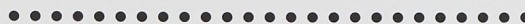


St John's D.S.G. 2003





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CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:



Meghan Crosby



Maryam Cassim



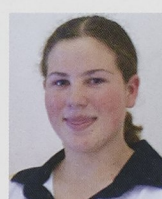
Sian Waldron



Misty McDonald



Shannon Milojkovic



Debbie Gouweloos



Toni-Lee Sterley



Joanna Bird



Stacey Kaye



Gemma-Kate Bishop



Sheldeen Cameron

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHERS



Margot Flint



Julie Harris

Editor: Mrs Mary-Lynne Tennant

The editor wishes to thank all those, including class representatives, who wrote, collected and proof-read articles and essays or submitted photographs, and, for their much-valued support, advice and assistance, Mrs Angela Burn, Mr Quintus van Rensburg, Mrs Jenny Westwood, Mrs Erica McDonald, Mrs Kay Stakemire, Mrs Bridget Hornbuckle, Mrs Jean Weitsz and Mrs Tania Moir.



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)
Revd Mother Margaret Anne
Sister Mary Evelyn
Mr Barry Clarke
Mrs Diana Fitzsimons
Mr Peter Fowles
Bishop Michael Nuttall (Chairman)

Mrs Dianne Perrett
Adv. Rob Seggie
Dr Geoff Soni
Mr Tim Stent
Mr Howard Timm
Mr Reg Zammit

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Mr M.R. Wotherspoon
Mrs Annette Symes
Mr Malcolm Taylor

Mrs Diana Witherspoon
Ms Sally Davies
Mev. Frith Malherbe
Mrs Bridget Hornbuckle

ACADEMIC STAFF



front row:

C. Beattie, J. Westwood, F. Malherbe, M. Wotherspoon, J. Champion, A. Symes, S. Davies, K. Stakemire, A. Harris

2nd row:

C. Coombes, V. Schlebusch, P. Rhodes, N. Foss, R. Cruikshank, D. Murugan, J. Dyson, A. Burn, Y. Langeveldt, E. Murray

3rd row:

*K. Anderson, K. Bowker, W. Griffiths, A. Jones, F. Forbes, J. Smallie, L. Joubert, B. Kidd, D. Adam, L. van Breda,
M-L. Tennant*

back row:

C. Grey, T. Moir, M. Cunnama, M. Filmer, Q. van Rensburg, W. Shone, L. Smit, G. Ducasse, T. Whitfield

ACADEMIC STAFF 2003

MANAGEMENT

Mrs Jill Champion, BA, UED
 Mr Max Wotherspoon, B Sc, PCE
 Mrs Annette Symes, NTSD, HDE
 Miss Sally Davies, BSc Hons, GCE
 Mev. 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, NTCD, HDE
 Mrs Kim Anderson, HDE, FDE
 Mrs Joan Attwell, BA Hons, HDE
 Ms Chantél Beattie, BA Fine Arts, HDE
 Mrs Kerin Bowker, TTD
 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
 Ms Jean Dyson, BA Hons, H Dip Lib, PGCE
 Miss Moira Filmer, BA Hons, HDE
 Mrs Fay Forbes, D Ed
 Mrs Natalie Foss, BSc, HDE, BEd
 Mrs Yvonne Fritsche, NTSD
 Mrs Clemency Grey, BSc, GRAD CE
 Mrs Wendy Griffiths, NTSD, HDE
 Mrs Judith Grové, BA, HED, Dip ZULU
 Mev. Antoinette Harris, NTSD, HDE
 Mrs Alison Jones, HDE
 Mrs Lynne Joubert, NTSD
 Ms Belinda Kidd, BA, HDE, BEd
 Mrs Yvonne Langeveldt, NCTD
 Ms Alison Lockhart, MA
 Mrs Tania Moir, BA Music
 Mrs Colleen Morgan, BSc, HDE
 Miss Joyce Ngcobo, Dip Ed
 Mrs Patricia Rhodes, NTSD, H DIP Ed
 Mrs Janet Smallie, NTSD, DSE Rem Ed
 Miss Lisa Smit, BA (HMS)
 Mrs Kay Stakemire, TD
 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

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

SPEECHDAY 2003

PRIZE LIST 2003

CLASS PRIZES

Grade 8 Merit Certificates

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

Grade 9 Merit Certificates

Megan Blore, Jenna Brown, Alice Durnford,
Sudha Krishna, Katherine Robertshaw

Grade 10 1st

Toni-Lee Sterley

Merit Certificates

Kate Attwell, Rebecca Burne, Rayne Cockburn,
Victoria Girodo, Alexandra Stewart

Grade 11 1st

Andrea Muller

Merit Certificates

Ashley Dorkin, Emma du Preez, Jessica Jenkin,
Kerryn Moolenschot, Erica Stephen

Grade 12 Honours Certificates

Tracy Blore, Elizabeth Fletcher, Louise Hedges,
Thembi Luckett, Glynis Marwick, Tracey Turner,
Stacey Wright

MATRICULATION SUBJECT PRIZES

CompuTyping.....Barbara Faure
German.....Reneé Stegen
History.....Tracey Turner
Zulu.....Nolwazi Nkosi
Biology.....Stacey Wright
(Rosalie Franklin Memorial Cup)
English.....Stacey Wright
Speech and Drama.....Stacey Wright
Accounting.....Glynis Marwick
Geography.....Glynis Marwick
Mathematics.....Glynis Marwick
Afrikaans.....Louise Hedges
Art.....Louise Hedges
French.....Louise Hedges
Home Economics.....Louise Hedges

SPECIAL AWARDS

Music: Middle School Award

Meghan Crosby

Senior School Award

(Francine Bowker Shield)

Megan Cowie

Alison McLean Poetry Award

Alexandra Stewart

Wilson Public Speaking Cup

Charlotte Watcyn-Jones

Glynis Marwick
Dux of the School
Honours Certificate
Accounting
Geography
Mathematics
Head Girl's Award
St John Cup



Labistour Cup.....Candice Gallagher
(for the best individual debater)
Kate Holmes Trophy.....Jessica Jenkin
(for the most promising actress)
Practical Art Award.....Louise Hedges
Practical Home Economics Award..Emma Pitman
Speech & Drama Award...Charlotte Watcyn-Jones
Special Award.....Margot Flint, Julia Harris
(for Photography)
PINNY MAPHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY
(for Altruism).....Justine Smit
JOANNE (DALTON) BEATTIE MEMORIAL
TROPHY(for Creativity).....Amelia Frenkel
ASHLEIGH WIENAND CUP.....
Coralee von Weichardt
GREYLING CUPKim Wilson
(for Sportsmanship)
GOODMAN CUP.....Louise Shone
(for all-round sporting achievement)

TOKENS OF APPRECIATION

Long Attendance (Grade1 to Grade 12)
Clair Goosen, Thembi Luckett, Nicola Main,
Candice Quinton, Tatum Swinny, Kirsten Talbot
SacristanAmelia Frenkel
(Presented by the Old Girls)
Senior Chorister.....Nolwazi Nkosi
Gem Award.....Justine Smit
Deputy Head Girl's Award.....
Coralee von Weichardt
Head Girl's Award.....Glynis Marwick
DEBI SHREEVE TROPHY
(for Fellowship).....Coralee von Weichardt
GETLIFFE CUP.....Margot Flint,
Amelia Frenkel
DUX (Abbot Cup).....Glynis Marwick
ST JOHN'S CUP.....Glynis Marwick



Louise Hedges



Stacey Wright



Nolwazi Nkosi



Tracey Turner



Barbara Faure



Renée Stegen



Coralee von Weichardt



Justine Smit



Amelia Frenkel



Louise Shone



Kim Wilson



Emma Pitman

ACHIEVEMENTS 2002 - 2003

ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL

2002 MATRICULATION RESULTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION BOARD

100% Pass, 48 Candidates Entered,
38 Matric Exemptions, 10 Senior Certificates,
25 A Aggregates, 108 Distinctions
86 Higher Grade Subject As,
22 Standard Grade Subject As

HONOURS BLAZERS

Head Girl: **Glynis Marwick**

Deputy Head Girl: **Coralee von Weichardt**

Academics: **Glynis Marwick, Louise Hedges**

HONOURS BARS

Academics: **Tracy Blore, Stacey Wright,
Emma du Preez, Andrea Muller,
Erica Stephen**

Drama: **Coralee von Weichardt, Kate Attwell,
Nothando Hlatshwayo**

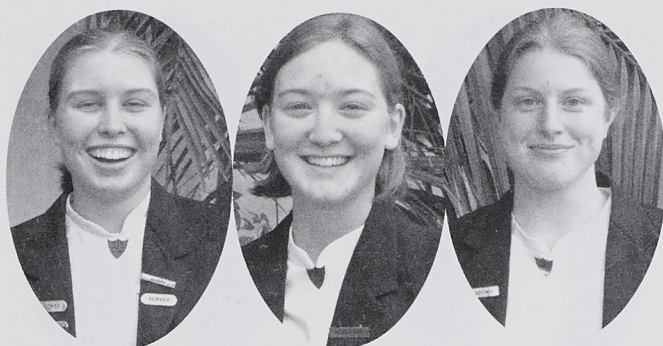
Hockey: **Julianne Fifield**

Music: **Megan Cowie**

Squash: **Jessica Gouweloos, Anndrea Naidoo**

Waterpolo: **Natasha Haralambous**

This page kindly sponsored by Peter & Carolyn Harris



Tracey Blore Elizabeth Fletcher Thembi Luckett

COLOUR BARS

Academics: **Elizabeth Fletcher, Thembi Luckett, Tracey Turner, Ashley Dorkin, Jessica Jenkin, Anndrea Naidoo, Jennifer O'Neill, Toni-Lee Sterley**

Basketball: **Ruth Bird**

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

Cross Country: **Roxanne Vale**

Hockey: **Robyn Bowles, Melany Hope, Romi Hillermann, Sally-Anne Snyman**

Indoor Hockey: **Robyn Bowles, Julianne Fifield, Sally-Anne Snyman**

Music: **Emma du Preez, Jeanne Cuenod, Toni-Lee Sterley**

Tennis: **Sally-Anne Snyman, Antje Eggers**

Squash: **Louise Shone**

Swimming: **Robyn Bowles, Romi Hillermann**

Waterpolo: **Robyn Bowles**

ENGLISH

Douglas Livingstone Creative Writing Competition (2002):

Catherine Avery received a Merit award for Grade 12 poetry

Douglas Livingstone Creative Writing Competition (2003):

Alexandra Stewart received a Merit award for Grade 10 poetry

HISTORY

History Olympiad (second round) : **Sarah Dawson** (Gr. 12)

MUSIC

UNISA Grade 1 Theory:

Meghan Crosby (Gr. 8) passed with distinction

UNISA Grade 2 Practical:

Meghan Crosby (Gr. 8) passed with merit.

Royal Schools of Music Grade 8 Piano Exam:

Megan Cowie (Gr. 11) passed with merit

Royal Schools of Music Grade 5 Theory:

Megan Cowie (Gr. 11) passed with distinction
UNISA Grade 3 Theory

Toni-Lee Sterley (Gr.10) passed with distinction
(highest mark in South Africa)

Trinity Grade 6 Piano:

Emma du Preez (Gr. 11) passed with distinction

Royal Schools of Music Grade 7 Violin:

Jeanne Cuenod (Gr. 10) passed with merit

BALLET

Royal Academy of Dancing - Elementary Certificate:

Coralee von Weichardt (Gr. 12)

Dance Academy of South Africa - Intermediate Certificate (Highly commended):

Coralee von Weichardt (Gr. 12)

A.F.S. INTERCULTURE SOUTH AFRICA

In December 2002 **Cassilouise Blesovsky** and **Stacey Kaye** (both Gr. 11) travelled on a school and cultural exchange to Spain and France respectively.

SPORT

HOCKEY

KwaZulu Natal Midlands teams:

U16A - **Sally-Anne Snyman** (Gr. 10) and **Romi Hillermann** (Gr. 11)

U16B - **Tristan Duthie** (Gr. 9) and **Bridget Meyer** (Gr. 10)

U18A - **Julianne Fifield** (Gr. 12)

U18B- **Melany Hope** (Gr. 12) and **Robyn Bowles** (Gr. 11).

South Africa:

U16B - **Sally-Anne Snyman** (Gr. 10)

INDOOR HOCKEY

KwaZulu Natal Midlands U21C:

Julianne Fifield, Robyn Bowles and **Sally-Anne Snyman**

BASKETBALL

KwaZulu Natal Midlands U18:

Ruth Bird (Gr. 12)

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

KwaZulu Natal:

Toni-Lee Sterley, Natasha Haralambous (both Gr. 10) and **Natalie Miller** (Gr. 9)

SWIMMING

KwaZulu Natal Midlands A:

Romi Hillermann, Robyn Bowles (both Gr. 11)

KwaZulu Natal Midlands B:

Lindsay Kirkby (Gr. 9), **Paula de la Hey** (Gr. 8)

SHOW JUMPING

KwaZulu Natal Junior C Grade Champion: **Rebecca Burne** (Gr. 10)

ECO-CHALLENGE

Roxanne Vale and **Megan Cunnama** (Gr. 10) and **Jenny Pickles** (Gr. 9), successfully completed the Epworth Inter-School Eco-Challenge.

WATERPOLO

South Africa U16:

Natasha Haralambous (Gr. 10)

TENNIS

KwaZulu Natal:

U18B - **Amy Joubert** (Gr. 9), **Sally-Anne Snyman** (Gr. 10)

KwaZulu Natal Midlands:

Nicola Meyer (Gr. 8), **Antje Eggers** (Gr. 10)

Amy Joubert (Gr. 9) has qualified for the KwaZulu Natal Masters Top 8 tournament

South Africa:

U14 **Amy Joubert** (Gr. 9) ranked No. 1 and winner of National U14 Singles. Represented South Africa in France and England.

SQUASH

KwaZulu Natal:

U16B - **Deborah Gouweloos** (Gr. 9)

U16A - **Anndrea Naidoo** (Gr. 11)

U19B - **Louise Shone** (Gr. 12)

U19A - **Jessica Gouweloos** (Gr. 11).

South Africa:

Anndrea Naidoo (Gr. 11) is to represent South Africa in December touring America and Canada.

CROSS COUNTRY

Roxanne Vale (Gr. 10), **Kayleigh Leisegang** (Gr. 9) and **Cherie Vale** (Gr. 8) all progressed to the inter-zonal trials. **Roxanne Vale** reached the Regional Trial.



front row: Toni-Lee Sterley, Julianne Fifield, Louise Shone, Ruth Bird, Melany Hope, Romi Hillerman, Natasha Haralambous

2nd row: Anndrea Naidoo, Robyn Bowles, Paula de la Hey, Sally-Anne Snyman, Biddy Meyer, Lindsay Kirkby

3rd row: Amy Joubert, Deborah Gouweloos, Jessica Gouweloos, Tristan Duthie

This page kindly sponsored by Miss Nontabeko C. Ngcobo

Address... by the Headmistress

I am pleased to report that 2003 has been a good year. It started on a successful note with exceptionally good Matric results. The numbers in the school continue to increase and there are waiting lists in many grades. Girls have participated in a wider variety of activities than previously, and many have excelled. The majority achieve the happy balance of what we believe a good education comprises, and embrace the unique St John's ethos.

Parents, staff and girls share the joy of individuals who have achieved great heights. We celebrate success here often – with mention and applause in assembly, badges, certificates and even ultimately, with white blazers, and of course, on occasions like today, with trophies and prizes. However it is often the small gestures of kindness and generosity of spirit of individual girls or groups, which are the most encouraging signs to a Head that the heart and soul of St John's are in a healthy state; that what really counts – the good values that are deeply entrenched here – is positively affecting this body of people, who one hopes, in time, will go out into the world to be role models of integrity, prepared to contribute and challenge the status quo.

We emphasise community work as an important part of a balanced education, and the major ongoing Outreach project of St John's is the Ashburton Farm School. I am particularly pleased to welcome the Headmistress of the school, Mrs Eunice Ntshangase, to our Prizegiving today. Besides the visits of Grade 10 girls to work in the classroom at Ashburton, and the Computer lessons which the Grade 7 pupils from Ashburton receive here, this last term a major fundraising drive took place in our senior school to help build another classroom at Ashburton. The inter-class competition (with a prize of a Saturday morning off school this term) raised over R 17 000, an outstanding effort from the 258 girls in the Senior School, who I think really learnt the lesson that it is "more blessed to give than to receive".

I believe that education today needs to equip young people for a rapidly changing world, so that they are ready to embrace change, rather than resist it. Shakespeare encapsulates this philosophy in the line from Hamlet, *The readiness is all. There's special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come: the readiness is all.*

This is what I believe our aim is – to prepare you for a constantly changing world where you have the confidence, resilience and faith to be able to tackle anything and everything.

During this year I have had personal experiences which have changed my views – one literally and one figuratively. The literal one was a breathtakingly beautiful view of the indigenous Hlinza forest in Eshowe from the new boardwalk. For many years while we lived there, my family and I delighted in foot trails through the undergrowth, gazing upwards to the barely visible sky through the canopy of trees. Shafts of sunlight dappled our path, but mostly we walked in quite dark shade, even on the brightest of days. This year, the experience of looking onto shimmering tree-tops and beyond to the horizon, at the same forest, but from above instead of below, unexpectedly thrilled me, giving views I'd never dreamt I'd see and a proximity to birds and sky that lifted the spirits with unimaginable joy.

The other experience to change and broaden my perspective this year, was attending the International *Confederation of Principals' Conference* in Edinburgh, in July. Many educationists from South Africa feel that our situation is unique as far as dealing with dramatic change in our society is concerned, but particularly in education. However, a conference of this nature gives us a global perspective and reminds us how rapidly our world is changing everywhere, and how this affects people and education.



The changes today in families, technology, science and the media are universal issues which require us to reflect on how our methods of education need to change to remain relevant and effective so that we provide the "readiness" that "is all" for our children to cope with both the present and the future. Professor Tim Brighouse from Britain, spoke of how "Good schools face life outwards as well as inwards to keep the eye on the horizon" – the broad perspective is important to keep our balance, and a contrasting view is refreshing and thrilling, whether it be the Hlinza forest or the global view of education.

From an even more personal perspective, I must admit to the fact that two baby grandsons have re-awakened my perceptions of the development of children and how important the influences are that surround them. This delightful new perspective from the angle of grandparents has substantially affected how both Harold and I view children these days. Demanding as they may seem, babies are comparatively easy, but at Senior School we are dealing with children growing up. I am told you know they're at that stage when they stop asking their parents where they came from, and are reluctant to tell them where they are going!

Prize-giving gives me the opportunity to acknowledge publicly the support given St John's and me by various members of the wider St John's family. Firstly our school is blessed to have an active, capable Board under the wise leadership of Chairman, Bishop Michael Nuttall. I have relied on the various sub-committees of the Board to give valuable direction in the Business Affairs, Academics, Marketing and General Purposes of the school, and thank both Board and committee members for sharing their valuable experience and giving their precious time to make a difference to the strategic planning and running of this school

Secondly, as Members of the Board and as an intrinsic part of the heritage and ethos of St John's, I acknowledge a deep debt of gratitude to the Sisters of the Society of St John the Divine, in particular, Mother Margaret Anne and Sister Mary Evelyn. Over many years, they have travelled regularly from Durban to attend Board meetings and all major functions in both the Junior and Senior School. The regularity of these visits must inevitably change now with the sale of St John's House in Florida Road and their relocation for their retirement to Park Rynie on the South Coast.

The support and enthusiasm of our Parent community seem to be growing. Parents on the Board and this year's Parents' Association are particularly hard-working and committed. Under the chairmanship of Trevor Cowie, the Parents' Association organised a wonderfully successful fundraiser and family fun event of a Barn Dance last term. They have spearheaded the drive to replace the theatre seats here by next year, and introduced the My School Smart Card, which everyone is hoping will be an easy source of extra revenue for the Parents' Association in the future.

Individual parents are actively involved in a variety of ways within the school, but it is also moral support and positive comments in the wider communities that make a substantial difference to our reputation and the growing numbers

on our waiting lists. I welcome any willingness to share concerns with me and appreciate a good, open relationship with many of you. Thank you for supporting the values which we consider intrinsic to this school, and for entrusting us with your daughters' education. The Old Girls' Association is another body which exists for the good of the school and we value the bursaries and Sacristan's prize that they donate to girls each year.

I always say the Staff are the greatest resource of the school, and, with the girls, make St John's what it is. We are a team with widely differing roles and responsibilities, and this school is blessed that its team of staff is cohesive and dedicated.

The spiritual welfare of both girls and staff is generously provided for by our devoted Chaplain and assistant Chaplain from St Alphege's, Fathers Lloyd Smith and John Read respectively.

It is the academic staff who carry out the core business of a school, and, in times of change, it is important to have dynamic, flexible teachers always ready to learn, adapt and be innovative. Once again, staff have attended numerous courses and conferences to ensure that they and St John's maintain a reputation for academic excellence at every level. Our Grade 9s last year were amongst the first in the country to obtain their General Education and Training certificates; so this year the process is familiar. In 2006 the country embarks on the curriculum for the Further Education and Training Certificate at Grade 10 level with next year's Grade 8s to be the first to write the FETC in 2008 replacing the present Matric.

It would be remiss of me not to thank specifically my secretary, Mrs Erica McDonald and my strong management team for their support: I include our enthusiastic Marketing Officer, Bridget Hornbuckle, our conscientious new Business Manager, Malcolm Taylor and our dedicated Lady Warden, Di Witherspoon. I share academic responsibilities with two efficient Heads of Department, Sally Davies and Frith Malherbe and fine Deputies, Annette Symes and Max

Witherspoon. I thank you all for the extra responsibility you shoulder.

I think for all of us at St John's, today's Prizegiving is tinged with a special sense of sadness and regret, knowing it is the last one at which our much loved and respected Deputy, Max Witherspoon, will be presiding as Master of Ceremonies. "Sir" as he is fondly known to the girls, has been a pillar of integrity, excellent organization and good humour at St John's for 17 years. He will not only be missed as an outstanding teacher of Mathematics, and for his involvement in a myriad activities which include the Chapel, Interact, Cross-Country, and the Tuck Shop, but he has been the father-figure on the staff who has shown wisdom, patience and steadfastness. His willingness to listen, his sound judgement, sense of justice and strong Christian principles have made him a role-model for most of us. Yet he never takes himself too seriously and can be relied upon to use humour in nearly every situation, no matter how fraught. Being the "thorn among the roses" here, he seems to have revelled in his apparent chauvinism, but with his gentlemanly manners and belief in the girls here, I know at heart he is really a feminist – not that he would ever admit it.

We are all heartsore that his days here are numbered. His loyalty and devotion to St John's are unequalled, and he will be greatly missed.

But girls, this is your day. I am extremely proud of you. More than anything else, I think you are the reason people want their daughters to come to St John's. Your enthusiasm, strong work ethic, naturalness, high principles, friendliness and commitment to the many opportunities that are provided for you here, are commendable attributes for young people growing up in a world which can be confusing with its changing norms and shallow values.

2003 has been a specially good year for St John's partly because of the calibre and example of the Matrics and Prefects. I want to congratulate them and thank them for the tone

and good example they have set to the rest of the school, who I hope will emulate them in the future. The top leaders, Head Girl Glynis, Deputy, Coralee and Head Boarder Prefect, Justine, have exemplified the behaviour, manner and loyalty to which we hope all St John's girls will aspire, and for Glynis to have achieved the top academic accolade of Dux, as well as the top position of Head Girl of the school, is a remarkable, admirable achievement. Matrics, I wish you well with finals and in the future.

Parents and girls, I ask you to consider the words I recently read which another Head of another Girls' Diocesan school, at another time, said at her final Prize-giving. I endorse her every word 53 years later. She said, *Our aim should be to teach children to think for themselves, not of themselves. An ability to adapt themselves to life makes for happiness. To be considering all the time if life can be changed to suit them, and whether they are misunderstood, leads to nothing but discontent.*

In the end, girls, I am sure you know, what both your parents and we at this school want for you, is your happiness. Instant gratification of your wishes may seem like happiness to you, but we are concerned for your lifelong happiness, so try to understand why you cannot always have what you want.

Jill Champion
Headmistress

.....

Address... by the Head Girl

One afternoon, my mum and I visited a butterfly farm. We walked through the beautiful haven that has been established: an environment perfect for butterflies to flourish in, and it dawned on me: butterflies and St John's have much in common. Butterflies were named after the buttery yellow and black wings of the sulphur butterfly and, besides the obvious similarities in the appearances of sulphur butterflies and St John's girls in their yellow uniforms, there are many other similarities.

When the caterpillar hatches from its egg, it peers around inquisitively, observing its surroundings, learning the ways of its new life. I like to think of the prospective girls as these tiny caterpillars, discovering and exploring their new environment. When these girls decide to come to St John's, it is like a caterpillar that decides it is time to become a butterfly and it forms a chrysalis. This is a shell of protection around the creature. St John's has been my chrysalis: protective; a place of warmth and comfort; growth and development; a place where we are all given the

opportunity to reach our full potential, just like a caterpillar that becomes a butterfly. I am grateful that St John's has been my safe haven.

If one looks carefully at a chrysalis, sometimes one sees drops of gold. Besides the gold metal, gold pigment is rare in nature; it's something special, something precious. Mrs Champion and Sir, you are the droplets of gold in the St John's chrysalis.

Mrs Champion, you give your all to our school, for which we are grateful. You are a lady who is, above all, fair, rational and kind. Working with you this year has been a great honour. I admire you for your stamina, integrity and wisdom. Thank you for the support and guidance that you have given me this year.

Did you know that, despite the fact that Sir is retiring, he extended his job description this year to deputy head, maths teacher and an expert advisor in boy matters? Sir, you have entertained us with your



chauvinistic wit and sense of humour, but we've appreciated you even more this year because you've been more generous with your chocolates in Ad maths class! Sir is convinced that he maintains the balance in this school. I beg to differ; Sir keeps St John's running. Sir, you are our fifth runner. Thank you for everything. We will miss you.

Each species of butterfly is attracted to one specific plant. That explains why we all arrived at St John's and

are all of a particular kind. People may think that it's the wonderful facilities, opportunities and various other factors that convince us to come to St John's, but I know it's the atmosphere created by the girls. A St John's girl is one of a happy kind. My five years here have been special simply because, along with our bright uniforms, St John's girls wear a smile. Girls, thank you for your smiles and greetings. At times I could no longer smile and you reminded me that a smile goes a long way. One event in my five years sticks out, above many. At the annual, inter- schools swimming gala at Alexander Baths this year, St John's, for the third year running, was seated on the roof, in the direct sun. It is at these times, that we curse our legendary bashers because we are sure that the organisers think that our bashers protect us from the sun. This year, the sun was as hot as ever, but the girls tried their hardest to keep up their spirits. Then the rain came down, and as much as our bashers didn't protect us from the sun, they didn't protect us from the rain either. As we were all getting drenched, I was sure that the complaints were going to surface. Instead, showing the true, free spirit and spontaneity of St John's girls, they all started the song *Singing in the rain*. As I said, St John's girls are one of a kind, and I feel blessed that I had the opportunity to share moments like these with you.

Each St John's girl leaves as a unique individual. Influences and experiences during their years at school make a mark on them and shape each of them into who they are. To the academic and boarding staff: you are a big, bold and bright patch on my wings. I feel privileged to be taught and looked after by such a dynamic and dedicated staff, who kindly go beyond the call of duty for us every day. Thank you. Thank you in particular to Mev. Malherbe,

Mrs Witherspoon, Ms Weitsz and Ms Wintgens for the support and help that you have given our prefect body.

Coralee and the prefects, thank you for the support that you have given me this year. We began as a close team, and have become even closer. We have made a few sacrifices, become more adaptable and, together, we've faced challenges and frustrations, but when the going got tough you all still remained willing, determined and high-spirited. Thank you for your lack of selfishness and your dedication to St John's. Special mention must go to Justine - a real saviour. I'm very grateful for your attention to every tiny detail on our yellow calendar and your organisation. Thanks.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the prefects of 2004 all the best for the times ahead. I know that you will make St John's proud and will lead the school in an honourable way.

Matrics, I couldn't have asked for a better group of friends to share five years with. I know that at one stage we were worried when people were leaving our class at an alarming rate and we couldn't decipher what our abnormalities were that was driving them away! I certainly haven't been able to get rid of my reputation for being somewhat "spaz" yet! I'll cherish all the memories and bonds that have been made. A few memories stick out distinctly, like when, in grade 8, we held a funeral in the bathroom for our beloved Salty the Fish, and rewrote an entire hymn with words applicable to the occasion. I'll miss the excited giggles shared in grade 11, waiting for Mrs Witherspoon to notice that her furniture was mysteriously moved around each time she came out of her apartment! We've faced some "tough" times, like dealing with our Grade 11 lawn being taken

away from us, and we've shared tears of laughter. I'll miss the assurance that wherever I turn, I'll see a friend, a classmate. I'll miss not having anyone to dance to *Meisie Meisie* with. Thank you for your mere presence.

My close friends, (they know who they are), thank you for these past years. We've shared the most memorable moments of my life and your friendships mean volumes to me. You've reminded me to have fun and you have helped me to keep a balance this year.

Four other people have helped me keep a balance this year - my family. They have often had to bear the brunt of my imbalances, but they have been by my side, nonetheless. My parents have allowed me to achieve, yet never pushed me. They've supported me and helped me when I wasn't sure of myself. Thank you for the values and morals that you taught me, I couldn't have asked for more love and care.

Being Head Girl this year hasn't made me dramatically wiser, and considering I am the same age as most of the girls, I don't feel wise enough to share any advice. I would, however, like to make a suggestion to the St John's girls and the matrics, in particular.

Even though we leave as one of the same kind, a St John's girl, each of us is unique, bearing our own colours and markings. St John's has provided us with protection and nourishment, now it gives us freedom. Freedom in a world where there is hardly anything more beautiful than the array of colours of a butterfly's wings in flight; so spread your wings and fly.

Glynis Marwick
Head Girl

Address... by the Guest Speaker

What is happening in education? What is going to happen? Will there really be no Matric? What about standards? I don't know. In this changing world, where the only certainty is change, we need to focus our attention on things that cannot change. In order to do this, we should look first at a bit of history.

I have learnt a little about the early history of this fine school from *Leap of Faith* by Mary Gardner. It is an apt title, and it stresses how schools like St John's were founded on the courage and faith of a few wonderful, far-sighted, women. It stresses how our schools were both a gift to and a gift from our heavenly Father, and that we teachers, students and parents are working as His servants in His school.

But the history of English Church schools is far older than even the hundred and six years of St John's. Our history indeed goes back well over a thousand years. The English Christian private school from which we are descended is one of the oldest of all institutions. One year after St Augustine landed in Kent, England, to convert the heathen British to Christianity, a task which is as yet still incomplete, the first church school was founded - The King's School, Canterbury. The year was 598. So the year after St John's celebrated its 100th birthday in 1997, that school was celebrating its 1400th birthday - older than Parliament, older than the universities, older, even, than the throne of the British nation itself.

Schools then were part of the church. Indeed, headmasters - there weren't any headmistresses, of course - had the authority to excommunicate. They could damn their staff, students and parents to everlasting hellfire and brimstone.

It's not my intention to trace the history of private education over the next 1000 years, but we can take a giant leap forward to Victorian England when new Christian private schools sprang up all over Britain. Of course, they were all for boys. The overall picture was that girls and women were illiterate.



Guest Speaker, Mr Jeremy Sabine, Headmaster of St Mary's, Kloof, with the Headmistress, Mrs Jill Champion, Head Girl, Glynis Marwick, and the Chairman of the Board, Bishop Michael Nuttall.

Husbands ruled the households. I am not going to enter into debate as to whether this is a good idea or not!

And when real schools for girls, such as Roedean and Cheltenham Ladies' College in Britain, developed, they were very much akin to the boys' schools, right down to the mania for games at which girls had to excel. Of course, they weren't expected to learn much on the academic side. Latin was out for girls as it was thought that too much studying addled the brains of the fairer and weaker sex. Women have come a long way since the late 19th century when the London Board of Education first allowed them to sit examinations. It was insisted that they be chaperoned in case the strain became too much. Buckets of cold water were available in case any of them fainted. Apparently, only one bucketful was ever used.

You might be interested to know that there were very strict rules, not only for students, but also for teachers. I found some that were issued in 1915 to female teachers in New Zealand.

1. *You will not marry during the term of your contract*
2. *You are not to keep company with men*

3. *You must be home between the hours of 8am and 6pm unless attending a school function.*
4. *You may not loiter downtown in ice-cream stores*
5. *You may not travel beyond the city limits without the permission of the Chairman of the Board*
6. *You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother*

There are more about not smoking cigarettes, not dressing in bright colours, and *you may under no circumstances dye your hair*. In addition, *you must wear at least two petticoats and your dresses must not be any shorter than 2 inches above the ankle.*

They also had to do the chores. *To keep the schoolroom clean you must sweep the floor at least once daily, scrub the floor with hot, soapy water at least once a week, clean the blackboard at least once a day, start the fire at 7am so that the room will be warm by 8am.*

Times have certainly changed. So, whilst it is clear that the history of girls' education is comparatively short, we can still ask ourselves the question, *Why a girls' school?*

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In a world in which male and female are clearly destined to work, live and play together, why should they be separated for the all-important years of primary and secondary education? Surely they will, at the very least, be disadvantaged socially. Meeting a boy at the weekend can never be as natural as sitting next to one in class - or having to cope with them in the playground. In other words, it's a co-ed world.

Then what are the factors in favour of single sex education for girls? Research in the USA, UK and Australia, borne out by results in this country, indicate that girls at single-sex schools achieve the best results. But it's not just because single-sex girls' schools dominate the top of examination league tables that an all-girls' school could be the right choice for parents. Parents who have sons as well will know that girls and boys mature at different rates and learn in different ways. Girls at girls' schools have teachers geared to teaching girls, they are less inhibited from taking intellectual risks, indeed in a girls' school, girls always have centre stage. They must participate, they must take charge, and they must get involved. Girls will learn to grow in confidence, self-esteem and ability in a supportive and purposeful environment without being judged by male peers on how they look or on how hard they work. A student at an all-girls' school recently wrote that one of the most refreshing things she noticed on changing schools, was that there was no shame in working hard.

In a girls' school, being a girl just isn't an issue. Girls pursue all subject areas including technical, hold all senior positions, and participate in all sports. Research has shown that girls in girls' school have higher aspirations, and expect to succeed in Maths, Science and Technology. In an age where we quite rightly seek equal opportunities for women, a girls' school gives not just equal, but every, opportunity to girls.

I am not condemning co-ed schools. Choice is important. What I am saying is that there are good reasons for making this choice, and they don't just rest on academic

standards. There are underlying reasons that contribute to those standards, and even more importantly, to life after school. A recent survey in the United States among alumni, found that a girls' school education gives young women a significant edge over their peers in all facets of life.

Congratulations, ladies and gentleman, you made a wise choice. What is really sad, however, is that such advantages are available to so few girls in South Africa. In March 2001, Human Rights Watch issued a report on the position of girls in schools in South Africa. Tellingly, they entitled it *Scared at School*. They found that sexual abuse and harassment of girls by both teachers and other students is widespread in South Africa.

Girls who go to schools such as St John's are enormously privileged. How can we ignore the plight of our sisters? Is there a challenge here for schools such as yours, and the one where I work, especially since they are Christian schools?

