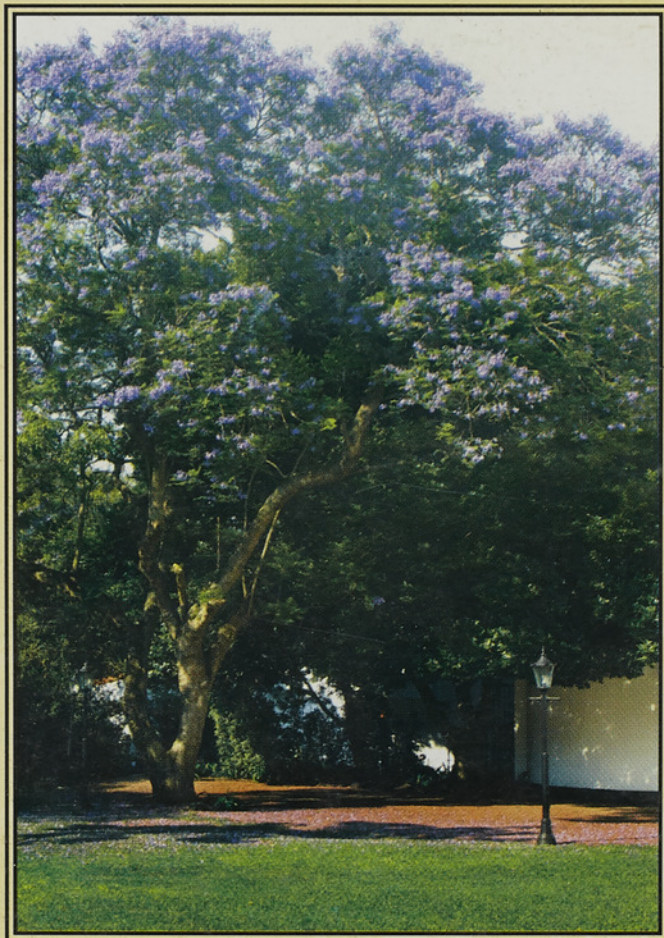


# St JOHN'S D.S.G.



## 2009





The background of the page features a photograph of a church tower with a red-tiled roof and a cross on top, partially obscured by lush green trees. The sky is a clear, pale blue. Overlaid on the image are several large, light-colored decorative swirls in the upper left and bottom left corners.

## *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**



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*This magazine is lovingly dedicated to Vesta Flaskins  
who was largely responsible for its production before her untimely death.*



# Speech Day



2009 Dux, Kristel Ortmann, with her proud parents and brother



Mrs Linda Stoffberg with Ms Gugu Moloi



Head Boarder Prefect, Alexandra Kilgour, with Head Girl, Tegan Mill



Deputy Head Girl , Sisonke Petse

## PRIZE LIST 2009

### CLASS PRIZES:

**Grade 8: 1<sup>st</sup>** Sian Owen

**Merit Certificates:** Tamlyn Anderson, Jodie du Preez, Alison Duff, Jessica Kidgell, Zandria Saayman

**Grade 9: 1<sup>st</sup>** Nicola Kirkby

**Merit Certificates:** Sarah Briggs, Dominique Gonggryp, Nkosinethando Mayisela, Kirsten Michelson, Navasha Moodley, Thelishia Moodley, Shweta Panday, Justine Pearson, Elsa Scharf

**Grade 10 1<sup>st</sup>** Victoria Aadnesgaard

**Merit Certificates:** Helen Aadnesgaard, Samantha Arnold, Heidemarie Kirn, Gladys Swatson, Kirsty Weaver, Bianca Wittig

**Grade 11: 1<sup>st</sup>** Darsha Indrajith

**Merit certificates:** Siobhan Borain, Tessa Button, Jessica Campbell, Janine Gebers, Michaela Jahnig

### Grade 12 Honours Certificates:

Tamrin Crosby, Robyn Everett, Robyn Johnson, Alexandra Kilgour, Hayley Knight, Carmen Leisegang, Kirstin Mackenzie, Kristel Ortmann, Kathryn Rennie, Supriya Soorju, Brittany Westhorpe-Pottow

### MATRICULATION SUBJECT PRIZES:

Accounting	Carmen Leisegang Kirstin Mackenzie
Afrikaans	Kristel Ortmann
Art	Kristel Ortmann
Computer Applications Technology	Khanya Maweni
Consumer Studies	Sarah Stewart
Dramatic Arts	Tamrin Crosby
English	Robyn Johnson
French	Supriya Soorju
German	Kristel Ortmann
Geography	Robyn Johnson
History	Kristel Ortmann
isiZulu	Khanya Maweni
Life Orientation	Robyn Johnson Kristel Ortmann
Life Sciences (Rosalie Franklin Memorial Cup)	Robyn Johnson
Mathematics	Kristel Ortmann
Mathematical Literacy	Sarah-Jane Vance
Advanced Mathematics	Kristel Ortmann
Physical Science	Robyn Johnson Kristel Ortmann



# Speech Day

## SPECIAL AWARDS:

<b>Music: Middle School Award</b>	Tamlyn Anderson
<b>Senior School Award</b> (Francine Bowker Shield)	Heidemarie Kirn
<b>Lectern Cup:</b>	Alexandra Kilgour
<b>Photographic Award:</b>	Sarah Evans Sarah Mackenzie Kathryn Rennie Andrea Schröder
<b>Labistour Cup:</b> (for the Best Individual Debater)	Nkosinethando Mayisela
<b>Kate Holmes Trophy:</b> (for the Most Promising Actress)	Stephanie Bruce
<b>Practical Consumer Studies Award:</b>	Debbie Lander
<b>Practical Drama Award:</b>	Tegan Mill Cara Marx
<b>Pinny Mapham Memorial Trophy for Altruism:</b>	Robyn Johnson
<b>Debbie Grové Trophy for National Sporting Achievement:</b>	Lihle Bhengu Kathryn Rennie
<b>Greyling Cup for Sportsmanship:</b>	Carmen Leisegang
<b>Goodman Cup:</b> (for All-Round Sporting Achievement)	Tegan Mill
<b>Long Attendance:</b> (Grade 1-12)	Tasqeen Dawad Sarah Evans Courtneë Kleinhans Radiyya Latiff Carmen Leisegang Lara Perrett Sarah Stewart
<b>Sacristan:</b> (Presented by the Old Girls)	Robyn Johnson
<b>Senior Chorister:</b>	Lindy Ward
<b>Gem Award:</b>	Robyn Johnson
<b>Getliffe Cup:</b>	Robyn Everett Robyn Johnson
<b>Jill Champion Award:</b> (for All-Round Achievement)	Carmen Leisegang
<b>Senior Boarder Prefect Award:</b>	Alexandra Kilgour
<b>Deputy Head Girl's Award:</b>	Sisonke Petse
<b>Head Girl's Award:</b>	Tegan Mill
<b>Pieter Breytenbach Award:</b> Proxime Accessit to Dux	Robyn Johnson
<b>Abbot Cup: Dux Award</b>	Kristel Ortmann
<b>St John's Cup:</b>	Tegan Mill



Mrs Jill Champion and Sister Mary Evelyn



Head Girl, Tegan Mill, sharing a moment with parents, Mike and Janet, and sister, Kirsten



Miss Bhengu and Mbalenhle Majola enjoying a moment together



Bishop Nuttall wishing Mrs Stoffberg a very happy birthday



# Tribute to Mrs Symes



Mrs Annette Symes with her husband, Roger

**Galatians 5:22-23: But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.**

Several years have passed since the newly appointed St John's headmistress (and her equally new secretary) fumbled around the office, sending frantic calls for advice to anyone deemed to know the ropes a little better than they. It did not take long, however, for Mrs Symes to find her feet and begin to stamp her particular brand of "headmistress-ship" on the school – without a doubt, a task which tested her tenacity from the outset, following hot on the heels of the inimitable Miss Hyman.

It soon became evident that Annette's passion for and dedication to the task would give rise to a stable, caring leadership style which in turn would enable all under her to grow. Her staff have, over the years, valued her hands-on leadership, her readiness to acknowledge her own shortcomings

and her unwavering loyalty to them. To the pupils, she has always been a consistent and fair adult role model, a granny, a story-teller in a million and, of course, as all headmistresses should be, the "keeper of boundaries" – an aspect she has always managed with a firm, yet loving outlook. Many a parent has valued her open-door policy, her high regard for their input and her genuine love of each and every pupil, not to mention the happy, industrious tone she has managed to maintain within the school.

Annette's high regard for the school's ethos and traditions, along with her wisdom and enthusiasm, have created a solid framework within which mutual respect is engendered and all involved are recognized for their input. "Remote control" leadership could not be further from her trademark and there is no doubt whatsoever, that her pragmatic involvement and supportive, re-affirming presence have endeared her to colleagues and pupils alike. Annette has led by example, exuding compassion for those less fortunate and showing

empathy to those in need. Her balanced, carefully considered advice, dispensed with professionalism and openness, has made her an inspirational leader who has never been hesitant to speak out in faith or encourage others in the pursuit of their goals. Her genuine, ready smiles have reassured many a newcomer....

As Annette enters a new phase in life with her well-earned retirement, she will particularly be remembered for her rock-solid Christian beliefs, her balanced and well-rounded approach to life, her good sportsmanship, her unfaltering service to the school and above all, her humility. The thoughts of the St John's community go with her as she has more time to dedicate to her beloved family, hone her golfing skills, read to her heart's content and share her wonderfully maternal attributes with others who, needless to say, will be as blessed as all those at this school for simply having known and loved her.

We pay tribute to her loyalty and exceptional service to the school.

**Collated by the SJS Junior School Staff**



# Headmistress's Report

**Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,** and members of the St John's family: it is my pleasure to welcome you all here today. In particular, I welcome Heads of other schools, or their representatives, and any spouses who are also present. We value your support. Past members of the Board of Governors are welcome as well, as are Mrs Jill Champion, previous Head of St John's, and Miss Sheila Hyman, past Head of the Junior School.

Speaking of the Junior School, its current Head, Mrs Annette Symes, is attending this Prize-Giving for the last time in that capacity. She retires at the end of the year after 14 years of excellent and devoted service. In her place comes Miss Petra Wiesinger who is presently at St Mary's DSG in Kloof. At this point I would like to pay special tribute to Mrs Stoffberg, in particular, for the bold leadership she is giving to this school.

Some exciting new developments at St John's continue to be in the pipeline. I hesitate to be definitive about these because discussions about them, and about priorities, are still taking place. With the overall Master Plan, as we are calling it, we have discovered the need to be flexible and to adapt to new insights or drawbacks as they come our way. I realise, with hindsight, that in my enthusiasm I have jumped the gun once or twice on aspects of this Plan, and I am resisting doing so again. Instead, I would ask us all to be patient and to wait until all is revealed, as indeed it will be.

Such patience and the willingness to be thorough and unrushed is fundamental to effective long-term planning. The present Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, is a man of wisdom and a lot of sanctified common sense. In a recent address he quoted a Sepedi proverb, which he translated into English as follows: "a hurrying bird lays only one egg." We do not want to make that mistake here at St John's where there are still several eggs to be laid in regard to new developments. I can't imagine our soaring eagle being a bird in a hurry, can you? Instead, as it soars, it carefully and majestically surveys all that lies below before making its plunge

in the broader community and that they give of themselves in order to improve the lot of those less fortunate than they are. I ask you to take to heart the words of Edward Everett Hale who said:

*"I am only one,  
But still I am one.  
I cannot do everything,  
But still I can do something.  
And because I cannot do everything  
I will not refuse to do  
The something that I can do."*

Take sure, girls of St John's, that you do not neglect to do "the something that

to the chosen prey. We must remember that good Sepedi proverb, given us by our Archbishop: a hurrying bird lays only one egg.

You will be glad to know that the school's finances are in good shape in the sense that we are operating within budget and are free of debt. Your Board of Governors is very clear that it would be a grave mistake, in a time of severe economic recession, for St John's to face significant debt. The Astro-Turf is paid for, as are the four new tennis courts built this year. A major upgrade of the school's electricity facilities has been undertaken in preparation for the introduction of air-conditioning into the classrooms. This is now nearing completion.

The one weakness at a financial level is the slender nature of the school's investment portfolio. I was at the Michaelhouse Speech Day in August when the Chairman of their Board announced that they are blessed with two endowments of R40 million and R70 million respectively. One of these provides bursary assistance to no less than 30% of their pupils. Our endowment of R2.2 million looks decidedly puny in comparison. It is a sobering fact that, on the whole, boys' schools are better endowed than girls' schools. As young women begin to take their place more fully and more independently in our society, maybe this gap in gender equality will be addressed. Is it too much to ask that some men will be noble-minded and sensible enough to contribute substantially to girls' schools as well to their own?

But we are in good heart here at St

John's, with a great deal to be thankful for. Financial wealth is not the most important thing about a school, though obviously a school worth its salt needs to be on a sound financial footing and be run on good business lines. At the same time, it must nurture and maintain what Thabo Mbeki described, after his visit here for Speech Day three years ago, as the school's soul: that indefinable quality which, he said, he saw in the faces and demeanour of the girls as he spoke to us.

My wife, Dorrie, and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July this year. Custom calls it the golden anniversary. The Matrics in this audience will be interested, perhaps, to know that our relationship began at the Maritzburg College Matric dance in 1951 (she was at Girls' High). Obviously I agree with you that the Matric dance is rather special; you never know what might come from it! Anyway, at our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration, each of our three now-adult children spoke humorously and movingly. One of the things they recalled was that we didn't have much in the way of money when they were young, for I had left my job as a history lecturer at Rhodes University to train for the priesthood of the Church. After my ordination we lived on a relatively small stipend and life had to be simple and restrained. Looking back on all this, our elder son made a comment which lodged itself deep within me. He said to the celebrating group of family and some close friends: "We didn't have material abundance; we had emotional abundance."

May I end, then, with these words? Material adequacy is crucial for the well-being and indeed the survival of this school. Some extra abundance would be welcome too, so that we can make the best possible improvements and advances. Yet, when all is said and done, the gift of "emotional abundance" – that is, knowing that one is loved and can love in return – is ultimately what matters most and lies at the heart of any worthwhile educational enterprise.

**Bishop Michael Nuttall**



# Headmistress Symes

**Guest of Honour, Ms Gugu Moloi;** Chairman of the Board, Bishop Michael, and Mrs Nuttall; Sister Mary Evelyn; members of the Board of Governors; other honoured guests; special friends; parents, teachers, and pupils - a sincere welcome to all of you on the occasion of Speech Day, 2009.

There are colleagues from other schools present here today and I thank you, especially, for having taken the trouble and sacrificed the time to attend our Speech Day at such a frenetic time of year in your own schools. Past Board members and former teachers who are with us, your presence and ongoing interest in the school is greatly appreciated. Former Headmistress, Mrs Jill Champion, once again graces us with her presence and we appreciate her continued commitment to the welfare of St John's. Miss Sheila Hyman, another past headmistress, is also attending this ceremony. Her unwavering support for the school is greatly appreciated. I do not wish to leave anybody out and so I bid all friends and family of St John's a hearty welcome.

Successful Matric results at the end of 2008 again bore testimony to the culture of teaching and learning which prevails at St John's. The 100% pass rate record remains unchanged. Given that the 2008 examinations were the first written under the auspices of the new N.S.C. (National Senior Certificate) curriculum, there was a degree of apprehension about how our girls would fare in the final examinations. They did us proud. Of the fifty-four candidates entered, forty-eight achieved what is now known as a B.D. (Bachelor Degree) pass, enabling them to attend university, and six were awarded a D (or Diploma Studies) pass. Caitlin Gardiner and Kate Anderson, in particular, excelled, being ranked in the I.E.B. Outstanding Achievement and Commendable Achievement lists respectively.

The death this year of Miss Elaine Murray, former Music teacher at St John's, saddened us all, particularly since Miss Murray had served the school faithfully for forty consecutive years - a remarkable achievement, indeed. It was most gratifying to learn that Miss Murray had bequeathed her entire estate to St John's. In strict financial terms, this equated to a sum in excess of R500 000! We are overwhelmed by Miss Murray's generosity and will ensure that her legacy is employed in the development



been so successful in the 2008 Senior Certificate examinations, was reassuring, it was still not enough to ensure that staff feel utterly confident about what they are doing. There is residual anxiety in 2009. No doubt, it will be dispelled once the end-of-year results have been released. I have confidence in both our teachers and our pupils in this regard.



**Headmistress Mrs Linda Stoffberg**

I refer you to your programme insert for details of the many achievements of our girls which have amazed and delighted us all this year. I shall focus on some of these, but by no means all.

Sportswise, St John's is becoming a school to be reckoned with! There have been many sporting successes in a number of areas and our pupils are to be commended on their spirited commitment to the various sporting disciplines. In my first three years at St John's we did not have wins in any of the races at the Girls' Interschool Relay Gala, but this year we celebrated wins in three of the races, and a number of placings in second and third positions - a sure sign that the all-round standard of swimming is steadily improving.

Waterpolo, Netball, Tennis, Squash, Canoeing, Cross-Country and Basketball have all shown growth in 2009 and there have been many instances of success. Our Canoe Polo team actually won the recent interschool competition! With the introduction of the SANEF schools' league, horse-riding seems set to be incorporated in the school's sports programme. The Eco-Adventure Challenge saw the Junior section being won by St John's, once again, with our other teams acquitting themselves very well too. The quality of hockey being played this year is most encouraging and has translated into a highly successful hockey season, with the 1st team finishing 3rd in the Parklane Superspar League.

I continue to emphasise, however, the importance of participation and enjoyment, rather than the development of a win-at-all-costs attitude. This school believes in promoting the importance of physical health - and involvement in sport at school level is one way of developing the habit of maintaining a healthy body. The introduction of a lifestyle programme stands to benefit those girls not particularly interested in the more traditional school sports. Golf, walking or jogging for fun, fitness classes and aerobics are some of the activities incorporated into this programme. In other words, participation in a physical activity of some sort is of paramount importance in order to promote healthy living.

Nowhere is the participation factor more marked than in the annual Polar Bear swim. This year's event was aptly named as it took place in near-Arctic conditions! It did not, however, dampen the enthusiasm of the participants, and, of course, the mugs of steaming hot chocolate served after the swim were most satisfactory antidotes to the cold. Close to R18 000.00 was raised in 2009 and was put towards the screeding adjacent to the swimming pool.

To coin a collective noun, a splurge of sport has characterised the year!

Cultural opportunities continue to abound. A most successful production of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* took place in the first term and all credit must go to the director for having the courage to take on a Shakespearean play, and to the St John's girls and St Charles boys for rising to the challenge of



# Headmistress's Report

rendering the Shakespearean language meaningful. The gap between formal 21<sup>st</sup> Century English and 17<sup>th</sup> Century English is considerable for today's teenagers; but imagine the gap between S.M.S.-speak and Shakespearean English! It is a veritable chasm! How impressive, therefore, to hear these young players deliver the Bard's lines in a way which not only denoted their understanding of them, but - more importantly - communicated the sense of the lines to the members of the audience. Mind you, it also says a great deal about the playwright himself whose words still move audiences to laughter and tears some four hundred years after he wrote them.

Participation in *Funk*, the annual schools' dance celebration held at Hilton College, was again a feature of the cultural programme, as was participation in the interschool Shakespeare Quiz. Add to these the active involvement of girls in musical performances by the choir, wind band or marimba band; interhouse plays; public-speaking competitions; Olympiads; and debating - and you have a veritable cornucopia of culture. (I confess here to my delight in creating collective nouns!)

The so-called Consumer Studies tour to Thailand in the Michaelmas holidays also attracted pupils who are not studying Consumer Studies. By all accounts, it was a tour which combined tempting tastings of Thai food with sightseeing - and, of course, shopping! It is probably just as well that the tour was confined to the holidays as it might otherwise have put a serious strain on finances in many St John's homes.

The Ashburton Farm School continues to be the main focus for fund-raising and community work at St John's, but it is, by no means, the only recipient of funds. We are constantly asked to support a range of charities or special fund-raising activities. We do what we can through arranging Civvies Days (where girls pay for the privilege of wearing "civvies" to school) or directing monies from Chapel collections to worthy causes. More importantly, girls give of their time. Our Grade 10's work on a weekly basis with the children at Ashburton. Visits to the Salvation Army Children's Home take place weekly and the commitment of members of Interact is admirable indeed. We believe it is important that St John's girls are reminded of the realities of life

in the broader community and that they give of themselves in order to improve the lot of those less fortunate than they are. I ask you to take to heart the words of Edward Everett Hale who said:

*"I am only one,  
But still I am one.  
I cannot do everything,  
But still I can do something.  
And because I cannot do everything  
I will not refuse to do  
The something that I can do."*

Make sure, girls of St John's, that you do not neglect to do "the something that [you] can do." The future of our country and of humanity depends on an altruism which is deep and which is committed.

It is impossible to cover all activities which take place at this school and even more difficult to attempt to describe the range of opportunities available. I urge every St John's girl to avail herself of those opportunities in order to ensure that her experience here is a rewarding one. Education is not simply the acquisition of knowledge. In fact, in the words of B.F. Skinner, it "is what survives when what has been learnt has been forgotten." In other words, experience is education - the more varied and meaningful that experience, the richer the education.

**Make sure, girls of St John's, that you do not neglect to do "the something that [you] can do." The future of our country and of humanity depends on an altruism which is deep and which is committed.**

And, of course, what would education at St John's be without those responsible for educating - in the broadest sense of the word! The teachers at this school do their utmost to teach to the best of their ability - and the collective noun which springs to mind is that we are blessed with a talent of teachers! But they also involve themselves in activities outside the classroom where they give of their time and expertise and contribute to the emotional, physical and spiritual development of those in their charge. I pay tribute to the teachers of St John's.

Ladies and gentlemen, education is an important and serious business and for those in the business of facilitating it, it

is an onerous task. Fortunately, it does have its moments of light relief - usually in the form of exam howlers such as:

*H<sub>2</sub>O is hot water and CO<sub>2</sub> is cold water.  
Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries,  
vanes and caterpillars.*

*Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow instead of the bull.*

And then, in response to the question "What happens to your body as you age?", there is the answer, "When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental." This description defies the powers of the imagination!

Believe me, if it were not for the occasional howler, the business of marking examination papers would be tedious indeed!

Mind you, sometimes the pupils have the last laugh, such as those lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. (I am sure this would not have happened in an Anglican School!!) On the counter was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the counter was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A pupil had written a note: "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

A number of our staff members are to be commended on their long and dedicated service to St John's. Mrs Sharon Miller has served faithfully in the Accounts Department for ten years; Mrs Jenny Westwood's function has been varied over the past twenty years in that she has been both Home Economics teacher and Headmistress's secretary - and in both roles she has been supremely efficient; and then Mrs Antoinette Harris (who is currently on long leave) has given St John's twenty-five years of devoted service. We are most grateful to these three staff members for their years of loyal commitment.

We have been most distressed by the medical complications experienced by Mr Albert Thabethe. He has had to undergo lengthy medical treatment and has not been able to work for the past four months.

Regrettably, a number of staff leave us at the end of the year:

Mrs Dallas Elliott, who stepped in as Primary School I.T. teacher at very short notice at the start of Term 3, will be



# Headmistress's Report

looking forward to enjoying her retirement.

Mr Garric Freese (Mathematics) leaves us after one year, as his contract comes to an end. He has been a multi-talented addition to the Maths Department. We have enjoyed his willingness to become involved in so many areas and we wish him well in his future career.

Mrs Nola le Roux (Music) leaves us after a period of 3 years, during which she was charged with starting the Music-as-a-Matric-subject course. She leaves us to take up a position at St Anne's.

Mrs Cynthia Guest (Accounts Department) has been a member of staff for twenty-seven years - that is quite an achievement! What's more, she was a pupil at St John's herself, so her involvement with the school is considerably longer than twenty-seven years! Mrs Guest retires at the end of this year and we extend our best wishes to her and our most heartfelt appreciation for all she has done for the school.

I now turn to Mrs Annette Symes, Deputy Principal and Head of the Primary School, who retires at the end of the year, after fourteen years of dedicated service to the school. My association with Mrs Symes began when I started at St John's in January, 2006, and in no time I became aware of the high regard in which she was held by staff, parents and pupils. From my point of view, she has been incredibly supportive, competent, loyal, sagacious - and lots of fun! Most importantly, she has been unswervingly loyal to St John's and has served the school with dedication and distinction. She will be missed by all who have had contact with her. Her ready smile, infectious sense of humour and considerable experience have stood the school in good stead. I have been most appreciative of Mrs Symes's frank assessment of a situation, her insight and her willingness to serve. She has been an example to us all.

I am grateful, too, to Mrs Allison Gunning, my other Deputy, who has performed her duties with efficiency and commitment. Mrs Gunning enjoyed a well-deserved term's leave this year and returned to fulfil her role with renewed energy and effectiveness.

There are so many to thank for all they do to ensure St John's is a school which can be proud of all that it achieves. Support staff are crucial here! The

kitchen staff; the nursing sisters; the laboratory and library assistants; the Estate Manager and his team of men; the Transport Manager and drivers; the School Shop Manageress - all contribute many hours of time and expertise to ensure that the school functions smoothly and efficiently. Our Marketing Department team works with enthusiasm and dedication to promote the school and keep it in the public eye. The accounts staff, led by our Business Manager, have the unenviable task of keeping the budget balanced. The Boarding staff have the enormous responsibility of caring for girls, many of whom are far from home. They do so in a firm, yet compassionate manner. The administrative staff have to perform their jobs with a charm which belies their daily challenges and frustrations - and they do so most proficiently. My secretary is to be commended on her ability to deal with deadlines, demands, disaster and drama, with equanimity. This is a rare feat indeed and is accomplished with incredible poise on her part and awe-inspiring efficiency. I could not manage without her.

On the one hand, I found myself asking what a grown man was doing riding a skateboard, and on the other hand, I had to give him credit for youthful exuberance!

The Chapel continues to be part and parcel of the rhythm of St John's. We give thanks to Rev. Bellina Mangena, ably assisted by Father John Read, for their contribution to the spiritual life of the school. Rev. Mangena's down-to-earth approach to sermons is complemented by Father John's more philosophical one. We are blessed to have input from both clerics. A special "thank you" goes to the Mothers who Care. They pray for the school and all who are in it and their prayerful support is greatly appreciated, as is the ongoing support of the Sisters of St John the Divine.

