to play and learn. She teaches other big girls as well. I love her lessons. *Dunette*

**MRS OSBORNE** - teaches me tennis. At first I wasn't very good. I like lessons with Mrs Osborne. She is my favourite teacher. *Samantha*

**MRS TENNANT** - lends us books. It's fun. She teaches the bigger girls Art. For our birthdays she gives us kisses. She makes our magazine and I love her. *Nadja*

**MRS MOIR** - takes my class for such nice music lessons. She is very pretty and wears nice clothes. Mrs Moir teaches the choir. Mrs Moir plays in assembly. *Jessica*



Reading is fun because you can read when it is raining. I love to read at school.

*Lauren*

Graham came to show us his snakes again. Georgie was a brave girl to carry such a big snake like that. I couldn't have done it because it's very long and heavy.

*Tejal*



## UMGENI RIVER BIRD PARK

On Wednesday we went to Umgeni River Bird Park. We went in a little bus called the Maharaj bus. The first bird we saw was the Great Indian Hornbill. It was very big and it was also funny. We saw lots of parrots. On the way, we also saw the black ground hornbill. We went to the playground and had our tea. Then we went to see Egyptian geese and the swans. We also saw lots of other birds.

We went to a special part where we saw some birds of South Africa. *Philippa*



Some of the Grade 2s didn't have that many teeth to show the visiting dentist





# Grade 3

Tamlyn Anderson  
Geordan Byrne  
Dayle Coombes  
Samantha Dent  
Jodie du Preez  
Kirsty Egner  
Casey Ford  
Cathrine Kassier  
Holly Kennard  
Dimphe Liphapang  
Kelly Logan  
Megan Mapstone  
Skhumbuzo Mazibuko  
Rethabile Mokoatsi  
Divashnee Naidoo  
Megan Parker  
Kimay Pillay  
Candice Price  
Merryn Reynolds  
Yashara Ryan  
Zandria Saayman  
Melissa Samuels  
Sharné Swanepoel  
Junelle Swart  
Ilham Yacoob



Mrs Lynne Joubert



## NOW I AM IN GRADE 3

I like being in Grade 3 with my best teacher.

When I first came to Grade 3 I was happy to see my friends and my new teacher.

I might not be surviving the longer hours, but I'm enjoying it.

The very thing I like is the long hours.

I am excited about learning Afrikaans.

I like my lift-up desk.

I like it when we have early tea.

I like reading. I like music. The maths is fun.

I thought Mrs Joubert was strict, but she is not.

When I came on the bus for the first time I was really scared, but now it is such fun.

I am so excited that we are going to learn how to knit.

I like Grade 3 because we have Art.

I love going to Mrs Moir to sing and I hope to be in the choir. I absolutely love library and reading.

I love my teacher. I love school. It is the best.

Junelle, Geordan, Divashnee, Rethabile, Dimphe, Kimay, Megan M, Holly, Cathrine, Skhumbuzo, Sharné, Tamlyn, Megan P.



When Mrs Tomlinson brought her latest puppet show to St John's, the Grade 3s were happy to oblige as the camel with five humps.

## WISHES

My wish was to be a dog. Another wish was to have a sister.

Candice

I wished that I could have a dollhouse and I wished that I could have a frilly dress.

Kimay.

I wished I was a bird.

Megan P.

I wished for people not to litter any more.

Divashnee

I wished to grow into a doctor or a nurse.

Rethabile

I wished that I could fly.

Jodie

I wished I could go horse-riding every day.

Dayle

I wished that I could visit all my relatives who have gone to heaven.

Samantha

I asked the fairy to make me more healthy.

Yashara

I wished that there were no more poor children.

Geordan



The Grade 3s helped Mrs T to make the fishes for their part in Try to Remember. Tamlyn and Dayle (right) make the basic papier maché shapes. Casey and Gigi (left) show them nearly completed. To see them in colour, see page 83.



## MY DAD

(To protect the identity of these dads, the names of their children appear in random order at the end.)

My dad is a very tall person. He has a very big appetite. When we stayed in the Blue Marlin Hotel, Dad dared me to eat blue cheese, so I did. Then I nearly got sick, and my dad laughed so much that he nearly fell off his chair. My dad's feet stink and so do his shoes.

My dad has hairy legs. He tells lots of silly jokes.

My dad has funny whiskers that I really like to see.

My dad hates onions and tomatoes.

My dad farts and says *There's a bullfrog in the house*.

My dad is somebody who married my mom.

My dad is scruffy. He also snores a lot, but when he snores badly Mum chases him to the spare room.

My dad's best hobby is on a Sunday when a game is on TV. Dad will get a packet of chips and a beer and he watches the game.

Dad hogs the TV sometimes.

Yashara, Ilham, Candice,  
Casey, Dayle, Samantha,  
Kirsty, Tamlyn, Zandria,  
Jodie, Melissa

Dear Mrs Forbes

Thank-you for the show you planned for us. It was such fun, I wished the show could carry on for a month.

Thank-you for all the hard work you put in, and for giving up your time to teach us.

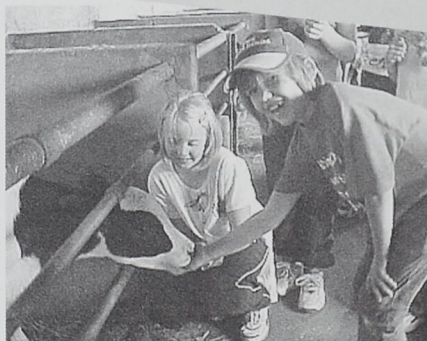
The show was brilliant, excellent, spectacular - what more can I say.

After my mum and dad watched the show they could not stop talking about it.

I really liked being a fish in *Under the Sea*. My mum thought I looked fishy and wavy a lot. Even if we were brilliant, you were more spectacular.

I hope your hands aren't sore from playing for so many hours. I know you are getting lots of letters right now, so I ask you to do one thing - Try to Remember the Grade Threes.

Love from  
Gigi, Tammy, Casey, Rethabile, Skhumi, Cathrine, Divashnee



We visited the Oldfield's Farm...



We played hockey at the Wykeham Collegiate



...and the Botanical Gardens



We spent a fascinating morning at the Science Museum.

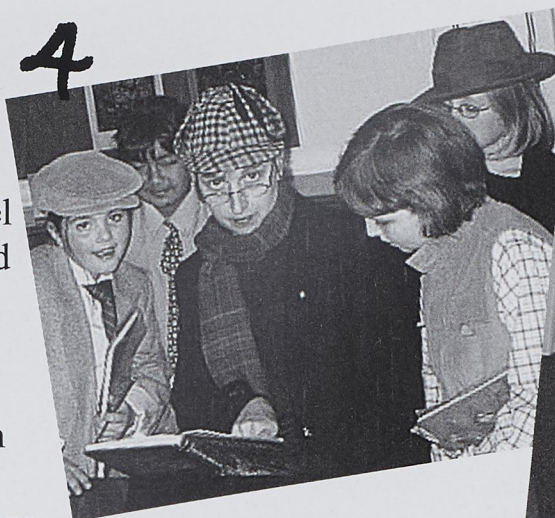


# Grade 4

Jodi Battershill  
 Kimberley Bingel  
 Kerry Coulthard  
 Nicole Fourie  
 Kelsey Holmes  
 Jessica Hugo  
 Chloë Karappian  
 Nicola Kirkby  
 Amy-Beth Kleinhans  
 Asma Latiff  
 Kairavee Maharaj  
 Aviwe Myendeki  
 Amy Oldfield  
 Shweta Panday  
 Miasha Pillay  
 Naisha Ramlal  
 Jacqui Ras  
 Elsa Schärf  
 Jennifer Slotow  
 Joelene Small  
 Carla Visagie



Mrs Gill Ducasse



(left) St John's detectives search for information about their school.

(right) Ngicela ukuthenga irayisi namaswidi.  
 Hawu! Udla amaswidi zonke izinsuku!.



## REVIEW

*Try to Remember* was a musical concert produced by Mrs Forbes. It was held from 10th - 14th of August. It was a huge production. The Senior and Junior girls took part in the concert and even some high school St Charles boys!

We also participated in it. The Grade 3s were orphans. We wore old, worn-out clothes and sang the songs *Consider Yourself* and *Food, Glorious Fopod* from *Oliver*, *The Sun Will Come Out* from *Annie*, and *Whenever I Feel Afraid* from *The King and I*.

I liked everything about the concert, but most of all I liked performing in front of a big audience. The part I didn't enjoy was the part before a song. It was not so nice. Or the late nights.