Today, there is a real tension in educational thinking between those whose concern is primarily, almost exclusively, with imparting skills, and those who understand education as something that forms the habit of living in a group, identifying common aspirations and making possible co-operation. As the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, says: *One of the major problems at the moment is a rhetoric among some of those who manage education, which seems to assume, without any qualms, that the functional model is self-evidently what drives the business of education.* The march of science, to the exclusion of other subjects, has had an enormous impact on education over this last century with the emphasis on facts over curiosity, on precision over inspiration, and explanation over imagination.

In our schools there are two curricula - the open curriculum that leads to knowledge, and the hidden curriculum that emphasises values. If you chose St John's for your daughters solely because of Matric results or sporting prowess, music, art, drama - you have chosen the

wrong school, or maybe the right school by good fortune, but for the wrong reasons. For the important thing - the hidden curriculum - is of more lasting importance.

What are these values we seek, that are somehow built into the curriculum here at St John's? From academics, for instance, we seek impartiality, a dispassionate search for truth, calmness and synthesis. From the arts, a vision of beauty, creative joy. From physical education, health, strength, grace and beauty. From emotional education, harmony, perseverance, and the will to conquer ignorance and injustice. And from moral and spiritual education, sincerity, faithfulness and selflessness. This is part of the hidden curriculum. Learning to know, and to do, and to live together.

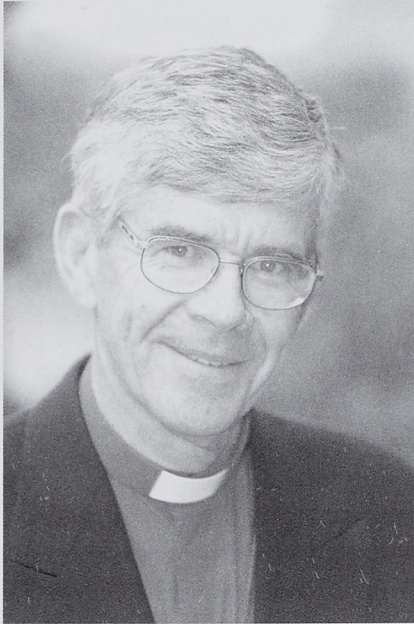
As you have chosen a Christian school for your daughters, you have accepted a culture that cherishes loyalty and openness and which thus makes people question narrow individualism, smug ignorance and indifference to truth. This is a place where we learn to be human beings in a way that potentially shapes all our understanding and response to the world.

In the moment those inspired Sisters opened the doors to St John's first student, God poured his love into this place. He still holds it in His hand. Every brick and stone breathe his courage, understanding, love and compassion. Our Christian faith is our rock in this ever-shifting, ever-changing world. Do not fear the future - God has a plan for each of you and God's plan for you is good.

It may come as a surprise to you to know that this is not your school. Although you say *my school* it does not belong to you - nor does it belong to your parents. They pay, but they haven't bought it. Nor does it belong to Old Girls, nor to Mrs Champion, nor even to the Bishop or the Board of Governors, in spite of what it may seem. This is God's school. And just as He has a plan for each one of us, He has a plan for His school - and His plan is perfect. Trust in Him, do His will and go forward as you live in His love.

Jeremy Sabine

Report... by the Chairman of the Board



Bishop Michael Nuttall

Parents have all been told by letter about the appointment of a new Deputy Head from the beginning of next year. She is Mrs Allison Gunning, a former Head of St Andrew's School at Senderwood in Johannesburg. She will bring not only new blood but an excellent range of experience and expertise to St John's. Her only similarity to the redoubtable MaxWotherspoon is that, happily, she too is a mathematician and will therefore be able to slot easily into his teaching role as well as into his functions in management.

Max has been Deputy Head for no less than 17 years. All I shall say here is that St John's Speech Days will miss *Sir's* extraordinary banter with the girls when he introduces prize winners. It's almost borderline stuff, making a dignified Board Chairman a little nervous, but somehow he pulls it off with aplomb, and it speaks volumes for the essential happiness of the teaching profession and for good relations between Deputy Head and students.

I shall make just two broad comments briefly, one about this particular school and the other about

the independent school movement as a whole in this country at present.

1. We are in very good shape, I believe, under the experienced, dedicated and caring leadership of our Head, Jill Champion, aided by Annette Symes in the Junior School and all the staff. When I say 'staff' I mean not only the academic staff, but all the staff. But the Head is the key, and on your behalf I express gratitude to Mrs Champion for the excellent leadership she gives, suiting so admirably the particular ethos of this school.

Within that ambit I record particular appreciation of the recently established Marketing Forum as one of the Board's committees, ably chaired by Dianne Perrett. Like all independent schools in a competitive environment we take the marketing of our school seriously. Bridget Hornbuckle, our full-time Marketing Co-Ordinator, is to be commended for her work. She is now also a member of the school's top management team. One of the interesting exercises we have been through was for each of us - girls, staff and Board members - to compose what is called an *elevator speech*. What would you say about St John's, essentially, relevantly and poignantly, to an enquirer in a lift (or elevator) as you moved from ground floor to level 3? Here is an example for your consideration:

We are a small, family-orientated, value-based Christian school, focusing on developing your daughter's talents to her full potential, ensuring that she can embrace a dynamic and diverse world.

2. The independent school movement in this country is having to be vigilant over its place and its future in the new South Africa. There are some potential threats from government to some of its treasured liberties, such as the right to choose which public examination

system it operates under. In addition, a prospective Property Rates Bill raises the possibility of schools such as ours no longer being exempt from the payment of rates. If this Bill is passed, it will be for individual municipalities to decide whether they wish to impose such rates. I cannot believe that the Msunduzi municipality would be so unwise as to proceed in such a direction! Yet we may find ourselves having to take up the cudgels on an unwelcome front.

The perception is, perhaps inevitably, that independent schools are elitist and should be drawn more fully into the egalitarian road map for a fully democratic South Africa. ISASA (The Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa) is doing an important job on our behalf in presenting a truer and more complex picture. Did you know, for instance, that with recent increases in the membership of ISASA, 66% of the learners in ISASA schools are inclusively black and 55% are African? The elitist image is being diluted, especially in its white stereotype, and will continue to be so. But elite quality of education and nurture is something that needs to be held on to and fostered for all our worth, including the nurture of religious belief and ethical values which we hold dear. Your Board of Governors will continue to aim at this on behalf of this fine school.

Let me close with some words from the great Mahatma Gandhi, whose statue rightly graces Church Street in the centre of this city:

*Be on guard against
science without humanity
politics without principle
knowledge without character
wealth without work
commerce without morality
pleasure without conscience
and worship without sacrifice.*

+Michael Nuttall

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Report... by the Chaplain

Junior School

The monthly Chapel Services held for the Junior School are a special joy. It is always good to see the way in which the girls engage fully in the service, including the singing and the 'sermon'.

Senior School

Once again, the major focus of the work of the Chaplaincy has been the Senior School.

At the beginning of the year we agreed to present a more 'united' approach to the 'spirituality' in the school. This meant, among other things that the work of the SCA, the Divinity Classes and the Chapel services would all be seen as components of one and the same ministry.

Confirmation

On 8 August, Bishop Rubin Phillip was at the School to Baptise 2 and Confirm 20 of the learners. We were joined for the confirmation preparation and service by Michelle Snyman (Sally-Anne's sister), and Mrs Brenda Franklin from St Alpheges Church.



Matric girls on St John's day.

It was a truly wonderful service which was well supported by parents and family members. I am indebted to Fr John Read and Mrs

Tania Moir and other members of staff for all the arrangements that were made for the Confirmation while I was on leave. It was good to be in the congregation for a change!



This has been a fruitful and encouraging year, but once again it has gone far too quickly!

*The Revd Lloyd C Smith
Chaplain.*



Sister Mary Evelyn, (ready to throw the ball), Sister Sophia, Reverend Mother and Bruno in their new home (Umdoni Retirement Village) at Pennington on the South Coast. Whoever once said "It's a dog's life" got the meaning wrong - ask Bruno!



On the 13th May this year, a 3.4kg baby girl, Rebekah, was born to Rev. Jenny and her husband, Andreas. Jenny Stewart was assistant chaplain at St John's in 2000-2001.



Sister Hilary ventured, earlier this year, to join a community in England. Feeling it wasn't right for her, she has returned to Durban. She is still a member of the Society of the Sisters of St John the Divine, and is, at present, continuing to work with the parish of St Thomas church in Musgrave road.

Report... from the PTA

The main aims of the Parents' Association are to facilitate communication and social interaction between the parents and the school, to enhance the development of the school, and to foster school spirit at St. John's.

At the Parent's Association AGM held on 4th May, Peter Fowles stood down as chairman due to having been elected chairman of the General Purposes Committee, a member of the Business Affairs Committee and the Board of Governors. Peter continues to serve on the Association – his leadership of the Association over the past years is sincerely appreciated. The Treasurer, Tony Kaye, resigned at the end of the 2002/03 year. His years of service to the Association are also much appreciated. We welcome new members Ann Dawson, Greg Du Preez, Lee Day, and Tracy Hathorn, who, together with the continuing members, form a dedicated and committed team, prepared to give unselfishly of their time for the benefit of the school.

At the request of parents, the safety of the New England Road off-ramp from the N3 was investigated and discussed with local and provincial traffic authorities. Nothing further could be done to alleviate the long queues, except that parents were encouraged to stagger their times, or to use different routes to school; the authorities confirmed that the pointsman on duty would ensure that the queue off the N3 be given priority. The school Combi's were advised not to use this off-ramp in the mornings, but to come through town.

It was established that safety belts could not be fitted to the current Combi's - any new Combi would have them pre-fitted.

Although the main object of the association is not fund-raising, there are projects which we run, and which make a 'profit'. These funds are used for the good of the school. One of these is the Hundred Club, which continues to feed the association's accumulated funds. Another is the catering for the St John's Day picnic concert which yielded a profit of over R800 this year. The Barn Dance in August, was particularly successful. Attendance on the evening exceeded all expectations, and a profit of over R12 000 was made. More importantly, it promoted the happy family atmosphere and school spirit which prevail at St John's. Mrs Fay Forbes is particularly thanked for the concept, and for co-ordinating and driving the organisation of the event.

Another fund-raising project is the *My School Card* project. Cards were made up for each parent and handed out in August. Funds are raised for the school as a percentage of a cardholder's shopping at any Woolworths or other participating outlets. Simply by handing a Smart Card to the cashier when paying, this venture should bring in substantial amounts of additional funding for the school.

Finally, the main project this year was to transform the school theatre into a facility of which the school can be proud, and one which matches the quality of the productions and concerts held in it. The school had budgeted to replace the carpets this year, but there were no funds to replace the seating. The Parents' Association decided that, in order to bring St John's into line with other top schools in the province, the seating should also be replaced, and that parents, Old Girls and suppliers should be approached to sponsor

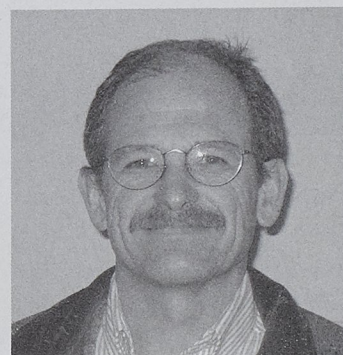
chairs. On each chair, a plaque could be fixed with an inscription acknowledging the donor. The Parents' Association is donating the proceeds from the Barn Dance to the theatre seats project, and will also fund any shortfall if the donated funds are insufficient. The new carpeting and seating will be installed during the December holidays.

The full Parents' Association Committee for 2003 is:

Trevor Cowie (Chairman),
Kirsten Dales (Secretary),
Arnie Meyer (Treasurer),
Ann Dawson, Lee Day,
Greg du Preez, Denise Essom,
Laura Fleischack, Peter Fowles,
Tracy Hathorn, Jenni Marwick,
Ahmed Osman, Helen Reynolds;
Staff representatives are:
Jill Champion, Annette Symes,
Kerrin Bowker, Fay Forbes and
Bridget Hornbuckle.

I would like to thank each member of the Parents' Association Committee most sincerely for their enthusiasm and support over the year. Each has contributed willingly and unselfishly, and given freely of their time, and this has enabled the Parents' Association to make a real difference in the school. Special thanks to Mrs Champion and her team for their commitment to the Association and for their hard work throughout the year.

Trevor Cowie, Chairman



Report... by the Lady Warden

It is difficult to believe that a year has passed since writing my last Boarding Establishment Report. Time flies, girls leave to start fresh and exciting lives and new girls arrive to take their places. Although constant updates and changes take place, we try hard to maintain the ethos and basic values of this home from home.

Safety and security of the girls in our care will always take top priority. The stalwarts whose task it is to ensure that all the girls' needs are taken care of are Mrs Blignaut in St Josephs, Mrs Weitsz and Mrs Wintgens in the main B.E. and Sister Seggie in the sick bay clinic. These caring and capable people have many years of experience between them. Mr Ross Payne has been added to our team with the title of Transport Manager and the buses have never run so smoothly! We also have our first and very own garden lady, Nomsa, who takes a very genuine interest in the B.E. gardens and can be seen toiling away in all weathers.

The passages, offices and foyer area downstairs have been painted and we look forward to our new curtains and upholstery. The new bunk beds and cupboards in St Theresa's have been completed and work in St Anne's, where built in bunk beds and fitted drawers and shelves have also been introduced, will be finished soon.

We also have our capable Boarder mistresses and Glynis, Justine and their excellent group of prefects to thank for the smooth running and happy atmosphere of the Boarding Establishment.

Di Witherspoon
Lady Warden



Mrs Di Witherspoon



Mrs Jean Weitsz



Mrs Yvonne Wintgens

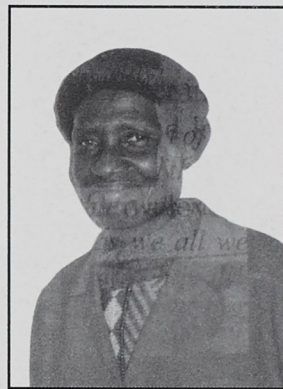


Sister Chris Seggie

HOUSEKEEPING

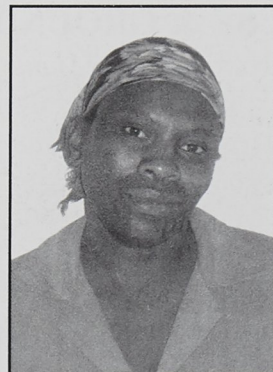


Mrs Thandi Zimu



Ms Rita Mchunu

GARDENING



Ms Nomsa Magwaza

MUSIC STAFF

In 2003, the Music Department boasted the following peripatetic staff:

Ms E. Murray, LRAM	PIANO, FLUTE, CLARINET
Mrs T. Govender, BA, BEd, ATCL	PIANO
Mrs S. Forsyth,	PIANO
Mr W. Shone	GUITAR
Mrs S. Wallis, BMus, BBibl, MA	VIOLIN
Mr R. Brown	TRUMPET
Mrs S. Bower, BMus	CHOIR, RECORDER, FLUTE
Ms C. Wright (3rd term)	PIANO

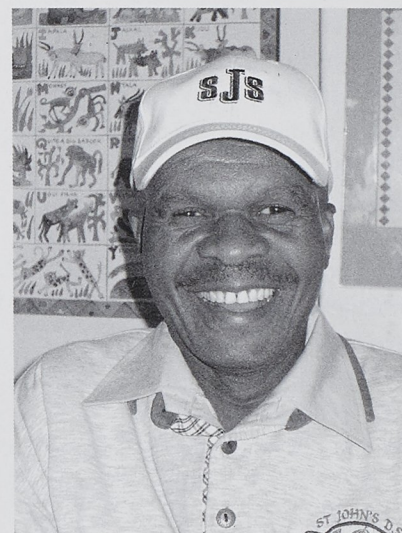


Mrs Tania Moir, Head of Music

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



*front: Mrs S. Dinkelmann, Mrs S. Miller, Mr M. Taylor,
Mrs C. Guest, Mrs E. McDonald
back: Ms P. Msomi, Mrs E. Barthorpe, Ms N. Bhengu*



*Mr Albert Thabethe
Driver*

HOUSE & GROUNDS

Mr C. Harris (*Estate Manager*)
Mr C. Mkhize (*Supervisor*)
Mr D. Jasson (*Carpenter*)
Mr S. Moses (*Painter*)
Mr C. Mazibuko
Mr I. Ndebele
Mr J. Ndebele
Mr S. Ngubane
Mr C. Mhlomeni
Mr A. Buthelezi
Mr N Gwala
Mr P. Ngobese



*Mr Chester Harris
Estate Manager*



*Mr Ross Payne
Transport Manager*

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KITCHEN STAFF



Miss Patti Naidoo, the school caterer, with her assistant, Mrs Pat Moodley, and our two chefs, Bigboy and Joseph Mkhize - who happen to be brothers.

Other members of the kitchen staff are:

Mr Lenos Maduna (*stores*)

Mr Amos Ngcobo (*scullery*)

Mr Welcome Mkhize (*vegetables*)

Mr Anton Maduna (*dishwasher*)

The maids are:

Miss Margaret Zuma

Miss Joyce Dlomo

Miss Zanele Zikalala

Miss Thembi Zulu

WAFER ROOM STAFF



(above): Cutters, Mrs Gwen Reddy and Mrs Mary Fasson.

(right): Bakers, Mrs Michelle van Amsterdam and Miss Lizzie van Wyk.

(far right): Supervisor, Mrs Rosabel Hittler.



The Wafer Room at St John's produces over 40,000 communion wafers a month, supplying large areas of South Africa as well as Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland.

LAUNDRY STAFF

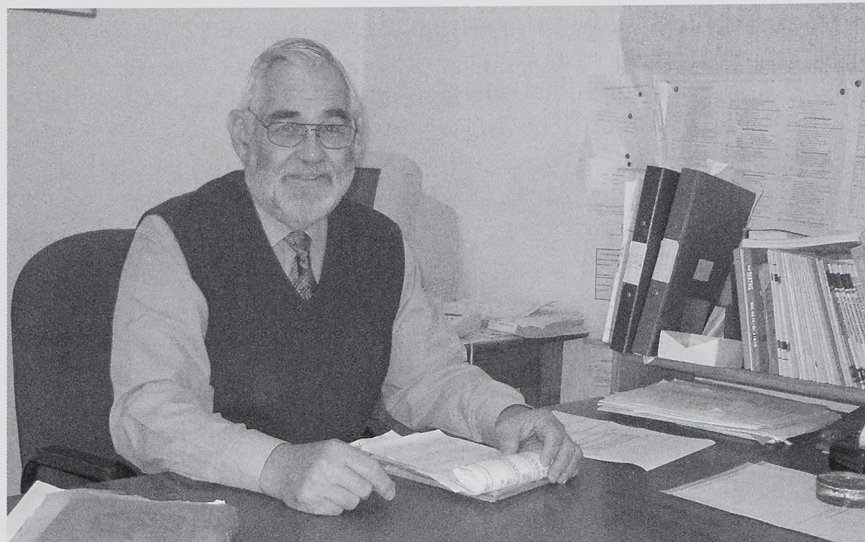


(left)
Mrs A. Tomlinson

(right) laundry
assistants:
Ms M.Tsolo,
Ms M.Mjoli,
Ms A.Mbona,
Ms S. Nzimande



Farewell... to Max Wotherspoon



"Sir" Max Wotherspoon

In his sixteen years as Deputy Head and Head of the Mathematics Department, Max Wotherspoon has earned the respect and affection of colleagues and girls alike. For most of this period, he was the lone male on the academic staff, a position he has appeared to relish mostly, but at times must have strained his extreme patience. His cheerful good nature, combined with his delightful dry wit, has often made him the foil of all the female temperaments around him. Ostensibly a shocking chauvinist, and partisan to anything or anyone Mathematical or Scientific, he is actually fair-minded and 'the voice of reason' in any situation, contentious or otherwise. The depth and breadth of his experience and wisdom have been invaluable at all levels of Management, at the Business Affairs and Foundation committees, staff and prefect meetings, and at every level with girls and staff in the school.

His humour and intellect are legendary, but he has other strong character traits of compassion, conscientiousness, humility, spirituality and loyalty to St John's.

He is a true gentleman who treats girls with respect so that they become 'ladies'. He has excellent organisational ability, and his mathematical genius is annually put to the test by the changing complexities of a whole school timetable for classes from Grade 0 to Matric – a feat he has performed with great skill.

Deputising for my predecessor, Alison McLean, and myself whenever necessary, he also acted as Head for the First Term of 1995, between Heads at St John's. Steadfast and effective as a leader, he has chosen to use his strengths and skills in the classroom, teaching Higher Grade Mathematics and Additional Mathematics, to generations of girls, not least his own daughter, Carol, who was Dux here in 1985.

His role has been multi-faceted at St John's. He runs Interact, Cross Country Running (with Herman's Delight on Tuesdays) and the Tuck Shop. He has taken responsibility for various projects over the years, the biggest of which must surely be overseeing the building of the

Indoor Centre in 1999. It was largely his vision that made this a priority, and his management of its construction and completion inside bear testimony to his willingness to take on extra work in addition to an already heavy load. It also exemplifies his commitment to the development of a school, to which he has been devoted over a long period.

His focus on the Chapel ensures that the St John's Day and Confirmation services run with never a hitch, not to mention all the other services. His loyal attendance at virtually every Sunday night Chapel service over the years has been exceptional. He is a good 'Friend' to the Society of the Sisters of St John the Divine, and has regularly filled the breach when we have been without a Chaplain unexpectedly – at Carol Service or in Chapel! His strong Welsh male singing voice will also be missed in Chapel.

His most public role is that of Master of Ceremonies at Prize Giving every year, where he magically transforms the formality of this academic occasion into something of a family affair with his humorous asides and comments to the Matric prize-winners and others. His rapport with the Matrics over the years is a hallmark of his era.

Max's warmth, inimitable laugh, kindness and generosity of spirit will be greatly missed at St John's. He has left an invaluable, indelible mark on this school! We wish him and his wife, Fiz, many happy years ahead, and thank them both for everything they have contributed to St John's.

*Jill Champion
Headmistress*

NEW STAFF



*Mr Malcolm Taylor
Business Manager*



*Ms Teresa Whitfield
Accounting, EMS*



*Mrs Alison Jones
Mathematics*



*Mrs Colleen Morgan
Geography*



Ms Pinkie Msomi - Admin. clerk.



Ms Jean Dyson - locum tenens for Mrs Patti Avery (History) for the year.

Mrs Monique van Deventer - locum tenens for Ms Chantèl Beattie (Art) in the 2nd term.

Ms Cara Stewart - has helped in the Phys. Ed. Dept a number of times during the year.



STOP PRESS

Just before going to press, we learned that Ms Alison Lockhart will be leaving at the end of the year.



She has been an inspired and inspiring teacher of Senior English for three years and we wish her well as she leaves to pursue her passion to write.

(See photo on **page 49**)

*After fourteen and a half years at the Junior School, Mrs Kerin Bowker is leaving. See **Junior School**, page 85*

WATCH THIS SPACE... ...What's left of it!



Mrs Natalie Foss is taking accouchement leave for the first two terms of 2004. We wish parents and baby all the very best!

LONG SERVICE



Mrs Cynthia Guest's 20 years of service to the school were recognised at a special tea in the boardroom and a presentation at the final assembly of the second term.

MATRICES OF 2003



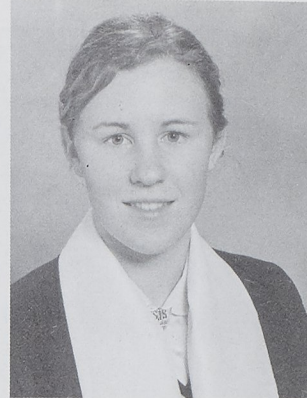
Jeanine Becker



Robyn Bezuidenhout



Ruth Bird



Gemma-Kate Bishop



Tracy Blore



Sheldeen Cameron



Megan Cook



Sarah Dawson



Barbara Faure



Julianne Fifield



Elizabeth Fletcher



Margot Flint



Amelia Frenkel



Solveig Gevers



Kristi Goodman



Clair Goosen

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Carmen Gracie



Julie Harris



Louise Hedges



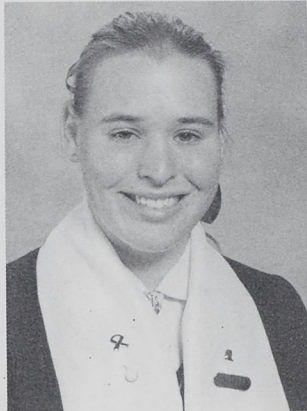
Melany Hope



Megan Hodson



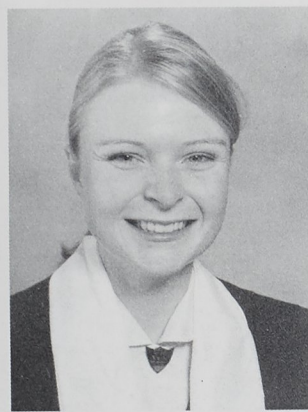
Tiffany Hughes



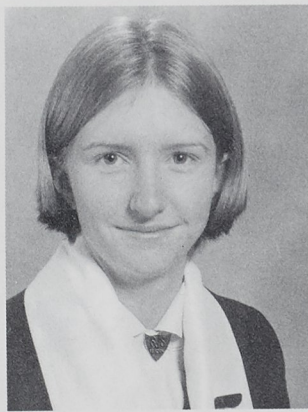
Philippa Hunt



Philippa Johnson



Tarryn Kirkwood



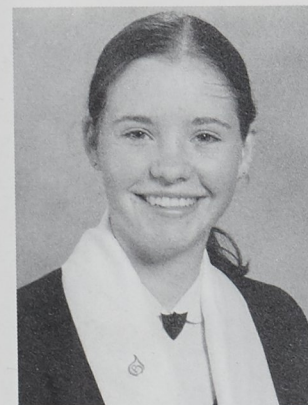
Pamela Koch



Jessica Kretzmann



Nothemba Luckett



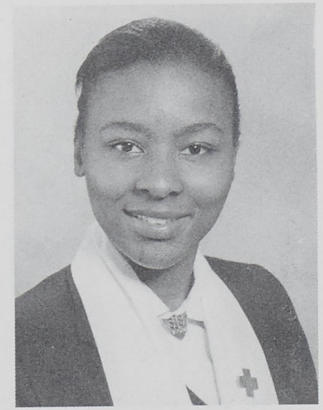
Nicola Main



Glynis Marwick



Elera Ngelale



Nolwazi Nkosi

This page kindly sponsored by the Nkosi family



Emma Pitman



Sarah Preston



Candice Quinton



Louise Shone



Justine Smit



Renée Stegen



Tatum Swinny



Kirsten Talbot



Andrea Temple



Roslyn Thwaites



Tracey Turner



Coralee von Weichardt



Charlotte Watcyn-Jones



Kim Wilson



Stacey Wright



Samantha Zungu

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Senior Academic... MATRICS 2003



- front row:* Mr M. R. Wotherspoon, Coralee von Weichardt, Mrs J. Champion, Glynis Marwick, Mev. F. Malherbe
- 2nd row:* Jessica Kretzmann, Justine Smit, Louise Hedges, Elizabeth Fletcher, Tiffany Hughes, Nolwazi Nkosi
- back row:* Amy Frenkel, Ruth Bird, Louise Shone Margot Flint

These cuties...

(Grade 1, 1991)



Thembi Luckett



Candice Quinton



Kirsten Talbot



Clair Goosen



Nicola Main



Tatum Swinny

grew into...
(see p. 27)

FACING MY FATHER

Your eyes look back at me, crystal blue and penetrating. They look straight through me, penetrating my soul, reading my thoughts, making me squirm. You are a person of such integrity and honesty that few can meet your gaze without wilting. Yet, in other moods, your bright eyes suggest that you have laughed often on the journey of your life. The deep frown line that bridges your nose reminds me of how fierce and angry you become when life gets too much for you, or when people fail to meet your high standards.

Your mouth is straight and narrow. When you concentrate your lips become tight and firm. You have learnt that life can be hard and cruel and that people let you down. You have fought against the apartheid state, served your fair share of time in prison for political activism and you have shared the pain and suffering of the oppressed. But when you smile, your mouth loosens up letting out a deep, rich chuckle that softens the air. You have also enjoyed the love and comfort of a close family. Occasionally you allow yourself to be moved by us out of your seriousness into fun and nonsense.

Beneath your bottom lip is a deep crevice, a protruding chin and a square jawline. You are fiercely independent and determined. At a young age you learnt to think for yourself. You broke out of your primary socialization as a white Afrikaner male living in the Free State, and trod your own path from Stellenbosch to Oxford and back to work for the poor in South African squatter camps and resettlement villages. Whilst admiring your single-mindedness, I also know how stubborn you are and how hard it is to get you to buckle, bend to my will and give in a little.

Your long serious face is softened by your large hooked beak with a crooked bridge from when you broke it many years ago on the handlebars of your bicycle. This gives a slightly comical effect and brings relief to the gravity of your face and soul.

Your forehead is large, white and cone-shaped, topped by a shock of wispy soft white hair. (I hope your hair holds on a little longer, for without it your head might look like a peeled hard-boiled egg!) I imagine that your high, broad forehead is packed with brain matter. You know so much about the world and your mind works with razor sharp logic and accuracy. Your forehead is also marked with one vertical line and a handful of horizontal lines. Are these the signs of hours of concentration and deep thought? Or are they signs of your anxiety, your ceaseless watching and worrying over your family and other responsibilities? I know that sometimes you feel inadequate, but I assure you that you never failed your family. I would love to smooth away those lines, calm your creased brow, lift your burdens and give you greater peace and contentment.

Finally your large, jumbo-sized ears, which strangely enough are in proportion with your face. These signify your permanent alertness; they are like antennae searching the universe for information and clues about the meaning of life. I hope that you have managed to find the meaning of your life so that you can live your last years more peacefully, with less inner conflict and turmoil. Your ears, although so large, are sadly beginning to fail you now.

When I look at all the features of your face together, representing the puzzle of your life, I see a good, gentle man who has had his share of suffering and frustration, but who

continues always to strive to do what is right and true. As you grow older, I see you losing confidence in yourself. I hope that in your old age, you will learn to be more accepting of yourself. I hope that you will look back on your life less regretfully and realize that you have many things to be proud of. Finally, I hope that your old age will bring you some rest and contentment.

Thembi Luckett

PREFECT CAMP

The Prefects' year began early with a weekend to Albert Falls before the term began. It turned out to be a perfect way to test our cohesion as a group at the start of the year. Judy Koch was our course director from Gauteng. Being a schoolteacher herself, she seemed to know the right way to get us focused after the holidays. We went through a structured manual on the disciplines we need as leaders, adding our personal opinions. We learnt self-sufficiency, resilience, integrity, among other things, and spent time setting attainable personal and school-related goals. Although a more intellectual than physical course, we put our skills into practice with exercises like canoeing blindfolded, aided only by our canoe partner, and carrying a pot of water with only three ropes! The continuous skipping game proved a bit of a challenge, but it demonstrated high team morale. We had creative time too, making individual collages representing ourselves.

The excursion brought us closer together. It enabled us to get to know the group dynamic and set specific goals for our Matric year, realising the Legacy we wished to leave.

We are determined

We are aspiring

We are uncommon

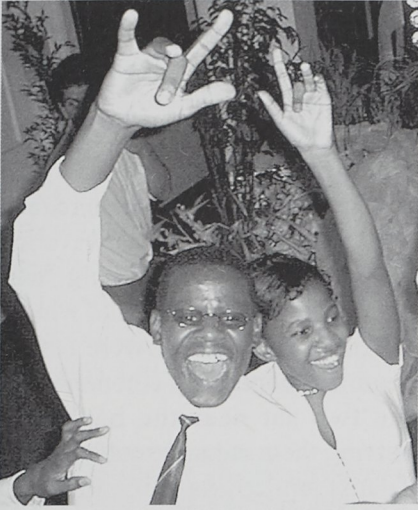
We are life-giving

We are Women of Earth

Amy Frenkel

This page kindly sponsored by Kim Wilson

FORMAL DINNER



Être romantique, c'est faire des choses spéciales pour prouver son amour. Que fait – on selon vous, pour être romantique?

D'une part, je crois qu'on ne doit pas prouver l'amour. Dans une relation, particulièrement un mariage, je dois savoir s'il m'adore. Si j'avais un doute, je devrais repenser à notre relation. D'autre part, je pense que faire des choses spéciales est une bonne idée parce que mon mari, il verra que je l'adore. Je veux qu'il sache que je pense à lui.

Tout d'abord, je lui dirai que je le respecte et que je serai fidèle à notre mariage. Ce n'est pas tellement éblouissant mais c'est nécessaire qu'il le sache. La vie est quelquefois tellement intense. On doit trouver l'équilibre entre le travail, les enfants, le sport, le divertissement et le compte bancaire. L'homme et la femme doivent s'aider à maintenir un courant électrique entre les deux et aussi cela fait la vie plus intéressante quand il y a des surprises!

J'ai quelques idées mais d'abord, je dois trouver l'homme de mes rêves! Un jour, je voudrais faire un grand pique-nique au parc. J'irais avec mon mari dans un bel endroit où nous pourrions parler et manger. Une autre idée: je ferai un bain avec des bulles et du champagne pour mon mari. Comme beaucoup de femmes, j'adore les fleurs et si mon mari voulait être romantique, les roses, ce serait magnifique.

Pouvoir faire la grasse matinée est un grand privilège dans notre vie pressée. Quand j'ai des enfants, ils auront des activités du matin. Ce serait très romantique si mon mari s'occupait de nos enfants et que je pouvais dormir.

Toutes ces choses montrent l'amour. Elles demandent beaucoup d'efforts et elles sont surprenantes et spéciales mais je crois qu'elles ne prouvent pas l'amour.

L'amour doit venir du Coeur et les hommes doivent se souvenir que le chocolat est la clé au coeur de la femme!

Elizabeth Fletcher

(from p. 25) ...MATRICS IN 2003



WHO GREW INTO... (see p. 29)

THE THREE TESTS

A Feminist Fairy Tale

Once upon a time, in the land of Camelot, lived an ugly king who struggled to find a wife to bear an heir to his throne. As time passed, the king became older. He became vexed at the thought of having no heir to the throne when he died, so he began to think of ways of finding a worthy person who was powerful and strong at heart to become the new king. He decided to choose two people who would best serve the land as king, and he devised three tests that would display their strength and mightiness of heart. The person who succeeded in two of the three tests would become the new king. He already had one person in mind: the great knight, Taurus. He was greatly respected in Camelot for his strength and fearlessness. However, he had to find another person to oppose Taurus, in order to put his strength to the test.

One day, a young peasant woman named Titania appeared at the castle gates, requesting to participate in the three tests, alongside Taurus. She hoped to become ruler of Camelot because she wanted to stop the oppression of women by the men in the land. The other women looked up to her and respected her for her strong nature. The king was surprised - he hadn't expected a woman to vie for the position of king. However, he agreed, knowing that she would be no match for the great Taurus.

The first test aimed at proving physical strength. Two dwarfs with long, straggly beards were called in and Taurus and Titania were required to swing the dwarfs above their heads by their beards and throw them as far as they possibly could. Taurus knew that the stupid little girl would be no match for his physical strength and after swinging the

dwarf by his long beard and throwing him a whopping distance of three metres, poor Titania, who couldn't even lift the dwarf, proved Taurus right. The king rubbed his hands with glee as he exclaimed, "One point to Taurus; let the next test begin!"