I am, indeed, indebted to the Board of Governors, under the competent and caring leadership of Bishop Michael Nuttall. Bishop Michael has given not only of his considerable wisdom, but also of his time (in big chunks!) to assist where possible and to serve the school most devotedly. Thanks are due, too, to

the other Board members who govern the school with insight and expertise. They have to make many tough decisions and do so with responsibility and the best interests of the school at heart.

Parents, I thank you. You are the ones who have believed in St John's, by virtue of having placed your most treasured possessions - your daughters - in our care. You are the backbone of this school. We truly appreciate your attitude of service and support, which is evident in so many ways. Today, we thank Mrs Joan Stewart and Mrs Sandy McKenzie for the spectacular floral arrangements which adorn this occasion. More generally, we thank the Parents' Association for their heroic efforts in raising funds for St John's. This is a time-consuming exercise, in a difficult economic climate, requiring considerable dedication. I cannot fault the members of the Parents' Association when it comes to dedication! A harder working, more focused group I have yet to meet! Considerable credit must go to Mr Greg du Preez, Chairman of the Parents' Association, for his committed and energetic leadership. This year's Bundu Bash, organized by the Parents' Association, raised in the region of R 90,000.00, despite the muddy conditions! Incredibly, a few days before Bundu Bash, Greg du Preez injured his foot and landed up in hospital. The fact that he had broken the bones in his foot while riding on a skateboard raises all sorts of questions. On the one hand, I found myself asking what a grown man was doing riding a skateboard, and on the other hand, I had to give him credit for youthful exuberance! I might add that this setback did not deter him from marshalling the troops on the day of Bundu Bash. Careering through the mud on a golf cart or else hobbling around on crutches (which he described as "four-by-four crutches"!), Greg was undoubtedly in charge as he shouted instructions at people and swung his crutches wildly in various directions by way of emphasis. He was a formidable figure indeed! We are, however, most appreciative of the contribution made by him and the parents on the committee to the spirit and well-being of St John's.

Mrs Robyn Kirkby, having taken over the position of Marketing Co-ordinator at the school, has stepped down as Chairman of the Old Girls' Association.



# Headmistress's Report

We thank her for the excellent work she did overseeing the Old Girls' Association. In particular, she deserves credit for her recognition of the need to create an Old Girls' database and her ensuring that this was done. What a difference the database has made in terms of easy communication with Old Girls across the globe! Mrs Dianne Oldfield has now taken over as Chairman of the Old Girls' Association. Given Mrs Oldfield's capacity for hard work and her dedication to the school, she is the perfect choice for this position. I know that the Old Girls' Association will flourish under Mrs Oldfield's leadership. I appeal to you Matrics who are coming to the end of your tenure at this fine school not to forget what you have gained from your time here and to maintain contact with the Old Girls' Association - and, if possible, to contribute actively to both the organization and the school, after you have matriculated.

As I look out at today's audience, I wonder what is going through the minds of both parents and pupils. For the parents of those who win prizes today, there is bound to be a feeling of pride and satisfaction at a job well done. But I believe that all you parents are to be congratulated on performing a task which is daunting and fraught with challenges - and one for which you were never trained.

In fact, I once read a job description for parents which went like this:

## Job Description

*Long-term, team players are needed, for challenging, permanent work in an often chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24-hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far-away cities! Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.*

## Responsibilities

*The rest of your life. Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs R50.00. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 80 k.p.h. in three seconds flat in case, this*

*time, the screams from the back yard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers. Must screen 'phone calls, maintain calendars and co-ordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, an embarrassment the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of half a million cheap, plastic toys, and battery-operated devices. Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product.*

**Actually, life is about challenges, full stop!**

## Possibility for advancement and promotion

*None. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.*

## Previous experience

*None required, unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.*

## Wages and compensation

*Get this! You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that tertiary education will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and only wish you could do more.*

## Benefits

*While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered, this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth, unconditional love, and free hugs and kisses for life, if you play your cards right. And a footnote: there is no retirement - ever!!*

Given that job description, it is a wonder there are any parents in the world!

So, parents, take a bow! You have had to deal with many, many challenges but you can take heart from the products of your efforts who are seated here today, having come a long, long way in the past thirteen to eighteen years. You have nurtured them, guided them and given them a solid grounding in sending them to this school.

Life is all about taking on challenges such as these. Actually, life is about challenges, full stop! And it is about challenges that I want to talk today. We cannot ignore challenges - whether they be the challenges confronting our world, our country, our school, our families, ourselves! And right now, there are many who feel overwhelmed by all these challenges and allow themselves to become pessimistic as a result.

Schools are currently facing innumerable challenges. They need to remain financially viable and educationally relevant. The strain placed on resources and facilities is further complicated by a shortage of competent teachers. South African educationist, Prof. Jonathan Jansen, claims "... we are not going to get our country right if we don't get our schools right. If we don't get children coming out of school who know about democracy, about being decent, respectful, caring and compassionate, we are not going to get it right. If you don't get the schools right, everything else topples."

This is an enormous responsibility for schools and if we are to succeed, we need the assistance of parents in inculcating these qualities in our young citizens. Schools will rise to the challenge because that is what schools do time and time again; but in partnership with parents, they are more likely to succeed.

The Grade 9 uHambo at St John's is a project which goes a long way to developing in our pupils so many of these desirable qualities: respect (for self, for one another, for our fragile world), care, compassion, decency. Our Grade 9's will be able to tell you of the numerous challenges they encountered on this journey - whether physical, emotional or spiritual - and of their sense of achievement at overcoming them. For our staff, uHambo brought its own challenges. The planning was a logistical nightmare, but through teamwork and co-operation, they triumphed. I would like to be able to tell Prof. Jansen that in this school we are, it seems, "get[ting] it right".



# Headmistress's Report

Challenges for families at the present time create stresses and pressures which, if not dealt with, threaten to destroy the very relationships which are crucial to the survival of families. Some of the challenges are financial, some medical, and others to do with interpersonal connections. All test our personal strength, courage and capacity for endurance. In the newspaper a short while ago, I read this rather cynical comment relating to financial concerns: "It's not hard to meet expenses. They're everywhere!"

Indeed they are, and we have to learn to manage them sensibly and prudently if they are not to get the better of us.

I now turn to the maturation of Matrics! (That collective noun certainly sums up the quality of this year's Matric group.) You are about to leave St John's. Your immediate challenge is to write your Senior Certificate examinations and achieve the results of which you are capable. The period of your schooling is almost at an end. Perhaps, to quote from the poem by Stevie Smith which you studied this year, you feel right now as though you are "not waving, but drowning." By way of reassurance, though, in one of your other Matric poems Mongane Wally Serote reminds us that "seasons come to pass." This season will have passed before too long and you will be confronted by the next season in your life. Do you feel apprehensive - even fearful? Or do you feel confident and self-assured? Or do you feel both fearful and confident? Whatever you feel, such feelings are to be expected.

You are facing the unknown - whether it be in terms of education, career, marriage, children. The future is a challenge for you. I assure you, you have been well-prepared. That partnership of parents and school I referred to earlier has seen to that. But you are also bound to fail sometimes. And that is all right. As actress, Mary Pickford, once said: "The thing we call 'failure' is not the falling down, but the staying down." There is also a Japanese proverb which in the spare, taut style of Japanese expression says much the same thing: "Fall seven times, stand up eight."

It will not necessarily be easy. Here we are in 2009 experiencing an international recession which is exacerbating world-wide poverty; our natural environment is under siege and we seem powerless

to halt its apparently inevitable destruction; man's inhumanity to man persists on a global scale and there seems no end to warfare, terrorism and other acts of aggression. "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold" are the apocalyptic words of Irish poet, W.B. Yeats, and although they were written nearly a century ago, they seem to have a terrifying resonance in the twenty-first century. The challenges to the world community are immense. An interesting comment I read in the *Spectator* magazine comes to mind. Peter Hitchens wrote that "War, poverty and injustice often bring great ideas to birth. Fat, peaceful times only fertilise banality and self-seeking." Great ideas - and great people - have so often triumphed in times of adversity. We have to look no further than Nelson Mandela whose vision of a democratic society in South Africa was the salvation of this country.

And yet, in spite of the miracle of our democracy, when we look at South Africa, we see a catalogue of ills which is a source of both anxiety and distress: crime, corruption, unemployment, poverty, racism, and the scourge of A.I.D.S. Add to this, the Eskom debacle and it is small wonder that many South African citizens retreat behind high walls, wallow in despair - or emigrate!

It's not hard to meet expenses.  
They're everywhere!

But I put it to you that large-scale pessimism has never and will never solve problems of this magnitude. There have been many bleak periods in the world's history, in this country's history, but both the world and this country have survived - and they have survived because of the indomitable spirit of mankind, because of the resilience of human beings, because of a stubborn optimism that prevails, even when things seem to be spiralling out of control. A South African journalist, Markia Naidoo, made the following observation in a magazine article I read some time ago and, I believe, it sums up what we have to be proud of in this country: "South Africans have a toughness that Westerners lack... South Africans are strong. And it is this country's history, for all its twisted wickedness, that belies this strength. It is a resilience I see every day - in the persistent requests for cigarettes and

money from street kids; in shack dwellers' defiant attempts to claim land; in activists tackling a complacent government and the mighty pharmaceutical giants on behalf of millions infected with H.I.V. ... I know South Africa will never bore me, because life in South Africa is tough, a constant challenge - not only for the poor black without a job, but for the rich white struggling to construct a new identity while burdened with guilt about past privilege."

Yes, South Africa is a constant challenge, but we have the energy and capability to take on that challenge - if we choose to do so. But only if we choose to do so. For some it is much easier not to choose to do so and if the "some" become "most", then this country is doomed.

In the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. the following words provide a salutary reminder of our duty as citizens of this world:

*"Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator. Above all, thou shalt not be a bystander."*

Matrics, I hope I do not sound like the Prophet of Doom in describing the world you live in and need to find your way in. It is not my intention to do so. Rather, I wish to stress the importance of action. Do not be bystanders in this beautiful country of ours. All South Africans need to roll up their sleeves and get to work. There is much to be done.

I leave you with the words of John F. Kennedy to remind you of our moral obligation as human beings given the opportunity to live our lives on this earth.

Kennedy said (and of course the word "men" here is not intended to be gender-specific): "Without belittling the courage with which men have died, we should not forget those acts of courage with which men...have lived. The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment; but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy. A man does what he must - in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures - and that is the basis of all human morality...."

"A man does what he must...".

May you, Matrics of 2009, have the courage to do what you must. You are the future of our country and of our world.

**Mrs Linda Stoffberg**



# *Address by the Guest Speaker, Ms Gugu Moloi*

**Thank you indeed Bishop for that kind introduction.** I am so excited to be here in Pietermaritzburg!

Let me begin by greeting the Principal of the school, whom I met in May at a conference. At the conference she asked me if I would come later in the year to give a speech at her school. I decided to take the principal's orders before she called me to her office!

I also want to extend my greetings to the teaching, administrative and cleaning staff of the school. Let me also greet the Chairman of the Governing Body together with his beautiful wife that I had the honour to meet earlier this morning. Parents, distinguished guests, girls – Good morning!

The theme of my speech this morning is **"know your path – know where you are going."** Before I make my speech however, I need to make **three declarations:**

The first is that I believe in the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit – one of the reasons for this relentless faith is that I cannot find anyone else who can explain to me how is it the hearts of 6 billion people are beating at the same time!

The second declaration is that I believe in my country, South Africa. Some of you might say, "What is wrong with you can you not see the corruption out there in this country; are you blind?" But my answer to you would be, look at the rainbow nation of girls that are about to complete matric today- does this not give you hope for tomorrow? Does this class not just tell you that the future is going to be OK? I am personally exhausted to talk about apartheid – I think most of the people in my generation are still lost in the drama of race. For this nation to rise to the next level we need to learn to let the past go and to build the future. It is my personal view that people who dwell on apartheid are not fully evolved beings - they have not understood the great opportunity to see different races working together and accomplish astonishing results! I see it every day in my current company. I saw it when I was working at Umgeni Water a few years ago. Sadly, those who are not fully evolved beings get left behind! I believe that we will become a nation that will rise to greatness in the future in spite of the few negative people and things taking place in our beloved country.

The third declaration is that I believe in my continent Africa! Yes I believe in all 1 billion people here and that this continent because of its abusive history, because of its painful history – it will become the continent that will introduce the new spiritual agenda to the world. I know

some of you are saying, "Are you crazy! What about Mugabe!!!" You see, unlike you, I believe that I am a creative being, that my words create and I want to create a future. It is for this reason that I spend less time on history, as important as it is, but on shaping the future with my words and with action. I believe that the rise of Africa as a world power is really the cause of this new generation - a cause for you girls! You must step out there and take the baton and create an Africa that will lead the world in social, spiritual, and economic justice! Know your path and know where you are going! You are creating a new world order – do you realise this?

Let me now turn to my topic for today and to my message to the girls:

In 1994, the walls of apartheid came crashing down – the democratic government was ushered in and here we are with a democratic state. Girls, the historical challenges are on our shoulders not yours - yours is to look up to the future and decide what you will contribute towards making South Africa and the continent of Africa the new engine room of the future world order!

At the moment, most of the people in my



**Ms Gugu Moloi with Sister Mary Evelyn**

generation (I will not disclose my age!), are in the middle of the economic empowerment cause – which is important for us to address if we are to live in harmony in South Africa – we need to share the spoils of the economy. Girls, I do not believe that this is not your fight, your fight is to stand together as the light of a new Africa, walking together where race does not matter. Yes you will remember our painful history but it is time to build your future based on what you have seen in the classroom. You have seen people of different colours doing well. You have seen girls who come from poor backgrounds doing well. Build on this empirical evidence – do not get distracted by people who have had a limited experience because they have gone to one-race schools! You have had the privilege to sit side by side with other races and have friends – build on this!

Girls, let me repeat, your cause is to lift Africa to become the greatest economic power in the world, because everywhere in Africa we still have the natural resources that other countries hunger for. Know your path – know where you are going.

We live in a world where almost everything is instant. SMSes, e-mails, instant coffee, fast food, etc. – these developments have the potential power to take over our lives. The danger of too much TV today is that fewer and fewer people are thinking! This means that the events will happen with very little influence from you unless you know your path and you know where you are going.

As you sit there individually, you have a unique value proposition! There is a specific purpose that you must accomplish. No - one can accomplish it for you. The reason you had to be born is because that task that you are so passionate about needs you to make it manifest. Walk into your destiny. Know your path – know where you are going.

You are destined for great things no matter what your background! I myself come from a rural area. I was sent into a multi-racial school when I was in Grade 5. I did not speak a word of English and in my first year I did not do very well as school. But by the end of Grade 7, I was in the top 5 in the class! Your destiny is waiting for you - make it happen. Know your path and know where you are going.

Remember: you are created in the image and likeness of God and he has given you dominion (radah) over everything, so go out there and express the true higher self that you have been created to be!

There will be challenges – understand that a challenge is nothing more than a pause to rethink strategy. Do not make the challenges bigger than they are. We are not created to have the spirit of fear in us. There will be negative people along the way, understand that their role is to keep themselves where they are and will try to pull you down with them- keep away from such people. They will kill your dream because they have no dreams or they have given up on their dreams. Know your path, know where you are going.

My personal experience is that to make it out there, you need to have God on your side. As I declared earlier I believe in the Holy Trinity. You must have relentless faith that you will achieve your dream and it starts by doing a few things.

1. Taking up a **cause** that you are passionate about – I would suggest that Africa needs you! The cause of your generation to make this continent rise to its great self.



2. You must have **courage** to stand alone in driving your vision and your dream – do not give up at the sight of discouragement. Keep going! When I began to re-structure Umgeni Water a few years ago, I was told that I would not finish, that I was too am-bitious, too young and inexperienced! I chose to stand alone and drive the necessary change. Today, because I chose to stand for what I believed needed to be done and made some hard decisions, the company is one of the few state-owned enterprises profiting over R200 million!

3. You must do this with your **character/integrity intact**. If there are things that you are doing that you would not be proud of if they were displayed on the front page of the *Sunday Times* – the chances are that those activities are not appropriate. Use the *Sunday Times* test

to live a clean life free from corruption, bribes, petty hatred, racism, etc.

4. You must move forward having **perspective**. Today the person you look down on might be the person who holds the key to the door of your destiny. There are people who are poor out there, who are badly paid - do not use your future position of power for greed but make sure that you use it for social justice. At Umgeni when I began there a few years ago not everyone got a bonus. So I promised the staff that if we turned around the company, they would receive a bonus from the CEO down to the cleaner! When this happened – the staff could not believe it!!!

5. As you march into your destiny knowing your path and knowing where you are going – you must complete the task before you. You must have **perseverance**! In the next few days you will be done with

Matric and will move to the next level- be the girl who is known to finish what she starts. Always complete what you start!

As I close, let me take this opportunity to thank the Principal again for the kind invitation to this beautiful school! Congratulations to you girls who will be receiving awards – and to those who are not, I am sure I will be reading about your accomplishments soon. It is tough to be in business, but we hope that by the time you come to take over our positions it will be a little easier for you. I cannot wait to see some of you become my future president, CEOs of listed companies, pastors of international churches, famous musicians, etc... I cannot wait to be on the other side and say – you have known your path and have known where you are going.

Thank you.

**Ms Gugu Moloi, CEO of Drake and Scull**

## Head Girl's Report

**Good morning Mrs Stoffberg, honoured guests, staff, parents and girls.**

When I started thinking about what I could talk about in this ever so important speech, it came to me that there is just so much to say about being a pupil here over the past eight years and more so the past five years of my High School career. St John's has offered me over the past few years unbelievable opportunities that have enabled me to excel academically, culturally and on the sports field. It is here that I have formed amazing friendships with girls in all areas of the school and it is going to be difficult this morning to explain in words the effect and influence that the staff and girls here have made on my life thus far. I have many thoughts and ideas about what St John's means to me, because it holds a very special place in my heart. But most importantly one particular thought stand out for me above the rest...wow...I am most privileged and blessed to be a St John's girl!

One question that I have had to face this year is: What is leadership? What makes a solid leader? Who are the solid leaders, role model leaders in our society when just about every leader whether they are a politician, sportsman/woman, actor...they all possess an aspect of controversy and are often more popular for that than their leadership role. They all have their page in the *Heat* magazine! In my opinion the leaders of our world that have had the greatest impact, such as Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, have a more appropriate title to their name apart from leader and this is the title of servant. There is a saying that highly frustrates me

and thankfully I think that it is slowly fading out of society today but it says, "She or he is not right for the position because he/she is not a born leader." A whole debate can be centred on what a "born leader" is. Some may argue that it's someone with a sense of presence, a loud voice and a "I have it all together" look. But it is in fact these leaders in our society that are the most controversial and, in most cases, the least respected. It is, however, the leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa and Martin Luther King who have gained the respect of the world because they have lived to serve others and in doing that they have firstly led themselves with dignity and thus they have had a vast number of followers.

Writer Lance Secretan has the best way of describing leadership and what I have discovered it to be this year. He says: "Leadership is not so much about technique (meaning outward appearance) or methods (meaning the implementation of rules). Leadership is about opening the heart. Leadership is about inspiration - of oneself and others. Great leadership is about human experiences, not processes. Leadership is not a formula or a program [sic]. It is a human activity of opening the heart to serve the hearts of others. It is an attitude, not a routine." I don't think I can describe it better in my own words! My experiences this year have also reiterated to me that leadership is not about public recognition and about everyone knowing your name. Leadership is about leading yourself, being "a leader of yourself" regardless of who you are, where you come from or where you plan on going in life.

By being able to do this somehow people become drawn to you. They become your followers and so you get the title of leader. Although you may not be leading an army or a country or the Springbok rugby team, you are influencing someone else's life in a positive way.

H.C. Mears once said: "God is the source of love, Christ is the proof of love and service is the expression of love." The sharing of love is a value that this school stands for and so I challenge all St John's girls to lead through sharing God's love. Some of the leaders that have had the most influential effects on me have been from within this school - girls from all grades right from Grade 8 to Matric as well as staff. I admire these people because they lead themselves with such dignity, they spread God's love and I have witnessed how this has affected those around them and inspired others to do the same. They demonstrate my understanding of leadership and I am most grateful to all these people who have inspired and motivated me to lead in the same way this year.

My year as Head Girl has been an experience that has strengthened me as an individual and challenged me in ways that I never expected. It would be a lie to say that my year has been easy - but I am very fond of the saying that nothing worthwhile in life is easy. AND my year can only be described in the very least as being worthwhile. I have faced difficulty and unpopularity this year, but there have always been special people who have supported me all the way and amidst some tough times. On the other hand, I have had awesome times with so many



# Head Girl's Report

amazing people that have influenced my understanding of life.

To Mrs Stoffberg, Ms Whitfield, Mrs Gunning and Mrs Symes, I would like sincerely to thank you for your guidance, support and all the reassurance that you have given me and the Matrics and the prefect body of 2009. We are most privileged to have role leaders like you, within the school to look up to. Thank you.

To the 2009 Prefect body. We came up with a motto that says: "2009 is the year to shine!" and shine we truly have and in doing that I believe we have inspired others to shine as well. Thank you for your support this year. It has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to lead you.

To Sisonke and Alex (my right and left arms) I would like to thank you for all of your friendship, love and support. It has been an absolute honour to have led the school with both of you. We all have been challenged this year, yet amidst these challenges we have supported one another and been there for one another when we have needed it the most.

There have been so many people who have really gone the extra mile to support me in my position this year. I would sincerely like to thank all those who have played such an important role in my life, at times without even knowing it.

To all my very special friends who have been there for me during the ups and the downs of the course of this year, - you all have played such an important role in helping me to cope with all that I have been faced with. Some of you have just been there to listen when I have needed to talk (even if I was talking nonsense). Some of you have been there to bring a light-heartedness to my days and all of you have cared for me in a very special way. I am most grateful for all your support.

And then to my family who have been like a solid rock for me - I thank you for the role that you have played in my life this year.

Kirst, you are an amazing sister. You have just known this year what to say and what to do to show your support. I truly admire you in so many ways and hope that I can settle into studying with the same focus and maturity as you.

Mom and Dad, I think you have done a sterling job of bringing up Kirst and me, despite living so close to some rather frightening school boys! You have both played such an amazing role in my life and given me the strength to really challenge myself as Head Girl this year. You have taught me so much about life but above all, you have shown me what it is to be humble... and for this I am most grateful.

To the wider Mill and Cooper families I also thank you for all you love and support this year and always.

And to all the staff (B. E. staff, sports staff and my teachers again) thank you for being there for me and supporting me in the different areas of the school.

Girls of St John's, you have all touched my life in a unique way.

Matrics, you have taught me when it is okay to laugh at myself and encouraged me when it is time to get serious. Each one of you has shone this year in your own way. We have learnt as a grade how to accept one another, along with our differences and through that we have matured into women that I believe are ready to face the world. You show me something to discover every day.

Grade 8's, you have made such a bright start here that I am reassured that St John's name will be held high in the years to come, all of you have matured and fitted wonderfully into the school ethos.



Head Prefects, Alexandra Kilgour, Tegan Mill and Sisonke Petse

To the Grade 9's, you have allowed your bouncy personalities to bring a vibrant spark to the somewhat mundane school routine-I thank you for the support you have given us Matrics, despite going through the "dreaded" Grade 9 year.

To the Grade 10's, - wow! You have astonished me as a grade and have eased into your role as seniors in the school. Your support for one another is remarkable and an asset that will enable you to work well together as you take on a larger position of leadership as Grade 11's next year.

And finally, to the grade 11's... You have shown support for us as Matrics and stepped willingly into the position of leaders of the school. I hope that all of you will embrace the group effort that is required in order to lead effectively because never doubt how much each of you has to offer. Good luck Matrics of 2010.

Girls...as I have already mentioned, we are immensely privileged to come to this school where we have opportunities that are endless. These opportunities are created from the sound financing that the school possesses under the leadership of

Mr Taylor, the efforts of our board of Governors under the guidance of Bishop Nuttal, our parents who support us here at school and finally our amazing staff of teachers and Mrs Stoffberg, that go the extra mile every day to ensure the success of our education. Thank you to everyone who contributes to making this school what it is for us. Teachers, you play a major role in our lives. Each one of you touches someone's heart every day and your impact and influence on us will remain with us for the rest of our lives. To the Matric teachers, - particularly our form teachers - thank you for your guidance and support this year. You have prepared us for life.

Matrics, as the girls that have had an impact on my life the most over the past 5 years, my wish for you is that you will find direction and inspiration in your life. Find what it is that makes you truly content...it may take forever but it is that direction that you choose to take to find your passion, that journey that you embark on that will make the journey of life worthwhile.

So, Matrics of 2009, (don't worry I'm not going to sing now!) you all have grown, matured and even if no one ever told you this, you all have had an impact on my life with your individuality, love, kindness, understanding and support. You all have the ability to do great things: don't waste it; chase your dreams whatever they may be. Be yourselves because everyone else has been taken and remember the words of H.C. Mears: "You teach a little by what you say. You teach most by what you are." Never change who you are inside.

As a grade we have had ups and downs. We have been through some very difficult times together but we have been there for one another and reached out to one another when times have been hard. We have also had an amazing time together, an amazing journey filled with memories to last us a lifetime. Let us not take for granted the relationships that exist within this grade because I see myself as privileged to have shared something special with each and every one of you and I have witnessed some amazing friendships. I will never forget any of you and the times of laughing, crying, singing, smiling! Let us hold these memories close as we prepare to go our separate ways. Good luck for finals. I know there is a strong work ethic in this grade that will ensure that each of us will do ourselves and our school proud.

I leave you with my favourite Proverb 3: 5, 6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not in your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." God Bless...

Tegan Mill, Head Girl



# Achievements

## ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL

### 2008 MATRICULATION RESULTS: IEB

100% Pass, 54 candidates entered: 48 achieved B.D. (Bachelor Degree) passes; 6 achieved D (Diploma Studies) passes. Total distinctions: 88 Subject A's.