We had to practise a lot before the play. It was enjoyed by young and old. Mrs Forbes put a lot of work into it. I think she enjoyed it too.

*Shweta, Elsa and Jodi*

TIDYING MY ROOM  
 IT'S SO ANNOYING:  
 PICKING UP THE TOYS  
 AND PAPER,  
 BLANKETS,  
 RUBBISH!  
 AND PUTTING AWAY  
 MY CLOTHES.  
 BUT IN THE END,  
 I'M GLAD.  
 KIMBERLEY

## MY HOBBIES

My favourite hobbies are Indian dancing and tennis. I started Indian dancing in 2000. My best friend and I go every Wednesday.

We have to wear bells on our feet and lots of interesting things on our hands, face and hair. We wear special outfits.

My mum introduced me to Indian dancing which I have done for five years.

My other hobby is tennis. I have played matches at other schools and I have played in competitions. I love tennis.

*Kairavee*



## USHAKA MARINE WORLD

Two ladies welcomed us and told us about some of the amazing fish we would see. They showed us a pufferfish, stingray, stonefish and a blue tang. We then went to look at the aquarium which was built to look like an old shipwreck. Inside there was a skeleton of a Southern Right whale.

We walked down a platform and our guide, Dudu, told us that we were now under the water that we had looked down upon earlier. We saw lots of sea turtles and jellyfish. It was quite hard to spot the stonefish. There was a gigantic stingray that was about four desks pushed together. We saw seaweed floating about and Mrs Coombes told us that the teeny tiny white spots that looked like fluff were plankton. There were many sea urchins and anemones.

We then went to see the sharks. There was a Zambezi and a razor-tooth shark.

I really liked the trip. I think it was well worth it and I hope we can go there again.

*Chloë*



**AT ROSELANDS...**we got into our oldest clothes because we were going to an obstacle course. At the end we had to go across a mud pool along some planks. Some of us slid across on our bottoms and others went over on all fours.

*Nicole*

## THE PARK IN AUTUMN

Leaves are falling off the trees;  
Now there are no buzzing bees.  
Hear the leaves breaking under your feet,  
Scrunching like a paper sheet.

Look at the colour of the leaves  
As they float through the breeze.  
Some are red, orange and brown,  
As they pile up on the ground.

The trees now stand cold and bare  
Because they have no clothes to wear.  
You cannot see the leaves lying low-  
All you see is bright white snow.

*Chloë*



Greek history and culture were the background to Grade 4 learning in the 3rd term - the Olympic Games were a bonus!



## HERE IS THE WEATHER (IN CINQUAIN FORM)

Raindrops  
Beautiful crystal  
Hanging from trees  
Looking like real diamonds  
Amazing

Amy

Lightning  
Bang, crash:  
A tree struck  
falls to the ground  
Frightening

Kelsey

Hail  
Very loud  
Crashing and smashing  
On the tile roof  
Noisy

Jennifer



## BUTTERFLIES FOR AFRICA

Grades 4 and 5 went to *Butterflies for Africa* on Friday. We went in three busloads. It was an overcast day for the trip, cloudy and misty.

When we got there we were split into two groups. My group watched a movie first. It showed us the life cycle of a butterfly. Then we went into the butterfly house. Some of the butterflies had come from South America. The house has special heated air and plants grow inside. I learned from our guide that butterflies are cold-blooded; that is why they were not flying as much as they would on a sunny day. There were also birds in the house. It was like a rain forest!

Nikki



*When the girls spoke about possible future careers, the advert man very promptly took advantage of the camera, and the doctor, having declared the jockey underweight, gave the airman a quick, but thorough examination.*

## SPCA

Yesterday we went to the SPCA with Mr Payne. In the combi we talked about kilometres, a measurement which we were learning about in Maths. It was 3,006km from school to the SPCA.

When we got there we met the manageress, Mrs Vida. She took us inside and showed us her office which had an office cat.

After we cuddled the cat we went to see the dogs. We could hear their barks and yaps. We looked at some sick dogs. When I saw them I felt quite sad and helpless. Then we went to some puppies which made me happier. We all got to hold a puppy.

Then we saw little cats and kittens. Mrs Vida let us go in their cages and hold them. Their fur was so soft. One kitten was grey and it scratched and bit me. It wasn't very sore. Amy-Beth put her blazer sleeve down near the kitten's face. It was very cute when it put its head a bit inside.

When the combis finally came, the office cat jumped into one of them. All the way back I thought of those fluffly, small and big animals. *Kimberley and Jodi*

## BONSAI

Today, Mrs Ducasse brought a Bonsai tree to school. I found it most interesting! Did you know that one of the oldest Bonsai trees grew to be six hundred years old? The Chinese grew these trees by pruning the branches and cutting their roots. Later, the Japanese learned to design their Bonsai trees artfully.

Carla





# Grade 5

Nour Ahmad  
 Jenna Annandale  
 Liane Chetty  
 Charlotte Day  
 Heather de Allende  
 Fiona Faure  
 Brittney Freese  
 Courtney Graham  
 Silka Guy  
 Clara Helgesson  
 Sandy Lu  
 Nokuthula Manzi  
 Janine Meyer  
 Nkhensani Mkhari  
 Lineo Mokoatsi  
 Bophelo Nakin  
 Amy Ovenstone  
 Yvonne Quirk  
 Sandar Shwe  
 Pooja Singh  
 Catherine Smart  
 Lauren Sole  
 Kirsty Weaver  
 Kendall Williams

*Janine and Fiona  
 won a silver medal at  
 PINSSA*



*Packing sweet parcels  
 for a CINDI  
 (Children in Distress)  
 party - with  
 St Nicholas girls*

*Grade 5 Judo  
 experts*



## A SUDDEN STORM

It had been a hot, sunny day. A boy named Jake wanted to go fishing, but his mother had said no, because a hot day like that could soon turn into a thunderstorm.

Jake slouched around at home. He was bored, and so disappointed. As he looked out of the window, he suddenly had an idea. He ran to his mum and told her he was going for a walk. His mother agreed, but told him he had to be home by six o'clock. As Jake was about to walk out of the door, he grabbed his fishing gear and raced out.

At the river, everything was beautiful and peaceful. He got on his boat and zoomed off. It was such a beautiful day that, while he was fishing, Jake dozed off.

Jake only awoke when raindrops fell on his face. He looked around in alarm. He was not familiar with the place. The sky was black. As he tried to start the engine, a huge freak wave capsized his boat. He was in the water and he was not wearing a lifejacket! He struggled to keep his head above the water. He screamed for help.

A girl on the dock, waiting to go the nearby ship, saw him and threw a lifebelt to him. He caught it and paddled to the dock. The girl told him to come on the ship with her.

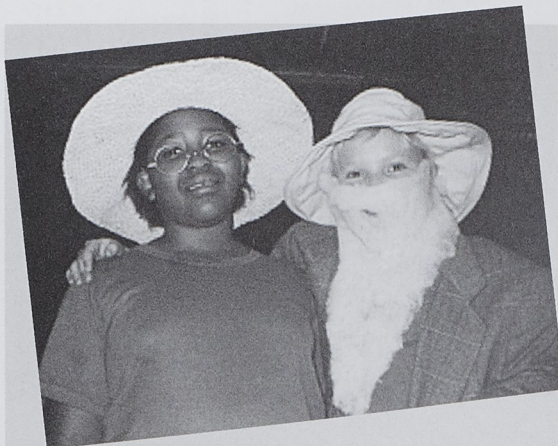
On the ship, he was given a blanket and hot chocolate and taken to his home. He never disobeyed his mother again.

*Liane Chetty*



Mrs Candy Coombes





(above left ) An assembly presentation.

(middle) The girls also dressed up to present their dialogues at the Zulu assembly.

(right) In their finery again - to show Mrs Moir what they had learned about Mozart in their Music projects.

### PETER'S ADVENTURE

Long ago, Peter and his family came from Pietermaritzburg to Durban on holiday to the beach. Peter and his father went out fishing on the first day and his sister was playing in the sand. His mom was getting some lunch ready.

All of a sudden, Peter felt a tug at his rod. The tug turned into a pull and soon the pull landed Peter in the water with a splash. He looked down and there was a huge shape pulling him deeper and deeper into the vast ocean. Then the animal swallowed Peter. After five minutes he awoke with a shock: he had been eaten by a whale!