The second test required the candidates to light a fire on the windy slopes of the Piazza Mountains. This tested their determination. "Everybody knows that girls can't light fires!" Taurus laughed gleefully as he began to picture the rich brocade robes and the rooms full of riches in his mind's eye. Titania, however, knew better, as her work as a blacksmith involved working with fire. On the slopes of the mountain, where the wind roared, Titania busied herself with her fire and became increasingly determined as the wind continually blew her fire out. Taurus, however, grew more frustrated. He became lazy in his arrangement of the sticks as he still believed he would win the test anyway. Titania couldn't possibly start a fire, let alone keep it going! Eventually, Titania's patience in laying out the sticks was rewarded with a huge and roaring fire. She had won the test! The king was surprised as the flames of Titania's fire danced teasingly in the air, insulting the few burnt sticks of Taurus' fire. "I *will* win the next test," Taurus promised himself. "I will NOT lose to a *girl*!"

The third and final test aimed at proving their strength of heart. The candidates were to go to the Isle of the Banshees, where the banshees would wail their mournful melodies. The first candidate to shed a tear would lose the test, as it would reveal their weak inner nature, and a king had to have an unwavering inner strength. The king was confident that Taurus would win, as he knew that women were soft at heart and hopelessly emotional. As the two sat near the banshees, hearing their sad and soulful wails, Titania smiled inwardly, knowing the inner strength that all women possess would carry her through the test. Taurus grew weak as the sad songs flowed through his ears and coaxed the tears from behind his eyes as pangs of sadness overcame him. Titania had won two of the three tests! The king was astonished to see the crying, gibbering Taurus, with tears flooding from his eyes as he regretfully handed over his crown to Titania.

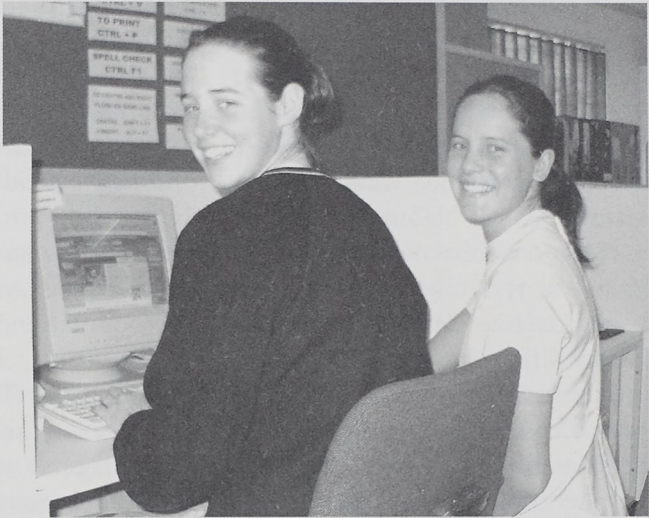
The women of Camelot were overjoyed when they heard Titania address, for the first time, the land over which she ruled. "Women, stop your cooking and refrain from cleaning! You are no longer slaves to these men, but their masters! Relax, drink wine, and celebrate and let the men - your dogs - wash *your* socks!"

Stacey Wright



This page kindly sponsored by Peter and Meryl Blore

On March 14, (3, 14), St John's celebrated Pi day - a celebration of mathematics! π is an irrational number of approximate value 3,14159 - a non-terminating decimal which no computer has ever calculated to its conclusion. Mathematical competitions were the order of the day, with the money raised going towards the purchase of new running shoes for Innocent Ndebele. The most demanding of these competitions was the recitation of the value of P to the furthest number of decimal places. Louise Hedges (right) was decreed **P Queen 2003** after confidently, and without hesitation, reaching 150 decimal places. Camilla Coertse, a Grade 8 pupil, was a worthy runner up with 130 decimal places!



Nicola, Pippa, Andrea and Clair are just some of the girls who have benefited from Mrs Langeveldt's lessons in CompuTyping - a most valuable lifeskill for entering the world of work.

PREFECTS' CAMP



(from p. 27)

...THESE CUTIES!



PHOTO BY TONY BRUTON

“Wanneer jy iemand wat jou haat se donkie onder sy vrag sien lê, moenie hom sonder hulp los nie, gaan help hom met sy vrag”- Exodus 23 v5.

Kan enigiemand regtig sê dit sou maklik wees om vir enigiemand wat jou seergemaak het, te help? Dit hang af wat menslikheid vir elke individu beteken.

Volgens die definisie van menslikheid kry ons twee betekenis. Eerstens, om ‘n mens te wees en tweedens, om menslik of mensliwend te wees. Maar gaan die twee altyd hand aan hand? As jy ‘n mens is, beteken dit jy moet liefdevol, goedgehartig en behulpsaam wees? In die Zoeloe Kultuur is dit inderdaad so. “Ubuntu Botho” impliseer dat almal menswaardig is. Dit sê dat jy al die rykdom in die wêreld kan hê, maar as jou buurman sonder klere loop of honger is beteken daardie rykdom niks. Die interpretasie van menslikheid kan teoreties die gemeenskap oor die algemeen sterkmaak, maar hoe affekteer dit die individu? As jy baie bereik het, beteken dit regtig niks as jy dit nie met jou medemens deel nie. Blykbaar kan “Ubuntu” nie op almal toepaslik wees nie.

Miskien kan ons sê dat menslikheid beteken net om ‘n mens te wees. Maar wat presies behels dit? Miskien om deel van ‘n eenheid te wees, ‘n geheel. Dus is ons almal boublokke. Saam vorm ons ‘n ingewikkelde sterk struktuur. Maar as een blok weier om te bly waar dit gesit word of vanself verskuif, sal die eenheid mos inval. En die gevolg? Dit kan mens se ondergang beteken. Dit kan so maklik gebeur as ons mekaar teenstaan. Die hunkering na mag en sukses is vir party ‘n afbrekende mag in die wêreld. Dink aan Hitler se Nazi bewind, dink aan Apartheid en die Amerikaanse/Afghanistan oorlog. Ons groepsidentiteit gaan verlore en word vervang met ‘n individualiteit

wat perfeksie en meederheid nastreef. Ons behandel mekaar soos vreemdelinge en sonder medemenslikheid en verloor respek vir ander mense en hulle lewenswyse en dit is waar ons verantwoordelikheid vir die misdaad in ons wêreld moet aanvaar.

Dit beteken nie dat elke mens verantwoordelik vir die aksies van gewetenlose, gevoellose mense se misdade is nie. Dit beteken dat die moordenaar, verkragter en die dief ook deel van ons menslikheid is. Die feit dat hulle onmenslike goed aan ander mense doen, beteken dat daar iets verskriklik verkeerd met ons menslikheid is.

Ons regering strew na eerlikheid en gelykheid. As ons misdadigers nie soos elke ander mens behandel word nie, is dit basies diskriminasie. Teensprek dit nie die regering se doelwit nie? Is misdadigers nie op hulle menseregte geregtig nie? Wat van die reg van vryheid? Op watter stadium verbeur ‘n mens jou menseregte?

Om die vrae te beantwoord moet elke mens jouself begin afvra wat menlikheid en menseregte vir jou beteken. Dan kan ons uitvind wat dit regtig beteken om hier te wees.

Samantha Zungu

GOAL-SETTING WORKSHOP

Just in case our status had gone to our heads and we’d forgotten about the imminent studying for finals, a goal-setting workshop was just the recipe for a successful Matric year. Led by Johnathan Black, the workshop coordinator, we were given informative tips and instructions for both our school work and the wide world that is soon to be our oyster. We were also tested with activities – some more unusual than others. Much hilarity resulted from a game utilizing an egg, paper, balloons and string. The task? To build a suitable craft for dropping from a height, at the same time protecting the egg. With much secrecy, formulas were created and tested from the balcony of the Multi-Purpose centre. Mr Black was interested in the behaviour and reactions of the girls, which contrasted strongly to those at the boys’ schools. When an aircraft failed, or the contents were damaged, female onlookers were sympathetic rather than displaying the male reaction of pleasure that the opposition had failed; and in turn we were proud and supportive of the teams that succeeded - proof that a state run by women might be less warlike than those run by men.

Amy Frenkel



It was, in fact, Grade 8 Orientation weekend - the prefects seemed to have been a bit confused!

This page kindly sponsored by the Bird family

*From a clean moment of contact
we proceed with ceremony for him
formally to give me away - Marie
Philip Black Dog*

There were no wedding bells when Simon and Jayne first met. In fact the only thing that was ringing was Jayne's ear! Simon had been speaking about the importance of Bushmen in society for an hour and she had been pretending to be interested. Simon is my brother and Jayne is, as of Saturday the 20th of September, my new sister-in-law. It is agreed that their meeting makes good speech material and my Dad has already taken full advantage of that. I first met Jayne when I was ten, seven years ago.

I can clearly remember that evening although I am sure Simon would love to forget it! Jayne arrived in her little car, and being the youngest sister I was more excited to see her than Simon was. It was the first time that my parents and I were meeting her. Susan, my other sister, was still at varsity and I was instructed to phone her in the middle of dinner and give her a run down. A younger Simon was never really interested in girls and so, when the time finally came, Susan and I were ecstatic - to say the least! I was not allowed to rush out and introduce myself to Jayne; my parents were petrified I would scare the poor girl away and that was before she'd met the rest of our family! I was sitting in the lounge when she walked in. As a young girl I thought she was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen, with her long brown hair and big brown eyes. I was more interested in the length of her hair than her personality, but as a ten year old it was where my priorities lay!

Everything was going really well, my parents seemed to love her at once and I discovered something better than her hair - her jewellery!

Another rule Simon had instructed me to follow was to speak as little as possible! I had a bad reputation for saying the wrong things at the wrong time. I forgot about his little rule and as pudding was served I asked Jayne if she knew how long Simon's nostril hairs were? And whether or not he did little "stinkies" when they were driving around like he did with me? Simon is not easily embarrassed but that night he went a brighter red than I have ever seen. For a few moments there was complete silence until Jayne exploded with laughter! She laughed so hard she began to cry! It was the first of many trips to our household and as time changed their relationship into the serious sort there was only one thing that remained the same - I was still encouraged to say as little as possible!

The weekend before Simon proposed to Jayne I was convinced something was going to happen. He had been acting strangely and when I inquired, more as a joke than fishing for information, if he was going to propose that weekend he was quite startled! It became obvious, over the years, that Simon and Jayne were going to get married - it was just a matter of time. Simon took Jayne away for the weekend as it was her birthday and from Friday until early Sunday morning he tried to get hold of Jayne's mother to ask her permission. He hadn't dared ask in person because, just like Jayne, her mother Carol cannot keep a secret! On Sunday morning Simon proposed to Jayne and I was the first person they told. Simon phoned very early and, as I scrambled for my phone, I thought there had been an accident because no one phones at five in the morning! "Simon," I said, "are you alright?"

I was met with a very happy and proud big brother, "Yes, mate, I'm

fine, I just wanted to ask you something..."

I had no clue what was coming and very groggily replied, "Yes, Si?"

"I was just wondering how you knew, you little bugger?!" I knew at that point and I didn't stop screaming until Lou, the friend with whom I was staying, leapt out of bed and hit me!

On Saturday I watched my brother get married and it was the most beautiful event I have ever been a part of. Jayne looked like a bridal model and even though people say brides always look beautiful on their wedding day, Jayne really outdid herself. Her Dad was tragically killed in a car accident not so long ago and she decided to walk herself down the aisle. When she walked in the tears began to roll! Words can't describe how unbelievably beautiful she looked and I will never forget the way Simon looked when he saw her, nor will I forget the way he looked at her when they were saying their vows. I couldn't have asked for a better wife for my brother and I have only two wishes. One, that they stay as happy as they were on Saturday and two, that one day, when my time comes, I will find a man who will look at me the same way Simon looks at Jayne.

Julianne Fifield

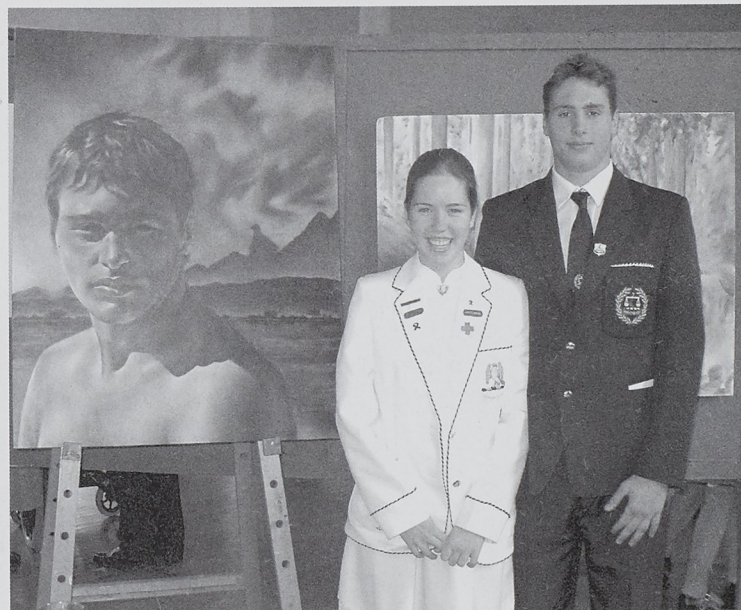
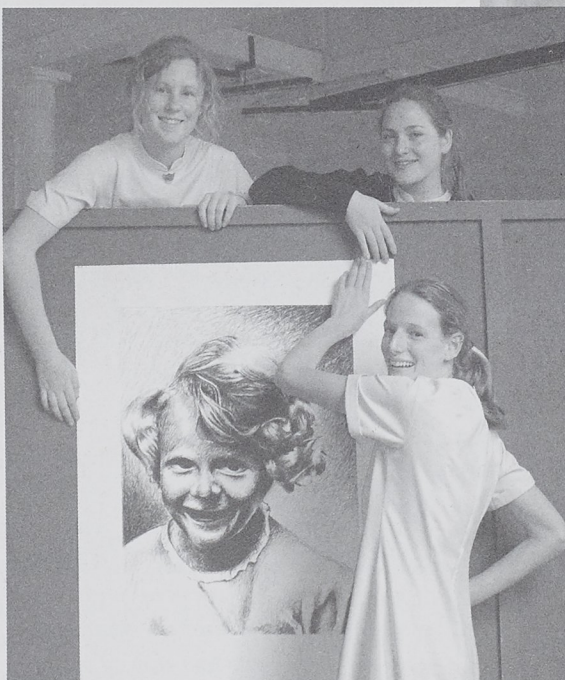
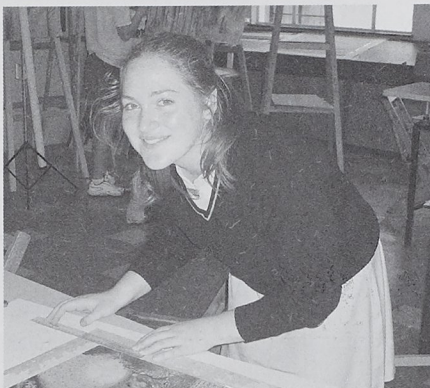
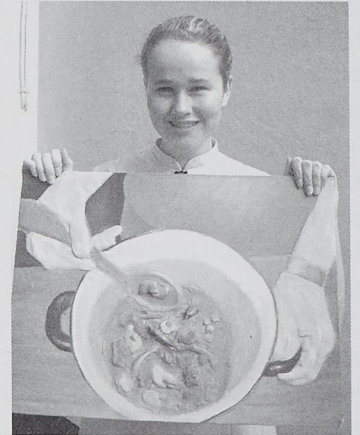
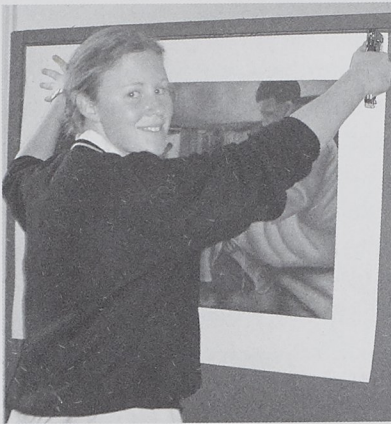
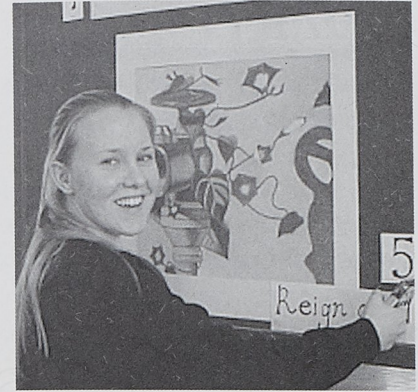


6.00am - Matrics warm up with a cup of coffee after a spot of skinny-dipping on their very last day of school.

ART EXHIBITION



DOWNFALL OF THE
DICTATORS IS ASSURED



MATRIC ART



Robyn Bezuidenhout



Sheldeen Cameron



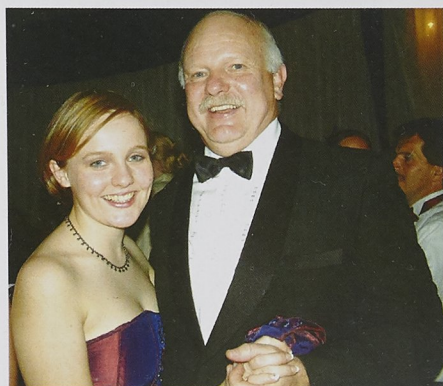
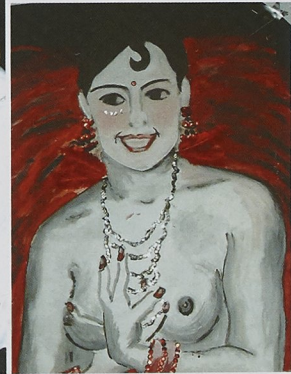
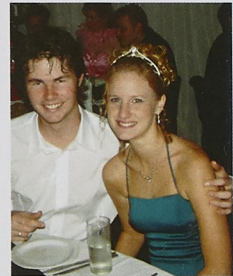
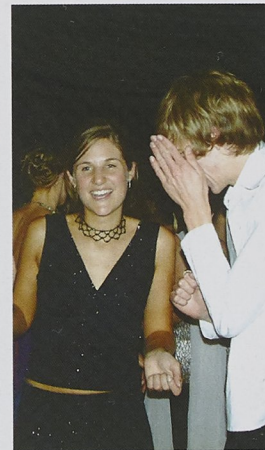
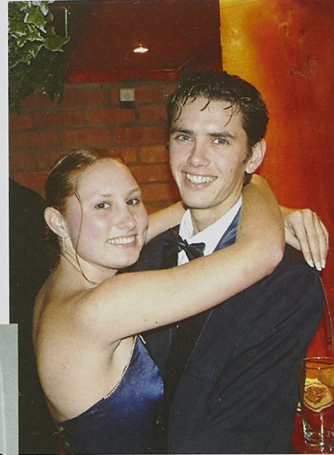
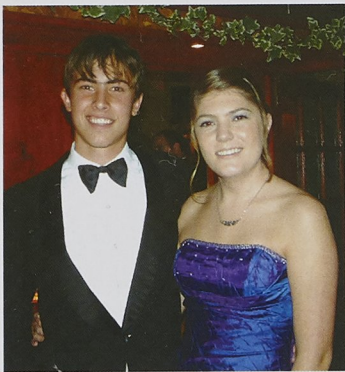
Megan Hodson

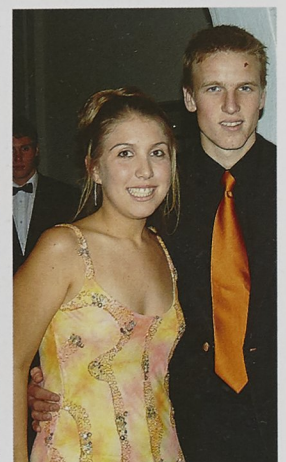
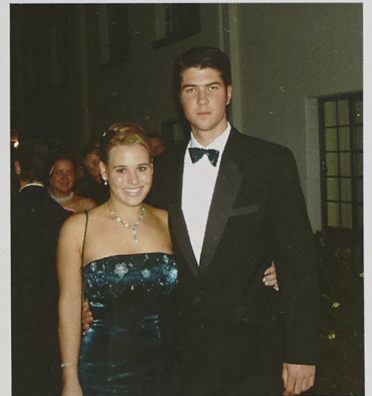


Kim Wilson



Emma Pitman





THE DOWNFALL OF THE
DICTATORS IS ASSURED



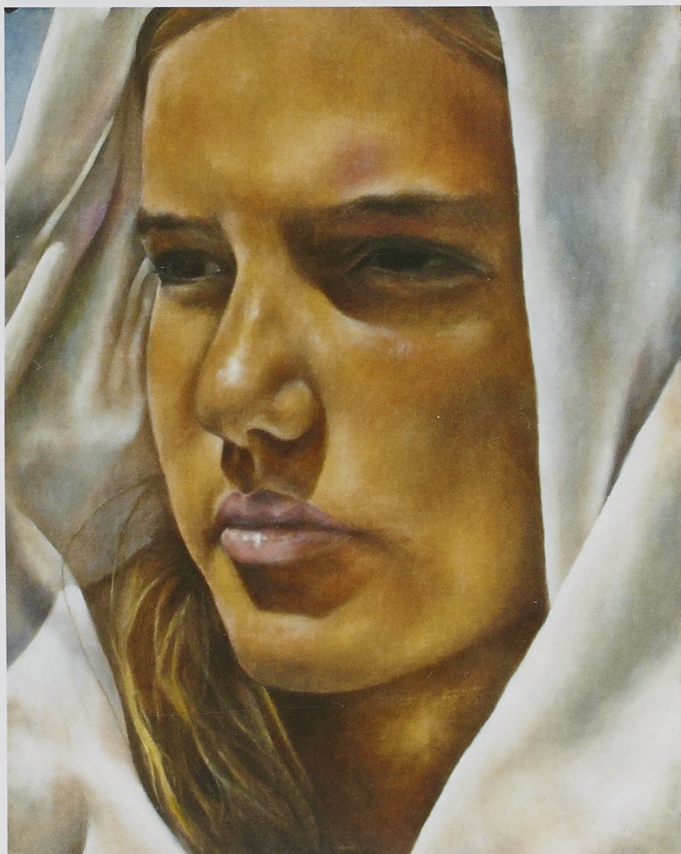
Sarah Dawson



Amelia Frenkel



Barbara Faure



Louise Hedges



Gemma-Kate Bishop

PREPARATION FOR THE DANCE



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Senior Academic... **GRADE 11**



front row: Megan Cowie, Tarryn Jones, Kelly McBean, Ms B. Kidd, Jolene Crous, Patience Ostrich, Linda Dickinson
2nd row: Cassilouise Blesovsky, Stacey Graham, Carey Lindsay, Donna Stokes, Nicola Schröder, Justine Naidoo, Kirstin Adam, Sarah Nellist
3rd row: Kim Drummond, Penelope Ralfe, Romi Hillermann, Amy Furniss, Kirsten Craik, Linzi Stead
back row: Nothando Hlatshwayo, Melanie Haralambous, Joanna Bird, Ashlea Evans



front row: Katelyn Warren, Tanya Meyer, Jessica Gouweloos, Ms J Dyson, Stacey Kaye, Natalia Ing, Ashly Dorkin
2nd row: Jennifer Campbell, Anndrea Naidoo, Erica Stephen, Ashleigh Fowles, Sthabisile Gwala, Nikki Heenan, Elizabeth Robinson, Lindsay Everson
3rd row: Robyn Taylor, Robyn Bowles, Jeanne Cuenod, Kerry Moolenschot, Candice Gallagher, Jennifer O'Neill, Alexa Labuschagne
back row: Jessica Jenkin, Emma du Preez, Lindsay Smaill, Andrea Muller, Lerato Mfeka, Jessica Bunker

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THE INTER-HOUSE GALA

At the beginning of the Grade 11 year, there are three main events that we, as a class, have to plan for: the formal dinner, the inter-house gala and the matric dance.

Sandwiched between the formal and the end-of-term final mark frenzy, the gala seemed like yet another item added to a list that already seemed impossible to complete. As preparations got under way, the task at hand seemed daunting, with dialogues to write, dances to be choreographed and lots of practice, practice, practice.

The day of the Interhouse gala began early for the Grade 11s. When most people were only beginning to waken, we had already gathered at the swimming pool, some in uniform, some in pyjamas. Even though most of us were still half asleep, no-one could ignore the mounting excitement and anxiety about the gala. Banners were hung and routines were practised. Tensions and anxieties were building up. After a final few last touches, we were ready. Spirits began to rise.

As each of the three houses came into the pool area, the atmosphere became more enthusiastic. The Grade 11s threw themselves into the role of cheerleaders. Energy levels increased and the swimmers became more confident - they made us proud. The skits performed by the Grade 11s brought a sense of relief to the tension of the gala.

At the end, each one of us was left breathless: the day overall had its minor disasters, but we were left with unforgettable memories and we all had a fantastic day. The general spirit of the day was something to be proud of. We did what we had come to do, and we did it well!

Nothando Hlatshwayo, Amy Furniss

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSE 2003

Robyn Bowles and I were given the privilege of representing St John's at the Rotary Youth Leadership Course. Little did we know that in missing our first week of holidays we would gain a huge amount of knowledge.

A total of forty-five Grade 11 scholars from all over the Midlands gathered at St Christopher's boarding establishment for a five-day course which included a variety of lectures, tasks and motivational speakers, as well as discussions about our diverse country and the inter-cultural surroundings in which we are lucky enough to live.

Various group activities were included during lectures to help us to apply what we had been taught. One of the many tasks was being in a group which was given an island; on this island we had to create the best living conditions using the information we had been given about the island. This taught us how to make the best of situations using the resources given. We also learnt to make decisions while considering those around us and how the decisions might affect them.

Another experience, which proved to be unforgettable, was having lunch with Rotary members and going to supper with them and their families. This gave us a glimpse

of how leaders can give back to the underprivileged community.

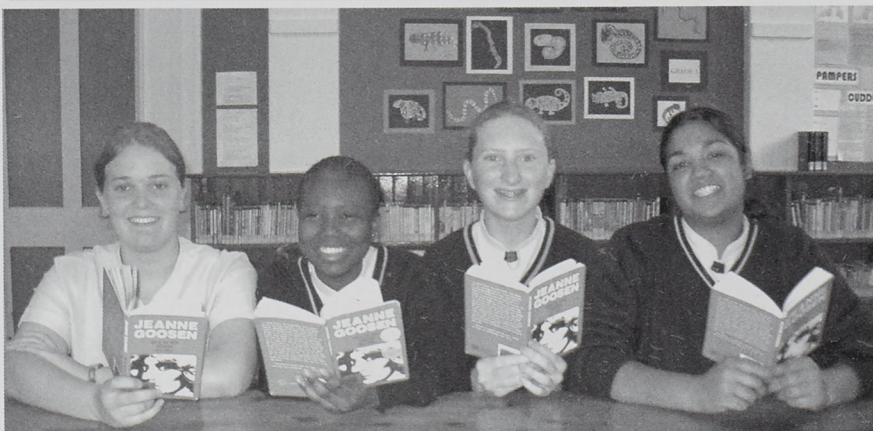
On one of the days we visited businesses and factories within Pietermaritzburg to investigate Management Leadership within the business environment. We gained much knowledge from both private and Government sectors. We then had to report back to the rest of the group on what we had learnt about the business we had visited. It gave us an immense amount of insight into the business world.

The last day was dedicated to our using what we had learnt during the week to organise the K-Z Carnival, an afternoon filled with entertainment for the children from an orphanage in Pietermaritzburg. We not only organised the whole carnival with minimal help from the course co-ordinators, but also made it a huge success.

We didn't only learn the skills needed to become good leaders, but somehow, during this very busy week, we also managed to create bonds with our peers from different schools and backgrounds. During the course, friendships were made which will never be broken.

This was definitely a life lesson, one which we will carry into the future.

Stha Gwala



Hulle lees Ons Is Nie Almal So Nie. And from all accounts, we should hope not!

FRIEDEN

Ich sitze unter unserem Maulbeerbaum und esse die süßen Maulbeeren. Der kühle Wind erfrischt mich und ich träume...

Zu Hause, in der Natur, in meinen Lieblingstellen, ist, wo ich Frieden finde. Ich könnte nie in der Stadt wohnen. Die Luft ist verschmutzt, die Gärten sind zu klein, es gibt begrenzte Aktivitäten und da ist viel zu wenig Raum. Auf der Farm ist mein Raum endlos und grenzenlos. Ich kann tun was immer mir gefällt, ohne jemanden zu stören und zu nahe zu kommen. Ich habe keine feste Routine und ich bin frei; frei um Tanya zu sein.

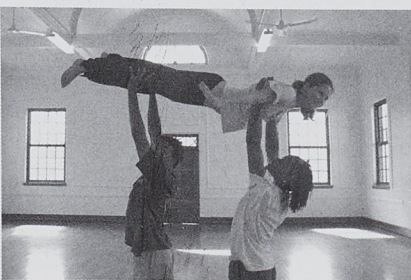
Natur ist, was mir in der Stadt fehlt. Auf der Farm kann ich sorgenfrei mit den Hunden spazieren gehen, lange Motorradfahrten machen und das Fahrzeug illegal fahren. Ich habe meinen eigenen Wildpark in meinem Hintergarten, wo ich kleine Tiere versorge.

Der Sonnenaufgang ist so unbeschreiblich hübsch und die Morgenluft ist immer erfrischend. Jeden Tag, den ich auf der Farm erlebe, genieße ich. Es ist ein Geschmack vom Himmel auf Erden! Ich bin nie gelangweilt, und da ist nie genug Zeit in einem Tag, um alles zu tun.

Der Sonnenuntergang beendet den Tag mit einer besonderen Wirkung ab, die Sterne sind nirgendwo so hübsch wie hier, die Ruhe, die Weite geben mir Frieden.

Wenn ich Abends in meinem Bett liege und danke für den Tag, mein Leben, dann kann ich sagen, dass ich Frieden in meinem Leben habe.

Tanya Meyer



Phenduka teaching Gillian to fly

Grade 11 comes with many duties and one of them is to organise the entire evening, from decorating and food, to tables and waitresses. We didn't have an exact theme, but it went along the lines of a magical garden filled with mystical and enchanted creatures in colours of mysterious blues and purples.

After much preparation and time, the great day finally arrived and was a great success thanks to the hard work that was put in by our class.



The hall was transformed into a magical forest overnight and, by the evening, it was definitely fit for princesses. And that's what we were. All the girls arrived breathtakingly beautiful! From hair, nails and make-up, to dresses and shoes, they all looked perfect and, without a doubt, their knights in shining armour would have agreed.

Unfortunately, the boys had to wear their uniforms, much to their disgust, but in the girls' opinions, they still looked very handsome! The atmosphere of the evening was one of excitement, enjoyment and maybe even sadness, as it was the matrics' last formal diner...ever!

It was hard work, but we worked together well and pulled off something far better than we had expected. The evening was a magical and successful one.

Kirsten Craik, Carey Lindsay

FORMAL DINNER



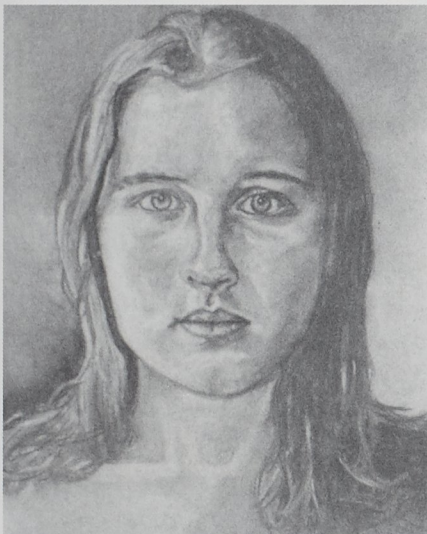
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LA VIE EN FRANCE EST BELLE! MON SEJOUR EN FRANCE

An opportunity of a lifetime was given to me at the end of last year to be an exchange student in France. I left as soon as school term ended, packed with clothing that only exists for the overseas winters to which I was heading, and my French dictionary (one should really never leave home without it!).

Once in France, we had an orientation with other students from around the world. We were then sent to our host families.

I stayed in the East of France in the region of Lorraine (home to the famous Quiche Lorraine) where I lived with my host family and attended school. I was given the opportunity of making tons of new



Robyn Bowles



Ashly Dorkin

friends whom I still communicate with, and trying new experiences, including making my very own snowman and walking to school!

I wouldn't be a true St John's girl if I didn't describe at least some of the food that I encountered. I tried everything from foie gras to snails - they do not taste like chicken! And of course I had to try the très famous French cheese and wine!

Being an exchange student is a brilliant experience, but it is also very demanding and sometimes difficult. There were times when I never wanted to return home, but there were also times when all I wanted was home. Overall, the challenge thrilled me. I wanted to meet new people and experience a world beyond the boundaries of

THE CAT'S PYJAMAS

Our sewing assignment seemed to be a fairly easy task... or so we thought! We were in for a big surprise! *Wow* and *never again* are the words I would use to describe the process! *Wow* - because I made my very own pyjamas almost all by myself and *never again* - because it was rather difficult and took lots of concentration.

Apart from learning how to sew, I learnt how to be patient and I became one of the champion unpickers in the class! I was amazed at the amount of brainpower needed to place a pattern, cut the fabric and sew it all together. It certainly made me appreciate all the work my mom put in to making my clothes for me as a child!

I'm sure, if done regularly, sewing could become quite easy and therapeutic, but for those who have not been blessed with a knack for sewing, it can be somewhat challenging! I enjoyed it because it was very new for me and I was



South Africa. It was also a perfect opportunity to improve my French.

Being an exchange student has opened my eyes to the wonderful world that we live in and has made me more aware of who I am. I can also now say that I am proudly South African! I would recommend a student exchange to anyone who enjoys meeting people, who loves new experiences and who can cope in unusual circumstances.

Stacey Kaye



very pleased with the result. I think most of us enjoyed the project and were amazed that we could all make fairly recognisable pyjamas. But somehow, I still don't think that many of us are about to become seamstresses!

Mrs Westwood's patience was amazing, especially when all twenty-five of us were calling for help at the same time!

Jo Bird

MPUMALANGA TRIP

At four o' clock in the morning, the whole Grade 11 class left for Mpumalanga. Usually, everybody has much to say, but not this time: we found our seats and went straight to sleep. We all slept till our first stop in Ladysmith, but when we got back on the bus, the noise exploded and everybody started chatting and munching. After a very long, twelve-hour trip, with various much-needed stops, we arrived at Moholoholo where we were split up into our camping groups.

We went to many places such as the *Cheetah Project*, *Bourke's Luck* potholes, the *Hoedspruit Air force Base*, as well as the *Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre*. We spent two nights at the *Moholoholo Game Lodge* and two nights at the *Pilgrims Rest Environmental Centre*.

The trip was both educational and enjoyable. The *Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre* was the most fun because we had the opportunity to see real, live, wild animals very close up which was quite amazing. And we saw animals that one doesn't usually see on a game drive.

The trip had both historical and geographical aspects, but also loads of general knowledge for those who were interested. Two of the most memorable visits were *Bourke's Luck* potholes and *God's Window* - both stunning.

The Grade 11 trip was definitely the best of all the other trips that I have been on. They seem to get better every year. We came back with so much more knowledge of a different part of South Africa. It's definitely a trip to look forward to.

Nicky Schröder



C'EST LA VIE...

Je suis à la campagne près du Nil. Je contemple le vol des oiseaux dans le ciel et je sais que je suis en Afrique. Le ciel est bleu et le soleil brille, il fait super chaud. Je suis seule-juste moi et la terre. Je sens le chiendent sous mes pieds. Je ne veux pas quitter cet endroit. Ce matin, mon grand-père est décédé. Hier, j'étais avec lui. Aujourd'hui, il n'est plus. Dimanche, j'irai à son enterrement. Aujourd'hui, c'est triste. C'est terrible et je ne sais pas quoi faire.