**Sinenhlanhla Allie, Kate Anderson and Caitlin Gardiner** achieved 8 distinctions and **Cristine Naidoo** achieved 7 distinctions. **Caitlin Gardiner** was on the IEB Outstanding Achievement list for being ranked in the top 5% of IEB learners in 6 or more subjects and achieved a rating of 7 for Life Orientation. **Kate Anderson** was on the IEB Commendable Achievement list for being ranked in the top 5% of IEB learners in 5 subjects and achieved a rating of 7 for Life Orientation.

### HONOURS BLAZERS:

Head Girl: **Tegan Mill**

Deputy Head Girl: **Sisonke Petse**

Senior Boarder Prefect: **Alexandra Kilgour**

Academics: **Kristel Ortmann, Robyn Johnson, Supriya Soorju**

Canoeing: **Kathryn Rennie**

Basketball: **Lihle Bhengu**

### HONOURS BARS:

Academics: **Supriya Soorju, Darsha Indrajith, Tamrin Crosby, Robyn Everett, Alexandra Kilgour, Carmen Leisegang**

Performing Arts: **Alexandra Kilgour, Brittany Westhorpe-Pottow, Catherine Tatham, Heidemarie Kirn, Kirsty Weaver**

Hockey: **Tegan Mill**

### COLOURS BARS:

Academics: **Janine Gebers, Jessica Campbell, Siobhan Borain, Catherine Tatham, Tessa Button, Michaela Jahnig, Victoria Aadnesgaard, Leslie-Anne Britz, Hayley Knight, Kirstin Mackenzie, Khanya Maweni, Kathryn Rennie, Brittany Westhorpe-Pottow**

Hockey: **Janine Gebers, Robynne Balcomb**

Indoor Hockey: **Tegan Mill**

Performing Arts: **Heidemarie Kirn, Kirsty Weaver, Rachel Bean, Sarah-Jane Lait, Cara Marx, Alexis Ramsay, Catherine Elstob, Gina Frangs, Sharon Faure, Jessica Campbell**

Swimming: **Hayley Rodgers**

Basketball: **Lihle Bhengu**

Humanities: **Alexandra Kilgour**

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE:

**Alexandra Kilgour** has been selected as an exchange student for 2010. She will be based in Paris, France.

## DEBATING:

**Nkosinethando Mayisela** has been selected for the KZN Junior Provincial Team.

## ENGLISH:

### SACEE 2008:

**Caitlin Gardiner** was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> nationally in Grade 12, and **Darsha Indrajith**, likewise, in Grade 10.

### English Olympiad 2009:

Silver certificates: **Samantha Arnold, Darsha Indrajith, Robyn Johnson, Carmen Leisegang, Mbalenhle Majola, Tegan Mill, Nqobile Msomi, Kirsty Weaver and Julia van Niekerk.**

Gold certificates: **Sharon Faure** (was placed 82<sup>nd</sup>) and **Supriya Soorju.**

## SCIENCE: NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (BIOLOGY)

**Kathryn Rennie** was placed 5<sup>th</sup>, with a result in the 70 - 79% range

**Robyn Johnson** was placed 10<sup>th</sup>, with a result in the 70 - 79% range

**Carmen Liesegang** was placed 18<sup>th</sup>, with a result in the 60 - 69% range

## MUSIC:

EISTEDDFOD – 2009 (\*denotes Distinction)

### PIANO

**Skhumbuzo Mazibuko\*** Grade 1 (2 pieces), A+ and A  
**Ting-Yu Chen** Pregrade 1, A

**Sharon Faure** Grade 6 (2 pieces), A and A-

**Catherine Elstob** Grade 6 (2 pieces), A and A-

**Jodie du Preez\*** Grade 4 (2 pieces), A+ and A

**Jessica Campbell\*** Grade 4 (2 pieces), A+ and A

**Tamlyn Anderson** Grade 4, B+

**Julia van Niekerk** Grade 5

### WIND INSTRUMENTS

**Jodie du Preez** Grade 2 Clarinet, A and B

**Skhumbuzo Mazibuko** Grade 1 Trombone, A

**Kirsty Weaver** Grade 4 Flute, B+

**Heidemarie Kirn\*** Grade 7 Flute, A+ and A

*The following girls were selected to play their pieces at the Tatham Art Gallery: **Jessica Campbell, Jodie du Preez and Heidemarie Kirn.***



## EXAMINATION RESULTS

At the time of going to print the following Music examination results had been confirmed. 'D' denotes a distinction and 'M' a merit.

<b>Gina Frangs:</b>	Piano, Grade 7 Trinity College, M
<b>Heidemarie Kirn</b>	Flute, Grade 6 ABRSM, M Flute, Grade 7 ABRSM, M
<b>Kirsty Weaver</b>	Flute, Grade 5 ABRSM, M
<b>Jessica Campbell</b>	Piano, Grade 4 ABRSM, D Flute, Grade 4 ABRSM, M
<b>Catherine Elstob</b>	Flute, Grade 4 ABRSM Piano, Grade 6
<b>Tamlyn Anderson</b>	Piano, Grade 4 ABRSM, M Clarinet, Grade 1 ABRSM, M
<b>Jessica Goble</b>	Piano, Grade 3 ABRSM, M
<b>Mikaela Talbot</b>	Voice, Grade 2 ABRSM
<b>Skhumbuzo Mazibuko</b>	Piano, Grade 1 ABRSM, M
<b>Julia van Niekerk</b>	Piano, Grade 5 UNISA, M
<b>Tarryn van Niekerk</b>	Piano, Grade 4 UNISA, M

## PIETERMARITZBURG YOUTH CHOIR

**2008/2009:** Rachel Bean, Tarryn Knight, Sibusisiwe Makhanya and Aviwe Myendeki

**2009/2010:** Jenna Annandale, Tarryn Knight, Sibusisiwe Makhanya, Aviwe Myendeki, Shannon Nieuwoudt, Mikaela Talbot and Paula Uken

## SPORT

### BASKETBALL:

KZN team (U16): **Lihle Bhengu**  
South African team (U16A): **Lihle Bhengu**

### INDOOR HOCKEY:

KZN Inland Schools' team: **Tegan Mill**

### HOCKEY:

uMgungundlovu teams:

U19: **Robynne Balcomb**

U18A: **Tegan Mill**

U16A: **Janine Gebers**

U14: **Alison Duff, Tamra Brewitt, Lyndal Banjo**

KZN Inland team (U18A): **Tegan Mill**

### SWIMMING:

KZN Midlands Swimming team: **Hayley Rodgers, Nicola Kirkby, Annica Hanekom**

KZN Midlands Satellite team: **Naisha Ramlal**

KZN Schools' Aquatics team: **Nicola Kirkby**

Botswana team: **Ashley Schelin**

### CANOEING:

**Emma Horner** was awarded her U14, U16 and U18 KZN colours at the KwaZulu-Natal Canoe Union Awards evening. Emma was also presented with the KZN junior and senior women's marathon trophies. She won 6 Gold medals in the KZN Sprint Canoe Championships and was awarded the U16 Victrix Ludorum for the event. Emma raced in the SA Sprint Championships, in the U18 Category and won 3 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal as well as the Silver Victrix Ludorum for the event. Emma won the U18 K1 category and the Senior Women's K2 race in the KZN Flatwater Marathon Championships.

**Kathryn Rennie** was placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the Interschool slalom event. She won a silver medal at the Africa Championships for Slalom Canoeing.

### SQUASH:

KZN team (U14A): **Kirsty Hulett**

### ECO-CHALLENGE 2009:

Junior Winners: **Andrea de Boer** and **Jeunesse van Zuydam**

6<sup>th</sup> - Junior: **Robyn Trollip** and **Kerryn Coulthard**

4<sup>th</sup> - Senior: **Amy Kamhoot** and **Samantha Stewart**

### CYCLING:

**Lara Perrett** completed the 2009 Cape Argus.

**Andrea de Boer** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the KZN Championships and 2<sup>nd</sup> youth female in the half marathon at the Karkloof Classic Cycle Race. She came 2<sup>nd</sup> in her age group at the SA Mountain Bike Cross-Country Championships and won a silver medal.

### EQUESTRIAN:

**Julia van Niekerk** was awarded the Pony Rider EM Dressage Victor Ludorum for 2008 by the KwaZulu-Natal Horses Society. EM dressage is the highest level at which Pony Riders (15 years and younger) can compete in South Africa. She won the KwaZulu-Natal leg of the SANEF National Dressage competition. She was selected as a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Adult Showing team to compete at the South African National Showing Championships, and was awarded her Senior KwaZulu-Natal colours for showing.

**Jessica Hodgkinson** was awarded the JE Victor Ludorum for Showjumping by the KwaZulu-Natal Horses Society. She was placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in her level in the SANEF Schools' Competition. Jessica was selected for the KwaZulu-Natal SANEF Schools' Team.

### POLOCROSSE:

South African U16 team: **Janine Meyer**

Zambian team: **Candice** and **Kirsten Michelson**



# Parents' Association Report

## It is with great pleasure that I report on the activities of the Parents' Association (PA) over the past year.

At the Parents' Association AGM held in May 2009, the PA welcomed the following new parents onto the committee: Mrs Dody Geyser, Mr Anthony Chantler, Mr Andrew Pratt, Mr Marcus Burnett and Mr Riaan Saayman. Mrs Mary Rice has subsequently also joined the committee.

The following parents agreed to stand another term: Mr Greg du Preez (Chairman), Mrs Nicky Erasmus (Secretary), Mr Shaun Anderson (Treasurer), Mrs Chantel Allen, Mrs Louise Clark, Mrs Robyn Kirkby (Staff & Parent), Mrs Sue Pousson, Mrs Helen Reynolds, Mrs René Saayman, Mr Mark Sorour, Mr Alf Welgemoed, Mrs Alex Welgemoed, Mr Dave Wryley-Birch and Mrs Lindsay Wryley-Birch.

The St John's staff were ably represented on the committee by Mrs Linda Stoffberg, Mrs Annette Symes and Mrs Wendy Griffiths.

The PA has performed admirably throughout the year considering the following highlights:

St John's Day was again highly successful and extremely well supported by parents, teachers, scholars and old girls alike. As usual, the PA provided their enthusiastic management of the catering, resulting in a wonderful array of delightful eats and drinks which contributed greatly to the success of the day.

The PA purchased three new outdoor gas heaters for the school which were used during several cold and frosty winter evenings, creating a very needed, warm and inviting ambiance for a vast array of school functions.



Pictured above is Andrea de Boer and Mrs Stoffberg handing over a cheque of R9 000 to Mrs Eunice Ntshangase, Principal of Ashburton Primary School

This year the PA adopted a new AGM format which included social and edutainment aspects that proved highly successful.

Besides the normal business matters of the AGM, our invited guest, Craig Joubert provided a highly entertaining insight into the thrills, spills and unpopular decisions of an international rugby referee, to the delight of all who attended.

This was then followed by a cocktail party for all attendees which provided a wonderful opportunity for old and new acquaintances to be cemented.

The second annual Stihl St John's Bundu Bash multi-sport event proved to be a great success once again, despite the highly adverse weather conditions on the day. The event took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

This event requires many months of intense planning and preparation by an extremely dedicated Bundu Bash Committee.

This committee includes members of the PA, as well as many voluntary parents and teachers of the school.

The following highlights of the Stihl St John's Bundu Bash event warrant further mention:

- The profit generated amounted to approximately R90 000 from which the PA were able to donate R9 000 to the Ashburton Farm School and R2 500 to the Baynesfield Conservancy where the event is hosted.
- The main sponsor of the event has been secured again for 2010. This action is highly significant in that it is a further endorsement of the overall success of this growing event.
- The growth of the St John's Bundu Bash has spawned the upgrading of this single event into an event series with St Dominic's School from Newcastle choosing to host their own Bundu Bash event on 31 October 2009. Their event took place within a nature reserve near Utrecht in northern KwaZulu-Natal and also proved to be a great success in all respects.
- The Bundu Bash Series was televised for the first time on DSTV Supersport.

I would like to thank each and every person who helped make the Bundu Bash event such a success this year. I would also like to thank the many sub-sponsors of the event because without their support and generosity, an event like this would be far more difficult to put together.

As Chairman of the PA, I must thank all parents and staff for their unstinting support of the Association throughout the year.

Regards

**Greg du Preez**



# Chaplain's Report

**We continue to have chapel services** on Wednesday mornings and Sunday evenings. The Rev. John Read and I take alternate Wednesday services which are Morning Prayer in one week and the Eucharist in the next. In addition to the two of us, the Rev. Mabel Dalby also takes some of the Sunday services which are Evening Prayer in one week and the Eucharist in the next.

We have also had Rev. George Lawrence, another assistant priest in the parish, doing one of the Sunday evening services which went down very well as it showed another facet of our diversity.

Over the period of Lent the girls attended the youth services led by the Youth Pastor and youth from St Matthew's parish in Hayfields. Other young people from St Nicholas and Alexandra High schools also attended these services. Owing to the pressure of the academic work, these services have been reduced to once a month. I am grateful to the school for ensuring that the girls are safely taken to and from St Alphege's.

Once a month, on the first Thursday we have a service for the Junior School. These have been a great joy to me. The little girls are absolutely delightful. As



Rev Bellina Mangena, Chaplain



Alice O'Neill and Tegan Mill attending the Valedictory Service

often said to the staff, I really feel sorry talking to them like little girls, and they have been most gracious.

All went well with the St John's Day service, one of the highlights in the life of the chapel. Sadly, though, a fire started in the vestry after everybody had left the Chapel. Thanks to the presence of mind of one of the fathers, it was stopped before too much

damage was done. The vestry has subsequently been cleaned and painted and my burnt vestments have been replaced.

On 19 September, the day before the Matric Dance, a service of Holy Communion was held in chapel for the Society of St John the Divine and their friends and associates.

On 23 September our diocesan bishop, the Rt Rev Rubin Phillip, confirmed 22 of our girls and a young man from Alexandra High School in a lovely service. The beautiful flowers further enhanced the feeling in the chapel.

I am sorry that I have not been able to get the girls more involved in leading the services as I had hoped to, but we shall surely get there in God's time

A year later, I apologise to Mrs Forbes and Mrs De Jager together with both choirs for not acknowledging them in my report last year. I truly thank God for your dedication in ensuring that we have good music in all the services.

I am truly grateful for the help and reminders from Mrs Zartmann, Mrs Westwood and Miss Bhengu.

May the God of Peace continue to guide and protect you all.

**The Rev. Canon B. Mangena-Chaplain**

## Sisters of St John the Divine News

### **We have been living in Umdoni**

Retirement Village, Pennington for some time now. It is a big Village and we are very happily settled.

We are able to continue our life of Prayer, and as a community we are kept very busy, just as busy as we were before we came here, even though it is called "a retirement village".

We help at the Umdoni and Selborne Chapels as lay ministers and cup bearer, and visiting in the village.

Sister Sophia continues as sacristan of the Umdoni Chapel and visits in the village. Whenever the Kids' Club is able to meet, the children are fetched from the nearby township of Malangeni. Sister is able to speak isiZulu, and this is a great help.

Sister Mary Evelyn is also a lay minister

and takes the Sacraments to the sick and needy. Sister has served on the School Board of Governors for a number of years. Sister goes up to School for St. John's Day, when she enjoys meeting some of the Old Girls that she has taught and hearing about their daughters and their grandchildren! Speech Day is another special day for her, when she is able to meet some of the parents and Old Girls, and to hear about the achievements of the present girls. Sister would attend other functions but transport is a problem. Sister looks after the Associates and Friends of the Society. They have four Meetings a year, one of which is held at St John's. There are about 200 members and they are scattered far and wide. While

Sister was in England recently she was able to contact some of them and also was able to meet up with a small group of Old Girls.

Sadly, Sister Margaret Anne has advanced Alzheimers and Rebecca and I are responsible for her care. She remains the same gentle person and is always grateful for whatever is given to her or done for her.

Having joined the Society some two years ago, I am still very busy with my parish work as well as acting as part-time secretary, lay minister and driver!

No account about the Sisters would be complete without mentioning Bruno, a SPCA special! He is a much loved dog not only by the Sisters, but also by some of the residents of the Village.

**Sister Hilary**



# Board of Governors and Management

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

BISHOP M. NUTTALL (CHAIRMAN)  
 BISHOP R. PHILLIP (VISITOR)  
 SISTER MARY EVELYN  
 SISTER HILARY  
 MR B. CLARKE  
 MRS D. FITZSIMONS  
 MR P. FOWLES  
 MR A. MEYER  
 MRS I. MKHARI  
 MR A. NAIDOO  
 MRS D. PERRETT  
 MR J. SABINE  
 MR H. TIMM  
 MR G. USHER  
 PROF. V. WEDEKIND  
 MR R. ZAMMIT

## MANAGEMENT

HEADMISTRESS	MRS L. STOFFBERG
DEPUTY HEAD (SENIOR SCHOOL)	MRS A. GUNNING
JUNIOR HEADMISTRESS	MRS A. SYMES
H.O.D.	MRS B. KIDD
H.O.D.	MRS D. ADAM
H.O.D.	MRS K. STAKEMIRE
H.O.D.	MISS T. WHITFIELD
HEAD OF BOARDING	MRS A. BURN
MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR	MRS R. KIRKBY
BUSINESS MANAGER	MR M. TAYLOR

## Academic Staff



**Front Row:** F. Malherbe, D. Adam, K. Stakemire, A. Gunning, L. Stoffberg, A. Symes, T. Whitfield, B. Kidd, A. Harris  
**Second Row:** A. Tivcheva, A. Barry, N. Crosson, J. Keevy, M. Evans, D. Murugan, Z. Saragee, J. Dyson, N. Foss, S. Singh  
**Third Row:** C. Beattie, S. Zartmann, L. Stretch, C. Cumming, H. Bates, L. Osborne, B. Sara, R. Freese, D. Elliott, B. Willows, R. Schoeman  
**Fourth Row:** W. Griffiths, L. Joubert, J. Grové, S. Bowen-Davies, C. Schirge, N. Kelbrick, T. Schwegmann, F. Forbes, S. Perks, H. Gcwabaza  
**Back Row:** K. Anderson, V. Haskins, J. Christodoulou, J. Humphrey, K. Bisschoff, K. Currie, G. Freese, J. Ducasse, L. Steenkamp, B. Gebers, A. Edmonds, P. Serfontein



# Academic Staff 2009

**Mrs L. Stoffberg** MA, UED  
Headmistress

**Mrs A. Gunning** BA, BEd, Dip Dat, MM  
Deputy Head/Mathematics

**Mrs A. Symes** NTSD, HDE  
Deputy Head/Junior School Headmistress

**Mrs D. Adam** NTSD, HDE  
Grade 6

**Mrs K. Anderson** HDE, FDE  
Grade 7

**Mrs A. Barry** BA, HDE  
Grade 00

**Ms C. Beattie** BA Fine Arts, HDE  
Art Senior School

**Mrs K. Bisschoff** BEd  
Art/Junior Resource Centre

**Mrs S. Bowen-Davies** MA, PGCE  
Counsellor/Life Orientation

**Mrs K. Burke** BA Hons, HDE  
German

**Mrs J. Christodoulou** BA, HDE  
Life Orientation

**Mrs N. Crosson** BA, HDE  
Consumer Studies

**Ms C. Cumming** BSc, PGCE, NDip Nat Cons  
Mathematics

**Mrs K. Currie** HDE, Dip LSEN KC  
Junior Remedial

**Mrs G. Ducasse** NTSD, HDE  
Grade 5

**Ms J. Dyson** BA Hons PGCE  
History

**Mr A. Edmonds** BSocSci, HDE  
Geography

**Mrs M. Evans** BSocSci, HDE  
Drama

**Miss M. Filmer** BA Hons, HDE  
Drama

**Mrs F. Forbes** Dip Ed  
Music

**Mrs N. Foss** BSc, HDE, BEd  
Natural Science/Physical Science

**Mr G. Freese** BSc Hons, PGCE  
Mathematics

**Mrs R. Freese** NTSD, HDE  
Grade 1

**Mrs H. Gcwabaza** BA, HDE, HRM  
isiZulu

**Mrs B. Gebers** HDE  
Mathematics

**Mrs T. Gillham** BSoc Sci(SW)  
Counselling/Life Orientation

**Mrs W. Griffiths** NTSD, HDE  
Grade 0

**Mrs J. Grové** BA HDE, Dip Zulu  
Sport/Zulu

**Mrs A. Harris** NTSD, HDE  
Afrikaans

**Mrs V. Haskins** HDE  
Senior Resource Centre

**Mrs J. Humphrey** BSc, HDE  
Life Sciences

**Mrs L. Joubert** NTSD  
Grade 3

**Ms J. Keevy** BAM, BA Dram, BA Dram Hons, MA  
Drama

**Mrs N. Kelbrick** BEd ( FDN & INT )  
Physical Education

**Mrs B. Kidd** BA, HDE, BEd  
English

**Miss I. Koen** MA, UED, FDE  
Junior IT

**Mrs C.F. Malherbe** BA, HOD  
Afrikaans

**Mrs M. Moola** BEd  
Geography

**Mrs S. Perks** BEd, NTSD  
Grade 4

**Miss P. Pletts** BSc, LLB, MCSE  
Senior IT

**Mrs N. Roux** B Mus (Hons)  
Music

**Mrs B. Sara** BA, HDE  
Life Orientation/Geography

**Mrs C. Schirge** IMM, PGCE  
Physical Education

**Mrs R. Schoeman** BA, HDE  
English/Afrikaans

**Ms T. Schwegmann** HDE  
Sport Co - ordinator

**Mrs P. Serfontein** HDE  
Assistant Junior Teacher

**Miss S. Singh** BCom, PGCE  
Technology/EMS

**Mrs C. Solomon** BMus ( Ed )  
Music

**Mrs K. Stakemire** TD  
Mathematics

**Mrs L. Steenkamp** BA, HDE  
Afrikaans

**Mrs L. Stretch** HDE  
Grade 2

**Mme A. Tivcheva** MA  
French

**Mrs M. Vermaak**  
French

**Mrs R. Wiesner** BSoc Sci (SW)  
Counsellor/Life Orientation

**Ms T. Whitfield** HDE-Economic Sciences  
Accounting/EMS

**Mrs B. Willows** BSc, HDE  
Life Sciences/Natural Sciences

**Mrs S. Zartmann** BA, HDE  
English



# Support Staff 2009

## ADMINISTRATION

**Mr M. Taylor** - Business Manager  
**Mrs T. Meier** - Assistant To The Bursar  
**Mrs K. Haigh** - Debtors Clerk  
**Mrs C. Guest** - Administrative Assistant/Secretarial  
**Mrs S. Olivier** - Administrative Assistant  
**Mrs S. Miller** - Accounts  
**Mrs J. Westwood** - Headmistress' Secretary  
**Mrs S. Dinkelman** - Junior School Secretary  
**Ms N. Bhengu** - Reception  
**Ms P. Msomi** - Administration Clerk

## MARKETING:

**Mrs R. Kirkby** - Marketing Co-ordinator  
**Mrs H. Evans** - Marketing Assistant

## SCHOOL SHOP

**Mrs E. Barthorpe** - Shop Manager

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT (peripatetic staff)

**Mrs T. Govender** (piano)  
**Mrs S. Wallis** (violin)  
**Mr L. Lewis** (drums)  
**Mr W. Shone** (guitar)  
**Mr N. du Plessis** (guitar)  
**Mr D. Solomon** (trombone)  
**Mrs S. Bower** (flute, clarinet, piano)  
**Miss M. Solomon** (piano)  
**Mrs C. Solomon** (permanent-part time Junior Music, Junior Choir and private piano)  
**Mrs N. le Roux** (permanent-part time Matric Music, piano and wind instruments)

## COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

**Mr J. Shuttleworth**

## LABORATORY ASSISTANT

**Mrs D. Murugan**

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**Mrs V. Schlebusch**

## BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT

**Mrs A. Burn** - Head Of Boarding  
**Mrs T. Zimu** - Housekeeping  
**Mrs J. Unser** - School Matron  
**Ms M. Majoli** - Housekeeping  
**Mrs B. Naude** - School Matron  
**Ms A. Mbona** - Housekeeping  
**Sr C. Seggie** - Sanatorium Sister  
**Sr B. Kidgell** - Sanatorium Sister



**Front Row:** C. Guest, S. Dinkelman, M. Taylor, J. Westwood, R. Kirkby

**Second Row:** E. Barthorpe, S. Miller, H. Evans, K. Haigh

**Back Row:** T. Meier, N. Bhengu, P. Msoni

**Not in photo:** S. Olivier



Mr C. Harris



Mr C. Mkhize



Staff members at a fire-fighting demonstration



Kitchen Staff



Kitchen Staff

## BOARDER MISTRESSES

Miss Z. Saragee, Miss E. Worthington, Miss J. Murray, Miss S. Worthington, Miss A. Arapogloy, Miss M. Gibbs, Miss C. Joubert, Miss P. Ndimande

## TRANSPORT

**Mr R. Payne** - Transport Manager  
**Mr A. Thabethe** - Driver

## GROUNDS

**Mr C. Harris** - Estate Manager  
**Mr C. Mkhize** - Supervisor  
**Mr C. Mazibuko** - Indoor Centre Supervisor  
**Mr S. Moses** - Painter  
**Mr D. Jasson** - Carpenter  
**Mr N. Magwaza** - Gardener

## GROUNDS ASSISTANTS

Mr S. Ngubane, Mr I. Ndebele, Mr J. Ndebele, Mr P. Sokhela, (the late) Mr N. Gwala, Mr M. Mgwaba, Mr C. Mhlomeni, Mr D. Mchunu

## KITCHEN

**Ms P. Naidoo** - Caterer  
**Mrs P. Moodley** - Assistant Caterer  
**Mr J. Mkhize** - Chef  
**Mr B. Mkhize** - Chef

## KITCHEN ASSISTANTS

Mr L. Maduna, Mr A. Ngcobo, Miss P. Zungu, Mr M. Sumo, Miss Z. Ntombe, Miss J. Dlomo, Mr A. Maduna, Mrs J. Dlomo



# Boarding Establishment



Front Row: J. Unser, A. Burn, B. Naude Back Row: B. Kidgell, C. Seggie

This has been a busy year in the Boarding Establishment. My thanks go to the Boarding Establishment staff - Mrs Unser, Mrs Naude, the kitchen staff, the Clinic sisters and the Boarder Mistresses - for all their help and support this year. Everyone plays his/her own part in making this "a home away from home" for your girls.