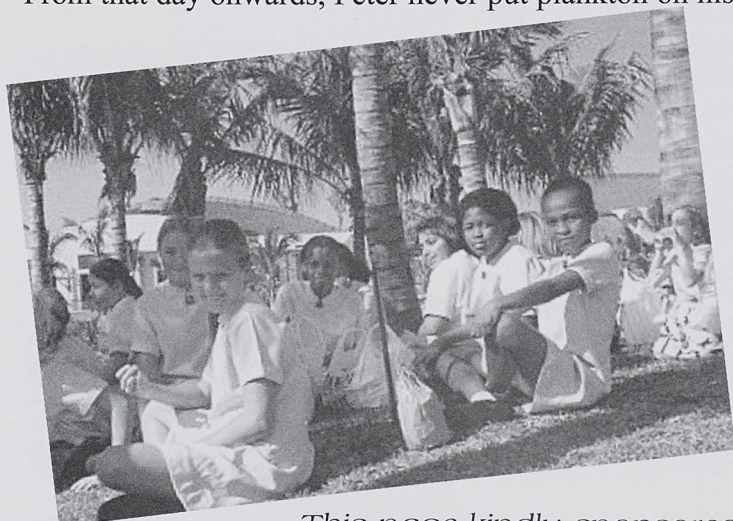
The whale's tongue felt like sandpaper and it smelt like a fish market! You could hear the whale talking (most probably to his friends). Peter wondered how he was going to get out of this whale. He was thinking how worried his parents must be not knowing where their son was.

Peter had been in the whale for a day now. He was rather hungry and wanted to get out of this monster. He thought and thought until he realized that when he had been taken by the whale, there was a largeish hole on its head that let out water. He thought that if he stopped clinging on to the tongue of the whale, he could probably get out of that hole. Peter tried and it worked. The only problem was that he was in the middle of the ocean with no-one to come and rescue him.

Just then, a rescue boat arrived and lifted him onto the boat. His mom, dad and sister came running and they all gave him a hug.

From that day onwards, Peter never put plankton on his rod. Now he puts on worms.

*Silka Guy*



A VISIT TO DURBAN AND USHAKALAND



## MATRIC DANCE 2011

1

I can't wait for my matric dance. My dress is going to be like the one in *Princess Diaries*. It is white with gold glitter on it. It has no sleeves and it puffs out and I am going to wear a tiara on my head.

I am going to take Abré - I have known him forever. My dad works with his mom, but if I don't like him then, I will take my cousin, Kevin.

*Fiona Faure*

2

For my matric dance I think I will take Irshaad Jooma (he's my dad's friend's son). I think that when I ask him I will be very nervous. I am really dreading my matric dance (and I think my father is too).

My dress is going to be a dark-ish blue with no sleeves. On it there is going to be gold glitter. At the back the straps are going to cross. My shoes are going to be high heels. I'm going to be excited and nervous at the same time.

*Liane Chetty*

3

Since I was about six, I've wanted a red dress, but now I really like bright pink, so I've thought *why don't I mix the two?* In 2011 the fashion may have changed, but I think I'll still like pink and red and sparkly beads on the straps and on the V-neck. The dress will be long with a pink strip of see-through flowy material going through the middle - not too fancy. My hair will be quite long and in a plait with two bits hanging down. I will have a bracelet and a silver chain around my neck. I really don't know who I will take. If I had a boyfriend I would take him: if I didn't I would probably go with one of my brother's friends, but I can't tell now! Oh! And I'll have a pink shawl.

*Brittney Freese*



*Sandy Lu's  
creation for  
her matric  
dance, 2011*



## NOCTURNE

When I wake up in the night  
I get such a terrible fright:  
I hear something roaring,  
But...  
It is only my dad snoring!

*Catherine*

## THE SEA

The ocean is full of  
wonderful fish  
But now and again they  
end up on my dish.  
For me,  
the best in the sea  
Is a dolphin,  
Friendly, and full of glee.

*Lauren*



## SEPTEMBER VISIT TO ROSELANDS

My favourite activity was the mud obstacle course. The first words the guides said to us were that we had to get dirty! The first mud puddle was the worst because we had to crawl through a puddle that was smelly and had frogs in it. It was horrible! There were slides made from mud. You would slide down and land in stinky mud. The second last course was great fun because the muddy water came up to your neck. When I went, I tripped and fell head first into the muddy water. By the end, I was full of mud...and very cold.

*Kirsty*





# Grade 6

Siobhan Borain  
 Kari Coombes  
 Dominique de Mare  
 Lara-Jane Domleo  
 Samantha Erasmus  
 Sharon Faure  
 Storm Ford  
 Gina Frangs  
 Sabrina Govender  
 Darsha Indrajith  
 Ashleigh Kennard  
 Amy Letcher  
 Kamohelo Liphapang  
 Candice Louw  
 Kayleigh Mantel  
 Callie Miller  
 Chelsea Osborne  
 Tatum Page  
 Nontando Sokhela  
 Emma Stuart-Hill  
 Catherine Tatham  
 Michelle van der Merwe  
 Tamika Wilkinson



Mrs Désirée Adam

*For those who didn't see the snow, it was brought in boxes to school, and we were able to build a very small snowman in the quad*

## SNOW

Freezing cold outside  
 Pearly white balls everywhere  
 Making toes feel numb

*Amy*



## HOW THE CROCODILE GOT HIS SMILE

Long, long ago, when the land had just begun, there lived a lonely crocodile. His name was Michale. Michale was ever so grumpy and mean to all the younger crocodiles. That's probably why he was the only crocodile left in his part of the Tugela River.

One year there was a drought and all the fishes died and the Tugela was drying up as fast as I can describe. He had to fins a new home, but where could he go?

After an hour of thought, he saw two younger crocodiles walking towards the thorn trees. He wondered what they could be doing, walking alone by the thorn trees. So he followed them.

He followed them and followed them until, to his surprise, he found a giant waterhole. It was full of crocodiles and fish. He slowly slid on his belly, down the sand dunes which were wet and muddy. As he dipped his feet into the cool water, the dominant male swam to him and indignantly asked him why he was there. After Michale had explained the whole thing, he asked the male if he could stay.

The male thought *Here is this grumpy crocodile who is scary to all the babies and nasty to all the mothers. Hmm. What should I do?*

And then it came to him. He proudly lifted his head and announced, "You may stay if you promise to smile always and you may never be grumpy again!"

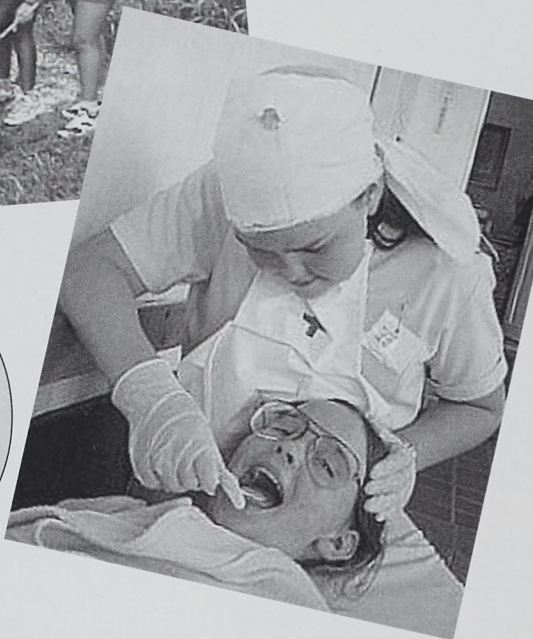
From that day, Michale was forever smiling. Oh, and next time you see a crocodile, just check if he's smiling. It might just be Michale!

*Michelle*





Science lesson (left)  
and  
Afrikaans lesson  
(below)



### HURRICANE

Fast, furious wind  
Hurting people in its way  
Knocking down houses  
*Storm*

### SHADOW

My puppy's name is Shadow. She is a lovable puppy, the mischief-maker of the century. She never stops wagging her tail. She is hyper-active and, as my dad says, has *no brain, no pain*, because she will run into almost anything and will just shake her head and run off again.

Shadow's story begins two weeks after one of my previous dogs, Titch, was killed by a car. My other dog, Ruffy, was getting lonely, and so, whilst I was at a friend's house, my parents went to a Jack Russell farm where they bred Jack Russells.

My parents were going to get a shy little puppy, but then my dad saw another one - she was zooming around her enclosure as if it were a race track. My dad liked her, so they bought her. When we got home, she immediately settled in, although she had to get used to Ruffy first. Now they are best friends.

How she got her name, though, is a different story. She follows you everywhere and, if you lie down, she lies right on your feet. She's like a miniature shadow, which is exactly why we called her Shadow.