À l'instant, je rêve de mon enfance... du temps quand mon grand-père et moi, nous étions ensemble. C'était fantastique et mon grand-père me manque. Il a exercé une telle influence sur ma vie... Il me manque... Trois mots me traversent l'esprit. Je nage dans le Nil... je vais à la dérive avec l'eau. Je suis calme. Lorsque je retournerai chez-moi, je dirai à ma famille que la mort n'est jamais trop mauvaise... oui, c'est triste (et j'ai beaucoup pleuré) mais mille ans ne peuvent pas changer cela. Je me lève et je marche lentement. Les pierres sont très rudes sous moi... Le soleil africain se couche.

Candice Gallagher

ICH WÄRE AM LIEBSTEN IN DEN BODEN VERSUNKEN!

Es hat alles an einem Morgen angefangen! Die Sonne war gerade über die Wolken aufgekommen und die Vögel sangen fröhlich! Dann dachte ich an meinen Vortrag! Ich hatte den Vortrag schon sehr viele Male aufgesagt für Mama und andere, und alles ging perfekt. Ich habe an dem Morgen gut über mich selber gefühlt, und ich hatte keine Zweifel, dass ich es nicht perfekt machen würde!

Die Musikstunde kam. Ich war vorbereitet für mein Mündlich. Ich stand auf und fing an zu reden! Alles

ging gut, bis ich zu den Namen der Komponisten kam! Sie waren Zungenbrecher für mich, sie waren ein grosses Problem. Jedes mal wenn ich einen dieser Namen sagen musste, lachte die ganze Klasse, und ich auch, schallend. Es war schrecklich peinlich, ich wollte einfach in den Boden versinken!

Alles verlief gut nachdem ich wieder ohne zu lachen sprechen konnte, und die Lehrerin sagte, dass der Vortrag gut war und, dass, ich das Thema gründlich vorbereitet hatte.

Romi Hillermann



Life was hard for this group of pioneers in Pilgrim's Rest, which might explain why they do not look possessed of much of a sense of humour.

A WARM SHAFT OF SUNLIGHT, MOTES DANCING IN THE BEAM, REACHED INTO THE DARKNESS

The forest floor is always growing, yet it always seems to stay the same. It's like magic. But what is most magical is the dancing light. It splatters the floor and skips and twirls into every nook and cranny – so that nothing in the forest is ever really dark, just resting. If I watch closely, I can see the things of the forest smile as they get danced over.

I once tried to dance like that light. I twirled, and with each turn I could feel the energy and life in me being first prodded and then slowly awoken. I felt as if I had beautiful butterflies tickling me all over my body – under my feet, up my nose, in my hair, pirouetting over my tummy... a part of me, which had never been woken, was set free! It soared. Suddenly, I was leaping through burning bushes, flying over sleeping trees and diving through oceans of swaying grass. It was the most exhilarating thing I've ever done in my life.

I ended up lying on my back on the soft earth, looking up at patches of blue sky, green leaves and my dancing light. I lay there for a long time watching the sky turn slowly pink, red and finally dark. But my forest stayed the same. It doesn't care for the goings on of the outside world. It has a time of its own. This is what makes it so peaceful and gentle. A haven. It has a wisdom of ages gone past and ages before that. And it was happy to share that with me.

I danced like that many times, but not too often. The magic would only happen in its own time. I couldn't create it.

Lindsay Smaill

WARNING: TEENAGE YEARS! ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!

People say that you always have a choice in life, but I have to disagree. Going through the teenage years might be a choice I wouldn't take, but then again, where would I be without them?

There should be a monstrous sign painted with big, tomato-red letters which say the following:

Warning- Teenage Years! Enter At Your Own Risk. Somebody should also write a detailed manual, make you read it, then sign a document to ensure that you understand what you are about to submit yourself to. You should be warned about the lumps and bumps that you will sprout or that your voice suddenly gets a life of its own. No one warns you about friends, parents or the opposite sex. Friends change and become people you doubt you ever knew. In your teenage years you suddenly realise that your parents aren't the perfect beings you thought they were - they too, have faults. This changes them into people who don't have all the answers for you and who are capable of making mistakes.

Around this time you develop your own views and opinions. You begin to establish your own strengths and weaknesses learnt from mistakes and experiences. The teenage years are like a dark cave with dangerous edges - through which you stagger

blindly. You continually fall and hurt yourself, but you keep on going, striving to become what you were destined to be.

"What are you going to do after school?" "If your marks aren't up to scratch, you'll never get a job." "I thought you were my friend! How could you?" "Let's just make sure that we all understand who the parent in this relationship is." "Not finished? But you had two weeks to complete it!" "No you can't be excused from practice because you have work! We have a game tomorrow!"

Pressure. It's part of a normal day. Pressures like sex or virginity, to smoke and drink or not to, to strive to be accepted and please everyone or to be yourself. These are the types of pressures that can make or break you. Somehow, most of us get through them and we all survive. This is all part of being a teenager. As there is no choice in the matter, we just have to stumble our way through, learning important life lessons and using each new experience to our advantage. You never know, maybe one day when you least expect it you will come across a sign that reads:

Warning Old Age Up Ahead! PS. Viagra Works!

Kelly McBean

Senior Academic... **GRADE 10**



- front row:* Mofieleli Sekatle, Trisha Maharaj, Kara Schladenhauffen, Mrs K. Stakemire, Dominique Cronjé, Octavia Moloï, Courtney Thompson,
- 2nd row:* Alycia Murugesson, Katherine Wood, Sharlene Moodley, Hayley Schoeman, Teri-Ann Burroughs, Amy Hylton, Amy Quinton, Sithembile Majola
- 3rd row:* Thandeka Ndlovu, Roxanne White, Janice Southey, Phillipa Floros, Kate Vreedenburgh, Julie Shewan
- back row:* Samantha Acutt, Tasha Ross, Gillian Pooler, Caitlyn Nothard, Natasha Haralambous, Roxanne Vale



- front row:* Mary Campbell, Victoria Girodo, Paulette Josiah, Mme A. Tivcheva, Anne Fleishack, Catherine Lee, Lauren Boyd
- 2nd row:* Kerry Hedges, Kate Attwell, Lee-Anne Morris, Karma Hart, Katherine Main, Natalie Britz, Rebecca Burne, Derryn Percival
- 3rd row:* Sally-Anne Snyman, Katie-Lee Essom, Megan Cunnama, Milena Gevers, Ntonhle Sokhela, Bridget Meyer
- back row:* Toni-Lee Sterley, Lee-Anne Meyer, Alexandra Stewart, Antje Eggers, Cara Hackland, Rayne Cockburn

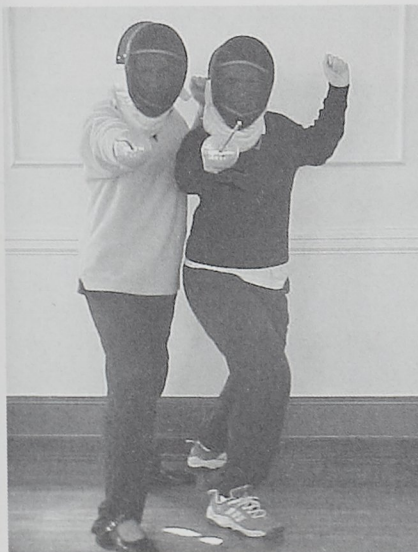
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VIOOLMUSIEK

Sierlik, gly sy die strykstok oor die snare van haar viool. Die musiek weerklink om haar kamer terwyl die growwe klanke van die wêreld uitgesluit word en al wat bly is die soet, strelende musiek van die viool. Nou kan sy nie die geskree van haar ma hoor terwyl sy en haar pa oor geld, liefde en tandapasta baklei nie. Sy kan nie die hond wat blaf of die motors wat by haar huis toet en verby snel, hoor nie. Sy kan nie die klanke van haarself hoor terwyl sy huil nie. Al wat sy kan hoor, is die musiek. Die musiek van 'n lewe wat kortstondig was en van 'n seun wat al dood is. Die musiek van 'n storie wat te kort was. Die storie van 'n seun.

Maar nou is hy dood. Die maande het so vinnig verby gevlieg. Hulle het elke minuut saam met mekaar gekoester. Sy het so hard probeer om sy laaste dae, die beste dae van sy lewe te maak, en sy het geweet hoe dankbaar hy en sy familie was. Maar niemand kan verstaan hoeveel die seun vir haar gegee het nie. Hy het vir haar die geskenk van musiek gegee. En nou kan sy die viool speel, en musiek maak. Sy kan van haar emosies speel en sy kan speel om net van die wêreld te ontvlug.

Sy kan vir hom speel.
Toni-Lee Sterley



Learning swordplay to make Macbeth come alive... well, briefly.

**LOVE IS
A UNIVERSAL MIGRAINE,
A BRIGHT STAIN ON THE
VISION
BLOTTING OUT REASON.**

Robert Graves: Symptoms of love

As a fifteen-year-old teenager, I have not had vast experience in the field of love, but it has touched my life and has often appeared in many shapes and sizes (literally). In my opinion, love is a mystery, which I do not think will ever be grasped completely. Mr Robert Graves aids us by enhancing our understanding of this unstoppable force.

Love is a universal migraine.

It is painful and causes heartbreak and disappointment. By challenging love and taking a shot at it, you expose and risk the most vulnerable part of you. Heart and soul. If you do get hurt, it hits where it hurts most. Most people have experienced it. It is impossible to go through life without ever experiencing a migraine or encountering the “unstoppable force”. Even if you have never come across romantic love, you must have felt some sort of deep, overwhelming feeling for another person. Love is inevitable.

Bright stain on the vision.

A migraine affects your eyesight and “love is blind”. You are so blinded by the visor of love that you cannot easily see the faults or flaws in the ones you love. Everything feels different. You see the world with new eyes. The sun shines brighter, the sky is bluer, and the clouds are whiter - as if they are going to all the effort just for you.

Blotting out reason.

You cannot think straight. Your heart overrules your head. A word such as ‘logical’ does not exist to you. What is logical about love? Being in love may prevent you from being professionally successful. The prospect of spending time with your beloved is much more appealing than working. Is love not more exciting than work?

Migraine or not, love is inevitable, an unstoppable force. It taps you on the shoulder and enters your life, regardless of whether or not you invite it in. We all encounter or become acquainted with love. Without it our lives would be fruitless, purposeless and dull.

I hope that scientists never find a cure for this universal epidemic.
Monja Nortjé



The dreadful consequences of OBE MACBETH

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE Gr.10 TRIP TO BABANANGO

The best part of our trip was the early mornings: waking up at 4:00am, showering and getting dressed, walking outside, taking a deep breath of fresh, cold morning air. Although the bitter cold breeze nipped at my bare flesh, the magnificence of Mother Nature made me forget the pain. There was mist all around, partly revealing the beautiful mountain. I enjoyed waking first, accompanied by the birds singing "good morning". I would see a light, feel its heat. There, waiting for me at 6:00am, was a blazing fire to top off my amazing experience with Mother Nature.

Sithembile Majola

I really enjoyed the view from the top of Isandlwana Mountain. From there you could imagine the fighting happening below on the battlefield. I enjoyed the adventure we had on this trip.

Roxanne Vale

I loved Isandlwana - an eerie silence echoes through those rolling hills, and a cold, whistling wind ruffles the grass. But what you notice most is the presence of something that's not entirely there. I could just sit there and watch this calm quietness forever.

Alex Stewart

The silence and primitiveness of the place scared me. When I finally saw green grass I felt tears.

Ntonhle Sokhela



I think Rorke's Drift was a particularly interesting part of our tour and the museum there helped to put everything into perspective as it was very interesting and accurate.

Lauren Boyd

I loved the orienteering. It was so nice to break away from all the talks and just get out and do some exercise.

Natasha Haralambous

I enjoyed the free time and the river study. We got to catch little bugs and crabs. The water was freezing, but it was enjoyable anyway.

Janice Southey

The best part was swimming in the freezing cold water. When you got out it felt as if you were on fire.

Kiki Wood

I loved the last night when we all sat around the fire singing golden oldies - just blasting them out felt good!

Julie Shewan



Being able to see more than one shooting star, as well as being able to see full constellations, was really special for me. I will never forget that.

Sharlene Moodley

The aspect I enjoyed most about our trip was the star gazing: lying on the grass with one of our guides, Marietta, and a bunch of friends armed with torches, a star-gazing book and slides of the star signs. It was really interesting to learn about the different stars and how to spot them, whilst wrapped in windbreakers, the cold air biting our cheeks and noses, and clutching hot water bottles under our jackets.

Annie Fleischack

It was nice to have so much free time to get to know each other! Thanks so much to the teachers for a wonderful tour.

Phil Floros



Grade 10T girls making food models of coal mines in England during the Industrial Revolution - an enjoyable (and edible) History lesson.

SORROW

The ribbon of happiness around
my heart
Comes undone.
It is empty and vulnerable.

I see a house
With lights at the window,
But cannot find
the stepping stones
To walk across.

In my mouth,
bitterness lingers,
The sweetness lost.

My skin loses the bright glow
It once had.

Everything I see
Is grey and clouded.

The memories of happiness
Swim gently
in the pool of my mind,
But do not reach the surface.

The coldness of my bones
Inside my iron-tense muscles
Longs to meet again
with the warmth of happiness,
But my numb fingers
cannot reach it.

Annie Fleischack

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TEA WITH SAM

I sat at the small restaurant table, waiting. I stared at the empty chair opposite me, thinking, "I hope he shows up." I picked up my newspaper. It was a gloomy headline; "Car crushed on highway by truck's load." I was about to read the article when I heard a familiar voice say, "Hi, sorry I'm late!"

I looked up. It was Sam. He looked a little dishevelled, but otherwise his normal cheery self. "Hi, Sam," I said as he sat down. I had so much to tell him, but he started before me. "I got a new job today," he said. I was about to ask him about it when the waiter came. We both ordered tea and biscuits.

"Guess what happened today?" I asked Sam. "What, Anne?" he asked. "I got an e-mail from Mary - you know, the one who went to university with me?" I replied, as the waiter brought our tea. Sam poured, putting a dash of milk in mine and passing me the cup and saucer. I smiled at him. Whenever Sam was asked how he liked his tea, he would always reply with a chuckle, "Black, or nothing."

"So, how's Mary?" Sam asked, sipping his tea. "Is she well?" "Very well," I replied. "She's working at the nursery near her home. You know how she's always loved anything to do with plants." Sam nodded and checked his watch. "I must go," he said, standing up and pushing his chair in. "Before you go," I said, "tell me about your new job." "I get to help people in distress," said Sam. "You mean, like a rescue man? Those ones you see on TV who help people trapped under snow in avalanches, or under rubble in earthquakes?" "I guess you could say that," said Sam, smiling. "The whole business is run by a wonderful man. You may know him."



Rebecca Burne

He pulled a note and a couple of coins out of his pocket and put them on the table. "This should cover the bill. Listen, I'd better go, Anne." He turned to leave. "I'll come and visit you again sometime."

Before I could say anything, Sam had gone. I alerted the waiter and asked for the bill. While I was waiting, I picked up my newspaper and began to read the article beneath the headline: *In the early hours of this morning, a car collided with a truck which was carrying concrete slabs. Some of the slabs were dislodged and fell on top of the car, crushing it and killing the driver instantly. The driver was identified as Sam Holly.*

I felt the blood drain from my face. I read the name again. *Sam Holly.* But it couldn't possibly be Sam. I had just had tea with him! I tried to remember what he had said. "I got a new job today...I get to help people...The whole business is run by a wonderful man. You may know him." Suddenly, everything fell into place. That was why Sam had had to go in such a hurry. God had been calling him, because He needed Sam to help someone. Sam...my angel.

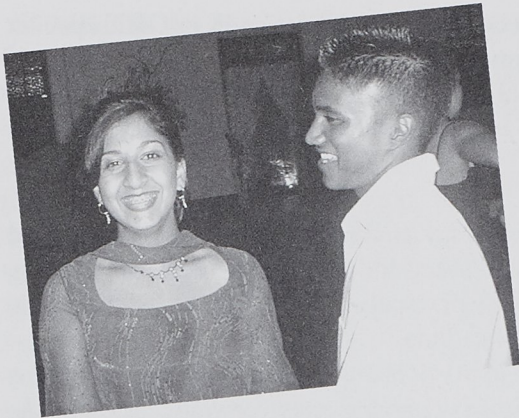
Annie Fleischack



Julie and Caitlyn were kind enough to support the Grade 8 market and extremely brave in agreeing to pose with this large snake. The smiley photograph belies how they really felt!



Kate Attwell



The Formal Dinner got the thumbs up from the Grade 10 girls.



LOVE MAKES SPARKS FLY

I have often wondered if stars have any use, or if they are there for fun. I have a theory: every time a star is born, a new couple falls in love; and every time you see a shooting star, it must be love at first sight.

I imagine that when you are looking up at all the billions of stars, you are looking at all the love burning brightly around the world that night. When you are alone or out of love, just think of someone special looking up from where they are and wondering when their star will be burning brightly.

The first star would have been born when Adam and Eve met, and another with Mary and Joseph.

One day, there may be so many stars in the sky that there will be no darkness. The more darkness, the less love; the less love, the more war.

Every time love dies, a star dies, but do not be disheartened - there is always love being born. When a loving couple dies, their star will be alive forever after, but, if someone dies without love, their black hole can be filled by new love.

Love will fill the sky because there will be more love than hate in the world, and night will be turned into day.

Megan Cunnama

A CHOCOLATE WORLD

If the world were made of chocolate, what a wonderful world this would be. There would be chocolate waterfalls, mountains, chairs and tables - all mouth-watering: dark chocolate to coat the earth, brown and thick; chocolate volcanoes oozing yummy caramel.

Blue seas move fastforward.

A kit-kat kitten walks down milky lane.

Someone told me an *inside story* while I was at the *Bar One* club. One day I had a dream of going in an *aeroplane* and floating to *peppermint crisp* heaven.

Leaves would float off trees in autumn and *crunchie* under my feet. At lunch I'd eat a *lunch bar* while watching the *TV bar* programme and afterwards diall the number 7777.

When I get angry I'd have a *tempotantum*!!

If only the world were made of chocolate.....

Janice Southey

PINSSA

*Alex Stewart and
Toni-Lee Sterley*



Toni-Lee Sterley and Alex Stewart took part in the PINSSA competition held at the University of Natal during the third term. Toni-Lee was awarded first place in the Grade 10 section for her biological investigation, *Sweet and Sour Milk* investigating the souring of milk, and Alex was awarded second place for her investigation, *A Tad-Problematic*, in which she investigated the effects of fertilisers in tadpoles. An overall prize, for which the students themselves voted, was also awarded to Toni-Lee.

This page kindly sponsored by Etienne & Paige Cronje

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Every Wednesday from February to May, we had the pleasure of being a part of the company *Lumiere*. The purpose of Junior Achievement is for pupils from different schools and backgrounds to learn to work together and run a business.



Conversations with Trees has already been written, but we trust that Ms Lockhart's communing-with-nature poetry lessons resulted in writing that was just as wonderful as that in Thomas Pakenham's book.

It was realistic - we elected a General Manager, Financial Manager, Accountant etc, from the members of our group. Our business plan was to take surveys at our different schools and communities to find products that the public wanted. Finally we decided on beaded bangles and gel candles. We had great fun doing it and we thought it most worthwhile, as it taught us many skills for running a business and getting along with other people - many of whom you wouldn't normally meet.

We got to know many people who quickly became friends, which made JA even more enjoyable. Although we had to work very hard, we made a profit of about R3000, of which each member got roughly R100. It helped us understand more about the business world - a valuable and memorable experience!

*Paulette Josiah
and Alycia Murugesson*



At the *Greystones Leadership Camp* in February, the Grade 10s were informed that they would have to sing, not only for their supper, but every other meal as well! The group that presented the worst performance would have to wash the dishes after the meal. Each girl was given a piece of paper representing her life. If caught without it, she would be given a husband, a rock! If she was caught not carrying him around, she would be given children - more rocks. Each time caught abandoning her children, she would be given even more children! And so it went on, teaching us values essential for everyday life.

MY BURDEN

Through tunnels of time,
their sand has been swept
and their bodies,
fallen ashes of rust
that will blow
with
the wind.

Through my veins
their blood surges
and their spirits
float upon my brow
like sweat
of the
midday sun.

I feel their
yearning to set me
free
from the clouds
that fold their
smiles, and I see
their eyes
shining
for the
life
they could not live.

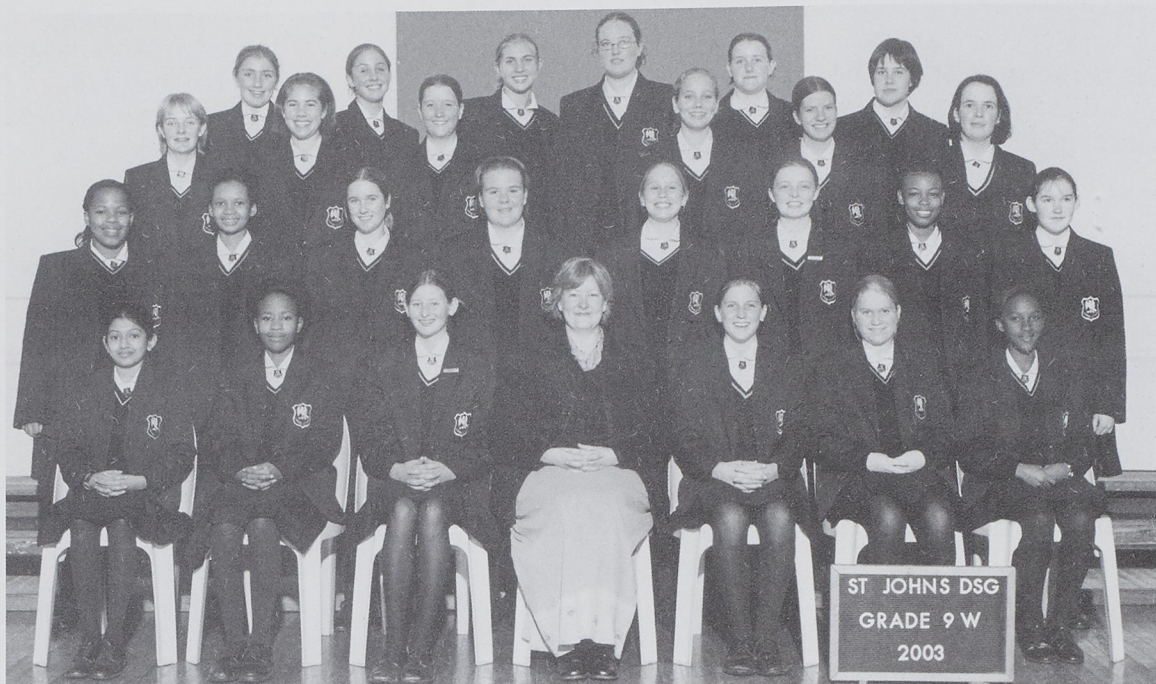
In me dwell
their hopes,
the mending
of their
failure,
the upliftment
of the
shield they
would bear.

They see my pain,
Hear my blood,
Feel my screams,
Smell my anger
and
Taste my fear.
They know.
But they expect.

Alex Stewart

Commended in the Douglas
Livingstone Poetry Competition

Senior Academic... **GRADE 9**



front row: Sudha Krishna, Nondumiso Shabalala, Alice Durnford, Ms T. Whitfield, Natalie Miller, Philippa Taylor, Mesuli Bhengu
2nd row: Sanele Ndlovu, Zama Mtolo, Lauren Pissarra, Samantha Lennox, Cherné Glas, Lauren Horner, Thobile Manzi, Keetah Biggs
3rd row: Nicola Withey, Kelly de Charmoy, Jenny Pickles, Nadine Visser, Laura Dehogne, Joanna Spain
back row: Bianca Westhorpe-Pottow, Megan Blore, Jessica Lawrence, Lauren Hathorn Jenni Mckenzie, Shannon Milojkovic



front row: Laura Taylor, Zincedile Mahlobisa, Lindsay Kirkby, Mrs M. van Deventer, Anthea Taylor, Jenna Brown, Alexandra Hainsworth.
2nd row: Darelene Chengan, Melisha Durais, Bronwyn Koch, Mbali Ngcobo, Nelisile Ndimande, Sasha Gunter, Sarah Lester, Katelyn Naidoo
3rd row: Rosalind Adkins, Lauren Stratford, Amy Joubert, Kayleigh Leisegang, Jodi Theron, Retlotluoe Nakin, Katherine Robertshaw
back row: Tristan Duthie, Chloë Clegg, Lee Symons, Cara Stone, Kate Lister, Deborah Gouweloos.

This page kindly sponsored by Dragan and Jean Milojkovic

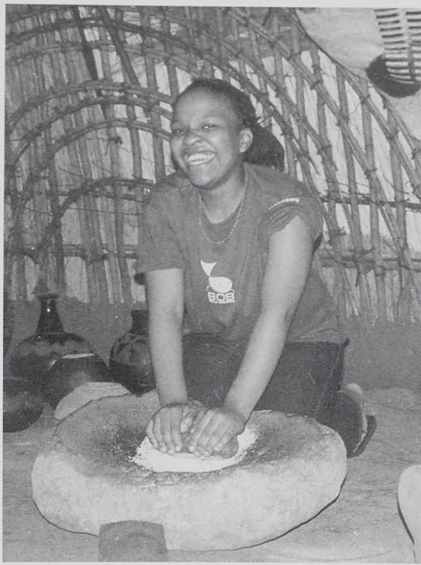
ECABAZINI

We were warmly welcomed by two African woman in traditional dress. The short walk to the homestead gave a feeling of how it would have been years ago, when Zulus lived that way. The kraal was built with wood called Tamboeti. CJ was waiting at the entrance of the *intango* - a fence around the homestead. His dress was amazing, but the accessories that facinated me were the porcupine quills through his ear lobes.

CJ, a white man, once lived in Durban, but he loved the Zulu culture so much that he moved from the urban environment to Ecabazini - *Place in the valley* - where he has lived for twelve years.

We went into the main hut where we learnt about different pots and appliances used when drinking traditional Zulu beer, storing or grinding grain. We learnt about the structure of the hut, how its ventilating system worked and why the Zulu hut is one of the healthiest living environments. CJ told us about Zulu history and culture. He told us that Zulu women smeared cow dung on the floors of the hut and what purpose this served. A Zulu woman showed us how it was done. At first no one volunteered to help, but that soon changed.

Later, CJ took us for a walk to look at his homestead. On the way to his



home he pointed out many plants and told us what they can do medicinally. CJ's home was overflowing with all sorts of weird and wonderful things.

The sun set and the moon rose. Before we knew it we were all enjoying a traditional Zulu supper. We had braaied meat dipped in salt and *Jeqe*- a traditional Zulu bread. For our main course, plates of putu, cabbage, samp and beans, and a tomato and onion mix were served to us. That meal really tantalized my taste buds!

We then watched traditional Zulu dances, which were followed by our own versions of them. We took the drum outside near the fire and showed off our wonderful talents. We relaxed and had popcorn, singing more songs. I went and lay on my blanket and watched the stars. I saw my first shooting-star - something I will never forget.

After a while people drifted off to their huts and it was lights out. For the more sensible ones it was the end of the day, but for some it was only the beginning. We ate sweets until we were bursting with energy. Getting to the toilet was a mission - Terry, the resident goat, meant well, but enjoyed chasing us around the camp.

The next morning, CJ demonstrated the technique of making a Zulu pot. We each tried our luck at building

one. This took some time as many of us started more than once. We eventually finished and were then given the opportunity to make a necklace. CJ explained what the different colours represented and before we knew it we had made our very own necklaces, but unfortunately it was also time to return to school. Just then they brought out a big bowl of *amagwenya*, delicious treats filled with jam!

It was most interesting to view the way in which the Zulu people lived, but even better to experience it.

Kayleigh Leisegang, Darelene Chengan, Alex Hainsworth, Lee Symons



This Drama task was to produce a fifteen minute performance for presentation to the Juniors, and to teach them about a culture/civilisation of Africa, cushioned in a storyline



THE GABOON ADDER

The deadly assassin, whose silence is alarming, slides stealthily through the grass. It is a never-ending rope of muscle that is as beautiful as it is deadly. The gaboon adder's golden skin is a kaleidoscope of warm, bold patterns, yet cold as ice to touch.

It sways its broad, flat head from side to side as it flickers its forked tongue rapidly in and out. Suddenly it stops. It has felt the vibrations of tiny paw-steps. Slowly it coils itself like a sand-crusted hosepipe and waits for the unwary victim- a mischievous field mouse.

The mouse scampers stupidly into the snake's sight and the snake's serpentine eyes narrow. If a snake could smile; this one would be beaming, as it watches its lunch nimbly dance closer and closer. It is a comedy until the snake lunges forward, burying its massive fangs into the mouse's back.

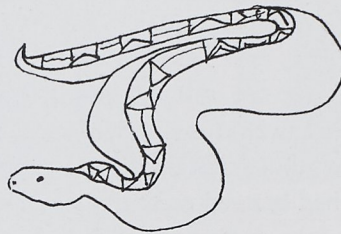
The prey emits a high-pitched squeal as the adder's deadly poison sears through its body. The snake seems to watch the rodent's last moments with malicious enjoyment. Its cold, reptilian eyes watch the rodent try to flee, but it does not chase because it knows the rodent's inevitable fate. It sees the desperate rodent slow down, gasping for breath as its tiny lungs start to close. Then the dying prey keels over, struggling feebly as its organs shut down, one by one. Finally its small heart slows from panicked beating to permanent stillness. Even the mouse's whiskers cease to twitch.

It is now that the gaboon adder moves. It uncurls its smooth, supple body and slithers towards its meal. Its tongue flickers over the mouse, savouring the smell of death. Seemingly effortlessly it unhinges its jaws and begins to swallow the prey in a macabre fashion, head first.

When the snake is satiated it manoeuvres its grotesquely bulging body out onto a sun-washed rock. There it stretches itself out and, closing its sinister eyes, it dreams equally sinister dreams filled with high-pitched squeals and the reek of death.

Who would think that such a snake, so sluggishly stretched out on a rock, its beautifully patterned skin glowing in the waning sun had just savagely devoured a defenceless animal whole, without flicking an eyelid?

Alice Durnford



WINTER

Winter's dullness is on the way
Autumn is wishing she could stay
Her leaves are quiet and golden brown
giving her a fitting crown.
Winter is coming fast
Autumn saves her best for last.
Slowly, slowly leaves are falling.
Hurry, hurry winter is calling.
Autumn has prepared her grave
Winter is coming to invade.

Lauren Michelle Hathorn

DIE STADMITTE

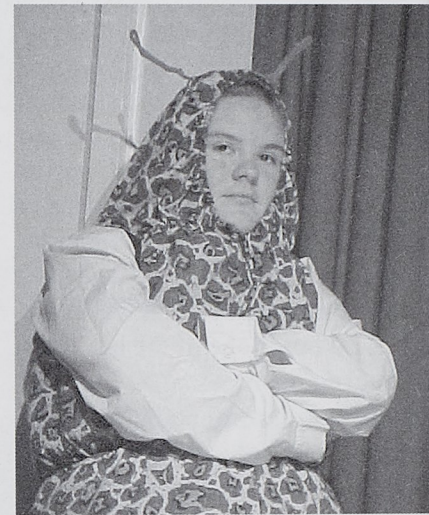
Auf der Strasse sind viele Autos,
viele Menschen, und eine Uhr. Der
Mann im Vordergrund wartet für den
Zug. Da sind neun Radfahrer. Sie
müssen warten, weil die Ampel rot
ist. Die Menschen überqueren die
Strasse. Vier Leute warten auf die
Strassenbahn um zwei Uhr. Die
Autos fahren zur Arbeit, und die
Leute gehen zum Laden. Vor dem
Laden stehen viele Menschen. Im
Laden kann man Bananen und
Kleider kaufen.

Bronwyn Koch

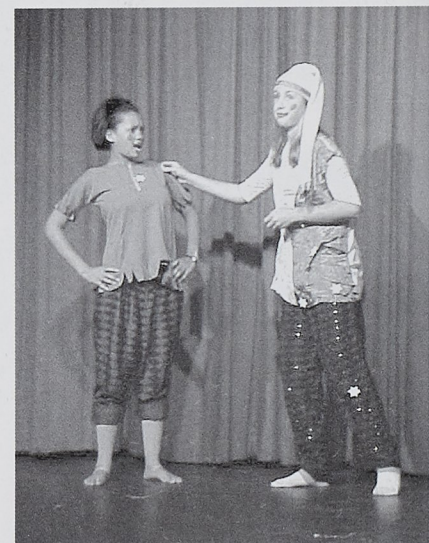
DRAMA PRACS



The Zulu Chief



*Mr Crane and the
three Frogs*



Specialville

After putting on makeup and getting dressed, we rushed to the beautifully decorated hall. Delicious smells wafted from the trays we carried to the kitchen, ready to be put on the tables. We made a tunnel in front of the doors for the higher grades to walk through...The glamorous dresses swished past, brushed by the soft candlelight.

Suddenly, we were shaken from our dreams and were scurrying to and from the kitchen with plates of food, fighting the urge to pinch just a tiny bit from the edge.

Almost immediately, a steady flow of dirty dishes came into the bustling kitchen. After doing my batch of dishes, I went outside to get a breath of fresh air. My fingers were white and wrinkly and my legs ached. We were all exhausted. Away from the crashing in the kitchen, it was silent. It was a cool night and the candles flickered in the breeze.

The dishes were done and the kitchen was clean. We all congregated outside on the dewy lawn to discuss the dresses and partners until our parents arrived to fetch us. It was a wonderful evening and we all look forward to our formal next year.



Ministering angels - the girls who brought the food at Formal Dinner.

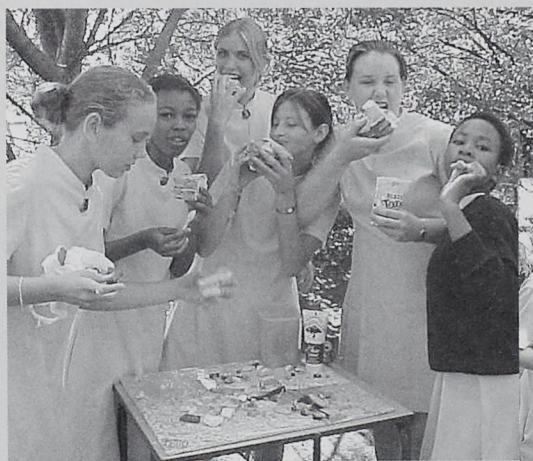


Some Grade 9 girls visit the Junior School quite regularly - every time there's a cake sale!

FOOD DISASTERS

It was our mission to create "natural" disasters out of food. For all of us it was a challenge and a great deal of fun! Boarders and daygirls were divided into groups of three or four. Each group included at least one daygirl so that the group could spend the afternoon at their house creating these "disasters". As it turned out, they weren't disasters, but masterpieces! Models depicting desertification, acid rain, floods, volcanoes, avalanches, tornadoes and pollution of seas and rivers, were all brought to school the following morning but we had to wait to see what the rest of the groups had in store for us. The creativity of the models was astounding: Electric cotton wool tornadoes, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda volcanoes, chocolate floods, ice-cream avalanches and 'brown cow' rivers were all part of these wonderful creations.