**Our main aim this year has been to** modernise and brighten our surroundings.

It was with delight that we were able to carpet the stairway and landing on the kitchen side. What a difference it makes!

We have tried to keep the history of the school evident in the furnishings and pictures in the foyer area. The girls' dormitories have been painted, have new curtains and in some areas

new furnishing, thanks to a generous donation by an Old Girl. The servery area has been repainted and redecorated.

The relocation of the clinic office to larger and more suitable premises has been very successful and the presence of a Sister in the afternoon has been of great value, especially at sports events.

The introduction of DSTV has been very well received by the girls.

Our Matric Wing boasts a new kitchenette for the girls to use and the bathrooms have been upgraded and redecorated.

We have introduced a small computer room into the Boarding Establishment this year which has proved most useful to the girls at night and over weekends.

My sincere thanks go to the parents for their support and co-operation throughout the year.



# *New Staff*



**Alexandra Barry** GRADE 00



**Jean Christodoulou**  
PART-TIME LIFE ORIENTATION



**Jacqueline Keevy** DRAMA



**Hayley Bates**  
FOUNDATION PHASE INTERN



**Colleen Cumming** MATHEMATICS



**Belinda Kidgell**  
PART-TIME CLINIC SISTER



**Siobhan Bowen-Davies**  
COUNSELLOR and LIFE ORIENTATION



**Heather Evans** MARKETING ASSISTANT



**Garric Freese** MATHEMATICS



**Robyn Kirkby** MARKETING



# *New Staff*



**Francina Koen** JUNIOR IT DEPARTMENT



**Beryl Naude** HOUSE MOTHER



**Brenda Sara** PART-TIME GEOGRAPHY



**Tracey Meier** BURSAR'S ASSISTANT



**Sherayne Olivier** ADMIN ASSISTANT



**Lucinda Stretch** GRADE 2



**Gwyneth Pendock** ARCHIVIST



**Mumtaaz Moola**  
PART-TIME GEOGRAPHY



**Philipa Pletts** SENIOR IT DEPARTMENT



**Tracey Schwegmann**  
SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR



## LONG SERVICE AWARDS

● 25 YEARS ● 25 YEARS ● 25 YEARS ● 25 YEARS ●



**ANTOINETTE HARRIS**

Antoinette has been a loyal and dedicated member of the St John's staff for 25 years. Over this time, many girls have passed through her warm and loving hands. She has shared with them her passion for her subject, and they too have grown to love Afrikaans and have done their best to converse in the language! Antoinette has always shown care and motherly concern for all her pupils, not only for their academic progress, but also their emotional and spiritual development.

As a committed Christian, she has lived out her belief in daily life and shown compassion to those less fortunate, together with willing pupils, by her involvement with the Blood Clinic and the Salvation Army Childrens' Home. At Interact's weekly visits to the latter, she can be seen with more than one little one vying for her attention and warm embrace. She has reminded us of the needs of local communities by organizing school contributions when appeals are made, and her enthusiasm to improve others' lives is infectious. She has shared her passion for the environment, and her frequent chaperoning of the Grade 9 St Lucia trip gave her the opportunity to impart much of her knowledge in this field.

Antoinette is loved and respected by colleagues and pupils for her warm-heartedness, integrity, and her willingness to put others first. We thank her for all she means to St John's.

Frith Malherbe

### MARY MJOLI

Another staff member to be congratulated on 25 years of dedicated service is Mary Mjoli.

Mary started with us in our Laundry Department and following its closure at the end of last year, she moved to the Boarding Establishment, working in housekeeping.

We thank her for all her years of service to St John's.

Congratulations, also need to go to other long-serving staff members.

● 10 YEARS ● 10 YEARS ●



Judith Grové

● 10 YEARS ● 10 YEARS ●



Sharon Miller

## LOCUMS 2009

A sincere thank you to the following locum teachers for their contribution during 2009:

**Mrs Diana Hawthorn** - Natural Sciences and Life Sciences

**Miss Aline de Santiago** - French

**Mrs Joyann Goddard** - Life Orientation

**Mr Stephen Watt** - Mathematics

**Miss Philippa Taylor** - Physical Education

**Mr Cilliers Heymans** - Afrikaans

**Mrs Dallas Elliott** - Junior IT

## Weddings



Tracey Schwegmann and Graeme Hawkins were married on 24 October

## New Babies



Mrs Nikki Kelbrick with her beautiful daughter Joslynne, born on 22 June



Congratulations to Mr Jason Shuttleworth on the birth of his son, Kyle, on 31 October





## CYNTHIA GUEST

Cynthia's association with St John's goes back almost half a century - when the Sisters of St John the Divine still taught here!

She first came to the school in 1960 as a day girl in Std 7 (Grade 9) and in her four years here she excelled in

gymnastics, swimming and horse-riding, and was a first team hockey player.

At that time, the Admin. department was run by just one woman, Miss Phyllis Savory, an extremely efficient bookkeeper with a remarkable memory, to whom the boarders had to account, in detail, for each sixpence drawn from their own pocket money.

Any similarities drawn between Miss Savory and subsequent Admin. staff end there, for when Cynthia joined an expanded department in 1983, she introduced a note of considerable elegance after her predecessor's ankle socks and lace-up shoes, and all the school keys on a string round her neck. Even the office environs were beautified by Cynthia's planting and tending of rose-bushes.

By now, four women ran the department and all records and bookkeeping details were entered in their own handwriting. But as changes were made and computers introduced, Cynthia took

things in her stride – indeed, with great competence. Will photocopying ever be the same without Cynthia on call when things go awry?

Cynthia is a loyal Old Girl and a fine example of this good school. A stickler for good manners and correct procedure, she also has a wonderful, at times wicked, sense of humour. Her extensive knowledge of plants came into good use when she listed and numbered the many indigenous trees planted by Mrs Raab, and every Junior School child has always known that she must run to Mrs Guest with any injured bird.

Cynthia has always shown great consideration and care for staff needing help, and her concern for, and kindness to kitchen and maintenance staff will be sorely missed - as will her fluency in isiZulu! Enjoy a happy and well-earned retirement, Cynthia.

**MARY-LYN TENNANT**



## MOIRA FILMER

Moira started her teaching career at St John's in 1998. With her lively and outgoing personality, she quickly fitted into the life of the school, and made good friends with many of the staff.

Over the next eleven years, Moira was to become involved in many areas of school life. She taught a range of subjects such as English, IsiZulu and Divinity, but her main teaching subject (and love) has always been Drama. She taught girls from Grade 0 to Matric, and often remarked on the difficulty of

teaching 5-year-olds to grow like a sunflower in one lesson, and Stanislavsky's contribution to 20<sup>th</sup> century theatre to 17-year-olds in the next!

A close reflection of Moira's career, shows two passions: Dance and Shakespeare. She was able to share both these with the school over the years. Moira, along with Joan Atwell, choreographed a dance piece for the experimental Dance programme called *Millennium Funk* in 2000. Little did anyone know, that 10 years later, this experiment would be a definite part of the school calendar (now just called *Funk*). But it is Moira's contribution to this annual event that has resulted in its success every year, as well as St John's consistently high level of participation in *Funk*.

Moira has also been the driving force in creating the St John's Dance Company, which practices every Tuesday. The company has been able to perform for the last three years at Epworth's ExperiDance in the third term.

Twice in her time at St John's, Moira has bravely tackled a Shakespearean play with the Senior School. Both plays, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Comedy of Errors* were extremely successful. One of the greatest demands in producing these plays, was to ensure

that the casts understood Olde English, and could speak it meaningfully on stage! No mean feat in the days of e-mails and SMS! Moira has also shown her love for Shakespeare by attending a 6-week Shakespeare course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London during her long leave.

Moira was involved in many productions at St John's, both in the Junior and the Senior School. These productions, although an annual event for her, have often been a highlight of the school careers of the casts.

An avid hiker herself, Moira has taken part in many school hikes. She was very active in the planning for the initial uHambo in 2008 and successfully led a group herself. Moira has been involved in running the S.C.A from 2007, and also served as Rhodes House Mother from 2006.

Moira's sunny personality and enthusiastic nature will be missed. She loved St John's and all the girls she taught here will testify to her caring nature. We wish her well in the rest of her teaching career.

**MARILYN EVANS**



# Staff farewells



**ZWELIBOVU MKHIZE**

**Mr Zwelibovu Mkhize** (affectionately known as Mr Mkhize), has been our support staff Induna for the past seventeen years. Mr Mkhize joined St John's in 1993 working mostly with the maintenance section and in the latter years, after illness, managing the daily opening and securing of gates and classrooms on the school premises and monitoring the general movement in and around the school over weekends. We thank him for his committed service to St John's and will miss his cheerful presence. We wish him all the best in his retirement.



**PATRICIA GILLHAM**

**Mrs Trish Gillham**, Life Orientation teacher and Counsellor, was at St John's D.S.G. for a relatively short period of time, but managed to pack into her stay an inspiring level of commitment, energy, passion and achievement. Her caring and dedication were known not only to the girls and academic staff, but to Management, kitchen, maintenance and administration staff, too.

Trish extended the same warmth, empathy and encouragement to all. She instinctively knew when someone was in need of a kind word, a hug, or some gently offered advice.

Trish is nurturing and protective, but always empowers others to find their own solutions. She is loving and kind, but nonetheless fair, firm and honest, with a homespun commonsensical approach to matters.

Trish would gladly sacrifice her own family time and personal needs for anyone who truly needed her at St. John's. Her car was parked at the school until late every day, and she spent many hours over weekends and holidays with the girls (especially those boarders with parents living far away) who needed her at dentists, hospitals and in the Boarding Establishment.

Trish has left St. John's girls with a wonderful sense of their own self-worth, a confidence in themselves and their abilities, well-developed problem-solving skills, and a balanced outlook on life.

We wish her all the best in her new position at St Anne's, and our respect, affection and best wishes accompany her.

**J. HUMPHREY**



**GARRIC FREESE**

**Mr Garric Freese** leaves us after one year, as his contract comes to an end. He has been a multi-talented addition to the Maths Department.

We have enjoyed his willingness to become involved in so many areas and wish him well in his future teaching career.



**NOLA LE ROUX**

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to **Mrs Nola le Roux** who has been an integral part of the Music Department for the past two years. Besides teaching the IEB Music Syllabus, the contribution she has made to the development of our flautists, clarinettists, saxophonists, recorder players and pianists is immeasurable. Whilst all pupils and staff will miss her terribly, we wish her every success and happiness in the future.

**FAY FORBES**



**MEGAN BRINDLEY-RICHARDS**

**Megan Brindley-Richards** started at St John's in 2008 as a part-time Life Orientation teacher in the High School.

Megan decided to leave St John's in February this year in order to continue her studies full time.

We wish her well in her studies, and for her future career.



# Staff farewells



## DALLAS ELLIOTT

Mrs Dallas Elliott stepped in as the Primary School I.T. teacher at St. John's at very short notice at the start of the third term and we thank her for her enthusiasm and willingness to teach the girls.

We wish her every happiness in her retirement.



## JEAN CHRISTODOULOU

Mrs Jean Christodoulou has served the school well as a part-time Life Orientation teacher since the start of the third term in 2009.

We thank her for so ably taking up the position and trust it has been a pleasurable experience for her.

We wish her well in her future endeavours.

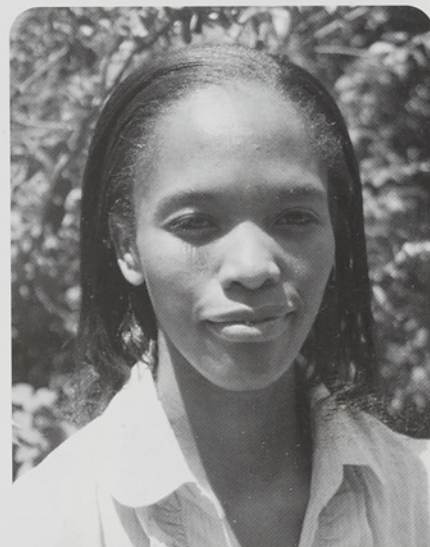
## ROELIEN WIESNER

Mrs Roelien Wiesner, a social worker, joined St John's D.S.G. as School Counsellor in April 2009. Sadly, she left at the end of August.

Although her stay was brief, Roelien touched the lives of both staff members and all the girls she taught and counselled.

We wish her all the best in her new position working for the National Prosecuting Authority and thank her deeply for the time she spent at St John's

SIOBHAN BOWEN- DAVIES



## ZINHLE SARAGEE

Miss Zinhle Saragee came to St John's in January, 2008, as part of the ISASA Maths and English programme. She was chosen from 200 applicants to complete her PGCE at UKZN under the guidance of St John's.

During her time here, she has been involved in the Mathematics, Technology and Natural Sciences departments.

Zinhle has participated in many areas of school life, aside from teaching, such as fitness, creative dance, road-running and she even went on tour with the Grade 8's. She has performed her duties as a Boarder Mistress responsibly and with enthusiasm and will be sadly missed by all the girls and staff.

We wish her everything of the best as she starts her teaching career.



## CLARE VAN DAELE

We wish Mrs Clare van Daele all the best, as she joins her husband in his retirement.

Clare, a St John's Old Girl, has led the Bible Study leaders since 2004 and has worked closely with the S.C.A. Committee – personally leading their study.

The level of her commitment to the girls and St John's has been felt through prayer and her devotion to the Mothers who Care.



## BARRY CLARKE

Mr Barry Clarke, Board member, Chairman of the Business Affairs Committee and ex-parent, left Pietermaritzburg in August, to relocate to the Cape. He and his wife, Jenny, have been part of the St John's "landscape" for many years and it will be very strange not to have their friendly presence at so many of our functions. Barry has served St John's with commitment and loyalty. His financial expertise will be missed at Business Affairs meetings. We wish both Barry and Jenny a very happy "new life" in Fish Hoek. We know, though, that St John's will continue to be a part of their memories, as they will of ours.



# *In memory of...*



## *Elaine Murray*

28 December 1917 to 31 May 2009

Elaine Murray had taught at St John's for some 40 years before her retirement in 2005. She was the most colourful personality who, as a young woman, danced on stage in the West End, captivated audiences with her piano, flute and dance recitals, and served as a WAF during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

Those of us who knew her, were saddened by her passing this year and our school community felt very humbled when we discovered that she had bequeathed all her assets to our school. A lasting legacy from a grand lady!

**Fay Forbes**

## *Nicholas Gwala*

We were very sad to hear about the death of Nicholas in July, 2009, after a short illness.

He joined the St John's family on 1 April 1997 as an assistant carpenter to Mr Dennis Jasson in the workshop.

He then worked as a gardener and was also willing to assist in any kind of work he was asked to do.

Nicholas was friendly, helpful and a real gentleman.

We will miss him.

**Miss N. Bhengu**







Robynne Balcomb



Jessica Bartlett



Leslie-Anne Britz



Storm Clark



Tamrin Crosby



Brogen Crosson



Tasqeen Dawad



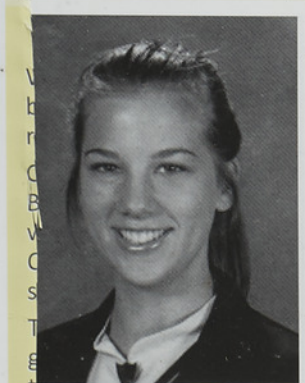
Sarah Evans



Robyn Everett



Emalin Govender



Caitlin Hellberg



Jane Jager



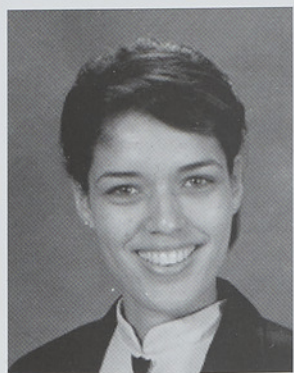
Robyn Johnson



Alexandra Kilgour



# Matrics 2009



Courtneë Kleinhans



Hayley Knight



Sarah-Jane Lait



Radiyya Latiff



Debbie Lander



Carmen Leisegang



Kirstin Mackenzie



Natalie Maguire



Cara Marx



Khanya Maweni



Sarah McKenzie



Tegan Mill



Roxanne Moberly



Nicola Mundell



Mershalene Naicker



Barbara Ojur





Kristel Ortmann



Lara Perrett



Sisonke Petse



Kathryn Rennie



Andrea Schröder



Supriya Soorju



Sarah Stewart



Sarah-Jane Vance



Lindy Ward



Erin Wessels



Brittany Westhorpe-Pottow



Jessica Wolhuter



Claire Wryley-Birch

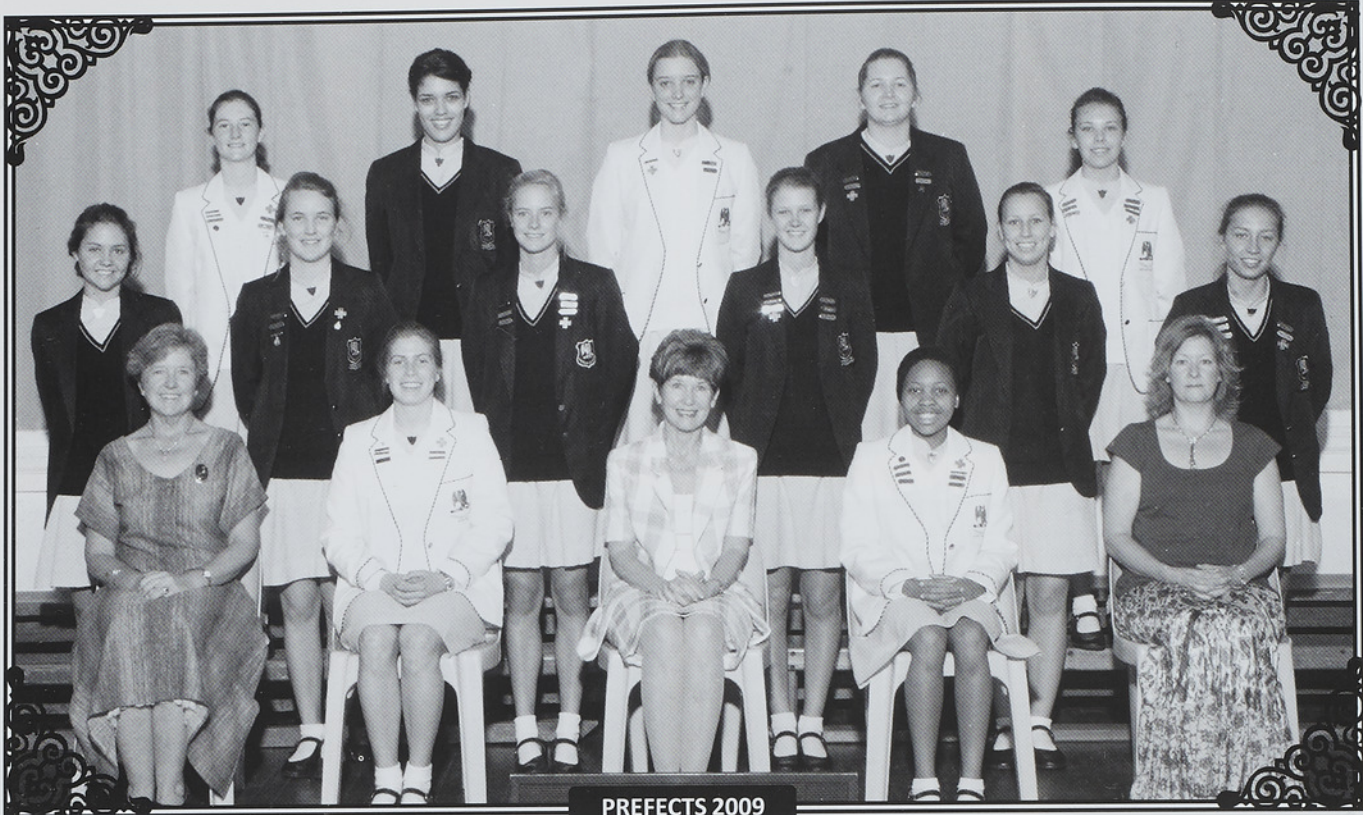


Nonhlanhla Zondi





# Prefects 2009



**PREFECTS 2009**

**Front row:** Mrs Gunning, Tegan Mill, Mrs Stoffberg, Sisonke Petse, Ms Whitfield

**Second row:** Robynne Balcomb, Robyn Everett, Jessica Wolhuter, Carmen Leisegang, Erin Wessels, Nicola Mundell

**Back row:** Robyn Johnson, Courtneë Kleinhans, Kristel Ortmann, Claire Wyrley-Birch, Alexandra Kilgour

## Prefects' camp

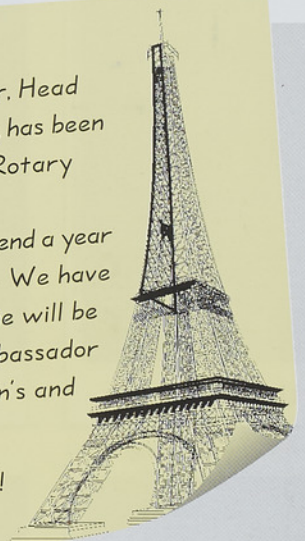
On Saturday, 17 January, the Prefect body departed for their leadership camp at Mbangweni Lodge on the Baynesfield Estate. A great deal of excitement and anticipation was felt by all prefects prior to the weekend as it marked our starting point as leaders of the school for 2009. During the camp we were given the opportunity to learn more about ourselves, one another and our potential as effective leaders. The course was facilitated by Judy Koch, as well as Ms Whitfield and Mrs Gillham. Together with their guidance, and our own initiative, we planned how we were going to lead the school in 2009.

A team motto that we plan to emphasise this year is: **"2009 is the year to shine"**. This idea was developed over the course of the weekend and stands as a pillar of motivation for all the girls at St John's for the coming year.

The weekend was full of memories, laughs and bonding and the experience has already proved to be invaluable

Alexandra Kilgour, Head Boarder Prefect, has been selected by the Rotary Youth Exchange Programme to spend a year in Paris in 2010. We have no doubt that she will be a wonderful ambassador both for St John's and South Africa.

Well done, Alex!



to the entire prefect body. The weekend wouldn't have been possible without the organization of Ms Whitfield and all the prefects are very grateful to her for the planning which ensured the success of the camp. It was truly a most beneficial weekend for all.

**Tegan Mill**





**GRADE 12K**

**Front row:** Storm Clark, Nonhlanhla Zondi, Jane Jager, Mrs Kidd, Caitlin Hellberg, Radiyya Latiff, Tasqeen Dawad

**Second row:** Emalin Govender, Sarah-Jane Lait, Sarah Stewart, Jessica Bartlett, Robynne Balcomb, Debbie Lander

**Third row:** Roxanne Moberly, Sisonke Petse

**Back row:** Natalie Maguire, Sarah McKenzie, Barbara Ojur, Andrea Schröder, Claire Wyrley-Birch, Jessica Wolhuter



**GRADE 12Z**

**Front row:** Tamrin Crosby, Alexandra Kilgour, Brogen Crosson, Mrs Zartmann, Mershalene Naicker, Tegan Mill, Hayley Knight

**Second row:** Lara Perrett, Cara Marx, Sarah Evans, Sarah-Jane Vance, Brittany Westhorpe-Pottow, Khanya Maweni, Nicola Mundell

**Third row:** Robyn Everett, Carmen Leisegang, Kristel Ortmann, Lindy Ward, Erin Wessels

**Back row:** Leslie-Anne Britz, Kathryn Rennie, Kirstin Mackenzie, Courtneë Kleinhans, Robyn Johnson, Supriya Soorju





## "... - then on the shore / of the wide world I stand alone, and think"

*John Keats – When I have fears*

One foot on the sheltered shore of our childhood, the other in the cool water which will whisk us away to our bright futures; we are standing at the edge of a wide world, entranced and bedazzled with its glamorous glow. This is what we have dreamed of; this moment; this time, when independence, liberty and freedom could be tasted, felt, seen, enjoyed. In all our school years, we have looked to the end of our school career with a longing, not necessarily to leave, but to experience reality. There's something alluring; something tangible, about the unknown.

But I'm pausing; looking back. Why would I choose to leave the safety and security which childhood has offered? I have been blessed with the innocence and the freedom to be unsuspecting and accepting, and I'm beginning to feel that truly leaving my childhood may not be as radiant as I have always imagined. I have been cared for, provided for and catered for. Food has been expected on the table at a certain time, and earning money has merely involved asking for it. In my naivety, I have known nothing of the terrors which this world so easily offers us. I have been oblivious; ignorant even, to the fact that bad things happen to good people; that those who deserve to be dealt a bad hand are blessed with the good life, and plainly; simply, that life just isn't fair.

Slowly, unfortunately, my view of life has become tarnished. My outlook on this bright world has been blurred, and I have begun to realize that perhaps my future won't be filled with "sunshine and rainbows." Some time in my innocence, it has dawned on me that becoming a cashier won't necessarily allow me to live comfortably; in "financial freedom". School has become a bore; an obligation rather than a joy. Friends have changed, and make-believe games have become a distant memory. Being honest became harder, and hiding emotions became easier. I learnt that love doesn't always last, and that greed and jealousy are the roots of all human evil. I learnt that people lie, cheat and steal, and that human desire often overrules good judgement. I realised that trust must be earned, and loyalty shown. I learnt that life comes with a use-by date, and that each day I've been blessed with must be made worthwhile and important, because it may be my last.