Shadow is a tricolour Jack Russell which means she has three colours on her: black, brown and white. She has a little black spot right in the middle of her head. She has the most adorable facial expressions hidden under that furry head of hers. She loves to eat grass, climb on the table and be a nuisance whenever possible!

*Amy*

## LIBRARY MONITRESSESS



Tatum Page



Nontando Sokhela



Kamo Liphapang



Siobhan Borain



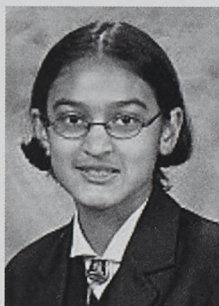
Sharon Faure



Ashleigh Kennard



Tamika Wilkinson



Darsha Indrajith

### ART ROOM MONITRESS



Kari Coombes





*Pretty faces at the Grade 6 window - difficult to comprehend for those who've heard the occasional din from those windows!*

### BEING A GOOD SPORT

There were two friends, Shelly and Chloë, who were inseparable. They did everything together: they played sport together, sat next to each other, everything.

One day they went to tennis (together) and their coach told them that the next week would be the Midlands trials and that they should both try out. They were very excited because they both enjoyed tennis.

For the next few days they practiced – straight after school and even at break time. They practiced so hard that they got blisters on their feet from running around so much.

The day came for the Midlands trials. They both played their hardest. They would only get the results the next day. When the results came, what a surprise they got. Shelly was in A squad and Chloë was in B squad, but Shelly wasn't a boaster and Chloë wasn't a sulker, so they were fine that one of them was better than the other!

*Siobhan*

### THE RAIN THAT DIDN'T STOP

In January, when I went to Mickey's place for the weekend, I knew it was going to be exciting, but little did I know that it was going to rain the whole weekend!

We wanted to play outside in the garden, but we couldn't because it was pouring, with raindrops pattering down hard on the ground. Suddenly, an idea came: why not go and play in the rain? There wasn't any lightning or thunder, only rain, so we went inside, changed into our costumes and took out buckets. (We took out buckets because we wanted to take the water that was falling from the roof, put it in the buckets, and throw it in the pool.

That is exactly what we did. I took a bucket, filled it with water and walked with it to the pool. I lifted it up in the air and threw it, but forgot to let go. It flew through the air, and so did I, and we both landed up in the pool. Mickey laughed and helped me out of the pool. We went inside after a while and ate dinner. For the rest of the weekend we did not play in the rain. Instead, we watched movies.

*Emma*



### TREE QUILT

The Grade 6s spent the second term doing fabric painting, drawing, embroidering, appliquéing and even some pottery, to produce a quilt for the schools' exhibition at MACS, on the theme, *African Tree*. (See the finished product on page 84)





# Grade 7



**Mrs Kim Anderson**



**Leslie-Anne Britz**



**Cheyenne Campbell**



**Alice Colle**



**Tamrin Crosby**



**Tasqeen Dawad**



**Sarah Evans**



**Eve-Lyn Faure**



**Katie-Lee Grant**



**Sonya Helgesson**



**Jenna Kennard**



**Courtneë Kleinhans**



**Sarah-Jane Lait**



**Debbie Lander**



**Radiyya Latiff**



**Carmen Leisegang**



**Cara Marx**



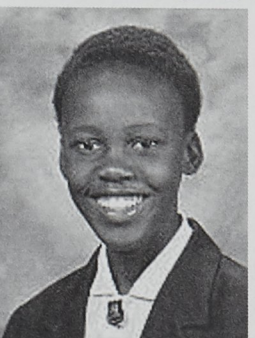
**Hayley McDonald**



**Tegan Mill**



**Naaila Osman**



**Simphiwe Tshabalala**



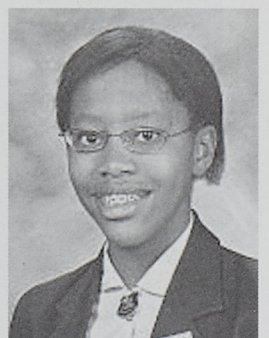
**Lara Perrett**



**Brittany Westhorpe-Pottow**



**Sarah Stewart**



**Nonhlanhla Zondi**

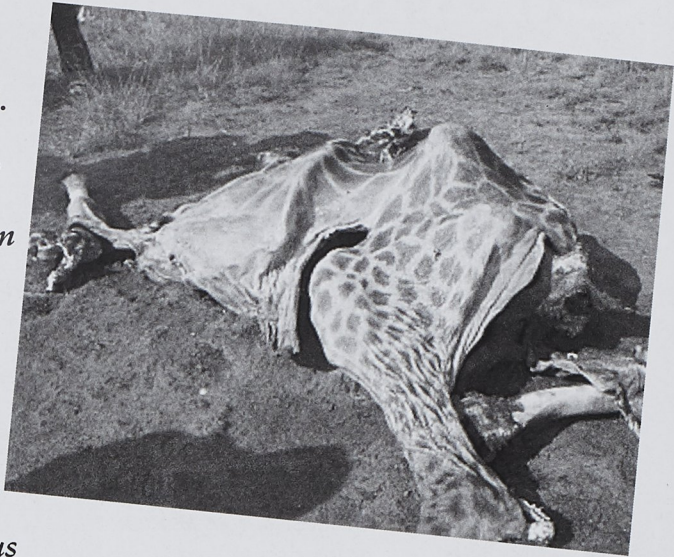


## TOUR DIARY

### Day 1:

We left school on a Maharajah bus at about 8.15. We had a long journey, but it went quickly because I was with all my friends. When we finally arrived at Spionkop, everyone was popping for the loo; some of us were so desperate that we even used the men's loo! We had a snack to eat and then went on a hike. We learnt a lot on the hike and Sir, who took us on the tour, made us all laugh. We were taken on a tractor ride and had great fun singing lots of songs. The animals seemed to be very curious and we wondered if it was our singing that attracted them. Afterwards, Sir told us some interesting stories about the South African war and we were then taken by bus to a museum in Ladysmith. I found it very interesting. We continued our journey to Dundee and when we arrived, were allocated our dormitories. At first we all thought it was like a prison, but once we had got our bags off the bus and unpacked, it was a lot better once we had made our rooms nice and cosy. We had a lovely supper (the food is really nice here), and after showering, we went to the games room. We watched a movie called "Zulu on my Stoep"; then it was time to write up diaries, brush teeth and go to bed.

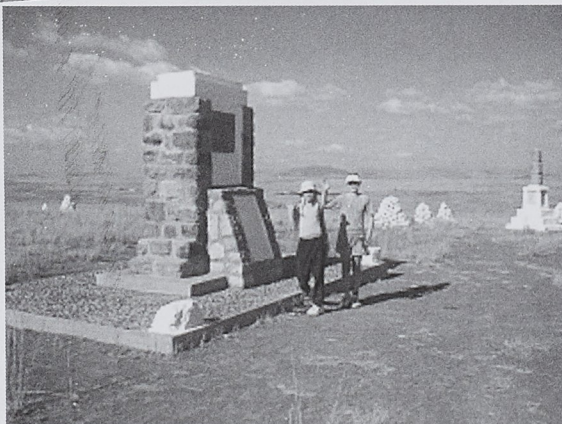
Sarah Stewart



### DAY 2

I woke up at 6.15 and was very itchy. We had egg, toast and apricot jam and viennas. We left Dundee Educational Centre and drove to Spar, where I bought tuck. We then drove to an old fort where we talked about the Anglo-Boer war. We heard a story from Mr Burge about two wives of the chief being beaten to death. We carried on to Isandhlwana where we saw where the Zulus attacked the British. We climbed Isandhlwana, which is 316m high, and we saw old bits of iron and clay from early Zulu settlers. I climbed up to the highest marker. I was the tallest person on Isandhlwana - I felt that I was on top of the world! We sang the school song and the national anthem. I had tears in my eyes while we were singing because we were singing in union - but 125 years ago, the British were fighting the Zulus. It was an awesome feeling and one of the best moments of my life. I looked at all the graveyards with Brittany and we were both sad because the people had fought the war for a stupid reason - to win land. We had lunch (sandwiches), then drove to Rorke's Drift, an old missionary centre and army camp. We learned about the soldiers who had escaped, visited the museum, then drove back to Dundee and rested. We've had supper which was pasta, vegetables and chocolate cake. I am very tired so I will sleep well.