Lindsay Kirkby



The best part of the day was eating all of these disasters, but that was rather a bad idea, as we all went home feeling slightly ill!



One would never know, from Chloë's relaxed pose, that this cake is about to explode. We trust that Chloë learnt the signs of an imminent volcanic eruption, and will get away fast the next time she comes under threat.

NIGHT SWIMMING

Night swimming deserves a quiet night. I am numb with emotion and my body congested with pain. I am tired. Where can I go?

I stand outside where it is quiet and everything is dim. The wind playfully tickles my face enticing me to follow it. I take a step onto the cool, damp grass. On and on I drift, understanding this place more and more every second. I watch the colour draw out of the trees and the grass evaporate into the sky where they blend and tease each other. The excitement dies as heaven's endless roof shines through and the stars come out to watch the world.

Before me, I find a piece of the sky has fallen and the stars are looking up at me. The dappled silver surface shimmers at me. The waves play with the wind. Longingly, I fall into the arms of the water, and without a sound or splash, she holds me and reality is washed away.

My body, my mind, my soul are soothed by the cool water. Time has paused and the moment is frozen. All I hear is the lapping of friendly waves against me; all I see is the space around me. The moonlight kisses the treetops - my bodyguards, tall, dark and ready. They stretch towards me to investigate. All I feel is the warmth of the wind and the coolness of the water. All I smell is the sweetness of the earth and the freshness of the night.

Space is mine. I am far away from life, but yet not alone. All is forgotten. Pain is washed and replaced by peace. This is God.

If only reality could be more like this moment. Pure. Fresh. I am free... I never want to leave this place where confusion doesn't exist and time is paused.

Shannon Milojkovic

ST LUCIA

The tour got off to an early start on the cold Monday morning of July the 22nd. The bus was buzzing with excitement as we embarked on the long trip to St Lucia.

A few welcome stops made the journey more bearable. At last, the rather tired St. John's Grade 9s arrived at Futululu Environmental Centre, but we were not too tired for an unruly round on the obstacle course! With much team spirit and little injury, we defeated the course hands down. Hunger pains set in and a delicious supper was gulped down with gusto.

The days simply flew by and were packed with interesting talks, swamp walks, beach walks, shopping sprees and intriguing reptiles. We had much free time which was used to its fullest. Whether we were eating pizza with our friends, tanning, swimming, shopping, or even hiring an unusual four-wheeled bicycle cart, (which was abused in the act of ramping pavements and terrifying unwary civilians), we were always having fun.

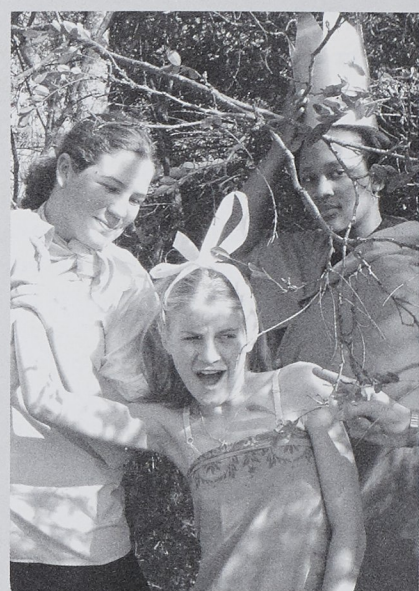
Evenings were savoured around the campfire where we drank hot chocolate and played campfire games. One of the most memorable activities was making up skits; many of these skits were of Retlo being pushed into the pool, clothes and all, not to mention the recently relaxed hair! Other night activities included the ever-popular Zulu dancing and a terrifying, yet entertaining, snake demonstration.

The tour came and went very quickly! Our last activity was a boat cruise down the estuary. This gave us time to reflect on our stay at beautiful St Lucia, which turned out to be full of special memories.

Alice Durnford, Jenna Brown



Laura Taylor



English literature would be different today. I could feel it. We were given the task of producing role-plays based on each act from our setwork by Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This wouldn't be daunting at all! We tackled the task with creative juices in full flow. Each act was condensed, but we found that watching it being performed made it easier to grasp the essence of each scene and how it depicted any underlying feelings experienced by the characters who spoke. (With my group there were many parallels with the soapie, *Generations*!) This task provided an opportunity to use our acting talents and to develop our ability to work co-operatively.

Kelly de Charmoy

This page kindly sponsored by Cindy Mtolo, Zama's mom

Senior Academic... **GRADE 8**



front row: Sphindile Mlipha, Joanne Raath, Ashleigh Fall, Mrs J. Westwood, Nomthandazo du Toit, Kristen McSeveney, Roxanne Green
2nd row: Tessa Cockburn, Sian Waldron, Meghan Crosby, Tarryn Page, Ashley Turner, Kevoulee Sardar, Candice-Lyndal Moodie, Camilla Coertse
3rd row: Cherie Vale, Jessica Anderson, Nicole du Randt, Bronwyn Barthorpe, Tamryn McFadden, Sarah Akerman
back row: Kirsten Schröder, Sarah Southey, Lisa Coetzee, Sharleen Hollick, Heidi Cassère, Amy Dawson



front row: Kate Dent, Claire Threadingham, Nokulunga Shabalala, Mev. A. Harris, Tamryn Greyling, Anjuli Soorju, Maryam Cassim
2nd row: Nazmeera Essack, Jolene Scheuer, Ashleigh Reid, Ashleigh Griffiths, Kirsten Mill, Tracey Johnson, Linley Rall, Lauren Whyte
3rd row: Kiera Johnson, Sinethemba Cele, Julia Kirkby, Angela Strüwig, Misty McDonald, Amy Jensen, Tokelo Seturumane
back row: Paula de la Hey, Sandy Harris, Jessica Hathorn, Nicola Meyer, Jessica Cochrane, Jessica Edmunds

THE EVIL ONE

Even before I saw her, I felt her presence - that unmistakable being full of hatred, anger and frustration. Her heart was a blob of acid inside her, wildly spreading to every nail, every hair, every fingertip, until it took over every minute of her evil existence. It snatched her up, squeezing her so tightly that the last trace of what was good, noble, and humane, was squelched out of her like the remains of a toothpaste tube.

There was a deafening bang. My head spun around instinctively, only to come face to face with her eagle eyes. She read my thoughts, realised my every fear, and dug up the darkest of my secrets. Her mouth was screwed up, baring a striking resemblance to a corkscrew, pronouncing every wrinkle, stretch mark and mole. A colossal wart marked the end of her half-moon nose which extended to her creased, crow's foot forehead. A few scraggly bits of frayed twine were plastered on her head, caked with soil, the semblance of hair. I felt myself gawking and then cringing at the sight of her legs which could easily have passed for a road map, so prominent were the veins.

My fear took over my curiosity as I realised where I was. My terror returned. My heart beat like an express train as I awaited my sentencing. The stench of garbage, and the proximity of the walls around me gave the impression that I was in some sort of alley, although the absence of alley cats worried me. A glance at the sky brought me the comforting sight of stars twinkling innocently, unaware of the battle that had just raged right under their noses. A smile slowly spread across my face, but just as security enveloped me, I once again felt the icy grip of her presence, clutching my shoulder...

Maryam Khalil Cassim



During the second term, our EMS teacher gave us a project: we had to

1. Pretend that we were starting a clock business
2. Do a project on all the requirements for the business
3. Make a model of the clock we were going to sell

Sarah Akerman

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The day I walked in the St John's gates, I asked myself three questions: Am I going to fit in? Am I clever enough for this school? Will I cope?

On Monday the Grade 8s were invited to lunch to meet each other in uniform: many different people that I didn't know, but all looking the same.

I told my mother that the people were weird and that I would never make friends. My mother said I was over reacting, and yet again, she was right.

My first actual day at St John's was very quiet.

I met new people and made friends and things got better and better.

I look back and I think about Mrs Cruikshank saying *don't judge people by their looks* and I'm now proud to say I'm a St John's girl.

Nokulunga Shabalala.

MADE IN H.E.



Guest towels



Bath salts



Bags

This page kindly sponsored by Jo Scheuer

MARKET DAY

Our Market Day was great fun. It gave all of us an adrenalin rush and we had lots of business experience. There were so many things to buy, eat and do: some for the young and some for the old. We had many different stores and original ideas with a great variety of shops and stalls that I am sure everyone found something to buy. Our ideas ranged from tempting food to bath salts, and some people had even arranged pillow fights.

The morning was absolutely perfect: shining sun and happy smiles helped make our Market Day successful. I thoroughly enjoyed it. We had many visitors who all had a ton of fun and spent lots of money and it was a huge success.

*Sarah Akerman,
Kirsten Schröder, Ashley Turner*



During Science class, the Grade 8s learnt to separate liquids - in this instance, alcohol from water.

THE GRADE 8 ORIENTATION WEEKEND

The Grade 8 Orientation started off with a doughnut and coffee evening with Mrs Forbes and Mrs Cruikshank, where we played fun games and got to know each other better.

On Saturday morning we went to Butterflies for Africa which I loved. There were butterflies everywhere and some of us were lucky enough to have a butterfly come and sit on us. We all learnt so much about their different colours, sizes and shapes – it was amazing.

On Saturday afternoon we were entertained by the prefects. They had hidden smarties in flour and for us to find them we had to dip our faces into the flour. As a result we all ended up looking like ghosts!!

In the evening we had a SCA braai where we sang songs and got to know what SCA was all about.

On Sunday morning we came to school a bit later and we all went to the Chapel, where Mr Wotherspoon told us what was expected of us during Chapel services. That was followed by a fun treasure hunt with Interact.

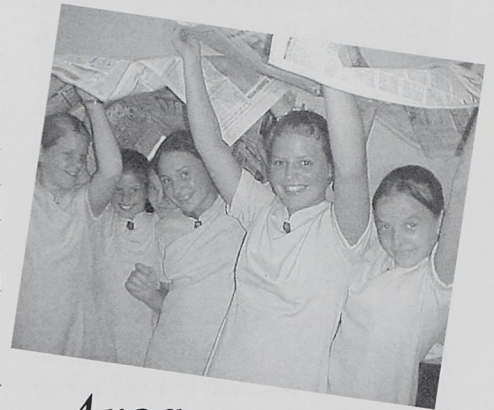
We were then treated to a delicious lunch! Feeling full and satisfied we then had time to enjoy some fun activities with Youth Forum. They had organized some fun relays. We ended the afternoon with a water bomb fight- that was great fun.

We were all so tired at the end of the weekend but really had a fun weekend getting to know one another and feeling happy that we had chosen such a special school.

Kirsten Mill

This page kindly sponsored by Mrs Gugu H. Mlipha & family

GRADE 8 MATHS



Area



Integers



Cubic Measurement

A CHILDHOOD MEMORY

It was the best morning of my life. I woke to the sound of warm, happy voices chattering and the spicy aroma of goodies baking. I raced into the kitchen and saw shimmering, colourfully embroidered saris. I hugged the person in the glittery pink and yellow sari that I knew so well, and danced a little jig on the slowly-warming tiles. It was Diwali! My mother helped me put on my newest sharara: one that made me feel as if I was floating on the bubbliest of foamy blue sea. We left the house open, a custom on Diwali, and in the care of friends and family. It felt so free. As we were travelling to granny's house, I noticed the colourful powder patterns on the houses of other people.

Granny's house was beautiful. Shining brass jugs and cups adorned the front garden. Garlands of rosemary and marigolds hung everywhere. Granny's hair was pulled back into a smooth black bun at the nape of her neck, just like mummy's. Kohl and golden beads were spread around her eyes. It made her look like the Diwali goddess herself.

"Are you ready to go to the temple now?" asked granny in her clear,

gentle voice. Auntie Roslyn and my cousins came with us. They brought me a set of polished bells to go on my ankles. As I walked, I imagined myself to be Mother Lakshmi and I listened to the bells tinkling,

Daddy and grandfather were helping with the coconut stall. We offered a little fruit to Mother Lakshmi and asked her to keep us wealthy in character and spirit. After the priest blessed us, we sipped the coconut milk and ate the fleshy part of it. Mummy had gone home early to bake the rest of the sweatmeats and place the red powder on the door and decorate the front garden. My aunties helped her. We delivered spicy savouries and delicate sweets and then went home to hang the gleaming lanterns, encircling gently glowing flames.

In the evening we lit the *diyas* to guide Maha Lakshmi to our home. We celebrated and lit fireworks to acknowledge the homecoming of Lord Rama from his lonely exile, and to glorify the Goddess Sita, who was Lord Rama's faithful companion. I snuggled into bed later on, thinking magnificent thoughts and loving my religion.

Anjuli Soorju



As our History topic drew to an end, we, in groups, were given the task of writing and performing a play concerning the lives of Boer people at that time -

Boer women and families in concentration camps, citizens living in Mafeking under siege, or members of the Boer commando at Paardeberg.

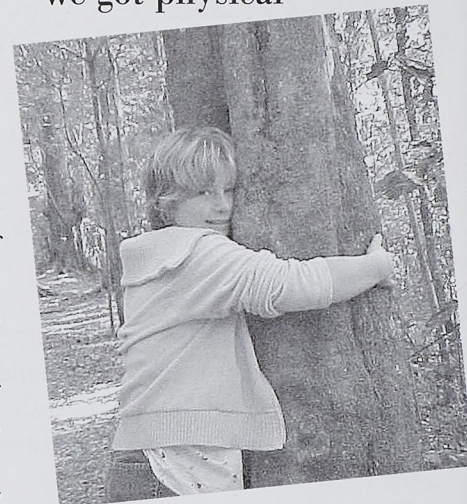
Using the tool of empathy and what we had learnt in class, each group told their story. Props, scenery and appropriate costume lent authenticity to each performance.

Kevoulee Sardar

TRIP TO ESHOWE AND ZULULAND



We got physical



We got in touch with nature



We got worn out.

This page kindly sponsored by the Greyling family

Op 'n September dag, net voor middagete, het ons 'n opwindende Afrikaans les gehad. Ons taak vir die uur was om 'n tafel te dek en 'n ligte ete voor te berei.

Ons moes Afrikaans praat vir die hele uur en vir sommige mense was dit nie maklik nie.

Om ons dag klaar te maak het 'n ma-aap en haar familie vir ons kom groet. Ons het die ete baie geniet en sal dit enige tyd weer doen. - Camilla Coertse



CHAIR PROJECT

People who are not in choir take part in *Life Skills Extension* while the choir practises. This year, we made chairs for cerebral palsied patients at Grey's Hospital.

Once we knew the plans and had all the apparatus, we began the task of precise measuring - a very slow process. Once done, we started to cut our templates. As the lessons progressed, so did the fun.

We pieced the chair together by folding it into the right shape and then

glueing it. The next step was to papier maché the chair. It was not only the messiest job, but the most fun.(see pg. 69.) We spent three lessons doing the papier maché and then progressed on to decoupage. The decoupage went fast and, before we knew it, we were varnishing the chairs. They looked terrific!

These chairs are to aid cerebral palsied children in sitting up. We enjoyed doing a good deed and hope that future Grade 8s will continue to make these chairs.

Tarryn Page

MY MOM

My mother is like an angel sent from heaven. Her wings shelter me when I am scared and she lends them to me when I want to fly. She taught me to fly, to fly higher than any other. She gave me the strength to believe in myself when others thought I was a failure. When I went through a rough time, who was there to shelter me from the storm? My compassionate mother.

She cares for me when I am sick and loves me always. No word can tell how grateful I am for her unconditional love for me and my sister.

When people congratulate me on my achievements, they should congratulate my mother, for I would not be half the person I am today if it were not for her.

When I am a mother someday, I hope that I am at least half the mother she is.

Meghan Crosby

THE PARTING

Silent tears ran down my pale face. It wasn't fair! My heart squeezed painfully, as I glanced at the large lump in the hospital bed. Stubby, chalky-white arms stuck out of the polka dot covers.

My gran's familiar face lay on its side on matching pillows. Her usually soft, curly, silvery hair now hung limply in greasy knots. Wearily, I stepped forward and took hold of one of her icy-cold hands.

The constant beeping of machinery was now lost to me, as I fought to choke back a new round of mournful tears. As I stared sadly at my gran's blue lips, a wave of anger washed over me.

"Stupid Cancer," I thought. "Stupid, horrible Cancer. Kids aren't supposed to lose their grans when they're only eight years old."

I clenched my free hand into a tight fist, the anger pulling me deeper into its sorrowful pit.

Finally, I could take it no longer. Releasing my sweaty grip on my gran's stiff hand, I slumped to the floor. Uncontrollable sobs racked my body. Seconds later, warm, comforting arms circled me. My mom held me close, while my violent sobs slowly subsided.

"I think we had better go now," she whispered softly into my ear. My body felt weak and tired, as I silently pulled myself to my feet. I kissed my gran's colourless cheek lightly. My heart suddenly felt empty and hollow. I took my last look at her gentle, wrinkly face. Each wrinkle was a memory.

Flashbacks of all our happy moments together sped through my mind. While my face was contorted with agony, hers remained strangely serene and peaceful, with the tiniest hint of a smile.

"I love you, Nan," I whispered hoarsely. "Goodbye."

Tammy Greyling

Senior Academic... MUSIC

2003 was an extremely busy year, starting off with the musical *Bye Bye Birdie* in conjunction with Maritzburg College. The first term was overflowing with Rock 'n Roll, teenyboppers and American accents as we rehearsed every possible moment until opening night at the end of March. Thanks go to the Maritzburg College boys and their teacher, Mr Colin Chapman, and our own drama department, Mrs Attwell and Ms Filmer.

The choir, under the capable directorship of Mrs Sandra Bower and accompanist, Ms Claire Wright, had their first performance at the special Easter Service in the chapel, followed by a Communion Service on St John's Day. Next on the calendar was the confirmation service, followed shortly by the first "Choral Chill" concert in the City Hall. The variety of the repertoire performed by a massed choir comprising the Pietermaritzburg Children's Choir and a number of schools in Pietermaritzburg, joined at times by the audience, gave everyone shivers of appreciation as our beautiful City Hall resounded with awe-inspiring music. The Senior Choir performed again at the Music Department Evening, alone and in conjunction with the Junior Choir.



In 2003, the Music Department boasted the following peripatetic staff: Ms Murray, Mrs Govender,

Mrs Forsyth, Mr Shone, Mrs Wallis, Mr Brown, Mrs Bower and, during term 3, when Mrs Forsyth was on sick leave, Ms Wright. Thank you to all the staff for their dedicated work in this very busy year.

A number of girls did practical as well as theory exams, (Royal Schools, Trinity and UNISA) and their results speak of long hours of hard work, both from the girls and their teachers.



The Music Ministry ensemble accompanies the girls at Afrikaans assembly on Thursday mornings

This year, we started with a Music Ministry Group to accompany the congregation during Afrikaans Assemblies. Thanks go to Emma du Preez, Derryn Percival, Kara Schladenhauffen, Antje Eggers and Sharleen Hollick for their dedication, sense of humour and commitment to the group. A number of girls were given the opportunity to perform during assemblies as part of the performance aspect - so important in the study of a musical instrument.

Our annual Prize-Giving Ceremony was once again enhanced by the beautiful sounds of the choir. A special word of thanks go to Mrs Bower and accompanist Claire Wright for all their hard work this year. The Senior Choir consists of 45 girls ranging from Grade 8 to Grade 12 and their contribution to the musical life of the school is much appreciated.



*Megan Cowie attained a 77% pass for her Grade 8 **Royal Schools** practical piano exam.*

The third Inter-house Music Competition took place in the middle of the fourth term. All the houses produced interesting and creative programmes, which entertained the audience, no end! Congratulations to Rhodes, the winning house, whose well-balanced programme showed off the talents of the girls to their best.

The Senior Choir, Junior Choir and a number of girls from both the Senior and Junior school presented a lunchtime concert at the Cathedral at the end of November, as part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Natal. This was a very special occasion for St John's, being a Diocesan school.

In the last week of school, the choir performed at the Carol Service and finally at the Valedictory Service for the Matrics.

A word of thanks to all the girls involved in the Music Department, be it as a member of the choir or an instrumentalist. Your enthusiasm for and dedication to music are commendable.

*Tania Moir
Head of Department*

This page kindly sponsored by the Durais family

Senior Academic... DRAMA

Once again, this year has been both exhausting and exciting for the Drama department as they have attempted to produce three productions in about five months, two of them being full scale musicals!



The first term saw the successful, fun and whacky production in the High School of *Bye, Bye, Birdie*. Together with fifteen talented boys from Maritzburg College, our girls shone in their singing, dancing and enthusiasm. The play was a rock'n roll musical based on a famous Elvis-type rock star, Conrad Birdie, who has been called up to the army. Before his departure, his manager organises a publicity event where he kisses one of his fan club girls. Chaos reigns when she tries to show Conrad Birdie the high life of Sweet Apple, Ohio, where there is a jealous boyfriend.



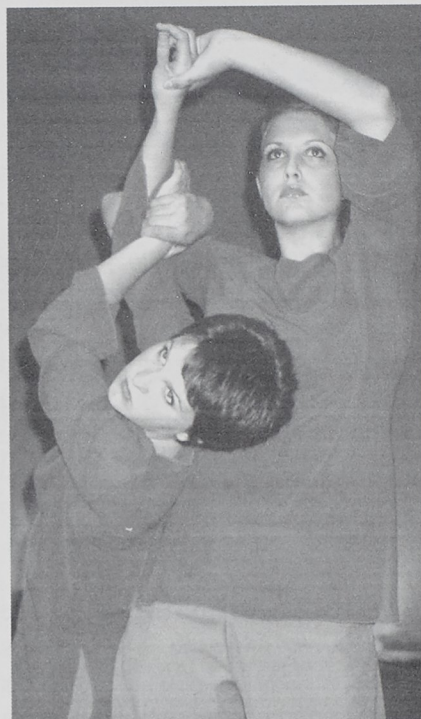
The second term took us into production of a Junior School musical, *The Curious Quest for the Sandman's Sand*. This was a brightly-coloured fantasy which saw three children trying to help Harry, the Sandman, get his sand back from the Gump Grump. Their adventures took them to wonderful lands where they met Jewels, the evil (and not so talented) witch, her henchmen, and the ugly and unco-ordinated Haglets and Habituals. Litterbugs, Crumbilicious and the monks of Windowbox hill, and the Gump Grump were just a few of the fantastical friends they made along the way.

A fun time was had by all and we would like to thank the Junior school staff and many "sewing mums" for all their hard work and patience in the process. Thank you also to the wonderful eighty-eight strong Junior school cast who worked so hard to produce a magical show.



May saw us hard at work up at Hilton College for the 2003 *Millennium Funk Dance Festival*. At this festival, a number of schools from the Pietermaritzburg region get together and showcase a piece that they have choreographed. The show ends with a great funky finale. This year the St John's contribution was called *They dance alone*. It was based on the song by Sting in which he sings about the oppressed women

in Chile and their silent protest. The movements were choreographed around the idea that these women protested by holding up pictures of their loved ones who had been killed, while dancing alone outside the police stations. It was a moving and haunting piece, enriched by a talented and enthusiastic cast of girls.



Once again the Matric girls have produced excellent and thought-provoking independent projects. They have varied from interesting costuming projects to self-written scripts and dance experiments. The House Plays this year were a great success: Connaught took the coveted prize with *The Man in the Bowler Hat*. All the plays were of an exceptionally high standard. We would like to congratulate all the Grade 11 Drama girls who so capably organised and produced the plays with surprisingly little stress. Ellis Pearson and Mbheki Mkwane entertained the school with their new play *The Hidden*. They are always a big hit with both the Junior and High school.



Both staff and Drama girls have been stretched to the limit this year. We have had fun, we've learnt a lot and we've had moments of uncontrollable chaos! Thank-you to all involved in the various plays for your enthusiasm and dedication to this art form. You make us proud.

*Moira Filmer and Joan Attwell
Drama Department*

Girls rehearsing Nolwazi Nkosi's matric drama prac - a fusion of Zulu traditional dance and ballet.

Senior Academic... COMPUTERS

The big news for this year was the arrival of 15 new computers for the Compu Typing room. These new machines are all gigabyte-based machines running Intel Cpu's on a Windows 98 Operating System. The Compu Typing pupils, who need reliable machines when it comes to examinations, have welcomed them.

The High School pupils are continuing with the I T School's Intellect curriculum, which prepares them for the ICDL examinations. An exam server has been installed, which allows the pupils to write the online examinations for which they get a certificate which is recognised by Tertiary Institutions. All girls from Grade 8 to Grade 11 write the ICDL examinations. This is an international qualification and is well recognised by employers in the UK and Europe.

A linux proxy server has also been installed, allowing pupils to access their email from any location around the world. This means the girls may still access their email during the holidays and over weekends. Careful attention has been paid to virus software and the school is well protected from email-based viruses.

The computer room is also very booked up with staff using the computers to integrate their subjects and to allow time for Internet research. Internet filtering software is now in place to restrict access to unfavourable sites on the Internet.

Grade 9s this year have been able to prepare very comprehensive presentations using MS PowerPoint on "Plants" for their science projects.

My thanks go to the Computer monitors for their help with supervising the use of the Computer room at night and over weekends.



*Mr Quintus van Rensburg
computer technician*

A new aspect of computers has been the inclusion of the Gr 7 class from the Ashburton Farm School. These pupils have been taught mouse skills, correct procedures for working with computers and are working on applications that suit the children's growing abilities. These pupils come once a fortnight for a lesson and the results have been most rewarding.

*Angela Burn
IT Department*



*Mrs Burn with a group of children from
Ashburton Farm School*

This page kindly sponsored by Mr & Mrs P. Seturumane

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

...Interact

First and foremost, I would like to thank the committee of 2003 for the hard work and effort they put in during the course of this year. You were the best!

Our main objective this year was to reach organisations which were in need of funding, but were unknown. We thought that this would help in giving back to the community where it was needed most. One of our main projects this year was to send monthly sums of money to a mission in the Harding area. Father Dick Bedingfield, who has helped feed and better this community, heads the mission. We would like this to become an ongoing project because it is helping this community.

The thought of their lives being a little better, because of the little we give, is all the reward we need.

We held many fund-raisers. We got the year started by having a fun day for the senior girls. Everybody had to come dressed in old clothes and we played games. This sparked off a string of fund-raisers, including a McFlurry evening, cake sales, popcorn evening, Friendship Friday, a civvies day and, our most successful project yet, *Knitting Hour*. This was an hour in which the whole school had to knit a minimum of one square. This activity did not stop after the hour. The squares just kept coming in and now we have approximately six hundred squares. These will be sewn or cro-

cheted together to form blankets which will be donated to an orphanage for the cold KwaZulu Natal nights.

This year would not, of course, have been a success without the Grade 10s, 11s and 12s. Thank you for all your support. And to Sir, thank you for always being there to give advice and for the guidance you have provided.

I wish next year's committee the best of luck. Enjoy every moment of it.

Whatever we possess, even of little value, becomes of double value when we share it.

Stha Gwala - President

...SCA

2003 Mission Statement: *Building a foundation and deepening faith and passion through unity and acceptance.*

This year began with an introductory braai for the Grade 8s and any new girls, attracting a large number of girls to S.C.A.

The committee spent a weekend together which entailed leadership training, planning and bonding. This weekend was a great success and it unified us as a committee and we definitely grew closer to each other.

We had a constant number of girls attending S.C.A. this year, and did our best to cater for every girl and her specific needs as a Christian, as our mission statement says.

We started daytime S.C.A. this year, which has gone extremely well and up to seventy girls have attended the meetings. The highlight of the year was the *Peculiar People* concert, which was a great success and only good reports came back after all the hiccups before the event.

This year we have been richly blessed by God and we have so much to thank God for. I thank Him that the 2003 committee worked so well together and managed to achieve what we had set out to do. I thank Him for the very successful S.C.A. meetings we had. The two people I thank Him for the most are Mrs Grey and Miss Filmer, who have been an amazing support and backbone to S.C.A. Without their

continuous prayer, encouragement, support and love, we would not have achieved our goals.

To the committee, I thank you for your co-operation and unbelievable commitment and effort all year round; that's what made it a wonderful year. I hope and pray that your walk with God will only go from strength to strength.

All the best of luck to the 2004 committee and may God richly bless you in every thing you do, as He has blessed us this year.

I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Phillipians 4:13

Pamela Koch - Chairperson

This page kindly sponsored by Ian & Cheryl Johnson

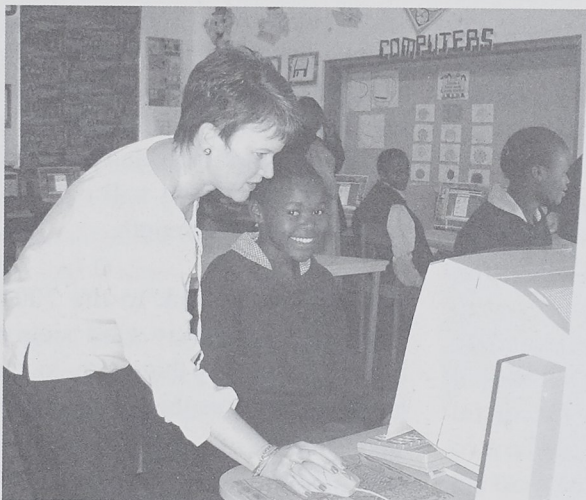
...Outreach



As part of the continuing Grade 10 Outreach Program, we have been travelling to Ashburton every Thursday, alternating classes each week.



Mr Payne transports us to the school every week. And while waiting for us, he gardens!



Mrs Westwood, a co-ordinator for the Outreach programme, and Mrs Burn teach the children computer basics in the Junior computer room at St John's. (see page 62)

This page kindly sponsored by the Spain family

One hundred and thirty children use this small building for their school lessons. Plans have been drawn up for a new classroom, but funds are needed before building can begin. So here, at St John's, we launched the **Buy A Brick** campaign

At R5 a brick, the girls have been encouraged to support this worthy campaign, but not by asking for donations so much as earning the money themselves. Indeed, there has been huge competition between classes to see who can buy the most bricks.

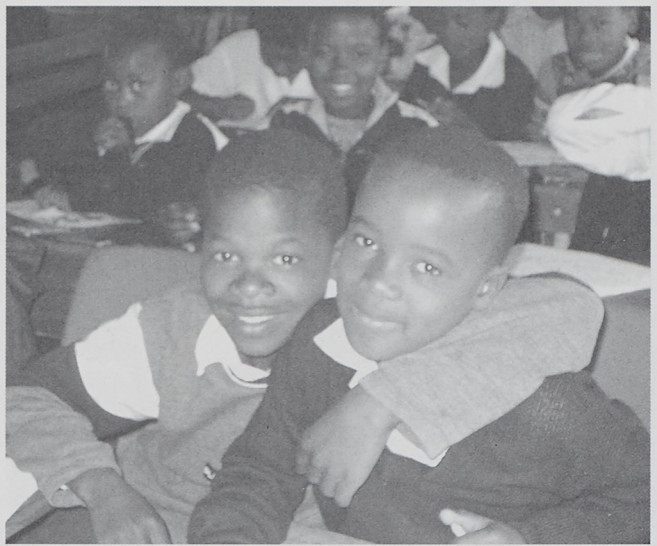
Carwashers earning big bucks to buy bricks.



It feels great to give of yourself and of your time. Monetary donations are wonderful, and most welcome, but lots of hard work was fun, and definitely more rewarding as a sense of achievement..



It has been a truly enriching experience interacting with the Ashburton children. We played games with them, made seed heads and did puzzles.



Going to Ashburton is always so rewarding. Seeing the bright, shiny faces always lifts my spirits. Being able to introduce the children to new, exciting things is a privilege that most of us take for granted. I will miss this programme next year. – Derryn Percival

We have learnt a lot about the lives of others as well as our own lives. It's been great fun, though, at times, quite challenging; but we have enjoyed every second of it. It felt good to bring a spark of happiness during our visits and our latest fundraising efforts have been aimed at the erection of a new classroom at Ashburton. This has been very successful and we hope to fund the building of the classroom by the end of the year.

Our sincere thanks to Mrs Westwood and Mrs Stakemire for all their efforts and also for caring. And also to you, Mr Payne, for transporting us every week.

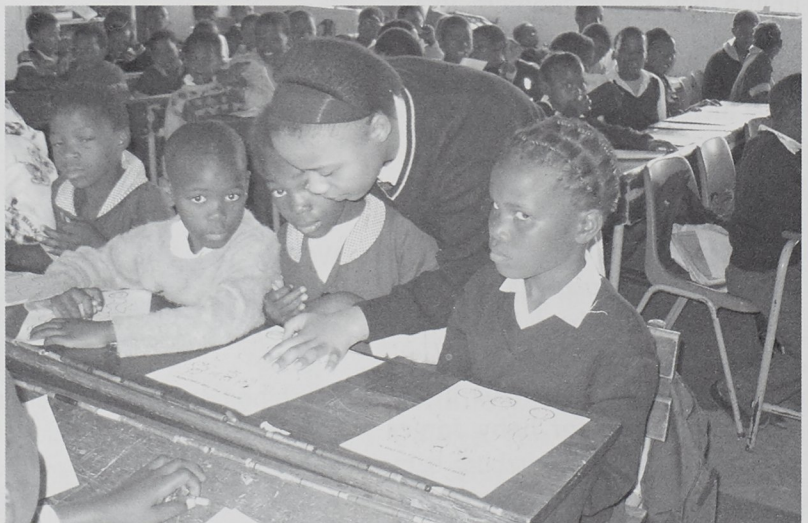
Lee-Anne Meyer, May Campbell, Alexandra Stewart



I find going to Ashburton opens my eyes to the real world and puts things into perspective. Spending time with the children there lightens up my day. Their joy and excitement makes me want to spend the whole day there. I think that the idea of children helping children is one that everyone should support. - Lauren Boyd



Mrs Stakemire with the Head of Ashburton School, Mrs Eunice Nishangase



This page kindly sponsored by Sharlene and Chenél Moodley



...Blood Donors

*When you give blood,
you give another birthday,
another anniversary,
another day at the beach,
another night under the stars,
another talk with a friend,
another laugh,
another hug,
another chance.*

This is a quote on the wall of the PMB Blood Donor Clinic - what an inspiration! On 24th January this year, we had our first, and one of our biggest, clinics. Eleven girls attended the clinic and eight successfully donated. The thought of a needle is very daunting to some, but in spite of this we have had an abundance of newcomers to the blood donor family and I am proud to announce that our total numbers have increased from 35 last year, to 44 this year.

On the 16th August, which was a Saturday school day and also the day of the Gr. 8 market, we had a *Big Bleed* at the school. We decided to link this with an appeal for people to donate specimens for bone-marrow testing for baby James Edmonds, a Pietermaritzburg baby with a rare form of leukaemia.

In preparation for this we put up posters at Hayfields and Nedbank shopping centres, sent out letters to parents and did a neighbourhood drop of 250 letters to individual homeowners around the school. The support was exceptional. 54 people attended the clinic, of whom 40 were able to donate, and 42 samples of blood were taken to be tested for possible bone marrow matches. Parents, siblings, girls and others attended, and we would like to thank everyone for their generous support.

I am also very excited about the interest in bone marrow donors amongst the matrics this year. Several girls from St John's, namely Tarryn Kirkwood, Pippa Hunt, Julie Harris, Tiffany Hughes and Justine Smit, have been added to the register.

We also have two organ donors: Tarryn Kirkwood and Charlotte Watcyn-Jones. It is a first for St John's - so congratulations to both of you.

Top blood donors this year are:
Charlotte Watcyn-Jones - 7
Pippa Hunt - 7
Justine Smit - 6

Total number of units donated - 52
(A record!)