"On the shore of the wide world I stand alone," with a foot in the sea of life. But the water isn't what I expected. It is swirling around my feet, giving me a glimpse of what the future has in store for me. I am hesitating on the brink of adulthood, wanting to turn back the clock. But a larger, more significant and far more pressing part of me knows that my life must be lived, and that I need to be independent in order to fully enjoy what God has in store for me. I know that stepping out into the sea of life is my destiny, and that in order to find myself, I may need to "begin with a walking away." (Day Lewis – *Walking Away*)

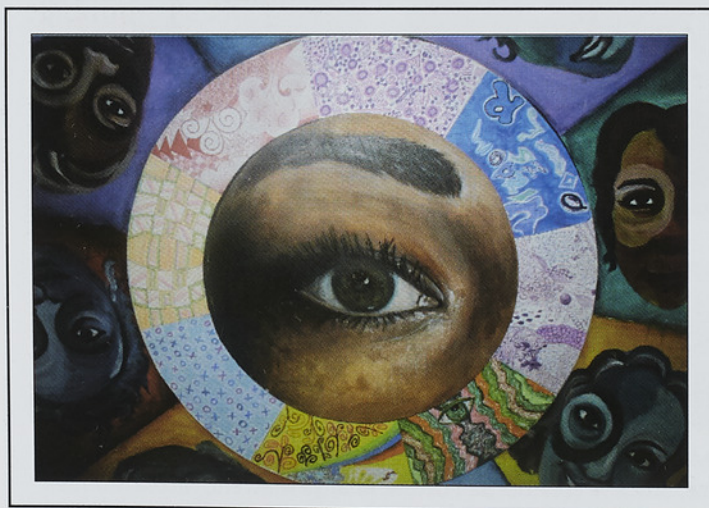
**Carmen Leisegang**



**KRISTEL ORTMANN**



**STORM CLARK**



**CARA MARX**



**“I thank You God for most this amazing day:  
for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a  
blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes”**

*- e.e. cummings*

I find myself sitting in a deck chair looking at the mountains whose colours are constantly changing and the shadows deepening as the sun sets over the Richtersveld. Content with my cup of Five Roses tea in hand, accompanied by my book, my burnt arms thankfully resting after a day of tiring paddling, I take in the scenery surrounding me. I can smell our supper being prepared by our guides, Lazzie and Rastus. The sound of the reeds rustling and the river running is all I can hear. I can truly say that sitting here I am in awe of creation and can do nothing but thank God for most this amazing day.

It has been two days since I left civilization to paddle the Orange River with my family, and two guides who are now more like companions. However this day did not began as peacefully as it ended.

The day began with the sun piercing my eyes as I lifted my sleeping bag. Once I had taken the sleep out of my eyes and had a few minutes to wake up, I stepped out of my “bed” which consisted of a ground sheet, my red sleeping bag and a pillow case stuffed with clothes. Lazzie then presented us with tea accompanied, of course, by an Ouma rusk and shortly after, a full house breakfast.

After a tasty breakfast, Sarah and I packed up. This involved stuffing our possessions into a waterproof barrel. When that was done we began paddling down the muddy looking river. Our ride was often interrupted and slowed down as we

would get wedged between and stuck on rocks whilst rafting the rapids and have to be rescued by our guides. Sarah was unaware of the comfort of the back of the rubber boat as I never allowed her to experience it. The heat was kept at bay by the occasional splashing and jumping in the river.

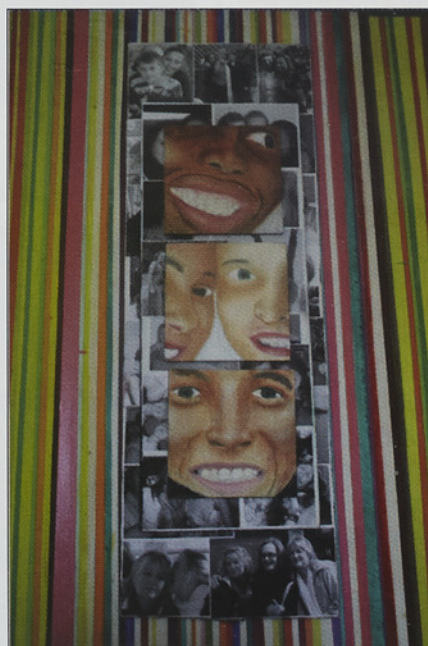
Three hours passed and we arrived at our lunch destination. It was a large area of white sand with a patch of shade big enough for the six of us to squeeze under. After a lunch consisting of wholewheat bread with multiple toppings and a quick nap, we were on the river again. Despite the large lunch we had just eaten, Sarah and I indulged in sweets from our cooler box. The heat was beginning to get to us and our conversations quickly became demands. The heavy paddling was helped along by the rapids as well as the entertainment from Mum and Dad. At one point we looked over and realised the power and forward momentum of Mum and Dad’s boat was coming from Mum whilst Dad sat leisurely at the back gently skimming the water. We could also enjoy the scenery around us: the sand dunes with patches of grass and the clear blue sky, and most importantly, the silence which came with the feeling of knowing I was amongst God’s creations.

After a long and tiring day we arrived at the appropriately named camp called “The Ritz”. There was a large area of lush green grass with shady trees and reeds in the midst of a desert. We offloaded our barrels and minimal possessions and then began to set up camp, which didn’t take much time. And here I am, sitting in a deck chair with my book and a cup of Five Roses tea admiring God’s creation. This is bliss. The only thing I will not miss about this day is “Doug” the toilet spade.

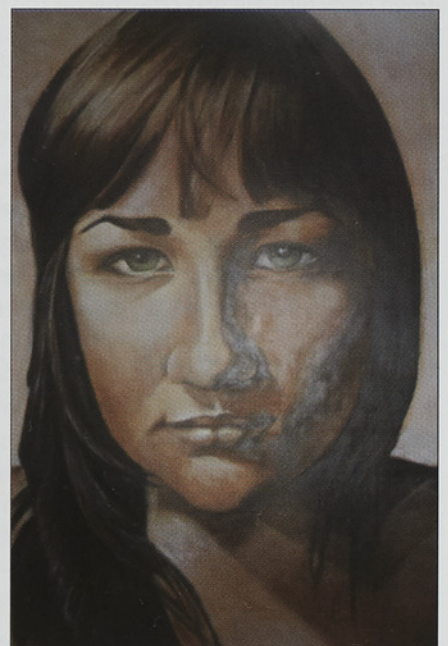
Jane Jager



ANDREA SCHRÖDER



NICOLA MUNDELL



CARA MARX



## "Sometimes when it rains"

- Gcina Mhlophe

I couldn't find my tiger. I could hear his cries, his pleas for help but I could not find my tiger. The rain filtered the sound, making it difficult to follow the sound. I would follow it as far as I could only to find myself face to face with a solid obstacle. I was heart-broken.

As the rain lashed the windows, I tried to see out. My tiger hated the rain. He usually hid his rather substantially sized body under my bed. I had searched all his favourite places in my small dwelling. He wasn't usually hard to find. Bright orange with black strips, my tiger was easily seen in the dark. He wasn't inside. I looked out the windows with dread. The rain was pelting down. Hard clay was turning into mud and the river outside was threatening to burst its banks and it had only been raining for fifteen minutes. I had to admit, I hated the rain almost as much as my tiger. The thought of having to venture outside was not appealing but my tiger's cries called to me. I had to do it. For him.

With that thought, I opened the door and stepped down. Which caused some confusion as my house had no front step; it was on the same level as the ground. I looked down to see I had no feet. I could have sworn I had feet before I had left the house seconds before. I gingerly lifted the leg and was greeted with a brown *thing*. Ah, the mud. Another reason I hated the rain. It turned the small yard into a mud bath. A little put off, I continued on. Not long afterwards I came face to face with the river. As I watched, debris from upstream floated past. Luckily I didn't need to cross it. Yet. My tiger's cries seemed to be coming from the left. Or was it my right? I wasn't too good with direction. I was navigating my way over rocky terrain and around the big trees in my yard (it seemed to me they owned the land more than I did) when I saw him. He was crouched at the base of a mountain trying to shelter from the rain. He looked much like the kitten he had been twelve years ago. Looking at him I could see he was miserable and more than a little annoyed. I bent over and collected his soggy form into my arms.

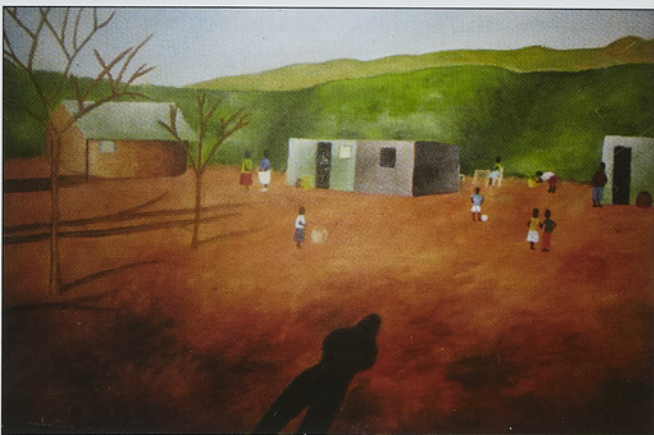
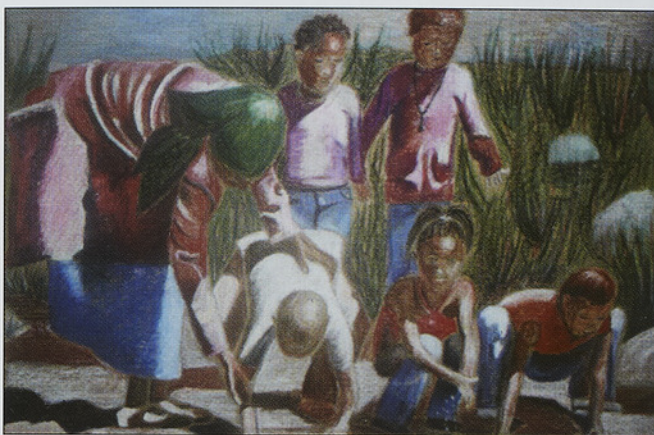
Suddenly the world seemed less frightening. As I moved away from the garage door and over the gravel driveway, I murmured comforting words to the antagonized cat. His heavy form could make even Garfield seem skinny and my arms quickly fell asleep. As I passed the storm water drain it overflowed onto the pavement and more debris started its journey to the sea. My feet were once again immersed in mud as I trudged to the back door. I would have to start nagging Dad to cement the pathway; this was ridiculous. As I tried to wipe the mud off my feet, my tiger leapt out of my arms and stalked through to the kitchen and its underfloor heating. I could almost make out the little black cloud hanging over his little head.

I had found my tiger. And sometimes, when it rains, I imagine the cries and relive the adventure.

Lara Perrett



JANE JAGER



NICOLA MUNDELL

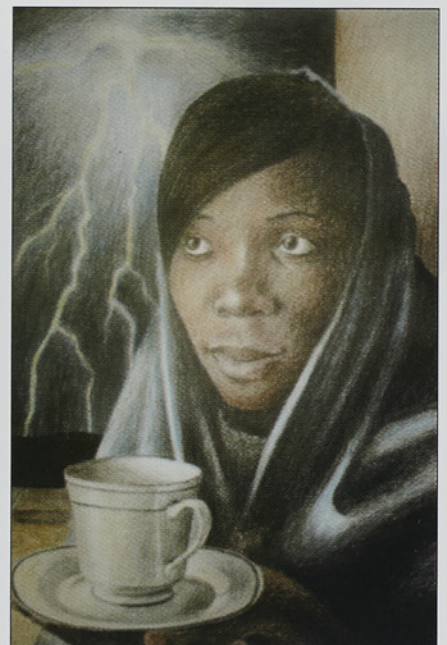


NATALIE MAGUIRE





SARAH MCKENZIE



KRISTEL ORTMANN

## That private piece of paradise

A knocking at the door and harsh torchlight falls across my bed. "It's time to go!" a voice urgently whispers. Peering, bleary-eyed, through the torn, faded curtains, I see the sprinkling of stars across the vast expanse of dark, dense sky – like gold dust in a deep, cool river. I am in the bushveld – my family's reserve, and it's time...

I struggle on some clothes and follow blindly in the slow, steady march to the main mud hut. With a mug of tea in one hand and an 'Ouma' rusk in the other, the family huddles in a half-woken state. And then we're off! Clambering onto the backs of old bakkies, we throw blankets and scarves, beanies and gloves to one another in the effort to keep out the crisp, dry coldness.

The bakkies bounce over stone-strewn roads, around corners, through creeks. Were those eyes, secretly gleaming like rubies, or fires in the night? Birds take off, startled and flapping, from in front of the wheels. We sit and gaze at the fading stars, making out constellations from the mass of galaxies, our white hands clinging onto cold metal. Will we make it in time?

The hill looms from the darkness – rising up to meet us. The dark shadows intrigue me but intimidate me still. There could be anything in there, waiting, watching... The bakkies come to a stop. The men load their guns and start to move forward. We follow, up and up we go, tripping, stumbling, like fools in the darkness we go – quite unlike our wild counterparts, so lithe and agile in this overgrown place they call home.

We're at the top! Rocks and boulders adorn this place – 'Hyena Koppie' as it is known. I wonder how it got its name – it must

surely be an ancient story, generations long. And then we sit, waiting, watching. Silence is broken only by muffled voices, so foreign in this forgotten world. A greyness appears on the distant horizon. We hold our breath and wait...

There it is! The flaming, orange-pink ball leaps over the horizon – eager to break free from the chains of the night. Light diffuses out in every direction as the sun shakes off all sleepiness. It casts a brilliant glow over the plains stretched before it, gilding them in that all-precious goldenness, caressing them with that life-giving warmth. I see giraffe below, elegantly stretching their long necks up to meet their saviour, while antelope bow before it.

Still we sit, watching, yet no longer waiting. Content in the world and happy in ourselves, we sit in one another's company. We look around at the day unfolding, the sun ironing out any dark creases made by the night. The bush awakens with a liveliness uncommon to city life, from the bubbling, bursting rivers to the chattering, twittering, laughing birds. This place does nothing half-heartedly.

And so we arise, rejuvenated by this sight before us. Bursting with joyful energy, we bound down the hill – the children exploring every rock and crevice. Once more, we clamber onto the bakkies and rumble back to camp on winding roads. Animals bound before us and our chattering carries along the rivers – the life winding through the dusty plains. In this way, we travel to our ancient camp, where the smell of wood smoke and the memories of times gone by will greet us. And I think to myself, this is my private piece of paradise.

Robyn Johnson





# Matric Dance



The Grade 11's, together with the teachers who assisted them – Mev. Malherbe, Mrs Humphrey, Mrs Haskins and Ms Beattie - transformed the hall from a dreary examination venue to a room that was undeniably very “grand”, one that could easily have been mistaken for something awaiting the arrival of a queen.

The theme this year was “Marie Antoinette” and the cream drapery, rich heavy pink tablecloths, excessive

use of fairy lights, beautiful candelabras and magnificent flower arrangements set the tone for the evening.

Added to this were the appropriately dressed waitresses who wore French maid outfits of black and white, heavily rouged cheeks, high, flamboyant hairstyles, and ruby red lips.

The food was delicious and thanks

must go not only to the school kitchen, but also to the catering committee, who even made the fresh bread rolls themselves!

The attention to detail in all the areas was outstanding and the Grade 11's are to be commended for the smooth running of the entire evening. They can be proud of what they achieved and the fact that the Grade 12's enjoyed every minute of the experience is not surprising.





# Matric Dance





# Grade 11



## Formal



The Grade 11's again showed what St John's girls are capable of by organizing another wonderful evening enjoyed by all!



## Matric Dance



Having done such a great job with the Formal, the grade 11's pulled out all the stops to give this year's Matrics a night to remember! Well done, girls!







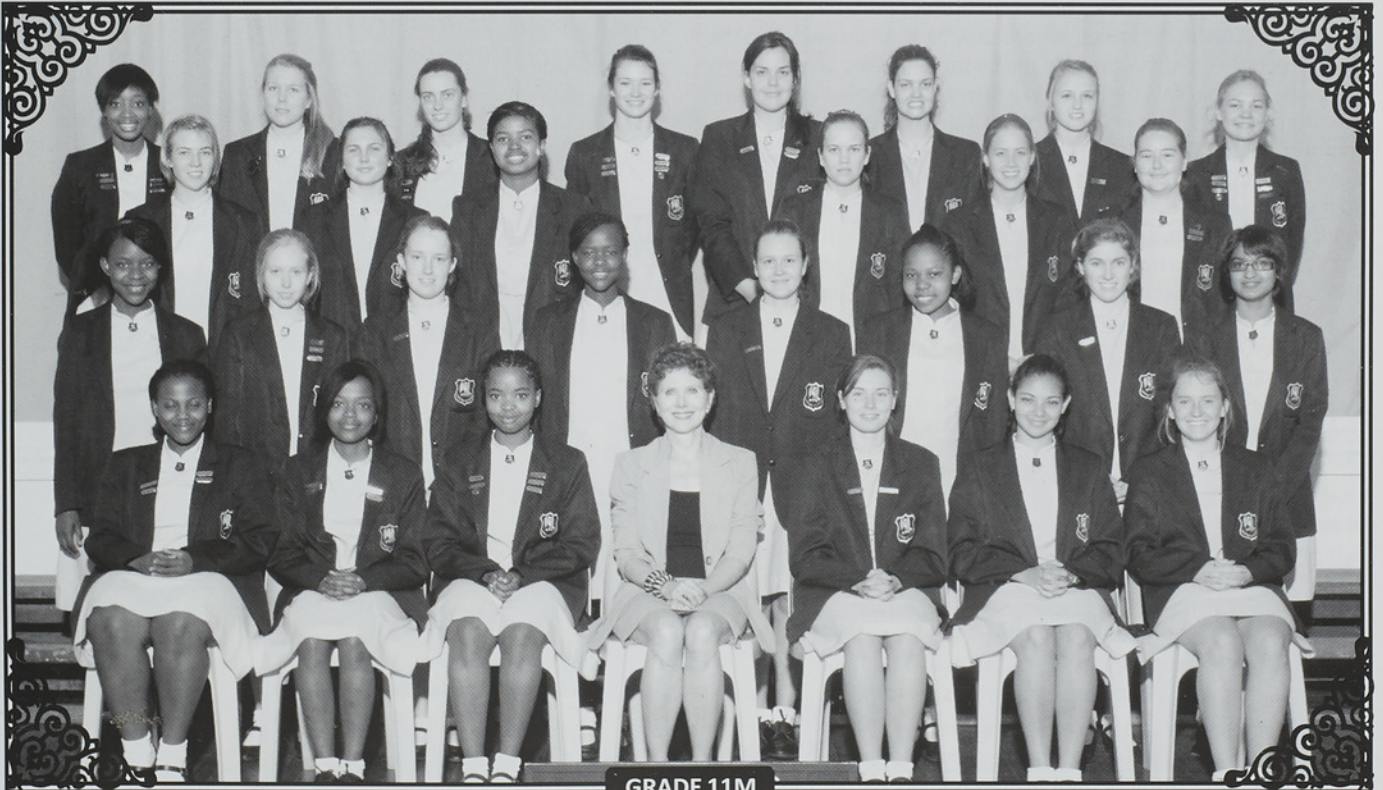
**GRADE 11H**

**Front row:** Zola Conco, Jodi Melrose, Leigh de Bruyn, Mrs Humphrey, Keleigh Wicks, Kira Mackenzie, Amy Sorour

**Second row:** Meagen Bremner, Hayley Rodgers, Lara-Jane Domleo, Nicole Allen, Amy Talmage, Jessica Dawson

**Third row:** Hannah March, Lara Maguire, Robyn Lang, Alice Williams, Melissa Wessels

**Back row:** Amy Kamhoot, Flore Laugaudin, Stephanie Bruce, Lucy Welgemoed, Simone Schelin, Sarah Brummer



**GRADE 11M**

**Front row:** Khanyesile Ndlela, Yonke Mkhize, Nqobile Msomi, Mrs Malherbe, Sarah de Matos-Ala, Keziah Crosson, Michelle van der Merwe

**Second row:** Nomfundo Shange, Jessica Campbell, Tatum Page, Fezeka Mayisela, Tessa Button, Gugulethu Mkhabela, Grace Duff, Darsha Indrajith

**Third row:** Dominique de Mare, Catherine Tatham, Mbalenhle Majola, Michaela Jahngig, Emma Stuart-Hill, Gina Frangs

**Back row:** Lihle Bhengu, Rachel Bean, Alice O'Neill, Samantha Stewart, Sharon Faure, Abbey Hudson, Siobhan Borain, Janine Gebers



## Parents are ruining school sport

Pushy parents are ruining school sport – not only for their own children, but for other teams, players and spectators too. Winning is considered to be everything, even if it means stooping to the levels of cheating, aggressive or disgraceful behaviour, or intense pressurising. This reflects badly on the parents and affects their children and the school, taking away the spirit of the game.

The highly competitive nature of parents nowadays results in their children bearing the brunt of their pressurising. This sees their children becoming unsportsmanlike and overly obsessed with winning. This, in many cases, can lead to a child's being pushed too far, resulting in injuries or even fatalities. Pressures such as these are removing school sport from the realms of fun and teamwork, and children can end up resenting their parents and disliking sport. It can also have drastic effects on other aspects of a child's life, such as a deterioration in the standard of their schoolwork and can cause unnecessary stress on their friendships. Children are at a delicate developmental stage in their lives and parents exposing their children to unnecessary pressures and stress are ruining school sport.

Parents, neurotic about their child's success in sport, spoil school sports for everyone. Their shouting and screaming from the sidelines not only distracts the players and causes huge embarrassment to their child, but also irritates spectators immensely and reflects badly on the child's school. The spirit of the game is somehow lost, as people are driven mad by the idiot screaming: "What the hell are you doing?!" at their child, and one feels then that the game has lost its appeal. Confrontations with referees, too, are becoming a common practice with parents and lead to the disrepute of a school. Some school have resorted to banning some parents at certain events or have enforced rules in order to maintain a level of control. It can thus be seen that the disgraceful behaviour of parents at school sports events show that they are ruining school sport.

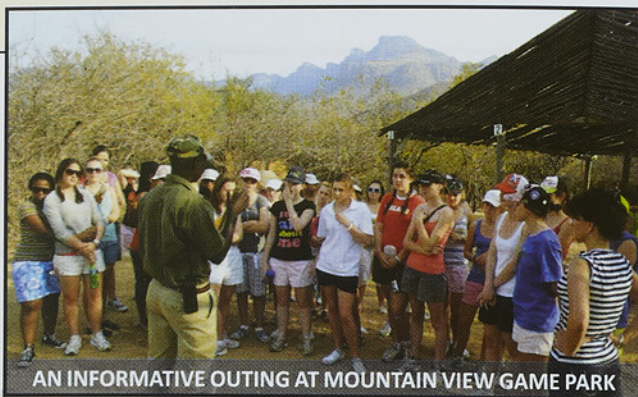
Incorrect messages are being left in children's minds and they are at a critical stage in their lives, where they need to be guided in the right direction. Children, pressurized by their parents on the sports field, see their parents behaving in a disreputable manner and are therefore taught that it is socially acceptable to behave in such a way. Although it is good to support and encourage one's children, this is not the way in which to do so. They need to be pushed to do their best, in a productive, caring way that does not adversely affect them or those around them. Children must be told, when they do not do well, that it's not the end of the world, NOT how stupid or useless they are – parents must be more understanding and empathise with their children. Children perform better when encouraged and, surprisingly, not when screamed at!

Acknowledgement of their efforts is vital, as it positively encourages and creates a yearning to do well and succeed of one's own accord. Hence, it can be seen that parents sending the wrong messages to their children at an early stage, are ruining school sport.

One can argue that it's a good thing that parents are making the effort to attend and participate (although negatively) in school sports. There is, however, a fine line between acceptable social interaction at sports events, and intimidating, aggressive behaviour. Parents should find a balance between good sportsmanship and competitiveness, as this is what so many parents are lacking, making school sports excruciatingly difficult for other spectators to watch. One can, therefore, therefore clearly see that parents are ruining school sport.

In spite of the fact that parents are at sports events, seemingly supportive of their children, it is apparent that they are ruining school sports. This is as a result of their highly competitive natures and negative influence over their children, the intense pressures that they place on their children, the disrepute they bring into schools and the frustration they cause spectators. Hence, it is true, in many respects, that parents are ruining school sports.

Jessica Campbell, Grade 11M



AN INFORMATIVE OUTING AT MOUNTAIN VIEW GAME PARK

## MPUMALANGA

This year's tour to Mpumalanga was again met with much excitement as we clambered onto the bus in the very, very early hours of the morning, bundled up in blankets and sleeping bags! Later that day, the experience of walking through the huge expanse of the Sodwala Caves was amazing.

The breathtaking views during our stay at Graskop and visits to God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes filled us all with a sense of wonder at the natural beauty that Mpumalanga has to offer.

On our arrival at Moholoholo two days later, we were met with an overwhelmingly dry Bushveld heat! This, however, did not stop us from enjoying a very informative afternoon bushwalk followed by an exciting night drive later that evening.

Visits to local Wild Life Organisations the next day gave us all food for thought, as we were made aware of the plight of so many wonderful and beautiful animals.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable trip!

Mrs Vesta Haskins



FEEDING THE VULTURES AT THE MOHOLOHOLO REHAB CENTRE



GOD'S WINDOW



SOME OUTDOOR COMPETITIVE FUN



ENJOYING A QUIET MOMENT



GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS!