Carmen Leisegang





### Day 3

Our day started as usual with breakfast at 7.15 after which we left for the famous Talana museum where we learned many interesting things. We looked at an old house which was the home of the founders of Dundee and the surrounding coal mines. These people later became incredibly rich, but they still lived in a two-bedroomed house which is now on the outskirts of Dundee. At about 11.00 we left for our "Adventure Day". We started our activities at about 12.00 and we had arrived at Fort Mistake. There, we wall-climbed, rode horses and played volleyball and some other activities around a dam. I found it fun to experience new things and I could see that everyone else did too. We left Fort Mistake just in time for us to be at supper at 5.15. By this stage of our tour, everyone was very sniffy and it was obvious that a cold was being spread. Luckily, it hadn't caught up with me yet!



### DAY 4

Breakfast was delicious and a vast improvement compared to the other day. Unfortunately, many of us are dropping like flies (due to 'flu'). We went to the Natal Spa where we had about twenty minutes to relax and soothe ourselves in the spa. What a stench! I think it was all the sulphur in the water. The tour guide taught us while we were all in the pool - a first for me! After lunch, Mrs James spoke about eagles. Did you know that you can have a long chat with an eagle? We departed at about 3.00pm for the Blood River Battlefield. On the way we ran out of petrol, so we had to return to base. I almost forgot to mention that the bus had been broken into the night before, and the TV and radio stolen. I would have liked to visit Bloodriver because that is where the Boers killed about 3000 Zulus, on the 16th December 1838, under the leadership of Pretorius. Dingane was beaten. The name of the battle says it all!

*Brittany Westhorpe-Pottow*



### DAY 5

**We're on the bus, travelling back home. I am going to miss Mr Burge - he was really fun. Still, I am happy that I'm going to see my parents again. I really missed them. I think that's the only good thing about leaving here!**

***Cara Marx***



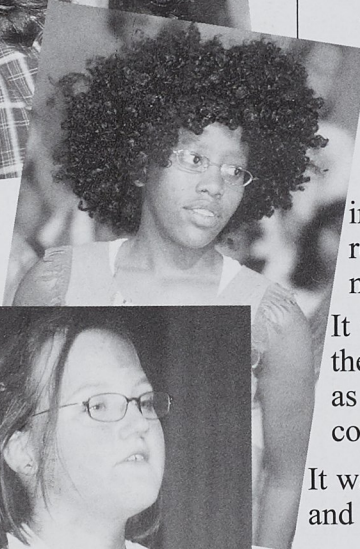


# ZULU



Ugogo uthukuthele.  
Akaziboni izibuko zakhe.  
Usezenzeni?

*The Grade 7s presented  
some hilarious monologues  
(in Zulu) about a Gogo who  
misplaced her spectacles.*



## PINSSA 2004

After a holiday of preparing the PINSSA science project (which the Grades 5 - 7 do every year), we had to hand it in and get it judged by the teachers. They enter the two best from each class and judges decide who will win the different prizes. This was a pleasing experience which we all enjoyed lots.

*Sonya*

*Sonya and Carmen  
won a silver medal for  
their project,  
Cutting Edge Rooting*



*Band girls relax after a splendid  
performance on St John's Day*

Our band is made up of steel drums and marimbas - 17 girls from Grades 6 and 7. Although we sometimes make mistakes, our audience always claps to make us feel better. This is my second year of playing in the band and I have loved every moment!

*Nonhlanhla*

Our best performance was at Cascades. We had the whole crowd dancing and jiggling all over the place. (My Gran and aunt as well!) I don't know what I'll do next year!

*Lara*

## TIME TO REMEMBER...

recalled the music of the past few decades. While the play was being acted out, Granny and Grandpa remembered old times and made humorous comments.

*Naaila*

It was great fun because we all had the chance to make ourselves as dirty as pigs, wearing old, torn rags as our costumes.

*Leslie-Anne*

It was fun for everyone who took part and for everyone who watched.

Music brings sad and happy memories, but most importantly, it brings people together.

*Radiyya*

It was a wonderful experience and I was proud to be in it. It sure was a time to remember!

*Sarah-Jane*

## OLYMPIC MESSAGE

Five coloured rings  
And a torch so bright.  
The message rings clear:  
Let's compete - not fight.

The flame is lit;  
The games can begin;  
Some will lose,  
But many will win.

Spirits run high,  
Many bodies are sore.  
For weeks on end  
The world is in awe.  
Why is it special?

What can it be?  
The Olympic Games,  
Bring us unity

*Tamrin Crosby*



# Junior Music



The Music Department has grown steadily over the years and now offers tuition in piano, church organ, keyboard, violin, flute, clarinet, recorder, saxophone, guitar, trumpet and drum kit. It is heartwarming to see many girls taking up a second, and in some cases, even a third instrument. We were happy to welcome Ms Jenny Calitz (saxophone), Mrs Marilize Visagie and Mrs Elize van Zuilenburg (both piano) and Mr Lendle Lewis (drum kit) to St John's this year as part of the peripatetic music staff.

The band started their year with a performance at an open day early in May, followed by the St John's Picnic Proms, where the bands of St Mary's and Epworth joined us in entertaining an appreciative audience. Next on the performance list was an Aids awareness concert at the City Hall, in aid of the CINDI and "Children Helping Children" projects. Other performances by the band during 2004 include the Eston Agricultural Show, "In Praise of Song" in the Indoor Centre and Grandparents' Day. The band also performed at various shopping centres around Pietermaritzburg and took part in workshops with visiting schools and during Open Days, as well as at the Music Department Evening at the end of the third term.



The choir had their first official performance at "In Praise of Song", where they shared the stage with the Band, Senior Choir, the orchestra of Durban Girls' College and, the 'piece de resistance', so to speak, The Natal Youth Symphony Orchestra, ably led by Ted Brien. Other performances include the Music Department Evening, Grandparents' Day, the Junior School Prizegiving and giving harmonic support to the Junior Primary girls during the Nativity play at the end of the year. Finally, the choir joined the Senior Choir for the Carol Service.

Various girls took part in both practical and theory exams during the year, making use of all three of the examination bodies, i.e. UNISA, ABRSM and Trinity College. "Assembly Concerts", giving girls the opportunity to perform in an informal, less-pressurised environment, have also been growing in popularity, to the extent that assembly sometimes takes a bit of a back seat, with the girls queuing up for a chance to share their (sometimes very newly) acquired skills! Once again, it is inspiring to see the young musicians develop over the year from a hesitant, three-note masterpiece to a confident performance truly worthy of applause!

Another new acquisition to the Music Department is a set of 25 Djembe drums, for use during Class Music lessons. Drumming is becoming increasingly popular worldwide, with scientific research being conducted at various centres around the world, focusing on the social, musical, and even physical impact thereof. Just a look on the Internet is enough to convince even the staunchest of cynics of the value drumming has on all age-groups, not just children - for which the staff can vouch after spending a very happy afternoon at Queen Elizabeth Park earlier this year, drumming away with master-drummer, Jonathan Pimenta. And no, it's not as easy as it looks!

A word of thanks to all the girls and staff involved in the Music Department - your talent and your dedication to music are commendable, and your enthusiasm contagious.

*Mrs Tania Moir  
Head of Department*



# Junior Computers

The computer room in the Junior School was upgraded this year and now consists of 13 Intel Units each boasting impressive specifications. The girls are working on Windows XP and Office 2000 which will be upgraded to Office 2003 in the new year. There is also a large variety of other age-appropriate software. My thanks go to our technician Mr Quintus Janse Van Rensburg for his help in keeping this room running well.

The school follows the C4K curriculum which allows the class teachers to select lessons complementing those that they are teaching in the classroom.

The computer room can therefore be an extension of the classroom.

The Grade 4-7 girls have access to the Internet for research. This is done under strict supervision and our Internet server is strictly filtered. However, the skills needed for using the wonderful information available on the web, are taught to the girls and many interesting projects are done.

The typing tutor is also used on a regular basis by the girls for the mastering of the keyboard.

At all times there is something new and fun happening in this classroom. *Mrs Angela Burn*



Kayleigh Mantel  
Computer room monitress

# Junior Sport

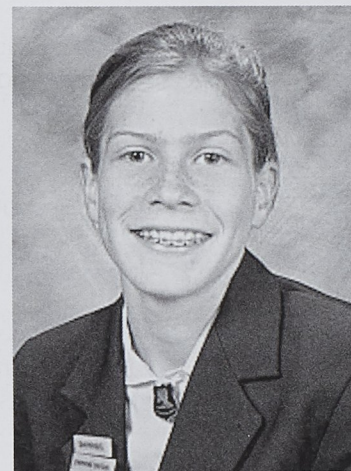
## Swimming

Swimming, this year, has been greatly supported amongst the girls and parents alike. The swimming squad trained diligently throughout the first term, which enabled them to secure a best-ever second place finish at the annual Junior school's Inter-relay gala. A great many thanks must be extended to the coach, Robyn Cech, who has so enthusiastically trained the girls and imparted her knowledge to them this year.