Our Grade 11 rep is Ashley Fowles who will be taking over from me next year.

I would like to end by thanking the one person who makes this all possible - Miss Davies. Without her we wouldn't have such a strong and loyal team of blood donors and her time and support are really commendable. She is always willing to take the girls to the clinic in Loop Street and is always there to get us through the donations and to make sure we are feeling strong afterwards.

Congratulations blood donors! Keep up the enthusiasm. Remember, twenty minutes of your time could be enough to save a life!!

Philippa Hunt

P.S. Many thanks to Philippa who has been a loyal, enthusiastic and reliable Blood Donor Representative for 2003.

Sally Davies

This page kindly sponsored by Dr & Mrs Cassim

...Senior Debating

2003 proved most successful for our Senior Debating Team – Alexa Labuschagne, Beth Robinson and Candice Gallagher. On the occasions that Beth couldn't debate as a result of prior commitments, we had Lindsay Smaill and Jennifer O' Neill stand in for us. We are very grateful to them.

Some of our topics left us discouraged and unenthusiastic. One, in particular, where we proposed trade with countries that condone Human Rights abuses, had us trying desperately to lose

ourselves in the corridors of GHS! We walked out of our first debate victorious against College – a feat that left us most encouraged and eager to continue with the season. We won four of our six debates during the pool round.

We debated against Hilton and Wartburg twice – losing to both teams the first time, but beating them the second time. The last debate against Epworth was very successful, as we won. We look back and laugh at the fact that we won that time only because our

efforts in losing ourselves in GSH's corridors had proved futile! During the season, Alexa was awarded one Best Speaker Award and Candice three. These awards stood us in good stead in terms of points for the playoffs, but unfortunately, we just missed getting through.

Although, in theory, it is advantageous to draw the side of the topic which holds the moral high ground, we found the opposite true this year. We proved quite adept at defending various immoral and unconscionable positions on world affairs, winning more debates under these less than ideal conditions.

Candice Gallagher



...Junior Debating

The Junior Debating team had a very successful season, winning four debates out of six. During the season, the team moved up from Pool B to Pool A and accrued enough points to make it through to the play-off round. We lost to Hilton College in the play-offs, and Hilton later went on to win the competition.

Ntonhle Sokhela, Derryn Percival and Rayne Cockburn were all awarded *Best Speaker* at different stages during the season.

The highlight of the season was definitely beating Maritzburg College. This brought lots of spirit and courage to our team.

Rayne Cockburn, Derryn Percival



This page kindly sponsored by Jonathan & Lise Moodie

...Youth Forum

Youth forum is a charity organisation comprising four Grade 11s and four Grade 10s. Every year, a new committee is chosen by the Grade 10s for the following year, and a president is chosen by the Grade 11s.

The committee for 2003 is

Grade 10: Biddy Meyer
Julie Shewan
Lee-Anne Meyer
Kerry Hedges

Grade 11: SallyAnne Culverwell
Jessica Jenkin
Beth Robinson
Penny Ralfe

And Mrs Stakemire.

We have had a very successful year and have had fun working together. The eight of us raise funds from within the school - we try to focus on raising funds through the Grade 8s and 9s, while Interact uses the Grade 10s, 11s and 12s. We do venture out of the school and try to raise funds wherever possible. Money raised goes to the needy and together we select certain charities

and organisations which we feel would benefit most from our donations. We give anything: from money to food and blankets and even birthday parties for orphaned children.

In addition, we like to give of ourselves and our time, instead of the impersonal handing over of a cheque. We love spending days at the various homes and havens and, in particular, at orphanages or safe homes, where we get to play with and take care of the children. We give the 'mothers' a few hours to themselves and we get to spoil all the children! Although we don't raise vast amounts of money or operate and donate on a large scale,



we realise how unbelievably privileged and lucky we are at St John's when there are so many millions of people less fortunate than us. Therefore, in our humble way, we do our best to alleviate a fraction of the suffering that we witness around us every day, and for many, a little truly does go a long way and we are giving a little to as many people as we can. The youth forum committee of 2003 have had a fantastic year and I hope they have enjoyed it as much as I have; we have also had the guidance and constant support of Mrs Stakemire, who is always there to nudge us in the right direction! Good luck to next year's committee. I hope you have as much fun and appreciate the experience as much as we have!

Beth Robinson - President



...Guidance/Life Skills

THE GENDER WORKSHOP

On the 17th September the St John's Grade 11s joined forces with the Grade 11s from St Charles for a Gender Workshop. It was a day and a half in which stereotypes were challenged and mind-sets were questioned, and it was an excellent opportunity for thoughts and opinions to be aired. Some comments found general agreement, while others sparked heated debates, but, in

the end, the experience was of benefit to everyone involved.

The workshop finished with a successful etiquette dinner, with great food and great new friends.



Thanks to Mrs Forbes for organising and keeping order during the workshop.

Andrea Muller

This page kindly sponsored by Vicki, Lucy, Gina & Beth Robinson



*It's difficult to imagine a worse possible scenario - the blonde leading the blind - yet at St John's it's called **Staff Development!***



Some role model...Mrs Forbes, with her arms full of addictive substances, at the start of another day at school.

...Curriculum Enrichment

Although under review, the Life Skills Extension Programme continued this year on alternate Wednesday afternoons and each grade participated as follows:

GRADE 8

- The basics of First Aid
- The making of papier maché chairs which are donated to Grey's Hospital and utilized during therapy with Cerebral Palsied patients.

GRADE 9

- Self Defence
- Home Making

GRADE 11

- Covey Course
- Definition of Boundaries

GRADE 10

- Public Speaking
- Dancing

GRADE 12

- Basic Business and Budgeting
- Basic Car Maintenance

Fay Forbes - School Counsellor



Grade 8s making papier maché chairs for Grey's Hospital



Self-defence

House Report...

CONNAUGHT

First and foremost, I would like to thank my vice-captain, Robyn Bowles, for her great contribution to Connaught's success this year.

Although Rhodes won the gala, the skits before the swimming races were brilliant and the enthusiasm throughout the gala promised a good season ahead for Connaught.

Our star runner, Kristi Goodman, put us in a good position during the cross-country, and with so many girls from Connaught finishing, we were ensured a victory.

Charlie Watcyn-Jones and Alice Durnford led Connaught to victory during the public speaking. They were outstanding.

In the Inter-House play competition, Robyn Bowles and her cast once again did us proud, coming out tops with their play, and making Connaught drama victorious for three years running.

To Connaught's most loyal supporter, Mevrou Harris, thank-you for always being there, cheering and supporting no matter what the event and always being proud of us and keeping the Connaught flag flying high.

Good luck to Robbie and the new vice-captain. I wish you all the best. Keep doing your utmost, while at the same time having fun!

Tiffany Hughes - House Captain



*This year's Inter-House Play competition winner,
The Man in the Bowler Hat*

House Report...

RHODES

We had a great start to the year by stealing most of the trophies at the inter-house gala. It was a boost to the house's spirit, winning such a fun and talent-filled event. Congratulations to all the swimmers and particularly to the standard 9s, who prepared such exciting plays to start the morning.

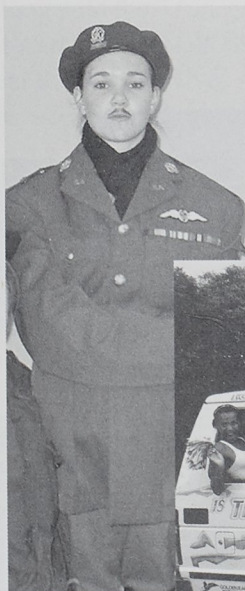
Unfortunately, we weren't so lucky in the netball. We took third place, but came back to excel in the hockey and win. It was an extremely impressive event. Rhodes took second place in the cross-country and the enthusiasm and spirit were commendable. We tied in second place for public speaking and inter-house plays, but the standard of speaking and acting was of an exceptionally high standard and all who were involved deserves congratulations for their successful efforts!

Rhodes's undying spirit, enthusiasm and talent continue and I am proud to have had the privilege of captaining the house this year.

To my right-hand lady, Beth Robinson, you have been an absolute star! Thanks so much for your endless hard work, encouragement, and involvement in activities this year. You have kept everything going and I admire and thank you on behalf of the house. Thanks also go to Miss Davies, our housemother, for her constant support.

And finally, to the girls, thank-you for your unconditional loyalty and endless passion. Keep flying high Rhodes, and all the best for the years to come!

Louise Shone - House Captain



House Report...

Looking back on this past year, Athlone has done exceptionally well, keeping up the good spirit and enthusiasm. We started the year as usual with the inter-house gala where we won the spirit cup again! Unfortunately the swimming side of coming things wasn't as successful, with us only third. This was made up for, however, by the brilliant performance of "Blue Crush" by Mel Haralambous and the Grade 11 surfers.

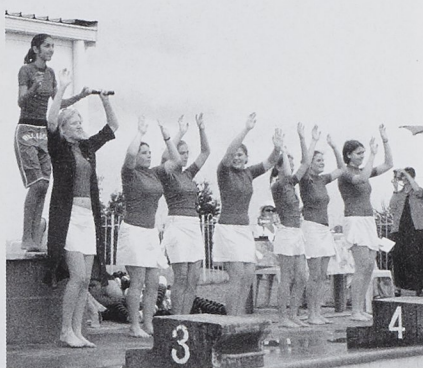


We gave the other houses a lot of competition at the Public Speaking competition, but, unfortunately, it wasn't enough to beat Connaught. The speakers once again made Athlone proud with their witty and humorous contributions. We all admire them for the tremendous effort they put in.

The seniors excelled in the netball, beating both Rhodes and Connaught, but the juniors weren't as lucky, meaning we were placed second overall. This was really disappointing, as everyone played fantastically and we truly deserved to win.

We did show true Athlone spirit and we held our heads high at the inter-house hockey. Everyone played really well and tried her best, but it wasn't good enough to win.

Athlone's enthusiasm paid off in the cross-country, as we had lots of people running. Although Roxanne Vale broke Gina Robinson's record from 1999, we were still unable to win. All ran their hearts out though, and made Athlone proud.



The inter-house play this year was chosen and directed by Jolene Crous and Lindsay Smaill. Unfortunately, I was unable to watch them, but I believe that Jolene and Lindsay did a great job with the dynamic plot and characters, to present a play of an exceptionally high standard.



Scene from *Unlikely Lad*

ATHLONE

Athlone has done surprisingly well this year and it is thanks to two special people. Firstly, Mel, who has come to the rescue many times throughout the year. Her willingness to help has made my job so much easier and I wouldn't have been able to cope without her. Thank you, Mel. Keep up the good work and good luck for next year.

Secondly, Mrs Stakemire. Athlone would not be what it is without her. She keeps Athlone and me on track and adds so much to the spirit that we are so famous for. I really don't know where she gets the energy and patience from. Thank you Mrs Stakemire; you've been amazing.

Melany Hope - House Captain



Mel x2

SPORT ... Waterpolo

Sisters, Melanie and Natasha Haralambous did extremely well in waterpolo this year. Both were invited to participate in the Midlands U18 trials. Natasha made the A team, and Melanie the B team and they will be going on tour to East London in the December holidays.

Natasha toured Croatia in July with the South African U16 waterpolo team. It was not a competition as such, but involved playing many other teams and gaining much experience.



...Adventure Racing Challenge

On Friday, the 29th of August, Megan Blore and Jenny Pickles left to meet the rest of the St John's/Kearsney Adventure racing team, who participated in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Interschools Adventure racing finals. The winning team progresses to the South African Adventure racing finals in December 2003.

Along with the 4 Kearsney boys, our girls arrived at Suela Estate, situated near the Tugela River mouth, where the race was to be held.

The Friday afternoon was spent building rafts, organizing team strategies and checking equipment. The starting line-up on Saturday was determined by points acquired while building the rafts, based on speed and strength.

As the St John's/Kearsney Team got the highest number of points in the raft-building qualifier, we left first, thirty seconds ahead of the next team.

The race consisted of a 600m swim, 4km paddle, 18km mountain bike cycle, a tricky obstacle course, archery, 4km of tubing and a 7,5km beach and forestry run, while wearing a backpack, life jacket and helmet throughout the ENTIRE course!

Finally, the SJS/Kearsney team came in in a well-deserved 2nd place, just behind the Kloof High School team. Next year, with a better idea of what to expect and a bit more training, our team hopes to be the one going through to the SA finals!

Megan Blore and Jenny Pickles



...Cross-Country

The surprising feature of the 2003 season was the number of runners, more than double that of last year. Travelling with two mini-buses, or a hired bus, was last experienced in 1993! From the opening run at Epworth, to the very misty final at Greytown, where two runners got lost, it was a pleasure to be with the girls. Their behaviour and attitude could not be faulted. Kristi Goodman must take the credit and I am grateful to her for her quiet and dignified leadership. She organised practice runs and always led by example. My thanks also go to Mrs Cunnama for assisting with the transport.

After the final run, Roxanne Vale (Open), Jenna Brown, Cherie Vale and Megan Cunnama (all U15) were named among the top ten runners in their age groups.

Roxanne Vale (U16), Kayleigh Leisegang (U15) and Cherie Vale

(U14) ran in the sub-zonal, zonal and inter-zonal trials. Congratulations to Roxanne on making it to the inter-regional trials in Ulundi.

The Inter-House Cross-Country was very well supported, with 94 girls finishing before the cut-off time. Connaught came out winners, with Rhodes second. Roxanne Vale set a new record of 14 minutes 11 seconds, beating Gina Robinson's 1999 record by 4 seconds.

Best wishes to all the runners for 2004.

HERMAN'S DELIGHT

Study the sports pages of the Natal Witness and, under the heading Herman's Delight, you are likely to see a number of St John's girls' names. Girls have been running for the past 15 years, with numbers fluctuating from one or two up to a memorable full bus load of 14.

Why do girls run this time trial on a Tuesday evening? Some are genuine runners wishing to monitor their progress; others like to see their name in the paper. Some are escaping from the Boarding Establishment for an hour; others just want to do it once in their time at St John's. Some are hoping to meet "friends" or relatives and others possibly feel it is an easy way to gain the ear of the Deputy Head!

Strangely, most feel below par on the way to the run and are very vocal about their ailments. Miraculously, everyone feels so much better on the trip home. Certainly, the weekly dose of fresh air has always been good for me.

Thanks are due to Steve Watt for the past six years and Mike Rivers-Moore before that, and now currently, for organising this time trial under the auspices of Collegians Club.

M.R. Wotherspoon



This page kindly sponsored by the Glas family

...Ecochallenge

After a series of challenging trials, Roxanne Vale, Megan Cunnama and Jenny Pickles were selected to represent St John's in the 2003 Epworth Ecochallenge.

The event was held over five days in February and involved a total of

300km of mountain biking, hiking, swimming, running and rafting. In the evenings, the girls were further challenged in a series of environmental quizzes. They were also required to raise sponsorship, the proceeds of which went to the Riverside Frail Care Centre.

The St John's team finished a creditable 3rd out of the seven teams that started, and they agreed unanimously that it was an awesome experience, which they are keen to repeat next year.

Margie Cunnama



Megan



Roxanne



Jenny

...Canoeing

Canoeing continues to grow as a sport at St John's and we were able to enter full teams in many of the inter-schools races in the 2003 season. There were consistent performances in races from Sarah Dawson (captain), Lindsay Everson, Megan Cunnama and Jenny Pickles. Our junior team of Megan Cunnama, Jenny Pickles, Jenna Brown and Natalie Miller came first in the U14 age group in the Three Hour Enduro at Nagle Dam. Sarah Dawson partnered her father to complete her second Dusi Canoe Marathon.

Margie Cunnama - Coach



This page kindly sponsored by the Mckenzie family

...Outdoor Hockey

Although not many wins were recorded during our hockey season, it was a great success in many ways. The season started off with a hockey camp in the Easter holidays in Pietermaritzburg. This was a useful team-building camp, which held us in high spirits for the season ahead. One of our greatest matches was against GHS; with the whole school supporting us, the girls really played their hearts out. Narrowly losing by two goals, it really did not feel like a defeat. We were also very fortunate to have the opportunity of playing an England touring side at the start of the third term. The match against Cheltenham Ladies' College

was exciting and was a good way to end our season.

The season could never have been the success it was without full dedication from the whole team. Those 5 o'clock 3 degrees celsius mornings really did build character and showed commitment. A big thank-you goes to my vice-captain, Mel Hope. Without you and your stern sounding voice and constant encouragement, we would have got nowhere. Mrs Stakemire, Miss Van Breda and Mr Royston, the backbone of our team, never have I seen such dedication and encouragement go into a team and I

thank-you for that. Mr Royston, I don't think you will ever be able to understand and grasp the emotions of fifteen girls put together, but thank-you for being so patient and understanding.

Acknowledgements must be made to Julianne Fifield, Melanie Hope, Robyn Bowles, Romi Hillerman, SallyAnne Snyman and Tristan Duthie, who all represented Midlands this season, and to SallyAnne for making the u/16 B South African team.

Congratulations to all you girls!

I wish next year's team all the best and remember to go that extra inch.

Tiffany Hughes



front row: Julianne Fifield, Melany Hope, Miss L. van Breda, Tiffany Hughes (captain), Mrs K. Stakemire, Tracey Turner, Tracy Blore

2nd row: Nikki Heenan, SallyAnne Snyman, Romi Hillermann, Tristan Duthie, Linzi Stead, Carey Lindsay

back row: Katelyn Warren, Robyn Bowles, Elizabeth Robinson, Kristi Goodman

This page kindly sponsored by the Hathorn family

...Squash

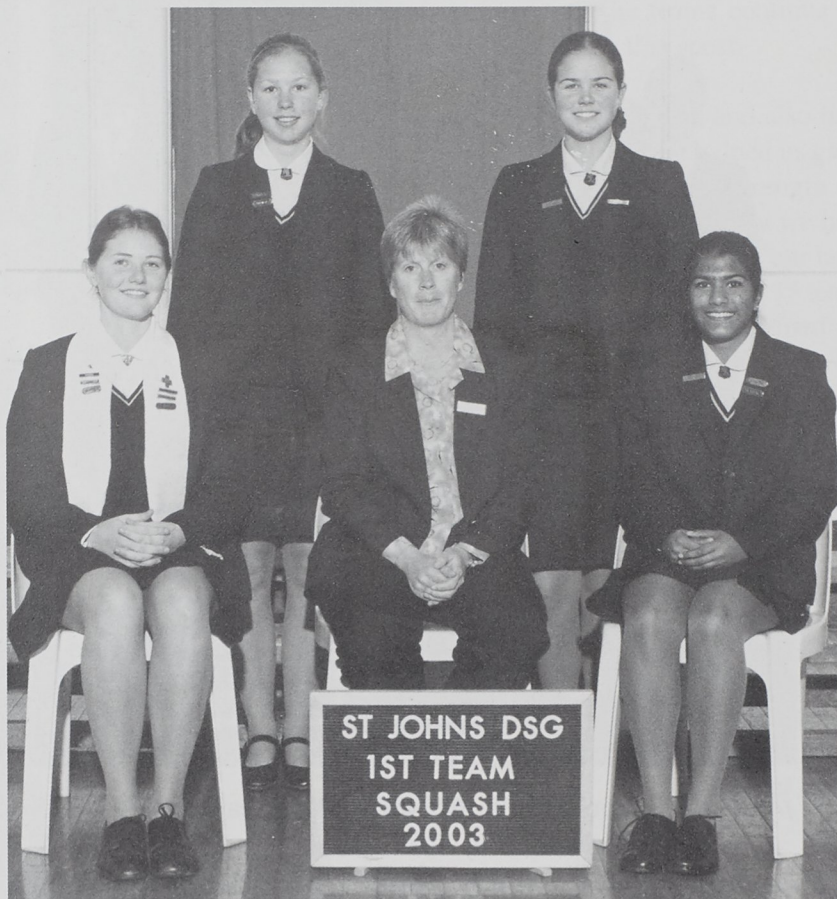
The results of the squash teams this year are commendable. There have been growing involvement and improvement. The 1st team has had an outstanding year and is now one of the top teams in the city and proving themselves in the local league. Other teams have also kept up a high standard. A big thanks go to our coaches, Mrs Janet Mill, Mr Ross Carbutt and Mr Warwick Weedon, for their hard work in assisting the girls to achieve well. We recently had a school from Port Elizabeth, Stirling College, to play our 1st team. St John's was again successful, winning 17-3. Well done to all participants.

Congratulations go to Anndrea Naidoo, Jessica Gouweloos, Louise Shone and Deborah Gouweloos for representing KZN in their respective age groups. Special congratulations go to Anndrea Naidoo who went on to be selected for the South African U16 team to tour the States and

Canada in December. Squash at St John's is continually growing and I encourage more people to get involved, as it spells fun, but also hard work! I hope that the standard

of squash remains at a high level. Congratulations on your excellent results, squash girls, and good luck for next year!

Louise Shone - Captain



*front row: Louise Shone, Mrs J. Mill, Anndrea Naidoo
back row: Carey Lindsay and Jessica Gouweloos*

...Tennis

St John's tennis has this year been able to boast a top South African player, Amy Joubert. She, in turn, has been well supported by Sally-Anne Snyman and other teammates. The results have shown the talent and have been rewarding.

The format of the leagues has changed somewhat this year. There are no longer individual age groups. Everyone has been ranked according to ability, with no concern of age. Teams were chosen from this ladder to participate in the various leagues. As a result, our teams and individuals have benefited, as tennis has been played at a level of skill rather than age.

The girls played outstanding tennis this year and deserve congratulations for their performances. St John's currently has one of the top tennis teams in the district and an enormous thanks goes out to our coach, Mrs Louise Snyman, who has been the backbone of tennis at St John's.

Mrs Snyman is leaving at the end of the year and will be doing private coaching in the future. We thank her for her support, enthusiasm and hard work in achieving excellent results at this school! We will miss her.



Mrs Louise Snyman

Tennis girls – well done and keep up the high standard of playing! Good luck!

Louise Shone - Tennis Captain

...Basketball



front row: Kim Wilson, Nolwazi Nkosi (captain), Ms L. Smit (coach), Jeanine Becker (vice-captain), Ruth Bird
2nd row: Nikki Heenan, Romi Hillermann, Andrea Muller, Jo Bird, Louise Shone, Roxanne Vale
back row: Katelyn Warren, Robyn Bowles

This season, the basketball has been an outstanding success for all the teams. Every team played with tremendous spirit and full determination, and the sport gained a lot of support and recognition this year.

The first team began and ended on a high level of basketball, winning most of our matches. We started off with an outstanding performance, a 22-10 victory against Alex High School. This result proved to us and our coach that we had great potential and a fantastic season to look forward to.

With our team, practice did make perfect because the girls' talent and

ability improved every week. Three pointers, rebounds and sharp intercepts became easy.

Our strongest opponents, as for most schools, was GHS, one of the biggest girl schools in Pietermaritzburg. We played them three times this season. The first match seemed rather tough, but the girls improved after every fall. We knew that, if at first we didn't succeed, we had to brush ourselves off and try again.

We were beaten only by GHS this season. We are proud to stand second best in basketball ranking, in Pietermaritzburg. The team attended the KZN Basketball

Tournament where we tied 3rd position with Glen High, and came 4th out of 14 schools, due to point difference.

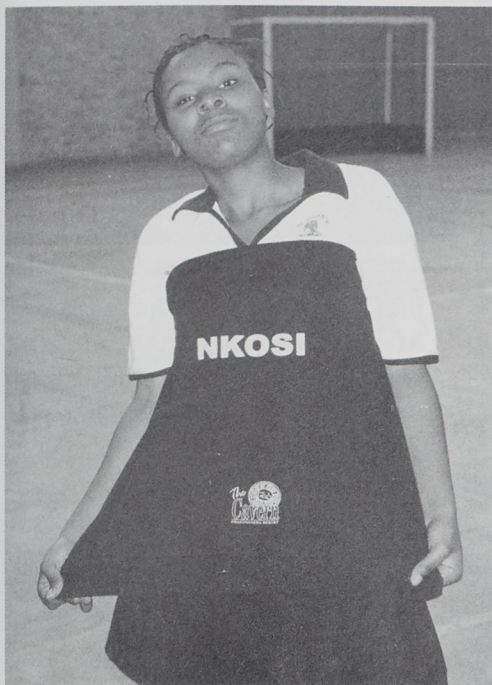
Our team worked well together and had great team spirit. Having numerous meetings and inspiring talks and messages from our coach, Ms Smit, made sure that the team reached their full potential.

Good luck to all the teams next year. We hope the standard of basketball remains at this level.

And remember that it's not over until the fat lady sings; do your best, always!

Nolwazi Nkosi - Captain

...Netball



The new uniform



The Girlz in the Hoods

The Netball teams had a trying and challenging season, but the girls played with enthusiasm and determination. The teams continue to grow in numbers, as more girls take interest in this sport.

The first team took on a lot of challenges this season, and also had the opportunity to take part in a few tournaments that helped us gain more experience. The girls' performance went from strength to strength, but unfortunately the season was too short. If only we had played as well at the beginning as we did at the end. One of our best performances was the game against St Anne's College. The 1st team had great support from the entire senior school, which helped us outshine our talent; the outcome was very pleasing. Thank-you to Miss Smit, who always made sure that the team was doing their best and grew stronger after every game. She made us realize that our team has great talent and capability. Those energizers and talks before each match made a huge difference, keeping us mentally and physically prepared for the challenge ahead.

Good luck for the netball teams next year. Remember that courage is never to let your actions be influenced by your fears. And the leader should always look back to make sure she has followers. It was a great pleasure to captain a team with such motivation and desire to reach full potential.

Nolwazi Nkosi

front row:

Justine Smit,
Nolwazi Nkosi (captain),
Ms L. Smit (Coach),
Kim Wilson (vice-captain),
Jeanine Becker

back row:

Robyn Bowles,
Margot Flint,
Lerato Mfeka



...Swimming

Although gala season started on a cold, wet Friday evening, the team's dedication and enthusiasm were clearly evident from the very beginning. The girls put great effort into their training and, throughout the season, their times continued to improve. As always, the size of our swimming squad limited our ability at the weekly galas. Unfortunately, as a squad, we were unable to achieve our main goal of beating our rival school – Epworth – at the Girls' Inter-schools gala, but many of the girls were successful in achieving individual goals. Congratulations go to Romi Hillermann and Robyn Bowles who were selected to repres-

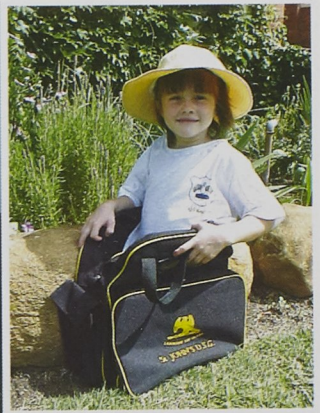
ent Midlands A team, while Paula de la Hey and Lindsay Kirkby were selected to represent Midlands B team. Romi and Robyn then went on to compete at the Provincial Gala held in Durban.

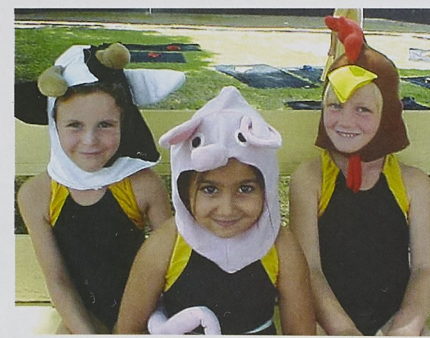
The inter-house gala was a highlight of the season and the grade 11s put huge effort into the preparations while managing to maintain a competitive spirit between the houses. Well done to Rhodes House who, once again, claimed victory. A special mention must be made of the Under 17 age group, who trained hard and swam consistently throughout the season to achieve outstanding results.

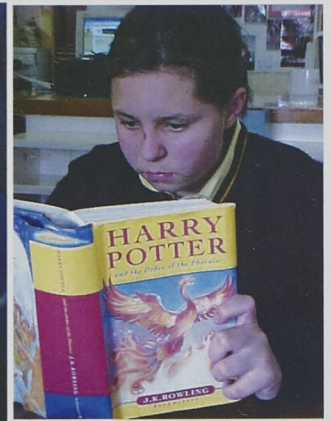
A special thanks to Jeanine Becker, the vice-captain, for all her help and advice this season, and to our coaches, Miss Smit and Miss van Breda, thank you for all your time, patience and support – it was all much appreciated. To the squad girls of 2003, although the morning sessions sometimes managed to dampen our spirits, (no matter how beautiful the sunrise was), the dedication, enthusiasm and fun-loving spirit from every single one of you were amazing. It was an honour to captain you all. Thank you for many special memories and all the best for the season of 2004. May it be as successful as this year was.

Justine Smit - Swimming Captain

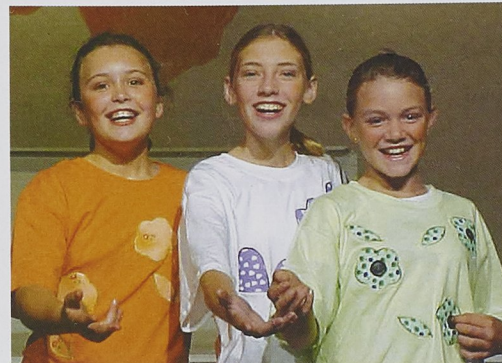
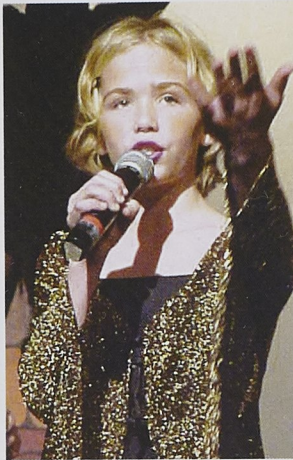








THE CURIOUS QUEST FOR THE SANDMAN'S SAND



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL



Mrs Annette Symes



Mrs Sybil Dinkelmann
Secretary

HEADMISTRESS' REPORT

On opening my diary to the page headed 1 January 2003, I read the following little message at the bottom of the page: "There are no victories at bargain prices." Little did I know then how prophetic these words would turn out to be!

We have had cause to celebrate many "victories" in 2003, and I don't believe that any of them came at "bargain prices". The success of this year's junior school musical, *The Curious Quest for the Sandman's Sand*, would not have been realised had it not been for the dedication and hard work put in by teachers, pupils and parents. Many sacrifices had to be made, but it certainly was worth it in the end!

Commitment is a laudable quality which we strive to develop in every St John's girl, and I am delighted that so many of the girls have displayed this fine attribute over the past year. They have accomplished much, be it academically, culturally or in the sporting arena, and I am confident that they will leave for their long summer break feeling well satisfied that they have given of their best.

In closing, I wish to pay tribute to an excellent group of teachers, whose enthusiasm and love for their profession have been the inspiration for the girls to attain lofty goals. I am truly blessed to lead such a wonderful team!

*Annette Symes -
Head of the Junior School*

Mrs Kerin Bowker



How does one bid farewell to a much loved colleague and totally dedicated teacher who, by virtue of a rare gift, has guided so many little girls through that all-important first year of schooling?

Kerin Bowker has been an invaluable member of our staff for fourteen and a half years. Her classroom bursts with bright colour and busyness that reflects her own vibrant personality.

Not only have the girls been nurtured by her loving care and constant concern, but they have also benefited from her own interests and extensive knowledge of birds and trees.

Our sadness at Kerin's leaving will be tempered by our delight that she will have more time to enjoy her wide range of hobbies and interests.

from her colleagues



Mrs Eleanor Blignaut,
matron of St Joseph's



Miss Claire Scott,
Boarder Mistress

Grade 0

Eaglets

Rupika Chuntarpursat

Dale du Preez

Darshana Govender

Crystal Hepple

Ashleigh Jennings

Mohini Karappian

Girishti Maharaj

Najiya Maharaj

Vuyiswa Mchunu

Sarah McLoughlin

Ntando Ndebele

Megan Parfitt

Samiksha Ramdeyal

Jamie Reynolds

Amy Scheepers

Hannah Scott

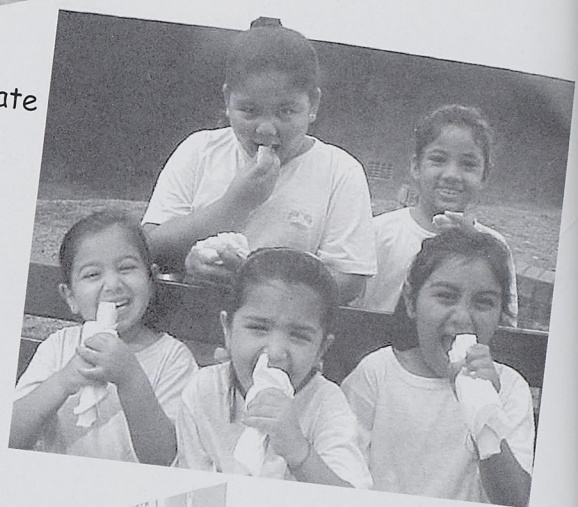
Fareeaa Sheik

Katherine Usher

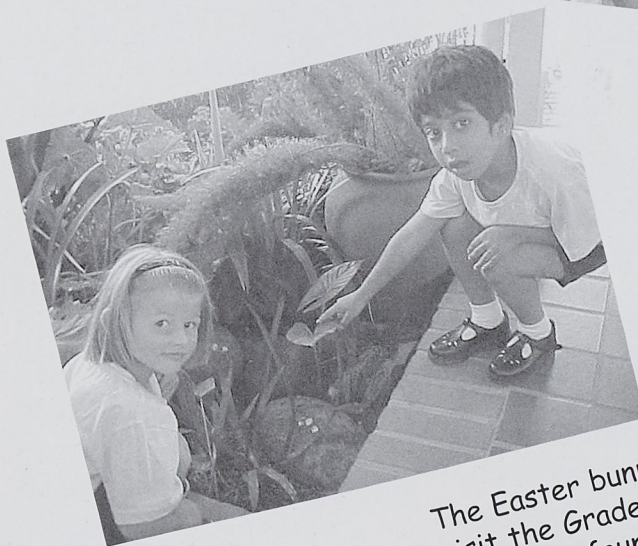
Stand aside, David Beckham.
When Mr Sherrif Moses painted our classroom
in January, he sported a hairdo just as good as yours, and he
attracted even more admirers!



On Shrove Tuesday we ate
lots of delicious
pancakes...



Mrs Wendy Griffiths



The Easter bunny came to
visit the Grade 0s. Rupika
and Dale found his foot-
prints in the Quad garden.

This page kindly sponsored by the Ndebele family



We swam and
we played
hockey
amongst
other things.



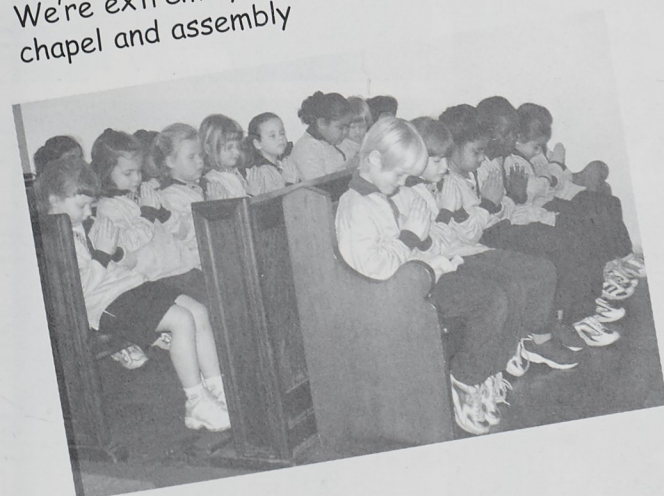
On Open Day we entertained visitors with
frog songs and poems.