**GRADE 10C**

**Front row:** Lindelwa Ndlovu, Lineo Mokoatsi, Claire Johnson, Mrs Crosson, Samantha Ntombela, Wezeka Stofile, Sibusisiwe Makhanya  
**Second row:** Courtney Graham, Amy-Jade Mc Duling, Ashley Schelin, Kelly Burne, Natasha Rencken, Alexis Ramsay  
**Third row:** Lyndsey Smart, Andrea de Boer, Hannah Gillitt, Kendall Williams, Frances Bam, Bophelo Nakin, Nicole Amos  
**Back row:** Brittney Freese, Philippa Kampmann, Casey Bartlett, Courtney Clegg, Camryn Cochrane, Nkhensani Mkhari



**GRADE 10F**

**Front row:** Liane Chetty, Julia van Niekerk, Bianca Wittig, Mrs Foss, Gladys Swatson, Laura Cole, Bridget Morgan  
**Second row:** Heidemarie Kirn, Jeunesse van Zuydam, Jessica Taylor, Lauren Sole, Tegan van der Westhuizen, Catherine Elstob, Rachel Alberts, Jemma Brewitt  
**Third row:** Chloë Kilgour, Candice Michelson, Victoria Aadnesgaard, Janine Meyer, Paula Uken, Kirsty Weaver  
**Back row:** Pooja Singh, Helen Aadnesgaard, Jenna Annandale, Megan Mackenzie, Samantha Arnold, Jessica Hodgkinson





*A moment to relax*



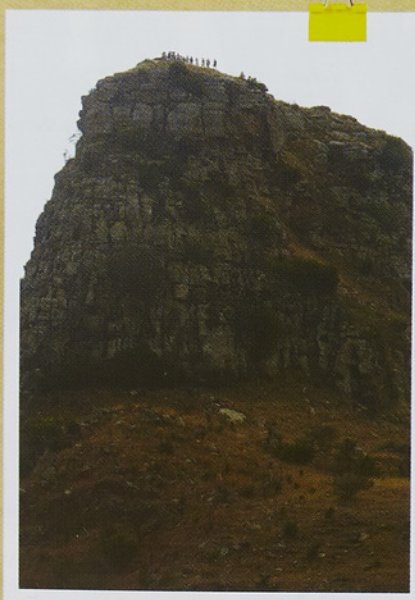
## BABANANGO

This year the tour to Babanango was very different from previous years in that we experienced hot weather not unlike the stifling heat of February. We had set off equipped with a multitude of items to help combat the cold. The gloves, beanies, scarves, hot water bottles and real down sleeping bags were not needed! All that we did need were swimming costumes and shorts!

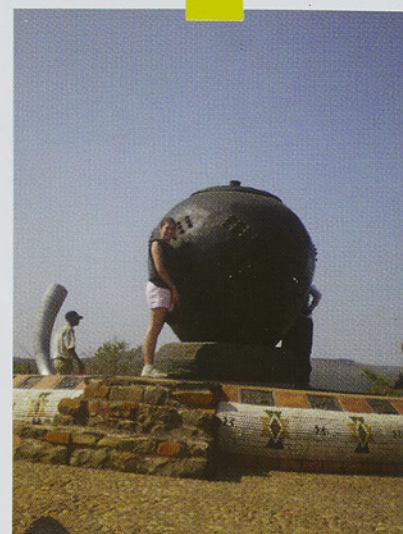
In spite of the high temperatures, the girls entered into the activities with apparent interest and sufficient enthusiasm to satisfy the teachers. They learned much, giggled (as only teenage girls can) and screamed whenever a spider or a mouse (described by many as "a rat") came within ten metres of the tents! Luckily, all the girlish squeals were not enough to awaken the snakes which were still in their winter slumber.

This was St John's tenth visit to the Rock Pools camp at Babanango and we look forward to another 10 years of tours to this most beautiful valley.

**Mrs Kay Stakemire**



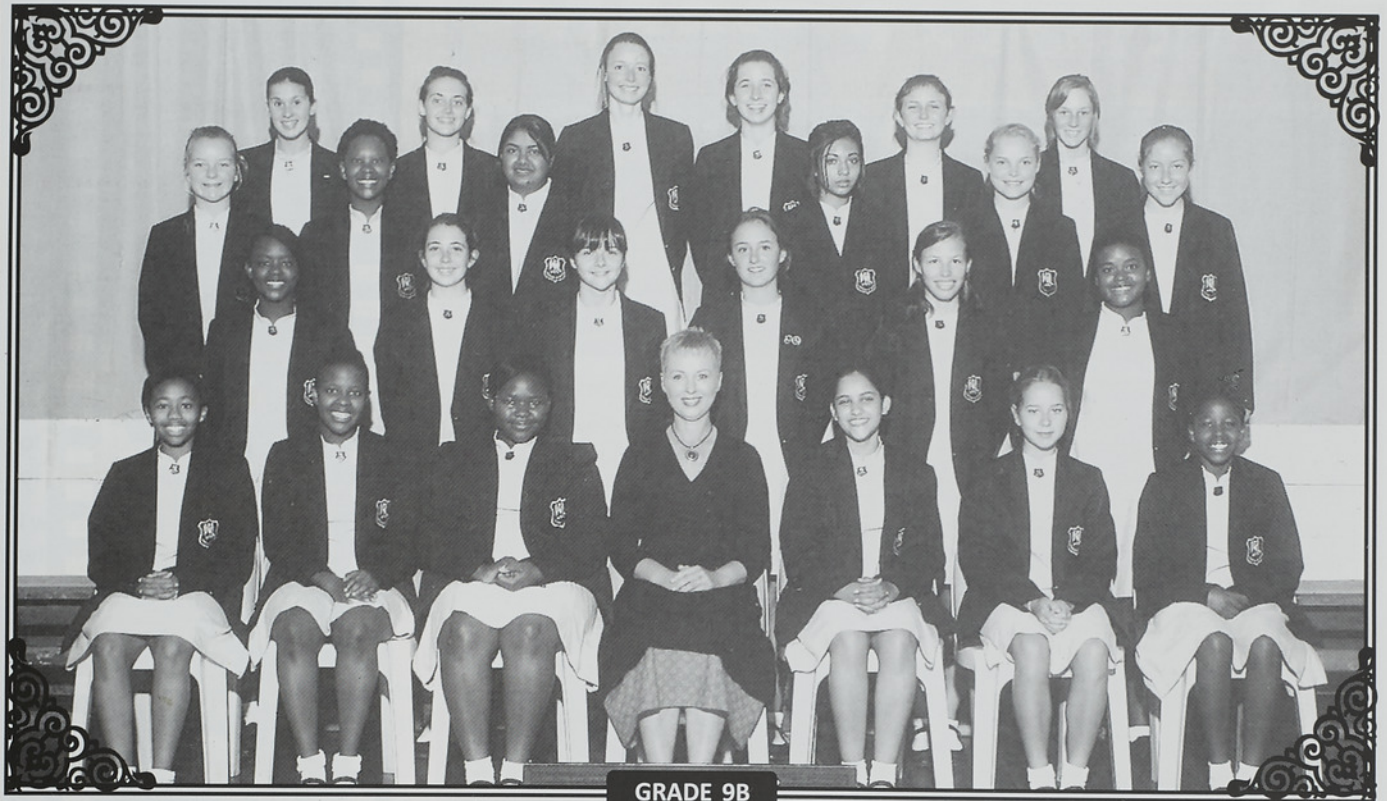
*Those tiny specs at the top are us!*



*Let's go exploring...*







**GRADE 9B**

**Front row:** Lethuxolo Shabalala, Awiwe Myendeki, Lonathemba Radebe, Ms Beattie, Ashmika Maney, Jessica Goble, Kholeka Khoza

**Second row:** Nkosinothando Mayisela, Shannon Leahy, Paige Langenhoven, Kirsten Michelson, Tegan Hartzer, Katleho Tshabalala

**Third row:** Robyn Watson, Ludumo Mrwebi, Miasha Pillay, Naisha Ramlal, Amelia Conradie, Amy Oldfield

**Back row:** Emma Horner, Sarah Murton, Kate Currie, Dominique Gonggryp, Kimberly Bingel, Jodie Battershill

**Not in photo:** Jessica Francis, Zinhle Khoza



**GRADE 9D**

**Front row:** Shweta Panday, Olivia Pillay, Holly Howland, Ms Dyson, Navasha Moodley, Asma Latiff, Kairavee Maharaj

**Second row:** Bianca Pyman, Emma Erasmus, Thelishia Moodley, Elsa Scharf, Justine Pearson, Tarryn Knight

**Third row:** Menica Govender, Kerryn Coulthard, Sarah Briggs, Emma Huntley, Nikita Naicker, Shannon Nieuwoudt

**Back row:** Abbey-Anne Martin, Nicola Kirkby, Candice Parkes, Amy-Beth Kleinhans, Robyn Trollip, Jordan Robertson



# Grade 9 uHambo



We had our second very successful uHambo earlier this term where the Grade 9's spent 20 days hiking, cycling and pony-trekking in the southern Drakensberg and Lesotho. While the girls were presented with many challenges, all successfully completed this "journey" and reached the top of the mountain! This is a trip that the girls will remember for the rest of their lives because it took many out of their comfort zones, yet at the same time, provided much fun, learning and bonding time with classmates.

This is a unique school trip in KwaZulu-Natal. There are many who contribute to the success of St John's uHambo and the project wouldn't be possible without the fantastic support of parents, staff and girls.

Ms Teresa Whitfield

Each Grade 9 girl had to represent her experience on uHambo visually and symbolically in the form of a crest, badge, photo essay or collage, and then explain her design. This is how Sarah Murton explains her experience!



My badge has three flags, symbolising three weeks and Group 3. They are each a different colour:

**Red** - symbolising perseverance and determination

**White** - representing tolerance

**Blue** - suggesting unity

I chose these elements for my flags because these are the areas in which I grew during uHambo.

I learnt tolerance through cooking, walking and being with the same

people every day, learning to accept and live with others' differences.

I learnt perseverance and determination by getting into a daily routine and realising my physical potential.

I learnt unity through teamwork and shared experiences.

The barbed wire fence represents challenges and overcoming them! It also reflects a "highlight" of my experience because it evokes the memory of cycling into such a fence!

The sun represents nature, and that there is always a bright, positive way to look at things.

The winding path symbolises the choices we make, the road we take and the fact that each way we turn we end up somewhere completely different.

The green background represents the future, looking forward, planning ahead and looking forward to unlimited possibilities.

My experience on uHambo will stay with me forever !





## Causing Trouble (for myself in the end)

The morning of our 10<sup>th</sup> day was overcast and misty, a welcome change from the blistering heat of the three preceding days. We left our campsite in high spirits and feeling fresh. Well, at least I did! A hundred or so metres out of camp we crossed a high bridge, supported by two rather thick beams. In my "bubbly" mood I decided to test the flexibility of these two beams and stepped out of rank to bounce across the bridge.

I was about halfway across the bridge when my very full, very heavy, very solid water bottle, which was dangling from my neck, decided to copy the bridge and me and join in on the bouncing! Within two skips it gained tremendous momentum and height and came up to whack me, unsurprisingly solidly, on the nose.

Needless to say my bubbly flounce instantly became a dazed stagger and I reached the end of the bridge feeling a tad unsteady and with a numb nose. Once safely back on land, my brain decided to operate functionally and promptly told "The Pain" to "catch a wake up". "The Pain" realizing he was late, rushed into my nose with more force than was probably necessary, and that's probably what brought on the nosebleed.

Kate Currie, Holly Howland and Kerryn Coulthard chose that exact moment to march past, and, before I even had time to think about blotting up the blood, they had stuck an abnormally large tampon up my tiny nostril and were making me grin goofily for photos. My left nostril, I'm convinced, is still bigger than my right!

JUSTINE PEARSON



There is no "I" in team, I fully understand this now. Teamwork is vital in order to enjoy a worthwhile experience as a group. Little things like helping each other get past a fence, or helping someone who is ill, are excellent examples of working as a team, and not just for yourself. During uHambo, I realised that we need others' support and encouragement in order to do our best. Being a part of a group is to put others before our own selfish needs. You can't simply walk at your own pace, because some others are too slow for you. Being in a group, you would have to be considerate about how the group is doing, and not how you are coping, because as they say, "a team is only as strong as its weakest member." I believe that this photo encapsulates the meaning of teamwork, and that teamwork itself can be a measure of how much we have developed and matured during uHambo.



Of our time together, and most of all, to make the most of what we have. I realised that you don't need state-of-the-art facilities to have fun and enjoy yourself. This experience taught me the important life lesson of making the most of life.

One of the most important things that carried me through my physical uHambo journey was determination. Whenever I felt like giving up, something inside me kept saying "one step at a time; we're nearly there." If it weren't for that little voice, I probably would still be on a mountain in Underberg! Now I realize that with a little bit of determination, ANYTHING is possible. To succeed, you have to have faith in yourself, as well as perseverance. With this you alone can move mountains...or at least walk on them!



In this picture, the Giant's Cup is one of the hazy mountains in the distance. From Day 1 on uHambo, we used this mountain to mark our daily achievements. For us to see it every day was a constant reminder that our goals were in sight. It kept us motivated to keep going, because we knew that every day, we were one step closer to our final destination. The actual Giant's Cup became a symbol of what we've achieved, and what we can still accomplish.



This picture may just look like some grade 9 "idiots" trying to play rounders with rolled up socks and a hiking stick, but I think it is more than that. It is a picture of us having the time of our lives, playing rounders together in the sun. It is a picture of us HAVING FUN!

At our homes we usually find entertainment in things like our TV's, cellphones and our iPods, not playing games outdoors! During the days spent with my friends on our trip, we have discovered how to make the most



We made it! That was all I could think of when we finally summited Hodgson's Peak. We had reached the hazy mountains at last! When we were on top of Hodgson's Peak, I had a wonderful sense of achievement. We had reached our final destination at last. For me, uHambo was a challenge, and now, it has finally been overcome! This picture, for me, genuinely captures the essence of uHambo, because it tells me two things: that we were elated beyond measure, and that all of us were really proud of one another, and of ourselves!

Thelishia Moodley





# Grade 8



**GRADE 8C**

**Front row:** Ilham Yacoob, Zethu Dinga, Kei Janse van Rensburg, Mrs Cumming, Wendy Khumalo, Sithabile Ngozo, Kaitlyn Barker

**Second row:** Dimpho Liphapang, Laeeqa Ganie, Ashleigh Dean, Kimay Pillay, Megan Mapstone, Jessica Kidgell, Robyn de Wet, Angelique Dos Santos

**Third row:** Thembekile Dubazana, Tessa Gallagher, Annica Hanekom, Skhumbuzo Mazibuko, Busiswa Lubanga, Kelly Winchester, Alison Du

**Back row:** Sinqobile Mdlalose, Lauren Seymour, Ting-Yu Chen, Junelle Swart, Nicole Frankson, Zandria Saayman, Chloë Heenan, Lara Denton



**GRADE 8H**

**Front row:** Sarah McGhie, Sian Owen, Kirsty Hulett, Mrs Harris, Mikaela Talbot, Lyndal Banjo, Yashara Ryan

**Second row:** Ellen Squires, Hayley Burne, Rethabile Mokoatsi, Sharné Swanepoel, Megan-Lee Hogg, Emma Sorour, Tarryn van Niekerk

**Third row:** Tamra Brewitt, Candice Price, Kristen Buys, Courtney MacDonald, Kelsey Tattersall, Charis Roberts

**Back row:** Tamlyn Anderson, Jodie du Preez, Jenna Muirhead, Skye Payn, Merryn Reynolds, Cathryn Kassier, Selma Akoo, Melissa Samuels

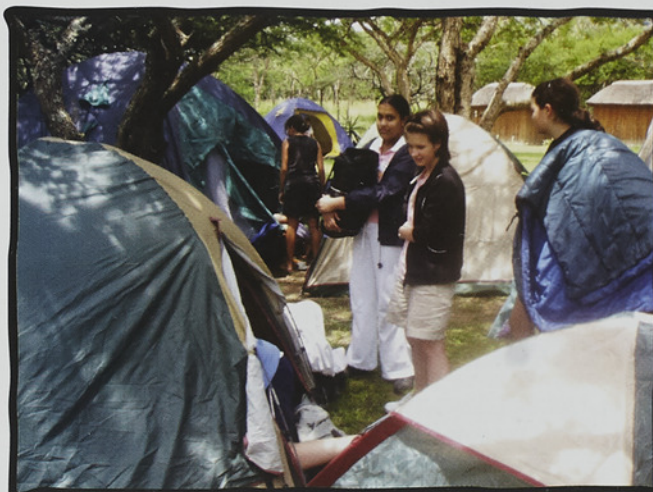


## Orientation

The Grade 8's had a wonderful and successful weekend at the Umgeni River on the Hilton College Estate. The weather was very kind to us and it didn't rain. We first had an interesting and informative slide show on spiders by Mr John Roff. We then drove into the valley and put up the tents. After lunch we played ice-breaker games. The prefects then spent time with the girls.

We had a braai and some skits and went to bed. The next morning the girls and staff set off on a hike up to the waterfalls. This was a highlight. After lunch we packed up and came home. The girls made full use of this adventure to get to know one another, and as a result are settled and happy. We would like to thank the parents for their support and for supplying tents.

**Mrs Antoinette Harris**





# Grade 8

## A question unanswered... Is this my life?

by Thembekile Dubazana, Gr 8C

Black like ash  
Dark as night  
My barren soul searches for...  
Light

Alone and silent  
I walk in  
Shame  
Weak and vulnerable  
Forever cautious  
I remain

Lost, but never found  
Abandoned and fearful

For my soul and  
For myself  
I search  
Helpless, I wonder  
An empty soul  
A faithless heart  
A coward in a corner of  
taunting thoughts  
Unheard, unseen  
Like a summer's breeze,  
I come and go  
Without a sound

## DOLFYNE

by

Zandria Saayman, Gr 8C



Die dolfyne swem rondom my  
Party swem verby.  
Hulle is groot, hulle is klein.  
Hulle is baie fyn.  
Hulle beskerm my teen 'n haai,  
Hulle is baie fraai.  
By hulle is ek kalm.  
Die wêreld kan vergaan.

## ANGER by Laeeqa Ganie Gr 8C

The single clenched fist numbs my nerves, stops my blood.  
My head is caught in a howling storm of emotions.  
What should I do?

My body fights back tears that try to escape.  
Jaws as hard as rocks clench teeth together.  
My face enraged like a blazing fire about to spread.  
Controlled confidence now crushed to pieces....  
Whispers of calm begin chatting inside of me

## HOMELESS by Zandria Saayman Gr 8C

I strolled down the street. It's dark and it's cold,  
Then I see him all bundled up, and looking so old.  
No blankets, no shoes to cover his feet  
Only his wrinkled body lying cold on the street.

"Where do you come from, and how old are you?"  
"Is there someone out there missing you too?"  
Empty beer bottles, a mouldy piece of bread  
Are all that he has to make him forget.

"Yes, I had a family a long time ago,  
But where they are now, nobody would know.  
Without money or food, I could not provide,  
I decided to run away, as a man has his pride."

I turned around, and walked away  
The only true thing left was to pray.  
The rusty roads of life are not always straight,  
So life's only inspiration is to have faith.  
Tomorrow I'll return with some food for you to eat,  
And something warm to cover your feet.  
So be thankful every day  
Knowing that you've a place to stay.

## Twinstreams Environmental Education Centre

It was 7:30 in the morning on 1<sup>st</sup> September: the first day of spring and the beginning of our Grade 8 tour! Everyone was ecstatic, and couldn't wait as we boarded the bus! During our two-and-a-half-hour long trip, photos were taken, girls chattered amongst themselves, and others slept. Eventually we arrived at Twinstreams, and split up into our dormitories. The scenery was absolutely beautiful: an indigenous forest surrounded us, and the colour green sang out amongst the chatter of harmless monkeys, and the twitter of birds.

After settling in, hearing about the history of the centre, and being introduced to the guides (Mnanti, Raymond, and Saki), we divided into three groups: The Siyaya Bush-babies, The Buffalo Soldiers, and the Shongololos. We managed to calm down a bit after splitting, only to take part in a few obstacle courses. We also all took part in a quiz to find out how big our carbon footprints are, but sadly most of ours are big enough to scare the biggest elephant! We also built 3m wide SOS signals on the beach, and built fires, and made "stokbroodjies" which we had to cook and eat! The following day we did an 8km beach hike to the Umlalazi Nature Reserve. There we played a board game, canoed in the river mouth, and visited the mangrove swamps, which was a very interesting experience. Each group had a mud fight in the sticky and black, but pleasantly soothing mud pools. We also learnt about the trees and saw hundreds of crabs! After returning to Twinstreams, and cleaning up, we played an extremely entertaining World Trade Game, which was supposed to be serious, but turned out to be hysterical!

After breakfast on the third day, all three groups took part in The Great Race: an entertaining race that included horse-riding, mountain-climbing, and cross-country! Fortunately for some, the horse-riding took place on their partners' backs! The "extremely difficult" mountain-climbing was a simple climb up and down a ladder, and the cross-country was a run to the gate and back! Each team was given a minute to strategise, and after falling behind to last place in the beginning, my team (the Buffalo Soldiers) raced on ahead, and took hold of the victory cup for first place at the end! We were given time to catch our breaths and take a break, and then we went and did a forest and river study. For the rest of the afternoon, the groups prepared outfits for the recycling fashion show that evening, organised hit skits, and cooked "potjies" for supper! After supper, showers, and watching the dying flames of the campfire turn to glowing red embers, the fabulous fashion show took place, followed by sensational skits!

Our fourth and final day flew by fast. We took place in a survival task, where we had to make a fire, build a shelter, and cook an egg without cracking the shell. Each team had their strategy, but in the end, the Siyaya Bush-babies finished first. After four fantastic days of fun, laughter, and lots of learning, we boarded the bus for the last time, exhausted and looking forward to seeing our families. We waved our final "goodbyes", and headed on home!

By Jessica Kidgell 8C



# Quiz Night



KRISTEL ORTMANN  
WITH HER THINKING CAP ON



2009 WINNERS! THE GNARLY NUTTERS



HAVING FUN AT QUIZ NIGHT

As the Friday night of St John's weekend approached, we suffered the now familiar anxieties about the number of teams who had (not) entered for Quiz Night. True to form, however, by the day of the night of the event, we were inundated with entries, with teams of girls; teams of parents, teachers and friends; and teams comprising all of these! It is a good thing that the stringent deadlines for Comrades entries do not apply! After completely rearranging the BE dining-room furniture to fit everyone in, we were ready for action.

Once again, the competition was fierce. It was evident that the "curriculum" and "setworks" had been carefully studied: from Shakespeare to celebrities via sport, general knowledge and music, the questions were well-handled. An "unfortunate incident" was narrowly avoided when it was discovered that one team had smuggled in the latest edition of HEAT! Needless to say, punishment was swift and expensive, and the Outreach budget significantly boosted. The "Noot vir Noot" or karaoke sections were done a little differently this year, allowing for fairer access to the microphone.

Some teams returned for a third shot at the trophy this year, and some improved on their previous performance. The teams with Junior School parents have the advantage of many years ahead in which to hone their knowledge and skills, but it seems that being a "senior" team has its advantages too: imminent departure seems to create an urgency which is conducive to competitiveness. It was again a mixed team (adults and girls) which took the honours: The Gnarly Nutters, on their third attempt. They have entered the competition since Grade 9, and made the strategic move to include some of "the older generation" in their team this year, to deal with the pesky 20<sup>th</sup> century and before!

This evening is wonderful, light-hearted fun. Retiring types need not fear: any public humiliation is strictly self-inflicted by participants! We are very grateful to those who have supported this function, and urge everyone to enter again next year. It is a relaxing way to get into the swing of St John's weekend, and a great opportunity to socialise with others in the St John's community. Funds raised are allocated to the School's Outreach programme.

Why not consider forming a grade-related, family-based or friendly team for next year?

**Mrs Belinda Kidd**



# St John's Day

Sunday, 10 May, dawned "bright and beautiful" and after the rainy weather we had been experiencing, the morning sun seemed almost to prophesy a glorious day!

Celebrations commenced with the early morning Chapel Service led by Father John Read. The Chapel was filled with exquisite flowers (courtesy of Mrs Jeanette Humphrey with her unique talent) and was immaculate (thanks to the devotion of Mrs Simone Zartmann). There was a tangible spirituality amongst all those present. When the girls lifted the rafters with their magnificent singing of "For All The Saints", there was no doubt that all was well!

Our choirs excelled and when the Senior Choir had finished their rendition of "Kyrie", people commented that they felt as though they had been in the presence of angels. There can be no greater compliment! Kirsty Weaver and Heidemarie Kirn's flute duet of "Think of Me" was also very beautiful and helped create a gentle ambience during the taking of communion.

After tea on the Chapel lawn, hosted by Mrs Robyn Kirkby and Mrs Heather Evans (who both worked tirelessly to make all "Old Girls" have a memorable visit), festivities moved on to the Gym Hall lawn where music from various bands and musicians, drifted across the lawn and into the Grade 8 market arena.

Our Marimba Band (on their debut performance) did exceptionally well and are always a delight to hear and

watch! The St John's Wind Ensemble, beautifully turned out in their slick outfits and hats, looked and sounded like true professionals. They are so talented and a tremendous credit to our school.

Bands from our fellow "Saints" (St Anne's and St Charles) were very entertaining and varied whilst the KZN Youth Wind Band once again excelled, as did the Northwood Band and drummers. The Caledonian Pipers sent a buzz through the crowd as they paraded into the arena! They were a wonderful addition to the day. Jesus Alonso on his pan flutes and Chris Jensen with his guitar and saxophone are regular guests at this event and once again, were magnificent and so well received by the many hundreds of visitors.

Our wonderful and committed Parents' Association ran the food and drinks stall and once again excelled themselves. They are such an incredibly united team who do so much for our school and I can't thank them enough for all their help and "manual labour"!

Whilst on the subject of "manual labour," mention needs to be made of Mr Chester Harris and his team for all their hard work before, during and after this event. They were absolutely amazing.

By the end of the afternoon, many of our girls were dancing on the lawn together with parents, friends and teachers! A happy way to end a truly wonderful day!

**Mrs Fay Forbes**



CANDY FLOSS DELIGHT!



DALE DU PREEZ LOOKING COLOURFUL FOR THE OCCASION



GIRLS TAKING PART IN THE CHAPEL SERVICE



# St John's Day



BIG GIRLS AND SMALL GIRLS HAVING FUN!



ERIN WESSELS, SARAH-JANE LAIT AND SARAH EVANS ATTENDING EARLY MORNING CHAPEL



MRS PERRETT AND MRS STOFFBERG JOINING IN THE FUN.



MRS FORBES AND MRS MOODLEY SHARING A MOMENT



MRS FOSS RELAXING WITH HER DAUGHTERS



MRS SYMES



ST JOHN'S GIRLS ENTERTAINING THE CROWD





# SCA and Bible Study

Our motto for 2009 has been "A generation rising up to take their place", and with the many changes and challenges, it has been fitting.