Two of our swimmers, namely, Tegan Mill (Grade 7), and Nikki Kirkby (Grade 4), were members of the Natal team that took part in the South African Nationals in Durban this year.



*Work begins on the extensions to the swimming pool. The Junior pool will be built in the fenced-off, grassy area beyond the workers.*



Tegan Mill



Nikki Kirkby



## Tennis

On the tennis front, the arrival of our new tennis coach, Loraine Osborne, has rekindled an enthusiasm for tennis here at St John's D.S.G. Not only has she been actively involved in the High school tennis throughout the year, but has also taken over all the tennis coaching in the Junior school, starting off with the grade 0s, right through to the Open tennis age groups. It is wonderful to have Loraine on board the sports-coaching staff, and all her hard work has already begun to reap the benefits.

The St John's Mini French Open - organised by Mrs Osborne- was held in August. The results were as follows:

### U11 Singles:

Janine Gebers

### runner-up:

Janine Meyer

### U11 Doubles:

Janine Gebers & Janine Meyer  
**runners-up:**

Heather de Allende  
& Nicole Fourie

### U13 Singles Champion:

Tegan Mill

### runner-up:

Brittany Westhorpe-Pottow

### U13 Doubles champions:

Carmen Leisegang

& Tegan Mill

### runners-up:

Kari Coombes  
& Samantha Erasmus

## Hockey

The hockey teams have had a successful season this year. Tegan Mill (Grade 7) was a member of the Natal Midlands U13 team. Mrs Judith Grové and Mrs Kim Anderson have done a fantastic job this year, looking after the U11 and U10 age groups and thanks must go to Miss Tracy Bestall who was the U13 coach for the second season in a row.

## Netball

Netball continues its struggle for popularity against the more favoured hockey winter sport, but manages to produce both U10 and Open teams. The girls who do participate, do so with a great deal of enthusiasm

## Basketball

Basketball is a wonderful team sport which allows just about anyone to participate due to its simple rules and fast pace action. It would be great to see more girls taking part in the first and fourth term seasons, especially since we have such a wonderful sports centre to make use of.

## Squash

Our squash team coach, Janet Mill, has continued to provide top class coaching this year to very eager girls. Judith Grové's contribution to the non-team squash must also be mentioned as she manages to nurture talent from the grass roots each year.



*Midlands U13 squash*

Finally, the recipient of the St John's D.S.G. High school sporting scholarship goes to one of our very own St John's girls - Tegan Mill. Congratulations!

*(see page 85)*

Thank-you to all the staff and outside coaches who have given so much of their time to train and coach our eager St John's sports stars!

*Lisa Smit (Phys. Ed. Dept.)*

## Other Achievers



Michelle van der Merwe  
Natal Judo team  
4th in SA Championships



Janine Gebers  
Midlands-KZN U11 and  
KZN U11 Tennis Team



Janine Meyer  
Best Junior rider in Natal



# St John's Old Girls' Association

## The Annual Report of the St John's Old Girls' Association for the period 2003/2004.

Thank you, Jill, for your report on the school. It keeps us in touch with all that is going on and is of great interest to us all. The Matric results were once again excellent and the outstanding record of 100% pass rate remains unbroken. We congratulate the staff and girls.

It cannot be an easy task to be Head of a school today, with so many changes in Education methods and the freedom young people have to "do their own thing". We thank you, Jill, for your dedication and firmness in dealing with all matters and keeping up the high standards of St John's.

In their reports, Di and Pinny often mentioned the beautiful weather on St John's day. I, on the other hand, am not brave enough to predict the weather on the day, but I do know, whether the sun shines or not, it will be a special occasion and that a lot of hard work has gone into the preparations. We thank Jill, members of staff and girls for their efforts in making it such a happy day. Special thanks to Lorry de Charmoy for the beautiful flower arrangements in the Chapel and the Boardroom.

We are so pleased that the Sisters are able to be with us today. We thank them for their love, support and prayers. We in turn, were able to do the same for them when Sister Mary Evelyn and Sister Sophia were injured in a car accident in December. On hearing the news of the accident, a few phone calls got the "Old Girls Network" going and it is good to know this caring spirit still exists amongst the Old Girls and can be called upon when needed.

Office bearers for the year were:-

Chairperson	A Steer
Vice-Chairperson	D. Fitzsimons
Secretary	C Quicke
Treasurer	S Kingham
Association Committee	C Bean
	R Cairns
	S Hyman
	C Murray
	M Shepherd
	L Watson
Honorary Life Vice-President	A Steer

Thank you for your support during the year. Special mention must be made of Di Fitzsimons, Vice Chairperson, who keeps the list of members on her computer and has a never-ending task keeping up to date with not only members' change of addresses, but also their names when they get married, something Old Boys' Unions do not have to do. Our reliable and competent secretary, Christine Quicke, and also her husband Len, who assists us in so many ways and our Treasurer, Sharon Kingham, who keeps our finances in good order. A member who deserves special thanks is Margaret

Shepherd who addressed 1200 envelopes by hand for circulars to be sent out.

We also thank Bridget Hornbuckle, the school Public Relations/Marketing Co-ordinator, for her interest and assistance, and Erica McDonald, School Secretary, who is always willing to help us.

Our August Committee meeting was held at the home of Sharon Kingham in Hilton and was followed by a Bring and Share lunch. A number of Old Girls living in the Hilton area joined us and it was a pleasant occasion.

Instead of the usual Pudding Evening for the Matrics, we invited the girls to our September Branch meeting held in the Boardroom at school. Di Fitzsimons spoke to the girls about the Association and then handed out paper and pencils and told the girls to write down what they thought they would be doing in ten years time. These were then collected and would be opened at their ten year class reunion. After tea and cakes were served, we circulated amongst the girls and got to know each other.

Our oldest Old Girl, Marjorie I'ons, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in November. Some of us attended a party for her, organised by the school, at the Victoria Memorial Home where she lives. The Junior school choir entertained us and it was a very happy occasion.

The Christmas Lunch, held in the Boardroom at school in November, was enjoyed by all. We were delighted to have the Sisters with us. Unfortunately, the Headmistress, Jill Champion, was unable to attend, but we were pleased to welcome Annette Symes, Head of the Junior School, Di Witherspoon, Lady Warden, Bridget Hornbuckle, the school Public Relations/Marketing Co-ordinator, as well as Old Girls we had not seen for some time and younger Old Girls attending for the first time.

At the end of the year, Max Wotherspoon, Deputy Head of School and Head of the Mathematics Department, retired. As a token of appreciation for all he had done for the school during the seventeen years he was there, we gave him a box for his desk (made by Di Fitzsimons) in the school colours, and wished him much happiness in his retirement.

The Sacristan's prize for 2003 was awarded to Amelia Frenkel. The Bursary holders for 2004 are Kelly de Charmoy and Janice Southey. Donations were made to the school for a page in the magazine and a Theatre chair.

When I was looking through old magazines recently for information required by the school, I also read the Chairwomen's reports. I found that twenty five



years ago, many of the members who were then office bearers and on the Association Committee, are the same as those today, and that the appeal made by successive Chairwomen was for younger members to come forward. If the Association is to carry on, we must have the support and participation of younger members who will take over from those of us who have kept things going over the years. The future of St John's Old Girls' Association lies in the hands of the younger members and I appeal to you to come forward and help revitalise and update the Association to fit in with modern times. I have pleasure in submitting this report for adoption.

*Ann Steer - Chairperson*



*Mrs Ann Steer with her daughter, Lynne Sole, also an Old Girl, and granddaughters, Sarah and Janice Southey, who are in Grades 9 and 11 at St John's.*

## Old Girls' News...

**BALCOMB, Jill** (Shipman) 1969 - 1973  
Passed away July 2004.

**BROWN, Susanne** (Eweg) 1949 - 1955  
[suekydd@mweb.co.za](mailto:suekydd@mweb.co.za)  
Selling school text books for home schooling subjects; lives in Umhlanga near Gateway. Attends most school functions and all AGMs since leaving school in 1956.

**BARRAS, Norma and Sybil**  
215 Amberfield, Pvt Bag X010 Howick 3290  
We moved to Amberfield last year and living in the late Mary Webb's (Cox) unit. Very happy here and see Molly Boyd (Middleton) and Joy Holmes (McKenzie) who are also residents.