We visited the Bot Gardens



We're extremely well-behaved in
chapel and assembly



Mr Payne taught us how to
grow flowers and vegetables

Grade 1

Caydwen Bause
 Tahlia Chetty
 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
 Dunette Smith
 Jessica Stegen
 Georgie Twycross
 Tessa Westwood
 Samantha Wimbush



Mrs Kerin Bowker



This page kindly sponsored by Lauren Clark and her family

DIARY

17th March

We had a gala. *Georgie*

26th March

It is nearly Easter. *Bianca*

5th May

I fell over at home. I hurt my knee on a stone. *Tegan*
My dog had seven puppies. I was very pleased. *Jessica*

15th May

We went to the Noo-Noo Farm in a bus. *Samantha*
We went on a bug-hunt with a net and a jar. *Natisha*

27th May

We had a long weekend. I went to Water World. *Tejal*
We went to have a picnic at the Botanical Gardens. *Alexandra*
I went to the Berg with my family. *Akira*
I went to the Royal Show. *Tahlia*

2nd June

We bathed my dogs at the weekend. They are clean. *Nadja*
I was exercising with Catherine. We saw a wagtail on the grass. *Philippa*

17th June

On Sunday it was Fathers' Day. Yesterday was the Comrades Marathon. *Tayla*
We played a hockey match. Our mums and dads watched. I hit the ball. *Dunette*

23rd June

We saw the "Sandman's Sand". I liked the train and the songs. *Aadila*
I liked the witch and her helpers. *Kelly*

28th July

We went to get new kittens from the SPCA. They are so sweet. *Kayla*

4th August

Our cat fell into the bath after I finished bathing. *Sarah*
I went to the Barn Dance. I saw Elvis Presley. He gave a rose to Mum. *Nicola*

11th August

I saw a bulbul in a tree. It was eating some avocado. *Lauren*
I saw a fiscal shrike. He came inside and collapsed. Then he flew away when Dad helped him. *Nevali*

18th August

I stayed at home and I saw a fork-tailed drongo on the telephone line.
He was looking for food. *Larissa*
I went to Saturday school. I liked the Grade 8's market. I saw my cousin at the market. I bought a diary and a flower pen. *Caydwen*
My dad made us a pizza. It had cheese and tomatoes and olives.
He is a good cook. *Towhara*

26th August

I went to the beach with my family. I collected a lot of shells.
I brought them to school. *Tessa*

Grade 2

Tamlyn Anderson
Geordan Byrne
Dayle Coombes
Samantha Dent
Jodie du Preez
Kirsty Egner
Casey Ford
Chloë Karappian
Holly Kennard
Dimpho Liphapang
Kelly Logan
Skhumbuzo Mazibko
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 Tish Rhodes



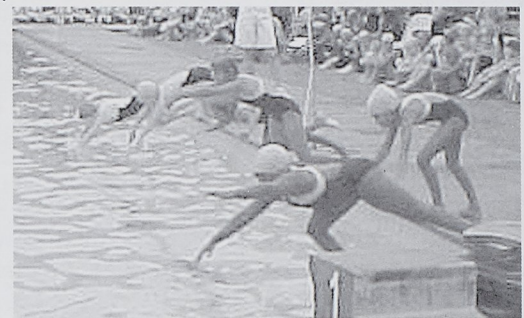
We welcomed our regular *locum tenens*, Mrs Lorna Thomas, in the first term, while Mrs Rhodes enjoyed her Long Leave.

Grade 2s get off to a flying start at the JP gala.

MOTHER NATURE

We notice lots of things in nature. Birds glide softly when the wind blows them. When waves curl and then flatten out, it is amazing. How can the bee sting us? They have special tails. How come cheetahs run so fast? They have long legs for running. How do all these creatures live without us helping them? It really is amazing.

Samantha



Competitors in the fashion stakes? No, these are Grade 2 girls who ran in the dressing-up race on JP Athletics day.

BESSIE BIRD

There was once a little bird called Bessie. She lived in an apple tree in the farmer's garden. One day, Bessie fell out of the apple tree and she hurt her leg. Luckily the farmer found her. He took her inside. When she was better he let her go. Then she flew out of the house into her nest and she visited the farmer every day.

Junelle



10 March

On Saturday I washed my dog. The next door neighbour's cat came in my garden and the dog jumped out of the tub and ran round and round and splashed the water all over me and my mom said instead of the dog having a bath, you had a bath.

Divashnee

When it was Zandria's pop star party, we had a fight on the jumping castle and the girls won.

Skhumbuzo

17 March

On Saturday we had a gala. We all swam fast and we all had fun. I liked backstroke best. I came first. I was proud and my mum was proud too. Also my dad. My teacher was proud of us and so were all our parents.

Megan

5 May

On St John's day, my mom came to have a picnic with us. Then my mom and Lerlin's mom were talking so I asked my mom if I could go to the playground. She said yes. When I went to the playground, Geordie let me ride her bike.

Gigi

2 June

On Friday my dad came home because he got an early flight. He had had enough of boiled viennas and a blob of mustard.

Jodie

18 August

At the weekend on Sunday, I went to polo and a man that was playing polo hit the ball and the ball hit the horse in the side and all the people said ooooooh.. Afterwards, some people did a show and it was called dressage.

Dayle

On Saturday, I went to Samantha's party. We had our hair and our faces done at the party. Yeaterday, my cousin stayed over and we found out that my hamster had babies!

Chloë

On Saturday I came to school and I went to the Grade 8 market. I got a toe-ring, a smiley face biscuit, an Oros, a packet of popcorn and a packet of jellytots. Then we came back to our classroom and wrote Bessie Bird. Then I helped Mrs Rhodes clean the paints.

Tammy



Playing in the Autumn leaves in the avenue of plane trees - on an outing to the Botanical gardens.

A WEIRD AND WONDERFUL BIRD

One night I was watching TV in the lounge. Suddenly, I heard a funny sound. It was coming from behind me, so I looked and saw a funny creature. It looked peculiar. It had square eyes and gold legs and a blue and red tail. It said to me *Please can you come for a ride? Yes, Please! Jump on.* And off we went over hills and tunnels. It was fun. When we got back, I woke up on the floor. Luckily it was only a dream.

Kimay

Grade 3

Jodi Battershill
 Kimberley Bingel
 Fasheeha Charfaray
 Kerryn Coulthard
 Kimberly Fall
 Nicole Fourie
 Kelsey Holmes
 Nicola Kirkby
 Amy-Beth Kleinhans
 Asma Latiff
 Kairavee Maharaj
 Amy Oldfield
 Shweta Panday
 Miasha Pillay
 Jacqui Ras
 Elsa Scharf
 Jennifer Slotow
 Joelene Small



Mrs Lynne Joubert

THE CLEVER BUNNY

One day a little bunny called Whiskers was in school. He was made by a little girl. Her name was Amy. Whiskers was a clever bunny. One day at school Amy said *I would like you to do my work. I would like you to read my books.*

One night, the cats on the classroom wall came alive. They chased him all night till it was morning and they had to turn back into pictures. When Amy got to school the next day, she told Whiskers to go back to being a paper bunny.

Amy O.

St John's D.S.G.
 26 February 2003

Dear Mrs Joubert

On Tuesday we went to watch Mr Frank's Incredible Circus Adventure.

I loved it when Aviwe got tipped upside down. He also pulled money out of her mouth, then her nose, then her underarm.

He rode on his unicycle with Katy on his shoulders. He made her a helmet from a balloon. After the ride he also made her a flower and two monkeys.

I like magic. It makes me feel excited. He kissed some people then he kissed Mrs Coombes. The show was so funny I can't smile any more. Mrs Joubert, you missed such a lovely show. We all missed you. I wished you were there.

Jacqui, Shweta, Asma, Kairavee, Elsa.



Grade 3 has quite a few very fine swimmers.

These three girls, Kelsey, Nicole and Nikki show their many medals.



HAPPINESS

I like it when my brother plays cricket with me. My baby cousins are such fun. They clap hands and say *Kelsey*.

My dad welds and sparks splash on me. That makes me laugh very loud and I can't stop.

I love it when Chocolate goes very fast over a big jump. I like it when my mum rubs my back. Ooo, it feels so nice.

Kelsey, Kerryn, Jennifer



Mrs Janet Smallie taught the Grade 3s while Mrs Joubert was away in the first term of the year.

GETTING LOST

In the July holidays I got lost at Cascades when Tim and I went to look at toys. When we were finished we waited for our mom but she did not come. So we waited for a little bit longer. Then we decided to look for her. I started to worry. We looked by the tills, we looked by the fruit and vegetables. Then we looked by the bread rolls, the plants, the fish. Then we looked by the cereal and we found our mom.

Elsa



Grade 3 girls always produce great lengths of French knitting.

Anne Lu from Taiwan came to South Africa during her holidays - to visit relatives and to improve her English. She joined the Grade 3s for six weeks - not only in the classroom, but also as a boarder in St Joseph's.



GIANT ADVENTURE

One morning I woke up. I was as high as the sun. I could not believe my eyes! The people were as small as a piece of grass. The cars were like small and slow-moving beetles. I wanted to go for a swim. I took two steps to get to the sea. My costume had shrunk so I went to the tailor. It took him a week to finish but by then I was back to normal!

Nikki



MY HOLIDAY

I went to Mozambique. It was very hot. My cousin and I went diving in the rockpools. We saw lots of fish. We fried marshmallows on our fire. I built a big castle with a moat. I had to fetch the bread every morning. I was chased by a male monkey that also chased my parents. I helped my dad pack the car. It took ten hours to get home.

Kimberley

HOT DAYS

On hot days I feel very dehydrated. The sun makes me faint.

When it is hot I like to sit in the shade.

I can't work in the heat. I want to eat watermelon in the pool.

I only talk to my friends on hot days.

My brother irritates me.

When my dogs lick me on a hot day, I get angry.

Miasha, Amy-Beth, Joelene, Awiwe, Nicole, Jodi

The Grade 3s read *Charlotte's Web* in class with Mrs Joubert.

Jodi and Miasha admire the spiders and webs that they made in art class



Grade 3s love story-time with Auntie Ethel

Grade 4

Jenna Annandale
Liane Chetty
Charlotte Day
Heather de Allende
Fiona Faure
Courtney Graham
Silka Guy
Trisha Hathorn
Clara Helgesson
Sandy Lu
Nokuthula Manzi
Lineo Mokoatsi
Bophelo Nakin
Amy Ovenstone
Yvonne Quirk
Sandar Shwe
Pooja Singh
Catherine Smart
Lauren Sole
Chelsea Wadeson
Kendall Williams



Mrs Gill Ducasse

A SPECIAL PERSON

My mom is also special, but I'm writing about my dad. He is forty-two years old. He is a beef farmer; that's why I'm so round. He has black-brown hair and blue eyes. He lives in Uganda and is all on his own in a tent on the farm. He is very tall and handsome. He is special because he loves me very much and is very kind. I'm glad I've got this dad and not any other.

Trisha

A GOOD TIME

My granny lives in Burma. They came to visit. I got a lovely little Burmese umbrella. They came to South Africa for the first time. It was very nice to have them. I also got a lovely Burmese vase made of porcelain. They were very nice people. They told us tales about their past life. I loved those tales. We went to the shops because we had to eat Burmese food. It was very tasty. We have got a very nice granny and she said we can visit Burma. I said *I can't wait*. Then after two weeks past we got Burmese clothes. We went to the airport a few weeks later. I was sad to say goodbye, but I was happy as well.



Summertime grannies



Sandar

Wintertime grannies

A VISIT TO THE SHARKS BOARD

I was very excited about our trip to Durban. Once I got to school, I quickly got out of the car and nearly forgot to say goodbye to my mum. I rushed to the classroom.

In the bus we got fruit juice and a muffin. My friend and I never stopped talking. The trip took quite a long time, but eventually we got to Durban.

When we got to the Sharks Board, it really had quite a smell in the air. First we watched a video about sharks. The tiger shark is very stripy and that is how it got its name. The leopard shark is very spotty and that's how it got its name. Did you know that sharks only eat humans because they look like fish swimming in the sea?

We also saw a man cut open a shark. He said the acid of the shark's stomach could sting someone's hand. He started to dissect the shark and take out all the organs like the liver, intestine and heart. If a shark loses its teeth, it will grow more. It has five to seven rows of teeth. A shark can smell a teaspoon of blood in loads and loads of water. Not all sharks are aggressive.

Heather, Yvonne, Silka and Jenna

OUR OUTING TO ROCKY STREAMS

Yesterday we went on an outing to Rocky Streams. We left at 8.00am, travelling in a big bus. On the way we saw farmers ploughing and cutting sugar cane. We also saw farm workers driving tractors. As we drove through the gates, we saw the people who work there waving happily at all of us.



We were put into four groups: two in Grade 4 and two in Grade 5. There were four people to help us. Their names were Lauren, Siyabonga, Steve and Karyn. Siya took our group to an obstacle course. It looked fun and it was. We had to go under a net. It was quite hard. Then we had to balance on a rope. He took us to a very funny place with a black bag covering it. I had to open the

bag and lead the way. Siya said I was very brave. I opened it and there were branches everywhere. I had to crawl under the branches.

He also took us to Rocky Streams waterfall. It was beautiful. There were steps going down the waterfall right to the bottom. I loved getting my takkies all gooey and wet. When we had tea, Siya and the other helpers taught us songs and told us jokes. We had lots of fun. I can't wait to go to Rocky Streams again.

Yvonne, Pooja and Fiona



We did have lots of fun even though we got very dirty!



Grade 4 detectives in the library, uncovering many interesting historical facts about StJohn's DSG.

SNAKES

Snakes are revolting:
Slithering silently
from branch to branch.
I've never liked them
And I never will.
That is that-
Because they kill!

Lauren

A question asked when the class was studying dinosaurs:
Please, Mrs Ducasse, what did a Thesaurus look like?



One of the many beautiful Egyptian ladies seen one Saturday during the second term.

OOPS!

One hot day I was playing with my mom's precious porcelain dolls and she told me not to play with them. I said that I would not play with them anymore and I quietly ran into my room with them in my hands. There were four porcelain dolls. They were beautiful. I went to get some food for myself and my dog came into my room. He started playing with them. I came back to my room and chased him out.. He did not do anything bad, but I dropped two of the dolls. When my mom came back from the shops she found out about it and she was cross. She told my dad. I was so embarrassed. I will never forget the day.

Fiona

This page kindly sponsored by Jowhara and Nasreen Mahomad

THE CURIOUS QUEST FOR THE SANDMAN'S SAND

Miss Filmer and Mrs Attwell produced the play and Mrs Moir played the piano and all the other teachers helped us get ready. We had fun learning the play. It took us days to know it off by heart. I think we all loved our costumes. We missed a lot of schoolwork, but it was worth it.

All the Grade 4s were litterbugs - we were like an army. We wore polo necks, stockings and rubbish bags! The main characters were the Harrys and the three children. My best characters were the witch and the silly henchmen. My best scene was where the Grade 4s were fighting the Grade 5 baddies.

I learned not to be nervous, how to have fun, smile and sing clearly. At the end of the show we had to sing *Bed Bug Bop* and then bow. Thank you to all the teachers!

Liane and Charlotte

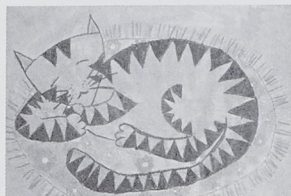


**LITTERBUGS AT THE
TRASH TRUMP DUMP**

CURRY

Strong smell
Burns my tongue
Too hot for me
Awful!

Liane Chetty



Cat by Sandy Lu

Deadly creature
Ravenously hungry
Absolutely terrible
Giant-sized beast
Obviously ugly, yet...
Nobody has seen one!

Jenna



Lineo and Noks admiring frames.

THE FIRST CRICKET

Long, long ago there was a very ugly lion who lived in the grasslands of Southern Africa. He bullied, teased and even hurt other animals. After a few months, all the other animals got together and discussed how to give this ugly lion a lesson.

After a minute or two, one of the animals said, "Why don't we go and ask Tully, the greatest of all creatures?" The animals agreed. Tully was an animal who knew nearly everything. And another thing about her was that she could do magic. Tully said that she could turn the ugly lion into a cricket. The next morning she made a magic spell to teach the ugly lion his lesson.

That afternoon, the animals went down to the lion's den. They said, "Mr Lion, please take this gift we brought for you. Mr Lion said, "What is it?" The animals said, "It is a magical drink which can make you big and strong!" Mr Lion said, "OK then. I'll drink it." And so he did.

Mr Lion got smaller and smaller until he turned into a cricket. The animals cheered with delight.

One of the animals had noticed a Chinese man taking a walk in the bush. The animals decided to pop the cricket into the Chinaman's pocket. The Chinaman heard the cricket chirping and making a beautiful noise. He lifted the cricket out of his pocket and said, "What an interesting animal. I am going to tell all my friends about you."

That's how the first cricket came to earth and that's why the Chinese love crickets so.

Catherine

POEM

Once
I touched
A lovely rose.
It was darkish red.
Beautiful.

Bophelo



This page kindly sponsored by Mike and Jenny Faure

Grade 5

On Shrove Tuesday our Grade 1 and 2 mothers made dozens of pancakes to sell. The money raised this year, went towards buying a sprinkler and hose for the playground. Tatum, Emma and Samantha helped with the fund-raising by eating quite a few pancakes.



Robyn Beattie
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
Lauren Ogilvie
Chelsea Osborne
Tatum Page
Nontando Sokhela
Emma Stuart-Hill
Catherine Tatham
Michelle van der Merwe
Kaleigh Wadeson
Tamika Wilkinson



A WHALE OF A TIME

One day, the school went on an excursion. We were all allowed to swim. I thought I would be brave, so I went down to try and touch the bottom of the ocean. I had to hold my breath for a long time. When I came up I hit something quite hard. I eventually opened my eyes after wiping them. The place was dark and I was scared. I tried to figure out where I was. All I saw was bones and fish heads.

I had been swallowed by an animal. I think it was the killer whale that had been behind me. He was the biggest killer whale that I had ever seen. He stank of rotten fish. All I felt around me was his sharp teeth and bones and bottles and things that had polluted the sea. I heard grumbling noises and splashes. The only air I had was coming through the splash hole.

I tried shouting for help, but the sound just echoed. It was no use. No-one could hear me. Suddenly, I had an idea. I would try and make my way through the whale's bones, climb up the ribs and look out of the splash hole. Slowly, I walked through the bones and everything that was inside the whale. I started climbing up the whale ribs. I looked out of the splash hole. It was getting cold. I thought that everyone had gone.

I started getting worried. I thought I had been left behind. Just then I felt the whale bumping something. *I think I am close to the shore*, I said to myself. Again, I slowly made my way through everything and slowly started climbing his ribs. I got to his top rib and, slowly, but surely, squeezed myself out of his splash-hole. I swam to shore just in time to catch the bus with everyone. I think that that was the most adventurous trip of my life so far.

One of the art categories for the Royal Show this year was **What I Want to Be When I Grow up**. In Grade 5, this varied from chef, banana farmer, teacher and horse trainer, to Egyptologist. (left) Ashleigh Kennard is going to be a marine biologist.



Mrs Candy Coombes

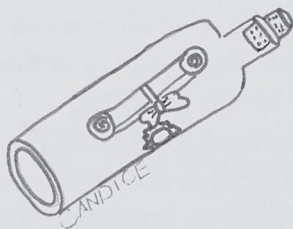
Kayleigh M

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Dear whoever finds this letter,

I am in New Guinea. Unfortunately I have been caught by a tribe of cannibals (I think) and they might be planning to eat me. I'm only eight years old and I'm terribly exasperated.

This is how I got here: I was missing my family very much. (they are missionaries in New Guinea.) I thought I could get to them by ship, but I didn't have enough money, so I decided to be a stowaway on a boat that was on its way to New Guinea.



I thought my parents were alive, but, sadly, they had been eaten. Hopefully, if I get eaten, I will see them in heaven. I think I am here. (Where the cross is.)

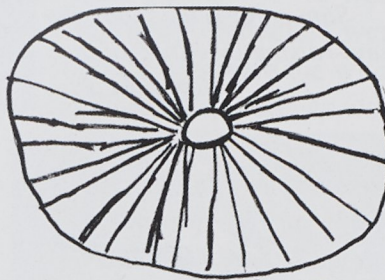
They are probably coming to eat me. I can hear their footsteps and chattering. Help!

Ashleigh

THE LIMPET

I am a limpet
Though I love to eat plankton
I will stick on you

Tamika



Storm

KILLER WHALE

Roams the vast ocean
Preying on all sea creatures
Scaring everything

Darsha



JELLYFISH

The wasp of the deep
Silently floating around
Like a big balloon.

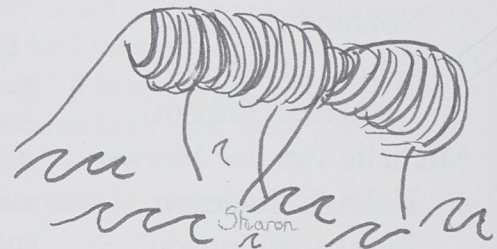
Siobhan



WAVES

Big and blue and loud
Waves go crashing
Round and round
And make the ocean move.

Robyn



OUTING TO ROCKY STREAMS

On our outing to Rocky Streams, our leaders were called Steve, Lauren, Siya and Karen. First we did an orientation course and we had to find different markers. It was like a game. We got into teams and we were peasants training to be knights. Only one team would get knighted. The leaders had to chase us and if they caught us, some points would be taken off. Our team got knighted even though we had got a bit lost. We also did an obstacle course which was not hard at all.

Siobhan

*Girls relaxing -
after plenty of exercise at Rocky Streams.*

This page kindly sponsored by Darsha Indrajith

THE MONSTER OF THE DEPTHS

I awoke. I opened my eyes and stared around me. I could see one colour: black. I was startled and stood up. I felt around. The walls were wet! Am I in the shower? Has the power gone out?

Suddenly, a part of the wall opened. In came a shaft of light. I tried to see what was out there. *The sea!* I screamed. How could I be in the sea? I sat down slowly on a piece of rock. I tried to calm down. I looked out again. Then I noticed something I hadn't seen before. All around the hole there were sharp and shiny rocks.

I looked at them again. *Wait a minute. Those aren't rocks. They're teeth!* I stuttered. I looked at where I was sitting – on a rock surrounded by smelly water! There were fish swimming and jumping about. Then it all became clear in my mind. I was in the mouth of a giant sea creature, or rather, a monster!

Suddenly the ground started moving and the monster's mouth closed. Everything was black again and I was getting knocked around the revolting, smelly mouth. The monster had woken up and was now swimming deeper and deeper.

I was struggling to breathe, gasping for air. I started hearing all the strange sounds that the monster made, very much like a whale. I was now feeling faint and I needed good air badly. The monster's stinky breath was making it harder for me to breathe. His breath smelt like rotting meat.

When I had no more air left, I fainted. I landed in a very big puddle and I awoke again. The dreadful smell had gone away. I was breathing in air. I looked around. I was in the bath the whole time! I had fallen asleep in the bath. I'm glad that it was a dream, otherwise I would have been monster lunch!

Sharon



It is rumoured that the makers of cars like Porsche, Ferrari and Lamborghini are getting nervous at the prospect of competition from the Grade 5 Design Team.



In the second term we collected about a hundred bottles of vaseline and eighty tubes of super Cs for the Aids babies. We piled them on the table so that you couldn't see us! I hope there are many little babies feeling much more comfortable and happy.

Robyn

FUN FRIEND

Robyn stayed down the road from us at the same beach. One day she came to the gate to let us in. Then she got her costume and off to the beach we went.

As soon as we got there, we ran into the sea. At that time, the waves were calm and Robyn and I were just floating. It was so relaxing just lying there. When we finally got out, we had granny fingers!

We walked to Rob's house and it took nearly fifteen minutes to get there, but it was fun walking on the sand.

At Robyn's house we played on Robyn's bed and I did a backflip and Robyn burst out laughing. The best part was when we spied on Murray, Robyn's brother. He never knew we were spying on him though he knew we were behind the couch. Then my mum came and took me home.

Gina

Grade 6

Leslie-Anne Britz
Cheyenne Campbell

Alice Colle
Caitlin Corrigan

Tamrin Crosby
Tasqeen Dawad

Sarah Evans
Eve-Lyn Faure

Katie-Lee Grant
Jessica Hankey

Sonya Helgesson
Huda Jooma

Jenna Kennard
Courtneë Kleinhans

Radiyya Latiff
Carmen Leisegang

Cara Marx
Hayley McDonald

Tegan Mill
Naaila Osman

Lara Perrett
Sarah Stewart

Simphiwe Tshabalala
Brittany Westhorpe-Pottow
Nonhlanhla Zondi



Mrs Désirée Adam

When we visited the Voortrekker Museum to learn more about the Zulu culture, we were welcomed warmly.

We were taught how the Zulus used to hunt and how they lived. In the hall we looked at implements that the Zulus used, like beer strainers and pots.

We also had a look at necklaces and bracelets that they had made.

Naaila Osman



HOW LEOPARDS AND BABOONS GOT THEIR LONG TAILS

Thoth was a leopard who had been driven from home a month ago by his mother. For some time they had been sparring, baring their teeth at each other. Then she had driven him off her territory, sending him out into the world to find a place of his own.

Thoth was three years old, a homeless bachelor. He was hungry. He needed food and he would have to get it by hunting.

His target was an impala. He crouched ready to spring. But monkeys had spotted him and they sounded the alarm: *Leopard, leopard, run, run!* and off ran the impala, the zebra and buffalo, not to mention the giraffe, elephant and springbok.

Thoth was mad. This was not the first time the monkeys had ruined a meal. So Thoth made a vow: *I'm going to get those cheeky monkeys if it's the last thing I do.*

(Remember, Thoth and other leopards were not the leopards we know today. They had no tails – only a little stub. One day, while leopard was chasing monkey, she ran into an anthill. Thoth called Baboon to sit with him and wait for monkey to come out. They sat back to back and eventually fell asleep. Monkey put a blob of glue on the end of each tail and glued them together.

Monkey's cousin now also slipped out of the anthill. Suddenly, Leopard and Baboon woke up to find monkeys in front of them. The monkeys turned and ran opposite ways: Leopard after monkey, and Baboon after her cousin. They ran and ran and ran, but realised that they were going nowhere. Finally, the glue snapped and Leopard and Baboon discovered that they now had rather long tails!

Lara Perrett



The aim of our Amabagibagi sale was to learn business skills, how to plan, and how to work in groups. (Do we listen to each other? Do we all do an equal amount of work?)

We all had to have a float, bags to put the goodies in and, of course, items to sell. Our profit, after costs, was in the region of R2000.

*Tasqeen Dawad
Sarah Evans*

The aim of PINSSA is to investigate a topic independently. We had to include the following headings:

question, aim, hypothesis, method, apparatus, result and conclusion.

In Grade 6, four groups entered, and all four achieved bronze medals.

*Caitlin Corrigan,
Nonhlanhla Zondi,
Teagan Mill.*



NOT A HAPPY ENDING

We were on a lovely three-week holiday, but there was a shocking end to it: shocking for some, lifesaving for others.

It happened at the last place we visited, Aliwal North. My brother and I were on a water slide going down, when the slide had an airlock. First the water went full-blast and then it stopped. When it went full-blast it pushed my brother off the slide.

Fortunately, he managed to grab the edge of the slide. I was at the bottom pool and I heard him scream. I scrambled up the slide to find my brother about to fall five stories. I grabbed his trembling hands and pulled him out on the slide.

The water came back on and pushed my brother into me. I fell onto the slide and knocked out my front teeth. What a terrible, shocking end to a lovely holiday.

Jenna



In Shakaland we had a tour and were told the tale of Shaka's life. We also saw a movie about Shaka. That night we watched Zulu dancing. It was amazing! The next day we went to a market and I bought two necklaces and a spear.

Cara Marx



Alice as Beatrix Potter

The grade 6s did orals on famous people. We had to dress up and tell something about our person. We couldn't say when they died because we had to pretend that we were the person. I was Beatrix Potter.

SIDETRACKED

"Bye, Mom" I said as the giant bus drove off. We were off on our school trip to *Roselands*. When we got there, we took our bags and dumped them on our beds. When we went outside, we met our guide, Andrea. We had a tea break and then Andrea told us to get ready for a walk to the waterfall.

On our walk we saw lots of different things like birds, plants and dragonflies. I knew we were quite near to the waterfall because I could hear the water running. Then we went down a steep cliff. When the others got to the bottom, I was still trying to get down. When I got down, the group was nowhere to be found.

Not knowing where to go, I went down a path which led to a valley. After a while, I came to a sudden stop because, right in front of me, was a little hut with some animals grazing on the little bit of grass they had.



ENGADINI

uCarmen noSimphiwe

A girl about the same age as me came running out of the hut to greet me. She said "Hello" and told me her name was Nosipho. I ran after her as she ran down the valley. She was wearing a bead skirt and top and had beads in her hair.

She took me to the stream. She told me that she had to cook, clean and work and when she was finished, she would come and play at the stream. She took me to the house and I met all the people of the family. Their house was the size of my bathroom. The only things they had were a pot, some blankets, crops, some livestock and a few other things.

I told her what had happened to me and we went to find my class. Then we saw some people emerging from the bush. Luckily, it was my class, so I said goodbye and we walked back to the bungalows.

Leslie-Anne Britz

uSally: Wenzani ubaba?

uMama: uBaba ugunda utshani. Ngicela uchelele izimbali, bese uhlakula ukhula, bese uhala amahlamvu, bese umba inhlabathi.

uSally: Mama, wena wenzani?

uMama: Ngizokha izimbali.

uSally: Aaaaargh!

uMama: Kwenzenjani?

uSally: Hawu. Buka mama. Isicabucabu emthini.

uMama: Ngiyasibona.

uSally: Ngesaba kakhulu. Hawu. Buka futhi inyoka.

uMama: Musa ukukhathazeka. Ngizobiza ubaba.

uSally: Ngesaba kakhulu. Angifuni ukusebenza!

uMama: Sally, uyaganga.



LIBRARY MONITRESSESS



Sarah Evans, Tassy Dawad and Teagan Mill



Nonhlanhla Zondi, Caitlin Corrigan



Carmen Leisegang, Tammi Crosby and Hayley McDonald.

Grade 7



Mrs Kim Anderson



**Jaimie Atkinson
Samantha Bailey**



**Sarah Bateman
Kathryn Beaton**



**Lerlin Bennett
Kirsty Bezuidenhout**



**Michelle Borain
Ashton Botes**



**Kerry-Leigh Bruce
Monique Cronjé**



**Kate-Lynne Dales
Natasha Driescher**



**Sumesha Durais
Chanéle Evans**



**Lisa Frangs
Genevieve Hesse**



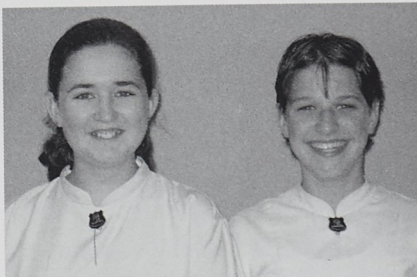
**Sheridan Impey
Kendra Joubert**



**Claire Marchant
Melissa Kennard**



**Chênél Moodley
Kimberly Noble**



**Alice Ogram
Kristy Schladenhauffen**



**Tanja Williams
Laura Wyrley-Birch**

A FRIEND

You are a unique friend
And a really special soul,
And in my heart you'll
always play
A very special role.
I know we've had our ups
and downs
As friends often do,
But I've always known,
without a doubt,
I could depend on you.

Sarah

JAC

He hates school. His cold, grey eyes say it all. They've lost their glint and they always look sad. His blonde hair is greased to the back of his neck. It's neatly trimmed and so blonde it's almost white. There are no brown streaks at all. His teeth are perfect in every way: straight, white, and not too long or short. He has no freckles on his pale, smooth skin. His nose is perfect from every angle. His eyebrows are a dark brown. His pale pink lips hardly ever twist into a smile. They hardly ever lift up his rosy cheeks. His hands are long and bony. He's never happy.

Claire

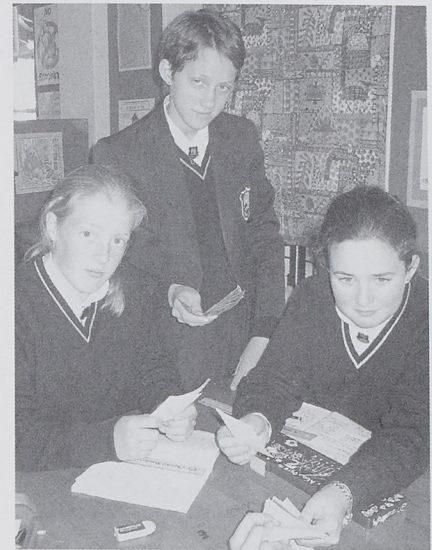
FLEA WORLD

In the dark place of a dog's hair, there are weird and wonderful things. There is a life beyond your imagination and technology far beyond your knowledge. It's called **Flea World**. There are millions of baby fleas, children fleas and adult fleas. They talk their own language. They have homes, shopping malls, even roller coasters and fun rides.

But there are problems: the floods that come every three weeks, the earthquake that happens when we least expect it, and the worst thing is the claw. It is sharp and can wipe out fleas all over the land.

Otherwise, it is wonderful to a flea. The best thing is that it moves. If we climb to the top of the trees, we see green and blue and lots of movement.

Tanja



EMS

This year, we have learnt how to manage a business. With Mrs Symes we played a money game. To start, we were given R180 to buy and sell, and we had to make money for our business to grow. In November, we will be putting our skills into practice when we hold a market day.

Alice and Jaimie



In the second term, when our theme in History was The Comrades Marathon, we held our own Comrades Day to support Amabeadibead. We each paid R5.00 for a bracelet. On the day, we received our bracelets and dressed up as runners. We were also given a peak cap each.

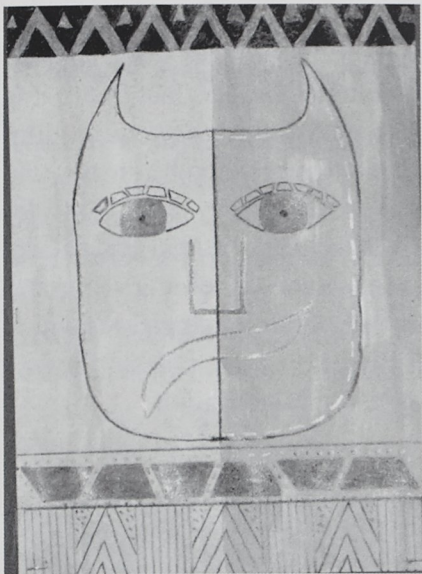
We had a fashion show before running around the Junior School. As we ran past Grades 1, 2 and 3, they all came out to see what we looked like. We had our photos taken and then took a run to the bottom field to start our very own unique races.

Winners had more photos taken (we even had a best-dressed champion!), then we went back to the classroom to change and do some research on the Comrades Marathon. Maybe we will even have a winner from St John's in the future!

Laura, Monique and Sheridan

OUR COMRADES DAY





Tanja Williams



Natasha Driescher

BEING SMALL

In the heat of a summer's day
At St Henry's Zoo,
The animals in their cages
Could feel the humidity too.

They could feel it twice as
much
'Cos all of them had fur
Except for the baby terrapin –
Nothing bothered her.