The SCA "year," which starts in October, began with the SUIS (Scripture Union Independent Schools) Unity Conference, at Emseni campsite, just outside of Winterton. The half-term weekend was set aside for planning and praying into the year ahead, and being able to fellowship with other Christian leaders around the province. The conference is always hugely beneficial, and allowed the SCA Committee to prepare for the busy year ahead. At the beginning of 2009, we started the school year with a BANG! For our first SCA, we were lucky enough to have Arise Band leading worship, with Barry from NCF Church speaking.

The committee went on another planning weekend, to my house, where we had the awesome opportunity to visit a nearby mission, Ekukhanyeni, meaning "Walk In the Light". This was a God-incidence, as our Bible verse for the year is "Arise and shine, for your light has come – Isaiah 60:1". We spent the time painting our banner for the year (a tradition we hope will remain for many generations) and planning for the year ahead, all while having lots of fun, of course.

The planning and preparation has certainly all paid off. We have changed the venue for SCA from the Boarding Establishment TV Room to the Drama Room, which is better-suited to our needs, particularly the need for technology and space. With the data projector, a new era of SCA has begun, and it has been both exciting and challenging to see how change has benefited the girls.

Another new and exciting adventure this year has been the starting of a proper, structured SCA band, aptly named FLAVA. The message behind the worship team's name is that, through their musical ministry, they may be like salt, spreading God's flavour. I am so excited for the future of the band, and know that God has great plans for each individual who has worked so hard to make FLAVA a huge success. It certainly has been long-awaited. We have also added to our ever-growing to-do list SCA Assemblies during Thursday assembly times. We have done one a term this year, and the school has responded positively to this ministry. It has given us, as the SCA committee, a chance to minister to the whole school, including staff.

We decided as a committee to have a rally this year, which we held on the first Friday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term. We wanted other young Christians in KZN to rise up and be a generation ready to take their place as God's chosen ones; ready to serve Him wholeheartedly and with pure passion. It was lots of planning and organising, but all the stress and worrying beforehand was worth it. There were about 350 students from various schools in KZN, with Arise leading worship and Xavier Moran, head of SUIS SA, sharing an effective and

motivating message on serving God. It was amazing to see the way God smoothed out all the problems, and the way He worked in people's hearts.

Bible Studies have continued to be held on Fridays at lunch time, and thanks must go to all the Bible Study leaders, who are dedicated to the girls. A special thanks to Clare van Daele, who has been the Head of the Bible Study Team. We wish Clare a happy and relaxing time with her husband in his retirement, and pray God pours His richest blessings upon them in a new chapter of their lives. In her place, we welcome Alice Fabian, who will lead

SCA committee Bible Study, and Lee Symons, a current Bible Study leader, who be Head of the Bible Study team.

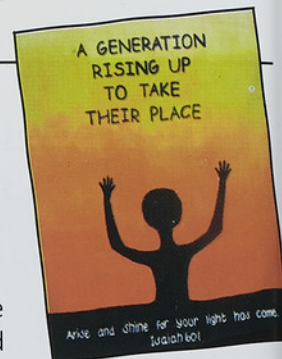
Another huge change this year was the departure of Ms Filmer, who was the teacher in charge of SCA. She has been so enthusiastic, helpful and supportive of all that we attempted this year, and we wish her only the best at St Anne's. Ms Filmer's role has been taken on by Mrs Bowen-Davies, Mrs Crosson and

Mrs Zartmann. They must all be thanked profusely for giving of their time, especially when we need to be accompanied to rallies, and for their constant support and wisdom.

To all the girls who attend SCA and Bible Study, I thank you for your support, your smiles and your enthusiasm. Without you, there would be no SCA or Bible Study.

Lastly, thanks must go to the SCA Committee for all that they have done this year. Each has worked with remarkable passion, determination, patience and dedication, and thank you all so much for giving up your valuable time. God has awesome plans, and I pray that He will continue to bless you abundantly and shower you with love. I pray that the SCA committee for next year will feel God's presence guiding them and His love enfolding them. May you continue to rise up to take your place in God's kingdom.

Yours in Christ, **Carmen Leisegang**



SCA COMMITTEE CAMP





# S.C.A. and Bible Study

## SAYING "GOODBYE" TO CLARE

For five years Clare has been quietly and faithfully leading Bible Study groups at St John's and she has played a significant role in developing and nurturing the spiritual lives of many of our girls.

Clare is an Old Girl of the school and although she has relinquished her role as leader of the Bible Study groups, she has gathered together a group of wonderful women who are devoted to their Friday lunchtime groups under the leadership of another Old Girl, Lee Symons.



LEE SYMONS and CLARE VAN DAELE

We are indebted to Clare for the impact she has had on the girls, for her encouragement of the SCA leaders and her support of St John's.

Although we shall miss her involvement in the Bible Studies, Clare continues to join in the Mothers who Care and uphold the girls in prayer.

Thank you, Clare, for all the time and loving care you have dedicated to the girls of this school.

Hi! from LEE SYMONS

When I left St. John's in 2006, I decided to take a Gap year. For the first six months, I joined a Discipleship Training School (DTS) with YWAM (Youth with a mission). This DTS was based in Cape Town.

The first three months were taken up with lectures, after which I was sent on an outreach mission to Rwanda. In Rwanda, we worked with the genocide prisoners, orphans, Congolese refugees, AIDS patients, street children and anyone else who needed support. Rwanda was filled with exciting and emotional challenges, as well as life-changing experiences, that will stay in my heart forever. It was unbelievable to witness the love that God's people have for one another in a country that has been through so much. It was the biggest blessing to bring hope and joy to such a beautiful land.

When I returned, I decided to travel around Europe with my dear friend Jodi Theron (a fellow St. John's old girl). We worked in London for a short time and then travelled for five months to seventeen different countries throughout Europe. This European experience was unbelievable! Even though it was a completely different world from Rwanda, to my horror, I often missed the beans and cabbage!

It was such an honour when Clare van Daele approached me to take over from her in running and leading the Bible Study groups at St. John's. I have such a deep-seated love for this amazing school and cannot wait to see what more God is going to do in the life of St. John's.

## Mothers Who Care

**"Let the children come to me,  
and do not hinder them, for  
the Kingdom of Heaven  
belongs to such as these"**

— Matthew 19 v14

The Mothers Who Care can be found in schools throughout the country. This year St John's was chosen as the venue for the AGM of the local branch, which was held in May. A blessed and encouraging time was had by all who attended.

Any mums who would like to join the Monday morning prayer meeting are most welcome and can contact Tracy Karlsen on 082 451 9429 for further details.



Some of the mothers who meet on a Monday morning to pray for the school, staff and girls of St John's are:

**Seated:** Dawn Smith, Tracy Karlsen and Lindy Oosthuizen

**Standing:** Sue Jacobsen, Ros Stegen, Sue Renton, Claire Brauteseth, Clare van Daele



# Music Department: Primary School

## CHOIR

Our Junior Choir has once again been guided and trained by Mrs Carol Solomon. As the choir has matured in their musical knowledge and vocal ability, their singing has soared to an even higher standard and many compliments have been received about their rich and pure tone.

The Junior Choir has performed at various functions this

year but recently acquitted themselves extremely well at the "Reach Out With Love" concert held in the City Hall. Their rendition of "Rhythm of Life" has become a favourite and a definite crowd-pleaser.

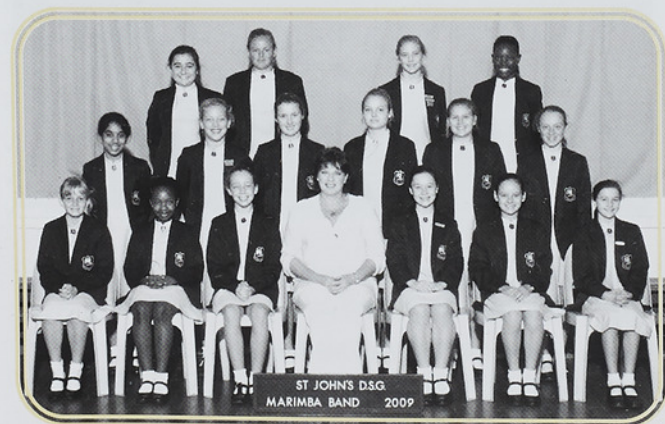
We are extremely proud of Raine Booy who was re-elected as a member of the Pietermaritzburg Children's Choir, as well as Jadasia Narasimulu and Tayla Chubb who successfully auditioned earlier this year.



## MARIMBA BAND

It is a great privilege working with such enthusiastic pupils who display such an eagerness to learn! Having started 2009 "from scratch" – so to speak – I am so very proud of these young girls and all that they have accomplished this year. Their repertoire has expanded enormously and their growing understanding of notation and rhythm has been so encouraging.

They, too, have performed at various occasions this year, and have progressed notably from a nervous first performance on St John's Day to a slick presentation of popular music at the City Hall during the "Reach Out With Love" concert.



## JUNIOR MUSIC EVENING

Owing to the increase in the number of musicians in both the Senior and Junior Schools, we felt it appropriate to afford our younger pupils the opportunity to display their musical talent by performing for their parents and family, as well as pupils and staff. Individual musicians, as well as the Junior Choir and Marimba Band, participated.

Members of the audience were charmed and entertained by our budding musicians who performed with panache and aplomb!

As these youngsters will form the backbone of music within our school in the future, it was wonderful to see such potential, as well as excellence!

All in all, this evening was a tremendous success and will most definitely become an annual event.



## FLUTE FIFER PROGRAMME

Two Senior School girls, Kirsty Weaver and Heidemarie Kirn, have done an excellent job in tutoring junior girls who have shown a desire to learn to play the flute. We are hoping that this programme will grow even more next year and serve as an "incubator" for budding flautists!





# Music Department: High School

## SENIOR CHOIR and GOSPEL CHOIR

These happy and vibrant young ladies (over 80 in total) who have such charisma, vocal talent and ability, have contributed much to the "soul" of the school by performing at the *many* formal occasions and chapel services which occurred at school. Functions, such as St John's Day, Easter

Service, Elaine Murray's Funeral, Confirmation Service, Valedictory, Final Assembly and Speech Day were all beautified and graced by the choir's magnificent singing. Each time these girls sing, they give freely of their time and are to be commended on the quality of their performances.

Work on music for Choral Chill once again took up a lot of time this year, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and it is fair to say that all choir members benefited from the experience of singing at this occasion held at the City Hall.

Choir leaders, Lindy Ward and Sisonke Petse (Senior Choir) and Khanya Maweni (Gospel Choir), did a wonderful job of motivating and helping supervise members of the choirs.

We are extremely proud to have 7 Senior Choir members in the Pietermaritzburg Youth Choir for 2010: Tarryn Knight, Aviwe Myendeki, Sibusisiwe Makhanya, Paula Uken, Jenna Annandale, Mikaela Talbot and Shannon Nieuwoudt.



## WIND BAND

One of the highlights of my week, is spending a couple of hours every Wednesday afternoon working with the Wind Band. Our numbers have grown to 13 this year and the girls have played at many occasions. Their first *public* appearance

at Maritzburg College proved to be a great success and they received resounding applause when accompanying the choir with their rendition of "Rocking all over the world."

The contribution the band made, as the "backing band" for the Junior School production of *We Are The Children*, was simply wonderful. An entire term was spent learning the various harmonies and melodies but their real skill, in terms of interpreting various dynamics, was evident when they were accompanying "little people" who were singing.

We bid a sad and very fond farewell to Brogen Crosson, our Senior Saxophonist and Band Leader in 2009. She has done an exceptional job and her commitment and loyalty to the Wind Band have been evident throughout the year!

Congratulations to Catherine Tatham for being selected as a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Youth Wind Band.



MRS FAY FORBES



# Music Department



## EISTEDDFOD AND EXAMINATIONS

Many of our St John's girls entered in the South African Society of Music Teachers' Eisteddfod and achieved excellent results.

Due to their fine achievements, the following girls were selected to play their pieces at the Tatham Art Gallery: Jessica Stegen, Rupika Chuntarpursat, Jessica Campbell, Katherine Usher, Jodie du Preez and Heidemarie Kirn. All the girls were and absolute credit to our school.

Jessica Stegen also had the opportunity to travel to Pretoria where she participated in the SASMT's 90<sup>th</sup> National Competition. She gained a vast amount of experience on this occasion and acquitted herself extremely well.

The following certificates were awarded at the South African Society of Music Teachers' Eisteddfod.

\*\* Denotes A+

Name	Instrument and Grade	
Skumbuzo Mazibuko	Piano Grade 1 (X2) Trombone Grade 1	** (X1)
Tayla Chubb	Piano Pregrade 1	
Kerryn v.d. Westhuizen	Piano Pregrade 1 (X2)	
Jessica Smith	Piano Pregrade 1 (X2)	** (X1)
Ting-Yu Chen	Piano Pregrade 1	
Kristen Stevens	Piano Pregrade 1	
Courtnee Francis	Piano Pregrade 1	
Jessica Chantler	Piano Pregrade 1	
Jessica Goble	Piano Grade 3 (X3)	
Katherine Usher	Piano Grade 3 (X2)	** (X1)
Jodie du Preez	Piano Grade 4 (X2) Clarinet Grade 2 (X2)	** (X1)
Jessica Campbell	Piano Grade 4 (X2)	** (X1)
Tamlyn Anderson	Piano Grade 4	
Julia van Niekerk	Piano Grade 5	
Catherine Elstob	Piano Grade 6 (X2)	
Sharon Faure	Piano Grade 6 (X2)	
Rupika Chuntarspursat	Recorder Pregrade 1 Recorder Ensemble Violin Grade 3 (X2) Flute Grade 4 (X2)	** (X1)
Brianna Zartmann	Recorder Pregrade 1	
Monique Fitchat	Recorder Pregrade 1	
Philippa Smart	Recorder Ensemble	
Jessica Stegen	Recorder Ensemble Clarinet Grade 3 (X2)	** (X1)
Kirsty Weaver	Flute Grade 5	
Heidemarie Kirn	Flute Grade 7 (X2)	** (X1)



# Music Department

## MUSIC EXAMINATION RESULTS

At the time of going to print the following music final examination results had been confirmed.

\*\* denotes a distinction, \* denotes a merit.

Name	Instrument	Music Grade	
Gina Frangs	Piano	Grd 7 Trinity College	*
Jessica Stegen	Piano	Grd 4 Trinity College	*
Sarah Williams	Piano	Grd 3 Trinity College	
Darshana Govender	Piano	Grd 2 Trinity College	*
Akira Pillay	Piano	Grd 2 Trinity College	*
Qelsee Jacobs	Piano	Grd 1 Trinity College	
Kerryn v.d. Westhuizen	Piano	Initial Trinity College	*
Sharon Faure	Piano	Grd 6 ABRSM	*
Heidemarie Kirn	Flute	Grd 6 ABRSM	*
	Flute	Grd 7 ABRSM	*
Kirsty Weaver	Flute	Grd 5 ABRSM	*
Jessica Campbell	Piano	Grd 4 ABRSM	**
	Flute	Grd 4 ABRSM	*
Catherine Elstob	Flute	Grd 4 ABRSM	
	Piano	Grd 6 ABRSM	
Tamlyn Anderson	Piano	Grd 4 ABRSM	*
	Clarinet	Grd 1 ABRSM	*
Philippa Smart	Flute	Grd 4 ABRSM	*
Rupika Chuntarpursat	Flute	Grd 4 ABRSM	*
Jessica Goble	Piano	Grd 3 ABRSM	*
Mikaela Talbot	Voice	Grd 2 ABRSM	
Jessica Stegen	Clarinet	Grd 2 ABRSM	**
		Grd 3 ABRSM	**
Natisha Naicker	Piano	Grd 1 ABRSM	**
Skhumbuzo Mazibuko	Piano	Grd 1 ABRSM	*
	Trombone	Grd 1 ABRSM	
Julia van Niekerk	Piano	Grd 5 UNISA	*
Tarryn van Niekerk	Piano	Grd 4 UNISA	*



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT EVENING

This evening serves to showcase the Music Department and the diverse talent on display this year was of an exceptional standard.

It was most exciting to note the musical progress and growth in confidence amongst our pupils.

All musicians and singers acquitted themselves wonderfully and were a credit to our school.



# Drama Department

This year the Drama Department said “goodbye” to Miss Moira Filmer, who has been part of its life and soul for 12 years. But we have been very happy to welcome Ms Jackie Keevy. Jackie is a St John’s old girl, who recently completed her Masters Degree in Drama at UKZN. We hope that Jackie’s time as a teacher at St John’s continues to be a happy and productive time.

In the first term, the Senior School produced the Shakespearean comedy, *The Comedy of Errors* (with the help of some visiting performers from St Charles). Although the language is fairly different from the language we speak today, it is interesting to note that the things that make us laugh have not really changed at all. The comedy of the play relies on the humour of mistaken identities, twins separated from birth, miscommunication between spouses and the effects of drinking too much alcohol. It was a beautifully costumed production, where the cast were able to handle the complexities of the language with aplomb.

*Funk 2009* was the tenth anniversary of this inter-school dance festival. It is a tribute to all the dancers, directors and technical crews of the past decade that this unique production continues to be as popular and as innovative as its original performance in 2000. After each year, you are sure to hear from members of the audience that they thought that this year’s production was the most exciting one ever!

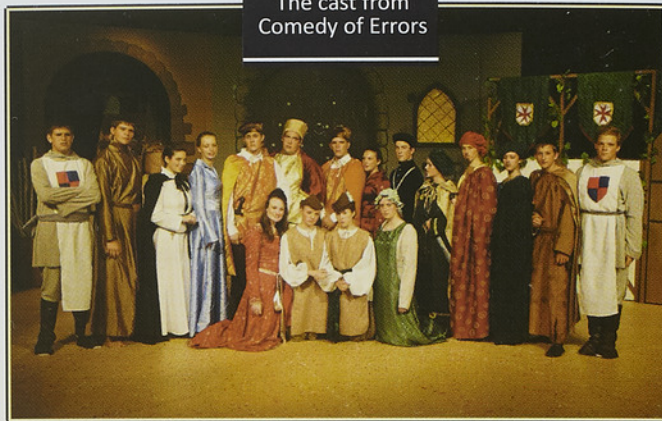
St John’s contribution to *Funk* this year was entitled *Storey Lines*. The young cast used photographs of people as an inspiration for their choreography. It was a beautiful piece that paid tribute to the lives and experiences of people across the world.

*ExperiDance*, held at Epworth at the end of the third term, is a smaller and exciting dance forum, to which dance groups are encouraged to bring experimental pieces of work. The St John’s Dance Company and the Grade 11 Dramatic Arts class presented wonderfully creative and challenging items. Both groups were assisted by Mlondi Zondi and Mandisa Haarhof who ran a residency in the department during the third term.

The year ended with the Nativity play, which is performed by the Junior Primary School. Our angels, stars, and shepherds were joined on stage this year by a flock of Grade 00 sheep. They have been a welcome addition to the Nativity scene, and we hope they will continue to be with us in the future. As always, the Junior Primary girls were delightful and so confident on stage.

Although the big public productions are very rewarding, the true magic of the Drama Department lies in our day to day lessons. All our Drama girls, from Grade 0 to Grade 12 have time to create, explore and grow as performers and as individuals.

The cast from  
*Comedy of Errors*



The arrival of the Junior school girls is always heralded by the sound of stomping feet along the paved walkway. Their enthusiasm for Drama is always at fever pitch. Although much of the time spent in Drama is frivolous and fantastical, each class is expected to present two assemblies during the year, which means serious hard work for us all. This year, the Grade 4 girls were able to have the Bayeux tapestry in the theatre – although it did look somewhat like Mrs Perks’s roller towel on closer inspection!

The senior school’s experience of Drama is somewhat different. The FET syllabus is very demanding of the learner’s time and effort. Part of the Grade 11 curriculum demands that learners produce a play as part of a production team. Here at St John’s, these plays are performed as House Plays, and the casts are chosen from the three different houses, with Grade 11’s in command of the directing, costuming, casting, set designing and marketing of the plays. It is a huge challenge for the entire production team, and one which teaches them the benefits of good team work and organisation. Each house produced an extremely slick performance, which was enjoyed by the audience.

The true rewards of teaching in the Drama Department are always to be felt on the night of the Final practical examination for each of the Grades. This year’s Grade 12 practical examination was truly a very memorable evening’s entertainment, as this year’s Grade 12’s presented work that was creative, challenging as well as somewhat risqué! The Grade 10 and 11 Practical examination was also a wonderful evening, where learners proved just how much they had grown as performers in the past year.

2009 has been a year of change and challenge for the Drama Department, but also a year of laughter, huge growth and magic.





# Drama Department

Scenes from The Comedy of Errors



Scenes from House Plays





# House reports: Athlone

For Athlone, 2009 has been a year filled with fun, laughter, determination, enthusiasm and great spirit which all Athlonian girls can be proud of. Although we might not have won many of the interhouse events we still gave of our best and supported and encouraged one another wholeheartedly. We proved that winning wasn't everything by having fun and making the most out of each interhouse event.

The year got off to a good start at the interhouse gala where we were all entertained by the Grade 11 girls and their "play". The girls sang their hearts out and the spirit of the Athlone girls never ceased to amaze. The girls did a great job in supporting and encouraging their fellow United Swimmers of Athlone who did their house proud by winning some races and breaking various records. The house did very well in coming second as well as winning the Spirit Cup which was well-deserved!

The next event was the interhouse tennis where the girls played with determination. Despite the humid day, they did not give up and gave of their best. The interhouse netball and

hockey were a great success. The girls used their skills on the hockey field and defeated our biggest rivals Connaught and Rhodes. Athlone was on a winning streak when Jeunesse did the house proud in cross-country by being placed 1<sup>st</sup> and many other Athlone girls were placed in the top 10. The interhouse basketball was an exciting and fun-filled event where committed Athlone girls had to play for their first time, yet they did not complain and played their hearts out. This great commitment saw us coming second, just being beaten in a nail-biting game against Rhodes.

The house plays was a very exciting event. Our talented Athlone actors rose to the occasion and entertained us with great enthusiasm and passion with their acting skills in the play *Another Cinderella Story* directed by the Athlone girls who worked very hard to produce an excellent play.

The interhouse public-speaking was of a high standard. Athlone girls showed their confidence and yet again did Athlone proud with Darsha Indrajith being placed second in the senior section, Helen Aadnesgaard being placed second in the junior



section and Kimberley Bingel being placed 1<sup>st</sup> with her speech, "I'm too sexy for my shirt, so sexy it hurts". What a great achievement this was!

As always, behind every happy house is a caring mother, Mrs Stakemire. I would like to thank her for the endless hours and effort she put into supporting the Athlone house at all interhouse events. It was much appreciated and encouraging to the girls. I would also like to thank Amz for all her undercover hard work of making sure that there were girls to take part in the various interhouse events both academically and culturally. Then last, but not least, I would like to thank the girls for their endless sport and the friendships and wonderful memories we as a house have shared. Good luck for next year and always give of your best.

**Robynne Balcomb**





# House reports: Connaught



Once again this year Connaught house has had a year filled with fun, commitment and a vibrant sense of spirit which has been generated by the enthusiasm possessed by all Connaughtians. This year Connaught has excelled both on the sports field and in the various cultural competitions. Success has been abundant for Connaught this year, but more importantly, we have had loads of fun at the various interhouse events and continued to carry the name of Connaught high!

The year started well with a competitive effort made by Connaught at the interhouse gala.



Although we did not win all the trophies, we certainly did provide the competition and our Grade 11's under the leadership of vice-captain Samantha Stewart, rallied spirit amongst the house members that only benefited our performance in the pool. That spirit continued to burn as Connaught took first place in the interhouse tennis competition which took place towards the end of the first term.

Connaught continued to shine in Term 2 as we performed in true style by winning the interhouse netball. Despite not having the greatest performance on the hockey front, we certainly stood out in the interhouse plays which took place at the end of the second term. The Connaught cast, under the leadership of the grade 11 Connaught drama girls, did themselves proud as well as the rest of the house by winning the competition with their highly entertaining production of *I'll Ring for more Toast*.

Interhouse basketball was a tough ordeal for Connaught as we were up against some strong opposition, particularly from the winners, Rhodes.

On the cultural front, it was another victory for Connaught as Nqobile Msomi took first place in the interhouse public-speaking

competition. In the junior section we also had some promising speakers, so I'm sure we will continue to impress in the future.

In the fourth term we had a busy and exciting line-up with interhouse squash, waterpolo and indoor hockey.

To my vice-captain, Samantha Stewart, thank you for all the effort you have put into ensuring that this year was a successful one and to Mrs Zartmann, our house mother, I'd like to thank you for your constant support and guidance – I really don't know what we would do without you! What a great year it has been for all Connaughtians and one that has thrown challenges and excitement at us from all angles. I'd like to thank all the girls of Connaught for their commitment, dedication and ongoing enthusiasm throughout this year and I hope that the same level of zest will continue into 2010!

Tegan Mill





# House reports: Rhodes

Much trying and a lot of "umph" has resulted in TRIUMPH this year. Once again, the girls have given of their best, beginning with our winning the interhouse gala. Each girl, whether she was a supporter or a swimmer, showed true Rhodesian passion, enthusiasm and determination. We then went on to win tennis, thanks to many talented young tennis pros, many of whom are still in the junior school.

The second term brought with it a win in netball, and a close second in hockey. The house plays were also another highlight of the year, and the Grade 11's, as well as the dedicated and talented cast and crew, must be complimented on their commitment and innovation.

The interhouse basketball in the third term allowed for Rhodes once again to show their talent, and after a fun-

filled afternoon, with quite a few nail-biting moments, we were very proud to leave with a win. The third term also means interhouse public-speaking, and Camryn Cochrane and Janine Meyer must be thanked for their hard work and effort. Athlone gave us some tough competition, but the girls spoke really well, and were a credit to what Rhodes stand for: passion and participation.

Ms Filmer must also be thanked for her unwavering support, enthusiasm and motivation over the years. She has proven to be a remarkable (and calming) pillar of strength, and Rhodes House will certainly miss her in the years to come. We wish her all the best at St Anne's and thank Mrs Foss for quickly and effortlessly taking over the role of "House Mother."