**BOWES, Elizabeth** (Lyle) 1950 - 1954  
Fairacre Cottage, Enton Green, Godalming, Surrey GU8 5AQ England  
[ibbs@ebowes.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:ibbs@ebowes.fsnet.co.uk)  
The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary class reunion took place in January but sadly we were not in South Africa this year: we were sailing around South America. After thirty very happy years we have moved from our house into the cottage in the garden in which my parents lived, and our older daughter, Sarah, and her large family are in the house. We are all delighted with the new arrangement and still have room to welcome visitors from South Africa.

**BULWER, Natalie** (Pitout) 1986 - 1990  
Anniesdale, P O box 58, Wepener 9944  
Natalie married Andrew Bulwer. They moved to London where both the children were born, Stella, two and a half, and Henry is one. They farm on the family farm near Wepener in the Free State. Natalie has her studio on the farm and is a successful artist selling all over the country.

**CAIRNS, Rosemary** (Jackson)  
5 Cordwalles Gardens, 48 Cordwalles Road, Pietermaritzburg  
Daughter Dione Webber is living in Pinetown, her eldest son is doing a post matric this year and Matthew is in Standard 8. Neil Cairns, her son, is living in Gillitts and has two boys aged 6 and 4.

**CARMICHAEL, Lisa** (Hay) 1979 - 1987  
P O Box 694, Pennington 4184  
[tcarmichael@telkomsa.net](mailto:tcarmichael@telkomsa.net)  
I have been living in Pennington on the South Coast for two years. I am married to Tommy and we have two boys, Blaise (5 years old) and Cade (2 years old) I am enjoying being a housewife. Still speak and keep in contact with Corrieann (Rattray) Angela (Mills) Lindon (Simmons) and Fiona (Millar).

**COWLEY, Dawn** (Stubbs)  
Syringa Dairy Farm, Box 232, Mazabuka  
[cowley@zamnet.zm](mailto:cowley@zamnet.zm)  
Still living in Zambia. Married to Clinton Cowley



with three children, Kate, Amy and Devan. We are farming and love it – I would love to hear from old girls in my class.

**CRIPWELL, E.A (Carr)** 1939 – 1947  
Box 17119, Sunward Park Sautens 1470  
[eacripwell@vukanet.co.za](mailto:eacripwell@vukanet.co.za)  
Left Zimbabwe in 2002 after farming there for 50 years.

**CURRY, Lorraine (Brown)** 1978 – 1981  
Running an accounting practice.

**CURRY, Jenni-Clare** 1996 – 2001  
3<sup>rd</sup> year MBA student who hopes to work in the family practice next year.

**DEEKS, Barbara** 1925 – 1930  
Passed away early in 2004.



*Remember Sossie? Elizabeth Davidson popped in on International Chefs'Day, selling muffins in aid of charity.*

**DOWNING, Rosemary Anne** 1940 – 1948  
7<sup>th</sup> Heaven, Box 2233, Hilton 3245  
At her family's suggestion, Rosemary is now staying at 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Boarding House in Hilton. She woke up there! Moved from Kokstad in early June 2003.

**EHLERS, Valerie (Bruce)** 1942 – 1950  
Box 66492, Woodhill 0076  
Living in Pretoria. Working as a volunteer at Pretoria Hospice.

**ESSOM, Denise (McClelland)** 1958 – 1963  
15 New England Road, Scottsville,  
Pietermaritzburg  
[dessom@xsinet.co.za](mailto:dessom@xsinet.co.za)  
Three sisters separated by three countries, now

reunited by the world wide web!

Jane Foote is living a charmed life with her husband Dudley, who flies helicopters for the Mauritius Airlines. Sue Colman is studying to become a remedial teacher. She and her husband James owned a travel business for many years. They live with their two sons in Clifton Hampden in England. Denise Essom teaches art at Russell Girls High School in Pietermaritzburg. She and her youngest daughter live in Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg where, happily Katie-Lee is now in Grade 11 at St John's.



*It's always good to see Old Girl mums at galas and other events.*

**EVANS, Heather (Lipsett)** 1980 – 1985  
57 Adams Road, Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg 3201

[Levans@futurenet.co.za](mailto:Levans@futurenet.co.za)

Still living in Pietermaritzburg and married to Anthony with two very special children. Sarah (12) Grade 7 at St John's and Luke (7) in Grade 2 at Ridge.

**FAIRWEATHER, Anne**  
Hadley Cottage, Water Lane, Butleigh, Somerset BA6 85P

[amscott@fish.co.uk](mailto:amscott@fish.co.uk)

Having retired in August 2004. I now look forward to filling my cottage with old friends....

**FIRTH, Hayley (Macleod-Henderson)** 1986 – 1990

P O box 650 Umdloti Beach 4350

[hfirmth@mrpricegroup.com](mailto:hfirmth@mrpricegroup.com)

I live in Umdloti Beach, Dbn, with my husband, Richard Firth. I am a Buying Manager for Miladys Head Office so am kept very busy predicting future fashion trends for the South African market. I would love to hear from any old girls of the Class of '90 that I am not in contact with.



**FISHER, Diana (Lee)** 1947 – 1955  
P O Box 362, Howick, 3290 Recently retired to Howick to be near children and grand-children. Unfortunately widowed in Nov. 2003.

**GALE, Elizabeth May (Robinson)** 1955 – 1963  
3, Connacht Way, Llanion, Pembroke Dock, S-W Wales. SA72 FB United Kingdom.  
Now living in UK. My husband has retired. I am still working at the local hospital – nursing in a rehabilitation ward.



**GIMA, Kirsten (Stokes),** Head Girl in 1995,  
*Married Shilo Gima in September this year.*

**GREENE, Desiree Molly (deR. Labistour)**  
1945 – 1949  
“The Wolds” Box 100 Nottingham Road. Natal 3280.  
[winks@nottinghamroad.co.za](mailto:winks@nottinghamroad.co.za)  
Still lecturing and practicing all over in equine and human physio. Formed a company, Transeva SA Ltd.

**GORDON, Gillian (Allen)** 1949 – 1952  
17 Somerset Gardens, P O Box 3201, Umhalanga Rocks 4320.  
Moving from Empangeni to Umhlanga in June this year.

**HAMILTON, Jean (Hinton-Catherine)**  
Passed away in August 2004.

**HARRISON, Roseanne (nee Brown)** 1975–1980  
[harrison7@simpatico.ca](mailto:harrison7@simpatico.ca)  
Left Pietermaritzburg 2 years ago to teach in Canada Oakville Toronto with her family of five daughters.

**HAY, Mirian (England)** 1942 – 1954  
Was in Natal briefly after an absence of 8 years, in January 2004. Celebrated 50 years since leaving school with the majority of our year. In June, Thurl Wilkins (Towler) and Elizabeth Bowes (Lyle) and I met for lunch in Surrey, to complete the celebration.

**HIBBS, Lalage (McClure)** 1950 – 1961  
P O Box 1382, Hilton 3245  
[hibbs@nitrosoft.co.za](mailto:hibbs@nitrosoft.co.za)  
Still living in Hilton. Often see Jackie Kalley, Gaye Ballard (Mitchell), Priscilla Rushton (Balcomb) and Bev Levengood (Maud) – Hilary’s sister. I have two sons – Murray who is a professional hunter in Botswana and James who has just qualified as a commercial pilot and will be working in Botswana too, next year. I enjoy working with Di Fitzsimons (Bircher) every year at the Royal Show!

**HOPKINS, Fiona (Henderson)** 1964 – 1968  
27 High Road, Orchards, Johannesburg 2192  
[fhopkins@kingsmead.gp.school.za](mailto:fhopkins@kingsmead.gp.school.za)  
I have the most exciting teaching post at Kingsmead College, Rosebank. I teach English and Drama to Grade 5 – 7. Biggest challenge is a production once a year. I gain a few more grey hairs! I love life in the Big City – so stimulating with so much to see and do. This is my 10<sup>th</sup> year of living here and I wouldn’t change it for all the world. My daughter, Rowena, is living and working in the UK.

**HORNBY, Caroline (Stubbs)** 1966 – 1972  
Roadman’s Cottage. Kirkgunzeon near Dumfries DG2 8 JX Scotland.  
Moving house to the above address. Taking early retirement from midwifery to enjoy cycling, sea kayaking, walking and bird-watching, and enjoy being on holiday permanently!