She could fit inside her water-
trough,
Blowing bubbles and staying
cool.

Yes, this tiny little terrapin
Made the bigger animals drool.

Kerry-Leigh



...and the other 1%?

REMEMBER

I close my eyes and wonder
how it used to be:
waterfalls of colour
from river to flower to tree.

I'd walk into the fields
picking flowers as I go,
then splash into the river
with creatures that I know.

I'd climb up to my treehouse
and see the lovely view,
with colours of the rainbow:
pink to red to blue.

Now I open my eyes
and see the brown and grey.
I remember how it used to be:
colours every day.

Kerry-Leigh

MY FRIEND

Always there to brighten my
day
Always there to straighten the
way
Always there – knows just what
to say
Always there with no delay
Always there – never leads me
astray
Always there my friend will be
Always there – just you and me

Kristy



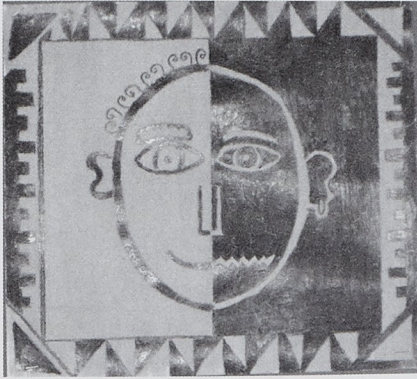
Feather boas are out - and boa constrictors are in!

Sam, Laura and Kathryn model some of the snakes that came to
school as part of the informative and deadly serious show, *Fangs*.



We had to make a scale for Sci-
ence and Technology. It had to be
able to hold a weight of at least
500g. (The record was 1kg).
When our scale was tested we
began with 50g and ended with
2.5kg! We set a new record. Yay!

Kirsty



Kendra Joubert

MY GODFATHER

He has brown hair sprouting out from his very, very big chin. His lips are pink and small, his nose is about ten times bigger than mine: it is long and straight. His hazel eyes shine through very long, silky eyelashes. His very deep voice gives me shivers when he speaks. He is a very simple man, but his clothes are extraordinary. He wears a lot of checked shirts. His hair is short, thick and dark brown. His cheeks are rather plump and red. He has a moustache which curls out and makes him look like a pirate. He wears very thick round glasses which are not very nice because they cover his hazel eyes. His skin is soft and tender to touch when I hug him. He is my godfather.

Chenêl

VISIT TO SHAKALAND

We arrived at Shakaland on Thursday, 4th September and followed a Zulu man to where we were staying in Zulu hut dorms.

We settled in and then had a tour of Shakaland. One of the things that fascinated us was that when you went past a pile of stones, you should pick one up, spit on it, and if it fell off the pile, you would have bad luck.

Learning about the Zulu culture, we had many different experiences. They put a pot on my head and I couldn't believe how heavy it was.

We even drank the traditional Zulu beer and we watched traditional Zulu dancing.



Some of us volunteered to go up and dance with them.

In the morning we learnt how to throw spears and then we visited a sangoma.

Shakaland was a great experience. We all enjoyed our stay.

Kate-Lynne, Chenêl and Kimberly

PERSONIFICATION

The sea shouts as the waves hit the rocks and sandbanks.

The hinge squeals and cries as the door is opened.

The river runs fast down the hill and tries to catch up with the sea.

The fire cracks while the shadows dance on the white, blank wall.

The clouds cry and growl as the storm begins.

METAPHORS

Grandparents are creased clothing which needs ironing.

Teachers are stuck records.

The moon is a ball with major punctures.

Clowns are rainbows that come alive.

Flowers are mini-suns, glowing bright.

Kirsty

Kerry-Leigh



Grade 7s in Shakaland

This page kindly sponsored by the Driescher family

Junior Music

The choir, which consisted of 68 enthusiastic girls in 2003, started their year off with the usual camp at Annerly on the South Coast. We had lots of fun, playing a variety of (sometimes very strange) games and getting to know one another better. The bulk of the year's repertoire was studied at the camp. Thanks go to Mrs McDonald (a veteran of 5 camps) and Mrs Coombes, who kept us all well-fed and watered.



The Steel Drum and Marimba Band's first concert for the year was earlier than usual, when we performed at Cordwalles' "Flashy Gem" picnic concert. The girls were under a lot of pressure to be ready in time, but they lived up to the challenge and had a gratifying response from their first audience. The St John's Day Picnic Proms followed in May, where the bands of St Mary's, St Anne's and Hilton College, Westville Combined Schools' and Epworth joined us. It was a beautiful autumn day, and although it later became slightly chilly, the musicians' music was most heartwarming.

The band's performance schedule was very busy in 2003, with performances at the City Hall,

the Scottsville Racecourse, the Tatham Art Gallery, the Cathedral, the Midlands Meander, and various shopping centres around Pietermaritzburg. The girls also added their African rhythms and Caribbean harmonies to concerts at St John's, ranging from open days to the Heritage Day concert for old girls and, of course, the Music Department Evening at the end of September. Another highlight was providing the accompaniment to the congregational singing at the Great Service of Thanksgiving at the Royal Showgrounds on 30 November. This was the culmination of a celebration in honour of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Natal. It has been a busy but rewarding year for the band. We would like to give special thanks to Mr Ross Payne, our co-driver, 'turn-arounder' of trailers and general source of support at band performances. With his quiet and unassuming manner, Mr Payne has helped in making band trips and performances, with their



built-in possibilities for disaster, as stress-free as possible for us all. Not an easy feat at the best of times!

The second term was spent rehearsing the Junior School musical, "*The Curious Quest for the Sandman's Sand*". The girls had a wonderful time being haglets and habituels, veggie-planting monks and all kinds of weird and wonderful creatures. Thanks go to Mrs Attwell and Ms Filmer for their inspired choreography and direction – we never realized the possibilities of movement available to haglets before!

The choir performed for parents and visitors at the open day in August, and again at the Heritage



Day concert for Old Girls, as well as the Music Department Evening. The last term was a particularly busy one, with performances at Prize-Giving and the Carol Service.

JP girls delighted audiences with their Nativity Play at the end of the year. Again, the Drama department came up with a delightful story about the Spirit of Christmas.



The number of girls in the Junior School learning one and sometimes even two instruments is growing every year. Girls also had a chance to perform in assembly on a regular basis, to show off their progress. In 2003 the Music Department consisted of the following peripatetic staff: Ms Murray, Mrs Govender, Mrs Forsyth, Mr Shone, Mrs Wallis, Mr Brown, Mrs Bower and, during term 3 when Mrs Forsyth was on sick leave, Ms Wright. Thank you to all the staff for their dedicated work in this very busy year.



A number of girls did practical as well as theory exams, (Royal Schools, Trinity and UNISA) and their results speak of long hours of hard work, both from the girls and their teachers.

*Tania Moir
Head of Department*

Junior Computers

The Junior School continues to follow the *Computers 4 Kids* curriculum for integrated computer lessons. The teaching staff select the lessons that suit the themes being taught in the classroom. This allows for the schoolwork to be continued and extended in the Computer room, a lively and fun-filled room.

The girls from Grade 0 to Grade 7 are using the *Microsoft Office Suite* with more and more confidence.

There is also a great deal of other more age-related software available and being used by the younger classes.



Mr van Rensburg



Mrs Burn



A typing tutor is also used by the pupils on an ongoing basis for the development of touch typing.

*Mrs Angela Burn
IT Department*

This page kindly sponsored by Jolene Small

Junior Sport

Swimming this year has been well supported and we have been lucky enough to select competent swimmers from Grade 2 upwards. The team had to train very hard during the first term, in preparation for the annual Junior Schools' Inter-relay gala, which was hosted by St John's D.S.G. at the Pine Street baths.

One of our swimming talents, Tegan Mill, was a member of the Natal swimming team, which travelled to Bloemfontein in March this year. The girls continue to train in the Fourth term and compete in numerous mini-galas in preparation for the swimming season in 2004.

This year, we entered an Open A and B team as well as an U11 team into the tennis league which falls in the 1st and 3rd terms. Our Open A team was spearheaded by the doubles pair, Captain, Kendra Joubert, and Vice-captain, Claire Marchant. We are slowly but surely regaining depth in our Open tennis teams and it is a pity that we will lose both Kendra and Claire next year. The U11s had a rocky start to the year, but did



well in the third term. As our youngest players are still in Gr. 3, this year has been more about gaining match experience, and exposure to the game of tennis.



The hockey teams had a very successful season. The Open A and B teams participated with enthusiasm in the schools' league which was played in the second term. St John's did extremely well through the season, considering they had a new coach, Miss Tracey Bestall, and some young, inexperienced players. Tegan Mill (Gr. 6) and Monique Cronjé (Gr. 7) made it through to final trials for the Natal Midlands U13 team. Mrs Judith Grové, Miss Cara Stewart, and Mrs Kim Anderson have done a very good job this year looking after the U11 and U10 age groups

Netball was strong in terms of numbers this year, which is a very good sign for growth of the sport here at St John's. The U9s had a good learning season, taking part in Longmarket's mini-netball tournaments on Thursday afternoons, during the second

term. The support from the parents on the sideline must be mentioned as it is much appreciated!

Basketball is still a growing sport amongst the junior schools, with more teams taking part each season. Our new Sports Centre provides the girls with the best facilities possible to learn and enjoy the game. We fielded two teams in the Open section and one team in the U11 section during the first season. More girls play in the second season during the fourth term.

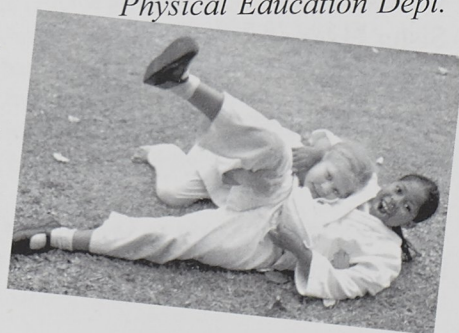
The growing interest and participation in squash have been wonderful. Our team coach, Janet Mill, continued to provide top class coaching to very eager girls. Judith Grové's contribution to the non-team squash must also be mentioned, as she manages to nurture talent from grass roots level each year.

In 2003 our athletes competed in the first ever Junior Schools' Independent Festival hosted by St Mary's, Kloof. The sports included were hockey, netball, squash and tennis.

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

Lisa Smit

Physical Education Dept.



St John's Old Girls' Association

AGM - 4 MAY 2003

I begin by thanking the Headmistress, Jill Champion, for her report on the school. Once again the Matric results were excellent and we congratulate the staff and girls. Girls throughout the school have achieved success in sporting and other spheres. We thank Jill, who is the person in the "hot seat", for all she does to encourage and maintain these high standards.

We have gathered here today to celebrate St John's day with the school and the Sisters. The Chapel service, as always, has been inspiring, the singing beautiful and, I am sure, we all think back over the years to when we were the girls in white dresses and veils, and we are thankful for the privilege of being St John's girls. Please convey our thanks to all those who have worked so hard to make it such a wonderful occasion. A special thank-you to Sue Ackerman for the beautiful flower arrangements in the Chapel and the Boardroom.

Office bearers for 2002 - 2003

Chairperson	A Steer
Vice-Chairperson	D Fitzsimons
Secretary	C Quicke
Treasurer	S Kingham

Association Committee

C Bean	R Cairns
Sister Hilary	S Hyman
M Jenkins	L Watson

Honorary Vice President

A Steer

My sincere thanks go to you all for your support this year.

In February we were delighted to congratulate Sharon and Clint Kingham on the birth of their son, and in March, Christine and Len Quicke on the birth of their grandson. We do hope with all this extra responsibility, Christine and Sharon will still have time for the sterling work they do for the Association and which we appreciate so much.

Our August Committee meeting was held at the home of Lorraine de Charmoy at Umhlali, followed by a bring and share lunch. Although the turnout was disappointing, as we were hoping to meet Old Girls living in the area, those of us who attended enjoyed our visit and thank Lorry for her hospitality.

Our Pudding Evening for the Matrics in September, was held at school instead of at an Old Girl's home. Di Fitzsimons and Christine Quicke attended the Matric Dinner with the Headmistress, staff and girls and we provided the puddings. The Pudding evenings have been going on for a long time. Perhaps it is time for us to think up something different.

The Christmas Lunch in the Boardroom in November, was a most enjoyable occasion. We were pleased to have with us Reverend Mother and Sisters, the Headmistress, Jill Champion and some school staff, as well as a number of Durban Old Girls.

The Sacristan's prize for 2002 was awarded to Sarah Seymour.

The Bursary holders for 2003 are Kelly de Charmoy and Janice Southey.

We sent out a Questionnaire to all Old Girls on our mailing list, but only a few replied. The replies we received indicated that it is important for the Association to serve as a link between the school and Old Girls, which we shall continue to do. We do, however, need the support and participation of younger members.

While Sister Mary Evelyn was visiting her family in England in July and August last year, she attended a get-together with some Old Girls living there.

Jill Champion will be in England this July and is planning a get-together of Old Girls who left school 10 to 15 years ago.

We thank both Sisters and Jill for their efforts in keeping in contact with your overseas members whom we ask to inform us of their e-mail addresses. This would make communication with them so much easier and efficient.

Once again we thank the School PRO, Bridget Hornbuckle and the School Secretary, Erica McDonald, for the assistance they have continued to give us and which we so appreciate.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Reverend Mother, President of the Association, for chairing this meeting. We also thank her and the Sisters for their love, support and prayers.

*Ann Steer
Chairperson*

Old Girls' News

ARBUTHNOT, Yvonne (Geyser) 1953
1 Russell Avenue, Scottsville Phone (033) 386 4487
Husband is a keen swimmer. Two sons and two daughters.

BALCOMB, Jillian (Shipman) 1969 – 1973
Jillian teaches at Darnal School and has 3 sons and 1 daughter

BRAY, Rozanne (Wallis) 1949 – 1956
P.O. Box 1137, Umkomaas, 4170 petroz@ballmail.co.za
039-973-0344

Keeping active with yoga classes. Enjoy meeting up with SJS old girls – usually at ABSA stadium ! Contacted Gail Fitzpatrick (Driver) in Wales last year. She and her husband run a B+B in South Wales.

BROWN, Susanne (Eweg) 1949 – 1955
Cottage 130, Rolling Hills Country Club, Umhlanga Rocks, 4319 suekydd@mweb.co.za
Running a clinic for patients who need reflexology and therapy. Sells redundant but useful school text books to improve the low Science and Maths marks of rural pupils.

CAMPBELL, Dorita (Howard) 1953
10 Glenallen Flats, King Edward Ave, Pietermaritzburg 3201
Ph: (033) 386 2805
Widow of Philip Campbell who passed away 15 years ago. Have five children, 4 girls and 1 boy. Two daughters and her son live in Pietermaritzburg. One daughter lives in Perth and another daughter in Cape Town. 11 grandchildren.

CAIRNS, Rosemary (Jackson)
5 Cordwalles Gardens, 48 Cordwalles Road, Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Dick retired at the end of March. Looking forward to a happy and healthy retirement. Diane Webber – living in Pinetown. Brett writing matric this year and Matts in Standard 7. Both very involved in sport. Neil Cairns – Living at Kloof, has two boys, Ross (5) and Trent (3).

CLARK, Daphne (Evens) 1934 – 1937
825 Eden Crescent, 23 Sol Harris Crescent, North Beach, Durban 4001



Still living happily in this retirement complex. I am still in touch with Rosemary Griffin (Chennels), Deena Streek (Clayton) and Doreen McIntyre (Hailstone). I am still trying to trace Aileen Stuart. She was from the Izotsha area, had 2 or 3 sisters and a brother Bruce.

COX, Sarah (Doxey) 1984 – 1985
4 Slindon Close, Clanfield, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 0XZ, England davesarah@coxfamuk.co.uk
Married with two children, Jessica-Lee (10) and Jordan (5). Moved to UK five years ago with husband Dave. Am a housewife and full-time mum. Will be attending Chichester University in September to do an English degree.

CURRY, Lorraine (nee Brown) 1978 – 1981
Has been busy with clients in her accounting profession. Needed a thyroid removal by surgery last April. Recovering slowly. Lives in Durban North



*Some very young
Old Girls joined
us for the
Picnic Proms
on St John's Day.*

CURRY, Jenni-Clare 1996 – 2001
Has attended MBA classes and hopes to qualify soon. Demonstrates uses of foodstuffs in supermarkets and restaurants. Lives at home in Durban North.

DEAN, Susan (Kanaar) 1953
143 Irene Avenue, Somerset West 7130 Phone: 021 855 2909
Husband is John and have two daughters and a son, Caroline works at UCT library as electronic resources librarian. Jennifer is a jewellery buyer in London for Signet Group and Allan is an Accountant in London.

DEEKS, Barbara 1925 – 1930
4 Main Road, St James, 7945
It is 73+ years since I left St John's (I am 90) ! My sister Kathleen (Kinsey) lost her husband last year and now lives in a cottage at her daughter's home in Durban. My sister Jean lives with her son and his wife in Bryanston. I am in good health and share the home with a very dear friend.

DELPORT, Bridget (Blamey) 1953
P O Box 22, Umkomaas 4170 Phone 039 973 0273
Married Mick and had two daughters, Gillian and Sally. Both girls married with two children each. Mick died last August after a battle with cancer. Bridget keeps very busy with walks along the Transkei coast and recently, a train trip to Namibia.

EVANS, Brenda (Kirkpatrick)
P.O. Box 423, Grahamstown, 6140
bzerans@mailboz.co.za

Brenda and her husband, Bert, are moving from Grahamstown to go on an extended working holiday in the United Kingdom. Postal address c/o The Rectory, Little Angelsey Road, Alverstoke, Gosport, PO12 2JA Hants, England

FREESE, Lillian (Geyser) 1953

Lillian has recently lost her husband. She has a daughter and two sons.

FLYNN, Caroline (Forbes) 1965 – 1970

Trevacoon, Lladrhian, St David's, Pembrokeshire, Wales SA62 6DP, U.K.

flynn@trevacoon.co.uk

Caroline was recently widowed. Husband Eric died March 2002. Continuing to live in and run B+B in the dream of a place Trevacoon – a Georgian Mansion overlooking the Irish Sea, near St David's. Still making and exhibiting pottery. 1 daughter, Lillie, still at home (17) and Johnny (20) at drama school in London.

GARRETT, Aileen (van Blomestein) 1983 – 1984

craeleen@hotmail.com

I have been teaching biology, science, computers and business studies at a private girls' senior school in Harare for the last three years. I am married with two daughters (Lucy – 7 and Nina – 3). We are emigrating from Zimbabwe to Calgary in Canada in September 2003.

GERBER, Lesley (Hall) 1977 – 1981

e-gerber@btopenworld.com

After leaving St John's I read B. Agric. Management and a teaching diploma at Maritzburg Varsity and played basketball and hockey at 1st team level. I taught field husbandry at Weston Agricultural College, Mooiriver and coached rugby and basketball. After being retrenched I went home to my parents at Michaelhouse where I taught accountancy, coached basketball, was chief first aider at rugby matches and met and married my husband Enrico. We move to the UK in 2000 where I am unit manager of "Books etc." at Stamfed Airport.

GOOD, Charlotte (Ridgeway) 1953

5 Haldane Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201 Phone: (033) 386 6864

goodchar@mweb.co.za

Married to Peter and have three daughters and a son. Proud grandparents of 10 grandchildren. Charlotte enjoys tennis, knitting, sewing and making things for the grandchildren. She and Peter enjoy travelling and have had some wonderful trips overseas and locally.

GOODENOUGH, Cheryl

Matric of 1990

P.O. Box 1275, Hillcrest, 3650

Cheryl@profilekzn.co.za

Living in Assagay. Married with one son born December 2002. Still doing media related work and other research

GREEN, Melanie (Leslie) 1979 – 1985

P.O. Box 1780, Ladysmith, 3370

meland@telkomsa.net

After school went to T.C., finished at Edgewood and am now a qualified Junior Primary and Pre-Primary teacher. Taught for a few years. Got married and live in the Ladysmith area. Andrew and I have 3 children. Am now a 'Jack-of-all-trades' !

Matrics of 1953



HILDEBRAND, Gill (Baker) 1953

8645 Columbus Road NE

Louisville, Ohio 44641 USA

hunterjb@netzero.net

Married to Allister and have 6 children. Lived and farmed in Zimbabwe and moved to USA in 2002. Gill is a teacher at Sacred Heart School and happily settled in Ohio. They have 14 grandchildren.

HIND, Shirley (Stephens) 1964 – 1968

rha@wol.co.za

My daughter, Sally Hind (1990 – 1994) is getting married to Jamie Gatony by the son of Jenny-Lynn Gatony, nee Pohl (1961 – 1965) on 20 December 2003. Jenny and I did not engineer this and in fact only realized the connection when we met. We are both thrilled and trust the strong St John's influence will come through.

HARRISON, Rosanne (Brown) 1975 – 1980

harrison7@sympatica.ca

Emigrated 2 years ago to teach high school English. Have twins of 16 + 3 smaller daughters all now at school. Spent time in the UK and Scotland during Easter, touring with Marie (Science) St John's.

HORNBY, Dorianne (Coubrough) 1959 – 1968

hornbyfam@clear.net.nz

Living in Kaitaia, the most northern town in New Zealand

IRWIN-PACK, Ann (Lloyd)

4 Candlewood, Arbuth Road, Scottburgh Phone 039 978 2970

Ann was widowed in 1976 when her husband Alfred passed away. She has two sons, Kim who is married and lives in USA and Mark who lives in Brisbane and plans to get married in South Africa next year. Ann has travelled extensively around USA and looks forward to seeing Australia.

JENKINS, Kelly 1993 – 1997

kellyj@hollard.co.za

Currently living in Johannesburg, working at Hollard Insurance in corporate marketing division, focusing on advertising.

JENNINGS, Evelyn 1962 – 1965

17 Berg en Dal, 6th Road West, Northcliff Ext. 21, Johannesburg, 2195

royjen@icon.co.za

Still enjoy life in Johannesburg with shoe business established and going well. Freelance working conditions permitted a wonderful holiday in Portugal last year plus 3 occasions to see more of SA. Sister Paula in KZN has a pool maintenance service and 2 sons now 5 and 4.

KELLY, Marcia (Rawlins) 1953

295 Montrose Drive, Ramsgate P O Box 1871, Margate 4275
edtooks@venturenet.co.za Phone (039) 317 1495

Married to Eddie. Retired to Ramsgate 10 years ago and are both keen golfers. Marcia is still involved in music, church choirs etc. and they have two children, Lee-Ann and Graham. Lee was head girl at St John's in 1976 - is now married; has 3 boys and lives in Australia. Graham is married and has 3 children living in England.

KIRKBY, Robyn (Frederick) 1970 – 1974

659 Townbush Road, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

rekrmk@hotmai.com

Returned from Saudi Arabia after almost 5 years. All three daughters now at St John's and very happy.

KILGOUR, Genee' (Liebenberg) 1983 - 1987

P.O. Box 85, Cramerview, 2060

kilgour@mweb.co.za

Married James McGregor Kilgour in 1998. Living in Bryanston, Johannesburg with two daughters Cameron (almost 3) and Payton (8 months). Would love to hear from Johannesburg-based girls from our year.

LAMBERT, Bernadine Jean (Michel) 1947 – 1954

10 Minchin Court, Padbury, WA6 025, Perth, Australia

Thanks to the Sisters of St John the Divine for instilling in me a sense of peace and confidence and the will to do what is right.

LATTER, Prudence (Davis) 1953

P O Box 34, Odendaalsrus 9480. Phone (057) 354 3349

Prudence was widowed four years ago when her husband Manfred passed away. She has one daughter who lives in Johannesburg and a granddaughter that she has not seen yet. She is very lonely, does not drive and has to rely on others to take her to church etc.

LEFF, Sarah 1991 – 2000

29 Park Avenue, 5 Alexandra Road, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

leffpmn@futurenet.co.za

Doing third year B.A. Visual Art at Maritzburg Varsity.

LUMBY, Kathleen (Fitzsimons)

us@lumbyd.fsnet.co.uk

Married to David for 5 years and have 2 children, Cameron(4) and Jocelyn(3). Living in Bristol, UK. Miss South Africa a lot, especially the sun. I would gladly accommodate any old girls in our spare room. There will be no charge !

MARR, Zoe (Bigg)

9 Founders Road, Leisure Isle, Knysna 6571

Zoe married George and farmed pineapples in the Kidds Beach area. Retired to Knysna five years ago. They have two daughters, Debbie who has one son and Diana with two sons. Enjoying golf and bowls and lots of walking.

MOORE, Mary Lyn (Quicke) 1978 – 1985

2 Welcome Way, Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

mozziemoore@hotmail.com

Shane and I have had a new addition to the family – Matthew Ross Millward. Quite a change to our normal hectic sporting schedule. I have also taken over as Duzi Canoe Marathon + Natal Canoe Club Secretary, which I'm loving.

O'BRIEN, Wendy (Clarke) 1956 – 1959

21, 7th Street, Houghton Estate, Johannesburg, 2198

Is helpline counsellor for Gauteng Alzheimers Association.

PHIPSON, Leigh 1979 – 1982

31 Heron Road, Berea, Durban, 4001

Living in Durban for the past 20 years and teaching English for the last 10. Presently enjoying being at home looking after my baby, Sophie.

PORRILL, Paddy-Ann (Smith)

P.O. Box 470, Ladysmith, 3370

durnford@xsinet.co.za

I have a full active life in Ladysmith. I own a B+B, Durnford's Lodge, and am a D.A. Councillor. Both jobs I enjoy. Jacqui is in Durban. Douglas, Stuart, his wife Lisa and their two children, Gemma and Callum live in London.



Gatecrashers!

PRENTICE, Adrienne (Clough) 1953

6 Laatz Street, Greytown 3250 Phone (033) 413 2414

Adrienne and Mick have returned to Greytown. Adrienne involved with Justine Products for 20 years. Have two married sons, Gary has 3 children and Bruce has 2.

QUARMBY, Pam (Goodman) 1939 – 1947

2 Tibouchina, North Ridge Road, Southbroom, 4277

Love my life in Southbroom. Very involved with golf, swimming, gardens and bridge. Have 6 grandchildren – ages from 21 years to 4 year old triplets.

Old Girls' News

QUICKE, Christine (Jamieson) 1954 – 1958
3 Mykenos, Comrie Place, Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Thoroughly enjoying being a granny at last. Mary and Shane had a boy, Matthew, in March. Hoping to visit Jill in Johannesburg this year to see alterations to their house. Still very involved in St John's Old Girls Association, Women's Institute, Church Guild and bowls.

QUICKE, Jill 1979 – 1983
P.O. Box 534, Saxonwold, 2132
quix@byte.co.za
Still enjoying Jo'burg and very happy that Jenny Vynne is now living not too far away. I am changing schools in September 2003 – I will be in the Phys. Ed. Department at St Mary's D.S.G., Waverley.

ROBINSON, Isabel Jessie (Michel) 1947 – 1954
3 High Street, Knysna, 6570
Still married to Pat after 44 years. Have two married sons living in America and one daughter, Kim, her husband and two children living in Knysna.

ROWLETT, Alison (Mattison, Butterworth) 1953
P O Box 613, Howick 3290
Alison's husband Pat Mattison sadly died in 1987. Has 3 children, Paul, Bruce and Eileen. Alison moved to Rhodesia and married Stan Rowlett. They are living in Howick.

Debra Grové
(Matric 1997)



After she matriculated, Debbie attended the University of Stellenbosch where she studied Medicine. Debbie was in her fifth year of study when she died tragically in a motorcycle accident on the 21st of March this year.

SHEPHERD, Margaret (Peacock) 1955 – 1966
33 Buckingham Avenue, Pietermaritzburg. Recently spent 2 months working in London and visiting children Mark and Linda. Saw Merrill Brydon (Gripper) who lives in Reading.

STOKES, Kirsten 1991 – 1995
D-201 334 Toguchi, Motobu, Okinawa, Japan, 905-0214
Teach20@motobu-h.open.ed.jp
Okinawa in Japan. Exploring this and other beautiful islands. Speak Japanese well and experiencing their diverse culture. Contract expires July 2004. Plan to return to South Africa to pursue a physiotherapy career or study further.

STROEBEL, Gail (Harding) 1964 – 1976
P.O. Box 117, Newcastle, 2940
strokes@intekom.co.za
Still living in Newcastle and working for Dept of Education as a Subject Advisor in the Mnambithi Region. Still keep contact with Biddie Harman (Winnicott), Trisha Oglesby (Butts) and Olwen Kuttel (Howard-Brown). My daughter and son attend St Dominic's Academy in Newcastle. My mom, Myrtle Harding, lives over the road from St John's – so I see the old school often. It is looking great.

THORNTON-DIBB, Morrelle (Shipman) 1966 – 1970
Morelle is now an Interior Designer consulting in Johannesburg.

WANG, Cindy May (Green) 1989 – 1997
9 Lister Court, 22 Lister Avenue, Glenwood, Durban, 4001
Married on 12 January 2002, now working as editor for an electronic publishing firm.

WRIGHT, Billy 1932 – 1935
P.O. Box 78, Anerley, 4230
Still living in my house at South Port. Keep in touch with Jean Hamilton (Catherine), living in Durban with Margaret; Gaynor Sanderson (Arbuthnot), at Hayfields in Pietermaritzburg. Jean Haines (Galliers) living next door to her daughter in Wiltshire and still enjoying regular sea cruises; and Margaret Herstedt (Stanford), living in Cape Town and has recently been to Antarctica on the SS Agulhas. This means that of 5 of the original 10 in our 1935 Matric form, 4 have died. The others are still in contact.

WYNNE, Linsey (Leslie) 1984 – 1990
wynnel@scmb.co.za
Adey and I live in Durban and have two dogs and two cats. Now working in SCMB Credit.

YOUNG, Jane (Bennet) 1953
33 Bell Road, Kenilworth 7708 Phone (021) 671 8595
Jane has two sons and a daughter. She belongs to the Embroidery Guild and teaches and designs embroidery. She has an afternoon job at an Antique Shop twice a week and is also involved in an organization called Christian Spirituality.



At a special celebration of Old Girls and their St John's daughters, Robyn Kirkby (née Fredericks) was something of a record holder with her three girls, Julia (Grade 8), Nikki (Grade 3) and Lindsay (Grade 9).



Reverend Mother and Sister Mary Evelyn attend Christmas lunch, 2002

It's difficult to decide whether last year's Head Girl, Kaylee Jo Small, is going up or down in the world.

The letterhead may be impressive, but Joey's application was to be a housemaid!

We're still waiting to hear if her interview was successful!



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

23 April 2003

Dear Mrs. Champion,

Reference Request for Miss Kaylee Jo Small



Miss Marjorie I'ons is our oldest Old Girl - 100 years old on the 13th November, this year!

MARJORIE I'ONS

Centenarian, Marjorie I'Ons, our oldest Old Girl, recalls starting as a day scholar at St John's shortly before the move from Burger Street to Scottsville. Her parents lived in Johannesburg and she remembers travelling to school by train escorted by a sister. Rikshas pulled by ponies transported the travellers from the Pietermaritzburg station to school.

Easter was always spent at school and no-one was allowed to speak from Thursday afternoon until after the three-hour service on Friday: a tremendous strain for a lively little girl!

Marjorie was awarded many certificates for Art which was her favourite subject. After ob-

taining her School-Leaving Certificate, she remained at St John's for a year to become a pupil teacher. After studying Art, and governing for a short period, Marjorie went to train at Grey's Hospital. She had a long career in nursing both here, in Natal, and in London. After her official retirement at 73, she continued to do relief nursing. She is an Honorary Member of the Non-Practising Nurses Professional Society.

She has travelled extensively and, with her clear mind, she can recount many journeys to fascinating destinations.

We admire her for her indomitable, independent spirit and join with her family and friends in wishing her the happiest of Birthdays on the 13th of November.

Sheila Hyman and Ann Steer

ST JOHN'S REUNION IN LONDON IN JULY

It was a delight to meet up with twenty-five St John's Old Girls at the Morden Hall reunion in London in July. It was a bright, sunny day which seemed to reflect the very happy atmosphere and sense of fun which prevailed. Some of us stayed 'til the shadows of a glorious English summer's evening were quite long!

The biggest (and noisiest) group were the '95 Matrics who had been my first Matrics at St John's! Out of the total of 28 girls that year, 8 came to the reunion and the Dux, Lisa Mack (now Comrie) even brought along her husband, Brendon, and baby, Rachel, for a while. We're hoping Rachel will be enrolled at St John's in the future! There was much interjecting (especially from Ashleigh Wienand, who is now a newly-qualified physiotherapist) while I tried to give an update on St John's today, and news of staff, past and present, and the Sisters. Nostalgia and a sense that 'nothing must change' pervaded, but of course there was excitement to hear that we have a wonderful Indoor Sports Centre these days, amongst other new developments!

4 of the 2002 Matrics were there, all spending a 'gap year' in the UK. They enjoyed basking in the glory of their magnificent Matric results which I was lauding. When they tried to leave late in the afternoon, they were told off severely by the '95 Matrics that "nowhere is more fun than being here. Get yourselves another drink and come back and join us".

So when I dragged myself away early in the EVENING (we started at midday!) there was still a hard core of stayers reminiscing about the 'good old days'.

In 1997, our Centenary year, the reunion I hosted was in Winchester, attended mainly by 'older' Old Girls. However Frankie (nee Forbes) Aitchison (Matric 1973) who remembers being one of the most youthful on that occasion, also came to Morden Hall, and brought her teenage daughter with her. This time she really felt time had marched on as she is 30 years older than the 2002 Matrics, so the tables had turned. But what fun was had by all!

Months later I am still on a high from the pleasure of this heartwarming experience of getting together with such a special group of Old Girls. Many I met for the first time while others were my own past pupils; but all made me realise how much they value what St John's has meant to them over time.

I, too, am really proud of what St John's has made them into - wonderful, warm, natural people!

Jill Champion
Headmistress

Franki Aitchison (Forbes)
Natalie Cassels
Louise Chennells
Iona Prince
Brenda Campbell (Blyth)
Victoria Albu
Gillian Milne (Blore)
Wendy Morford
Heather Meara
Lucy Kewley (Pilcher)
Kate Seggie
Lisa Comrie (Mack)
Claire Hawkins
Ashleigh Wienand
Fiona Shaw
Catherine Keough
Alice Stobart
Emma Kelmanson
Sandy Collings
Lisa Brown
Tessa Heenan
Lil Hobbs
Stacey Green
Grace Khoza



REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS / MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR'S DESK



Mrs Bridget Hornbuckle

As our School continues to soar to great heights, I am constantly reminded of how fortunate we are to be a part of one of the smallest girls' schools.

In spite of the pressure to open our doors to many more students, we are determined to maintain our ethos - promoting the education of young girls within a small and caring environment.

Our St John's family extends to countries outside the borders of South Africa, and in true St John's spirit, the newcomers are warmly welcomed into our School as the foundations for life-long friendships are built.

It would be fair to say that the majority of our enrolments are made through word of mouth and I cannot thank enough, the parents, both past and present, girls and staff, for all their support and encouragement.

Leading by example, our Headmistress, Mrs Jill Champion, has worked hard to encourage the building of our girls' self confidence and to foster a culture of achievement and leadership amongst both pupils and staff, for which we are all extremely grateful.

At St John's D.S.G. we firmly believe that it's not just what girls learn at school that's important – it's also how they learn!

Bridget Hornbuckle

*Look for a sign of
distinction among
school buses.
St John's has it.*



DONATIONS

Many thanks to the following for their donations to the school magazine:

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