**JENNINGS, Evelyn** 1962 – 1965  
17 Berg en Dal, 6<sup>th</sup> Road West, Northcliff Ext 21, 2195 Johannesburg.  
[royjen@icon.co.za](mailto:royjen@icon.co.za)  
Had a surprise visit recently from Lesley (Masson) now living in Cape Town. Enjoy annual visits from Sybil and Norma Barras.  
Shoe business has expanded from bowling clubs to retirement villages, schools, clinics etc. Sometimes





*Old Girl, Cara Stewart, who is now a Phys. Ed. teacher at the school, brought her gran, Mrs Moira Stewart, to Grandparents' Day*

far from Johannesburg, so plenty of travelling. Love it – would never return to corporate art world.

**KILGOUR, Genee (Liebenberg)** 1983 – 1987  
P O Box 85 Cramerview 2060

[kilgour@mweb.co.za](mailto:kilgour@mweb.co.za)

Living happily in Bryanston, Johannesburg, with husband, James, and daughters Cameron (4) Payton (2) and step-daughters Alex (13) and Chloë (11). If you are a 1987 matriculant of SJS and haven't been in contact yet, please e-mail me. I am trying to compile a contact list, with great difficulty.

**KINSEY, Kathleen (Deeks)** 1930 – 1933  
430 Manning Road, Glenwood, Durban 4001  
My beloved husband, Burton, passed away after sixty five and a half years of marriage, in January 2002. I now live with my younger daughter, Margaret in a Granny Flat in Durban. I am very blessed with all I need. My sister, Barbara Deeks, passed away in January 2004 at age 90.

**KOCKOTT, Barbara (Parker)**  
[sangen@mweb.co.zw](mailto:sangen@mweb.co.zw)

Recently evicted from our farm in Zimbabwe. Daughter, Wendy, is the captain of a Zimbabwean Hockey team hosted by St John's. Would love to hear from old class mates – lost touch with them since Pinny Mapham's death.

**KURZ, Jessica (Twyman)** 1987 – 1991  
85 Moreton Hall, 253 North Ridge road, Morningside, Durban 4001.

[chrisjess@discoverymail.co.za](mailto:chrisjess@discoverymail.co.za) Have returned to Durban after 4 years in London. Married for 2 years to Chris Kurz, of Pietermaritzburg. Working as a recruitment consultant in Durban.

**LAMBERT, Bronwen (Reid)** 1973 – 1980  
P O Box 1857, Jukskei Park 2153  
[bronwen@iafrica.com](mailto:bronwen@iafrica.com) / [blambert@pmra.co.za](mailto:blambert@pmra.co.za)  
Still living in Bryanston, Johannesburg. Brett is 10 and Kate is 6. I work from home.

**MAGGS, Barbara (Hallowes)** 1964 – 1966  
Barbara was honoured with an award from Pastel as the second largest Pastel Dealer in South Africa.

**MILLWARD, Mary (Quicke)** 1978 – 1985  
[info@dusi.org.za](mailto:info@dusi.org.za)

Shane and I got married in April. Still living in Pietermaritzburg and enjoying life. Our son, Matthew, is a bundle of energy!



*Matthew with Auntie Quix and Mum, both Old Girls.*

**PORRILL, Paddy-Ann (Smith)**  
P O Box 470 Ladysmith 3370

[durnford@xsinet.co.za](mailto:durnford@xsinet.co.za)

Charles is in the process of selling the farm to our staff. I am living and working at our B & B Durnford Lodge in Ladysmith. I am kept very busy as a DA ward councillor. Jacqui lives and works in Durban. Douglas is engaged to an old girl he met in London, Wendy Truscott, and they are to be married at St John's on 25 September





*On St John's Day, we were delighted to see many of our younger Old Girls.*

2004, and will be returning to live in London. Stuart, Lisa and their children, Gemma and Callum returned to live in Johannesburg after 6 years in London.

**QUICKE, Christine (Jamieson)** 1954 – 1958  
3 Mykonos, Comrie Place, Pietermaritzburg 3201  
Len and I are thoroughly enjoying our grandson Matthew, son of Mary and Shane. I am glad to have handed the reigns of secretary to Cathy Bean!

**ROBINSON, Isabel (Michel)** 1947 - 1954  
Box 310, Knysna, 6570 Western Cape  
Have been living in Knysna for the last 11 years. Pat and I have been married for 45 years and have 2 sons who live in America, and a daughter in Knysna. Twin Bernadine (Lambert) lives in Perth, Australia.

**SMIT, Brenda (Reid)**  
Still living in Rustenburg. Two children, Justin (20) and Jenni-Lyn (18).

**SOLE, Lynne (Steer)** 1968 – 1976  
19 Broadleaf road, Billerica MA01821 USA  
[lmsteer-sole@mail.com](mailto:lmsteer-sole@mail.com)  
Still living in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, and

working for a pharmaceutical company. Enjoyed a ski-ing holiday in the Colorado mountains with husband, Malcolm, in February. Will be visiting South Africa at the end of the year.

**SOUTHEY, Jenny (Steer)** 1968 – 1974  
Crossroads Farm, P O Box 126, Cedarville 4720  
Has two daughters Janice Grade 11, and Sarah Grade 9, who are boarders at St John's. Son, Richard in Grade 5 is at Underberg Primary School.

**STEAD, Shirley (Wilkinson)** 1946 – 1958  
P O Box 104 Umlaas Road, 3730 Natal  
[stead@lantic.net](mailto:stead@lantic.net)  
Still living on farm in Eston area – semi-retired. Son Duncan now farms, daughter, Beverley (Stead) Stainbank, lives in Eston area. We have 4 grandchildren – lovely to live so close to them all.

**STEER, Ann (Gregory)** 1937 – 1948  
3 Bridmore, 57 Cordwalles Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201  
Enjoys being involved in St John's now that her two granddaughters are boarders there. Son Bryan and his wife, Michele, and four daughters are happily settled in Vancouver, Canada.



Under NEWS OF OLD GIRLS in the School magazine of 50 years ago, is a reference to Dulcie Barker: (see right)  
*- Has three children, two sons and her daughter who was born last year.*  
 Dulcie had two more children, one of whom is Ken, father of the two girls seen with their gran here.

**VOYIAS**, Gwynneth (Temple) 1972 – 1974  
 123 High Street, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QQ, England.

[gwynneth.voyias@travelcounsellors.com](mailto:gwynneth.voyias@travelcounsellors.com)

Married to Alex, who is an Engineer since 1988 and we have a 13 year old daughter Gabriella. Came to the UK in 1991 due to a job offer and have lived in Cambridge ever since. I now run my own travel business from home. I am still in touch with a number of my old St John's classmates.

**WILLIAMS**, Peggy (Forder)  
 Passed away in 2004.

**WILLIAMS**, Veronica, Vron (Phillips) 1939 – 1948  
 141 Dorado Street, Waterkloof Ridge, Pretoria 0181

[aabw@global.co.za](mailto:aabw@global.co.za)

We celebrated our golden wedding anniversary by renewing our vows in the church we were married in at Little Hallingbury in England. Our bridesmaid, our flowergirl and three of our original guests were with us on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2003, and 2 of our children, Fritha (76 – 78) and Matthew. We also had a lovely holiday in Spain and a party in Pretoria with our other 2 children, Bronwen and Patrick, and four grandchildren, and our Pretoria and Johannesburg friends.

**WRIGHT**, Billy 1935 – 1938

Box 78, Anerley 4230

Still living happily in my house beside the sea at Southport. Keep in touch with Jean Haines (Galliers) living at Sixpenny Handley, England, and still enjoying her cruises. Gaynor Sanderson (Arbuthnot) is now resident at Kenwyn, PMB. Had a surprise visit recently from Lesley (Masson) now living in Cape Town. Enjoy annual visits from Sybil and Norma Barras.



Carmen and Kayleigh Leisegang (in Grades 7 and 9 respectively) brought their gran, Mrs Dulcie Leisegang, to Grandparents' Day. Dulcie matriculated from St John's sixty years ago!



## 50 YEARS AGO...

Sonnet from the school magazine, 1954

*School has not anything to show more drear,  
 Hard would she be of heart who could pass by  
 A sight so touching in its misery.  
 The Sixth doth but the dance's memory wear;  
 Of schoolwork scholars' heads are empty, bare;  
 Partners, bluebirds, stars and waltzes fill  
 Our minds, and even now we feel the thrill  
 So bright and glittering in the classroom air.  
 Ne'er paid we less attention to the facts  
 Of History - yea, our knowledge is quite nil,  
 And nothing is conveyed by **Factory Acts**.  
 The staff continue at their own sweet will:  
 They know the magnet of past joy attracts,  
 And all our thoughts of school are spellbound  
 still!*

**Prudence Shaw**

(With apologies to William Wordsworth)



# DONATIONS

*Many thanks to the following for their donations to the school magazine:*

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