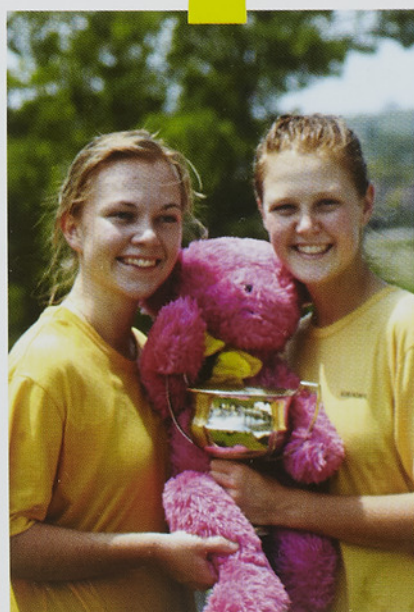
I would also like to congratulate and thank the Vice-Captain, Ruth Renton, for being an invaluable asset, both to me and to the house, this year. Your behind-the-scenes work has allowed us to be both organised and successful, and our achievements wouldn't have been possible without your constant support.

To say that I am proud of Rhodes's achievements, throughout this year, would be a huge understatement. It



has been a very busy, yet successful year, but without each Rhodesian, this success would never have been possible. The girls have excelled in all areas, whether it has been in sport, academic or cultural activities, and without their dedication and pride, we wouldn't have been able to achieve as much as we have. I wish Ruth and each Rhodesian all the best for next year, and may each one of you stay as committed and passionate as you have been this year. Good luck and God bless.

**Carmen Leisegang**







As the new Sports Co-ordinator at St John's, 2009 has been challenging and busy, but rewarding and exciting. Our sportswomen have achieved several gold medal performances. I highlight a few: fifteen were selected to represent various Midlands or KZN teams in swimming, squash, hockey and equestrian events, while four pupils were selected to represent South Africa in basketball, polocrosse and canoeing.

The greatest visible change at St John's this year are the new tennis courts. We are very grateful for this excellent facility that is already being utilised. Our courts in Taylor Road have also had a revamp with a thorough cleaning and painting.

We continue to field several teams in the first and third term tennis leagues. Under the guidance of Mrs Lorraine Osborne, the 1<sup>st</sup> team did well in the annual KZN inter-school event where they came 2<sup>nd</sup> in their round robin before narrowly losing in the play-off.

Our swimmers have done us proud. The interhouse gala was a great success with many closely contested races. We congratulate all the swimmers and supporters for the excellent spirit. It is clearly evident from the photographs that great fun was had by all.

At the annual girls interschools relay gala, we finished a creditable 5<sup>th</sup>. Our U14 team won the medley and freestyle relay trophies, a first for St John's.

The Annual Polar Bear Swim was an icy affair. There were some frightened faces, some doing the tongue tip test and still others who battled the icebergs with a smile. We are not sure who was colder – the supporters with their hot chocolate or the staff members who gave it their best shot. Well done to everyone who participated in this event.

Although waterpolo training in an undersize pool is challenging, our girls are improving. Two girls have made the KZN U16 squad and are in training for the final trials.

In netball, we fielded competitive teams in every age group. The league was a closely contested affair with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams winning most of their matches. The girls improved as the season progressed with an enthusiastic bench playing a valuable role.

Our hockey results have been superb. The first team played in a pre-season tournament at St Mary's Waverley and finished a creditable 10<sup>th</sup> out of 24 teams. The 1<sup>st</sup> team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Parklane Superspar League behind St Anne's and Girls' High with which St John's drew.

St John's fielded nine teams that, for a school of its size, shows depth, talent and commitment. Well done to all the teams on an outstanding season and great teamwork.

We entered the Ladies' League Indoor for the first time this year and won the B league, ahead of Epworth by one point. The school indoor league is about to begin and our teams are practising hard and looking forward to the competition.

Our cross-country girls have competed in weekly races at various schools. Thank you to the runners for their commitment and special thanks to Mr Edmonds for his organisation and hard work. Congratulations to Justine Pearson for finishing 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the Junior section.

Renewed interest in squash at St John's has seen an improvement in the standard of play. The Ladies' League squash team participated in the PMB Winter league and gained valuable experience. We look forward to the continued growth of this sport.

Basketball is BIG with few schools able to match the number of teams fielded by St John's. The 1<sup>st</sup> team had an exceptional season, losing only one league match and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the interschool invitational tournament.

Canoeing and Canoe Polo are alive and well at St John's. Our top two canoeists have gained national recognition. Emma Horner has achieved excellent results in sprints and Kathryn Rennie won a silver medal in the Africa Championships for Slalom. Our canoe polo team trains at the University in the evenings and emerged victorious in the interschool competition at the end of last term. We thank our own canoeing legend – Mr Edmonds - for his dedication and commitment.

Adventure racing is a growing sport and our girls, under the guidance of Mrs Grové, competed in the Epworth Adventure Challenge. Our junior team of Andrea de Boer and Jeunesse van Zuydam won their section. Well done to all the participants.

Our annual St John's Bundu Bash proved to be a real test of determination and ability in muddy conditions. Well done to all the finishers for their good spirit.

Our horse-riders have achieved well this year and with the introduction of the SANEF schools' league, we aim to make horse-riding a school sport.

Finally, not everyone enjoys competitive sports. To encourage participation in physical activity as a health benefit, a lifestyle programme has been introduced. It includes: horse-riding (the girls are able to go up to the stables at Hilton and learn to ride or hone their skills); golf at the nearby driving range; walking or jogging for fun; body-conditioning and fitness in our newly extended gym; and aerobics classes.

**Ms Tracey Schwegmann**  
(Sport Co-ordinator)

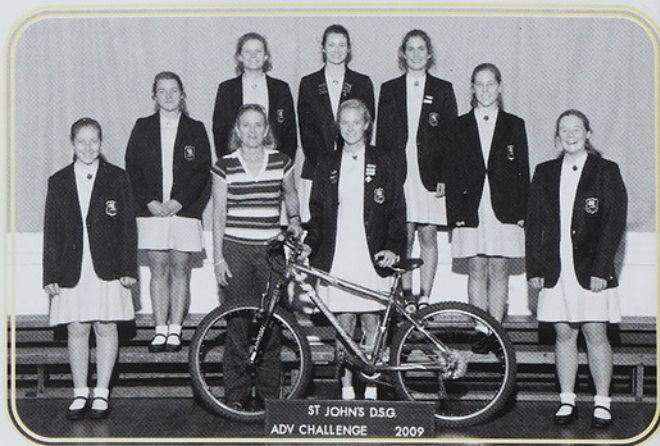


# Epworth Adventure Challenge

St John's had nine girls competing in the annual Epworth Adventure Challenge. This year, the race took place on the Baynesfield Estate. This exciting, two-day, 75-kilometre event started on Friday, 15 May, and ended on Sunday, 17 May, around midday. Teams consist of partners who work together to complete various tasks over the prescribed distance.

Our girls put in many hours of training and sacrificed a large part of their half-term weekend to represent St John's. Amy Oldfield and her Epworth partner finished a slightly shortened version of the race. Robyn Trollip and her novice partner, Kerryn Coulthard, came 6<sup>th</sup> in their section. Amy Kamhoot and Samantha Stewart (also a novice) did exceptionally well by ending in 4<sup>th</sup> position in the Senior section. After being thoroughly prepared for the race, Jessica Wolhuter was, unfortunately, unable to participate with her partner, Carmen Leisegang, as Carmen had torn her calf muscle. Jessica demonstrated St John's fighting spirit and participated with an Epworth partner. They finished a creditable 6<sup>th</sup> in the Senior section.

St John's proudest moment, and greatest success, in this year's challenge was victory for Andrea de Boer and Jeunesse van Zuydam (also a novice) in the Junior Section. Well done!



## Amy Kamhoot'S THOUGHTS ON THE EVENT!

During the second term, Samantha Stewart and I competed in the annual Epworth School Adventure Challenge. We arrived in the late afternoon, to a lively crowd of competitors who were setting up camp for the night.

Our Adventure Challenge consisted of many different obstacles and whether it was riding up hills that seemed to go on forever, or running through the long grass trying not to slip, we learnt how to work through them as a team. Not only were we physically challenged but were quizzed on our general knowledge as well.

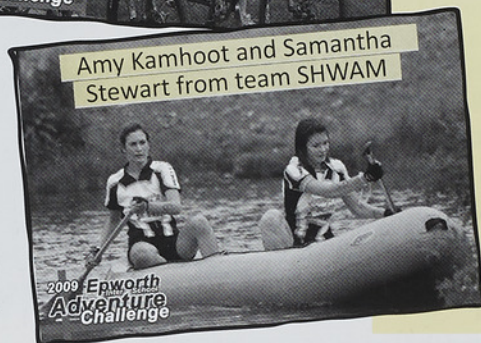
There was laughter all round and lots of new friends were made from different schools. The Adventure Challenge is really an enjoyable event, even if we had to camp out in the bush for two nights!

I would definitely do it again!

Robyn Trollip and Kerryn Coulthard riding for the COUNTRY CANE RATS



Amy Kamhoot and Samantha Stewart from team SHWAM



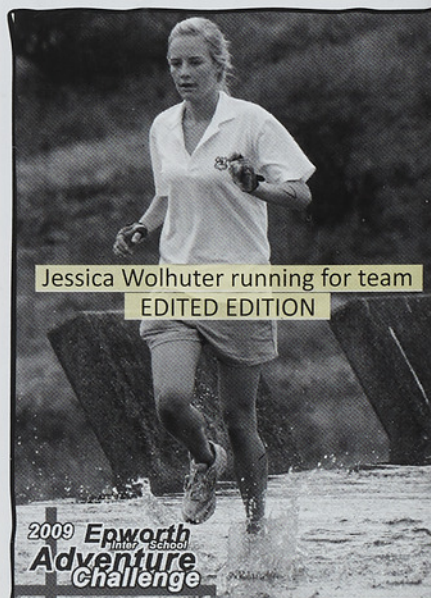
Amy Oldfield doing her bit for THE TALENTED TORTOISES



Andrea de Boer and Jeunesse van Zuydam from team DOODLES



Jessica Wolhuter running for team EDITED EDITION





# Basketball

St John's have fielded eleven basketball teams in the Pietermaritzburg league this year – this shows the depth of talent we have, despite our school being fairly small. Our teams have achieved excellent results throughout the season and have shown determination and enthusiasm. The 1<sup>st</sup> team had an extremely successful season, losing only one match to Girls' High – we commend them on their commitment.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Basketball Team participated in the KZN Midlands Invitation Basketball Tournament hosted by Girls' High School. The team performed well in their pool games and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their pool. In the semi-final cross-pool play-off we lost to Girls' High. Against Epworth in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place play-off, St John's won 38 – 26. The tournament was won by PMB Girls' High with Pretoria Girls' High in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. After the tournament 4 "All-star" players of the tournament were announced. We congratulate Lihle Bhengu on being selected as an "All Star".

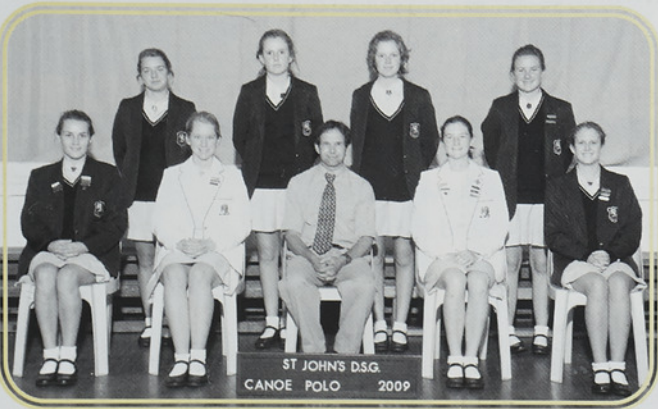
Lihle Bhengu participated in the KZN team at the Basketball SA National U16 Championship at Seshego, Polokwane in Limpopo Province in the holidays. The KZN team, which



Lihle captained, finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lihle was awarded the All Star Player of the tournament. She was also selected for the South African U16 Team. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement, Lihle. Lihle was awarded her school Honours blazer.

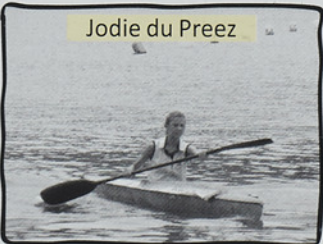
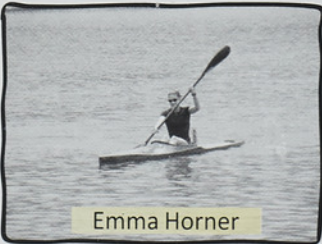
Thank you to all the coaches for their dedication and to all players for their commitment throughout the season.

# Canoeing



Canoeing is a relatively small sport at St John's but we have had many juniors showing interest and braving the waters of the Dusi to give it a try, resulting in much mirth, laughter and mud as they gain their confidence in a boat. Our aim with canoeing this year has been to have fun and introduce as many people as possible to the sport and this has resulted in some good results at the Capitol Caterers Popes Canoe Centre Interschool Series. These results include Kathryn Rennie winning the Slalom event, Emma Horner winning the Sprint event and our team, consisting of Robyn Johnson, Lindy Ward, Jessica Bartlett, Kathryn Rennie, Jeunesse Van Zuydam, Victoria and Helen Aadnesgaard, and Alexis Ramsay, winning the canoe polo tournament. Also, Emma Horner has produced some excellent results at both provincial and national levels in sprinting as she has won almost every race she has entered. Many thanks must go to Mr Edmonds for giving up his time to coach and accompany us to races.

Kathryn Rennie





# Cross-country

Cross-country at St John's is a popular sport for numerous reasons, namely, getting fit, having fun and of course being able to socialise with the other schools (particularly with the local boys' schools!).

We started off with a very large contingent of girls at the beginning of the season, although this number did dwindle as time moved on. Those that continued, however, remained dedicated to the often challenging runs.

Special mention must be made of Justine Pearson who was awarded 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Junior Girl section for the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Our Junior team was placed 5<sup>th</sup> this year, while our senior team attained 6<sup>th</sup> position.

Overall, the season was very enjoyable and much fun was had by all. Many thanks must go to Mr Edmonds for his sheer dedication and enthusiasm towards our team this year.

Robyn Johnson



Even our teachers are getting into the swing of things!



Keeping fit and having fun during the interhouse Cross-Country



# Cycling



## CAPE ARGUS

This year's Cape Argus was billed as the worst one in the race's history with winds of 65km/hr gusting up to 140km/hr in many places.

Of the 35,000 entrants fewer than 25,600 started and several thousand more pulled out along the route owing to the gruelling conditions.

Lara Perrett was very pleased with her time and still looked strong at the finish, as the photo shows. She said she had past St John's girls cheering her along with several recognising her and shouting her name.

It just proves that St John's girls stick together even when the going gets tough!





## DRAKENSBERG HIKES

### Lammergeier Cave: 21-22 March

On the last Saturday of the term Ms Whitfield, Ms Cummings, Ms Beattie and nine girls left on a hike to Lammergeier Cave. The hike was one of the more challenging ones, but was definitely worth the effort. After 12km and many river-crossings we reached the cave. We were all glad to have made it to the top, and in the morning we awoke to a breathtaking sight. Below us was an ocean of clouds and we marvelled at the sun as it rose through the clouds. On our way back to the bus we stopped at a natural pool and dived into the frigid water in order to cool down. At the end of the hike, although it had been fairly tough, we were glad that we had experienced it.

**Darsha Indrajith**

### Lower Injisuthi Cave: 20-21 June

On the weekend of 20-21 June, not only was it the winter solstice making it the longest night, but it was also time for the St John's termly hike to the Drakensberg. Only four Grade 9B's were brave enough to miss the rugby and head out with three teachers to experience the splendour of the mountains, as well as gain some valuable insight before they embark on their uHambo next term.

The hike to the cave was a fairly gentle one and we passed some lovely indigenous forests as we headed up the gorgeous river valleys to reach our evening stop. We also encountered a bush buck and a small herd of eland on our way—which was very exciting as the bush buck are shy creatures and not often seen; and it is always marvellous to see the magnificent eland. There was also the occasional baboon eyeing us along the way!

We had a lie-in on Sunday morning as it wasn't a long walk back to base, where we were met by Albert and Musa. In



fact, they spotted us coming over the horizon and stopped on the road to pick us up, saving us a couple of kilometres of walking along the road to return to the car park.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. We were all very relaxed and rested (after our long sleep on Saturday night) and look forward to the next hike.

**Ms Teresa Whitfield**

### McKenzie's Cave: 17-18 October

The hiking club had a relaxing hike (despite a bit of a climb) to McKenzie's Cave this past weekend. We managed to reach to our cave very early and had the afternoon to "chill" in our sleeping bags. For some reason the teachers were quite weary and needed to have an afternoon nap. Although conditions were a bit misty and damp, we still managed to take in some stunning views in the odd break in the clouds.

Aside from the lovely views, we were also treated to a beautiful display of spring flowers. As the walk was so short, we had a good "lie-in", in the morning (with some having a second snooze for the day), before heading back down to base to be collected for our trip home.

**Ms Teresa Whitfield**





# Hockey

The 1<sup>st</sup> team hockey had a memorable 2009 season, starting on a high and ending in the same way. The first tournament in which the team excelled was the Parklane Spar Pre-Season tournament which took place towards the end of the first term. Although this was the team's first showing as the 2009 1<sup>st</sup> team, we performed extremely well and were narrowly beaten in the semi-final round. This tournament provided an opportunity for players to bond with one another and to get to know one another better.

In the April holidays the team took part in the St Mary's Waverley Hockey Festival. At that stage the team was still relatively new and inexperienced. Despite the team's inexperience of playing at the high level of hockey that we were exposed to at the festival, both new and old players rose to the occasion and not only did the team gain valuable experience, but we did St John's proud by finishing 10<sup>th</sup> overall. The success and experience gained at this festival prepared us well for our participation in the league which took place in the second term. Our tour to Johannesburg was filled with lots of hockey, laughs and opportunities for players to develop both on and off the field. After solid preparation, the team performed extremely well in the interschool league. Despite getting off to a rather nervous start, the team gained in confidence and in skill from one game to the next. We ended the season finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of the nine participating schools. We were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> after St Anne's and GHS which were both teams that we had drawn against during the season. All in all we finished the season having won four matches, drawn three matches and only having lost one match.

There were also girls who achieved worthy recognition by being chosen to play for Umgungundlovu District at the Inter-regional tournament held in Pietermaritzburg. In the U14 age group Lyndal Banjo, Jemma Brewitt and Alison Duff were selected, whilst Janine Gebers was selected for the U16 team. Robynne Balcomb was selected for the U19 team along with Alice O'Neill who was selected as a non-travelling reserve. Tegan Mill was selected for the U18 team and also the KZN Inland team and Janine Gebers was selected as a non-travelling reserve for the KZN Inland U16 team. Well done to all girls!

Thanks must go to Mrs Schirge for all that she has done for hockey this year and particularly the 1<sup>st</sup> team that toured to JHB. Her organisation has been invaluable in ensuring a smooth and successful season for all players. Thanks must also go to Ms Schwegmann for her guidance, support, motivation and entertainment as our 1<sup>st</sup> team coach. Her effort and contribution to the team really did make our season a most memorable one. The 2009 hockey season has been filled with success amidst many challenges that have been well worth the hard practice. We hope this has prepared many young players for a competitive 2010 season and has sparked enthusiasm for hockey at St Johns!

**Tegan Mill**



## GOLF DAY

A successful St John's Golf Day was held at Sakabula Golf Course on 22 March, as a fund-raiser for the 1<sup>st</sup> team hockey tournament at St Mary's, Waverley, in the April holidays.

We thank all 86 golfers who participated, for their support, spirit and enthusiasm. The weather was perfect and players were treated to a delicious meal afterwards. Thanks go to the St John's kitchen staff for all their work and preparation.

A special "thank you" must go to our generous sponsors for sponsoring holes and prizes. Every player walked away with a prize. The 1<sup>st</sup> team hockey players were all present and were involved in ensuring the event ran smoothly. We thank them for their effort and assistance.

Special thanks must go to: the Sports Department staff, Mrs Annette Symes and Mrs Stakemire for their organisation; Mr Payne and the Marketing Department for all their assistance on the day; and all parents who willingly assisted us in securing players and prizes and helping us on the day.

Congratulations to all on a most successful day, Golf was definitely the winner!

**Ms Tracey Schwegmann**





This year, netball at St John's was the most successful it's ever been, not only for the 1<sup>st</sup> Team but for all the teams involved. This wouldn't have been possible without the help of the Sports Department and the various coaches who gave up so much time to improve our skills. In the open squad, we worked well together and achieved good results, varying in losses and wins but our endless enthusiasm and hard work paid off in the end as we all learnt such valuable techniques and lessons. Thanks must go to our coach (Coach K) as she was always there to guide and encourage us. For us, netball is something which we had a passion for that drew us all together, despite all our differences with regard to grade and skill. Although we did win most of our games, we soon came to the realisation that it wasn't all about winning but rather the enjoyment of the sport. Our first game was tough but we didn't give up; we worked hard and even though we didn't win, we all left the court having learnt something new about one another and our strengths and weaknesses as individuals and as a team. Thereafter, we were undefeated and only lost two other matches. We also participated in the interschool Sports Festival, held in Johannesburg in May. We played against tough Gauteng teams but that didn't stop us from giving of our best. We were all very supportive of one another, even at the hardest



of times. Over the season we became so much closer and this was brought about by the passion which we all shared for the sport. Looking back on the season, I know that I will miss St John's and the many sporting opportunities that so many girls may take for granted. I was able to be privileged enough to lead the netball team of 2009. I only hope the school's netball will continue to grow and flourish.

**Sisonke Petse**

## Polocrosse and Equestrian

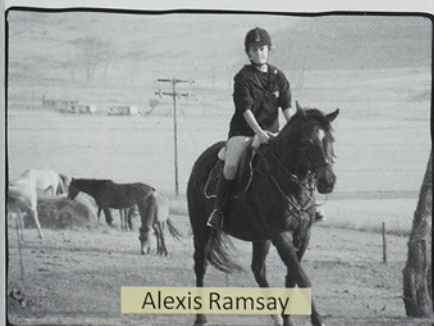
Although we had a relatively quiet year with regard to school equestrian events, we hope that next year will be more eventful now that St John's has joined the SANEF Schools' League in which we have begun participating. Horse-riding lessons have been added to the school sporting calendar and we have a couple of promising beginner riders. We will be putting together a school team to represent St John's in the Schools' League events as well as the annual KZN interschool competition. We look forward to a successful and happy riding year.

**Ms P Pletts**

Janine Meyer is pictured here with her horse, Rebel. Janine has recently been selected to play for the South African Girls' U16 Polocrosse Team. This team toured to Zambia from 29 June until 5 July, 2009. Well done Janine!



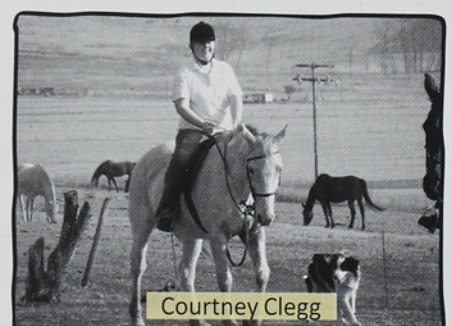
Julia van Niekerk, on her horse Zandor, was selected as a member of the KZN Adult Showing Team and competed in the SA National Showing Championships. Julia was also awarded her Senior KZN Colours. As the youngest competitor at the South African Championships in Durban, Julia won the Champion Show-Riding Horse title and was crowned Supreme South African Champion Show Horse for 2009. Well done on your superb achievements, Julia!



**Alexis Ramsay**



**Jessica Hodgkinson**



**Courtney Clegg**



# Squash

This year of squash has been one with many new and exciting changes, and many improvements. Squash is slowly becoming more popular amongst the girls, and it is encouraging to see how many young players are stepping on to the court, and having fun learning this great game.

Although our teams have not won too many games, everyone has improved with each match, whether playing in the school league, winter league or social squash. Each girl must be complimented on her enthusiasm and energy. With coaching being available almost every afternoon, girls have been able to fine-tune and fix their technique, and we are seeing some great games being battled out on the court. I have a very good feeling that squash is on its way to becoming a very popular sport at St John's. We are also proud to congratulate Justine Pearson and Kirsty Hulett on their squash achievements. Justine, who has shown admirable dedication to Winter



League squash in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term, is number 12 in KZN, while Kirsty was selected for the KZN U14 Squash Team. Both girls have enormous talent, and I wish them all their best for their promising squash careers in the future.

Every squash player's improvements are reflective of the dedicated coaches which we welcomed to the St John's family in 2009. Miss O'Neil, Mr Naidoo and Ms Schwegmann have taken to the squash court this year, and it is encouraging to see girls improving in leaps and bounds, because of the coaches' enthusiasm and motivation.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to thank each girl for her dedication to squash this year. You have all given of your best, and I am so proud to see your perseverance and camaraderie. Keep it up! I wish all of you the best in the future, and I hope that each one of you will continue to have fun and enjoy playing this amazing sport.

**Carmen Leisegang**

# Swimming

The swimming squad season of 2009 dived off to a good start. The first gala was at Epworth, which the girls swam with enthusiasm and great spirit but were placed just behind Epworth with a point less. Owing to hard swimming we were lucky enough to see Mrs Schirge in the pool with her clothes on at the next practice! This gave us the motivation to beat Epworth at the Diamont gala, being placed 7<sup>th</sup> with Michaelhouse. The next gala was the Independent Schools' Co-ed Gala at Clifton. Despite many girls missing due to illness, we gave of our best and swam hard. Our next gala was at St Mary's DSG, where we exceeded our expectations and beat St Anne's, one of our best achievements. The squad tradition of a get-together to celebrate our achievements was replaced with a more effective option earlier in the season: carbo-loading on delicious pasta salads provided by the school, the coaches and Miss Schwegmann! This was just before the interschool gala at Alexandra Baths, the most important gala of the season with



some tough competition! Our swimmers gave it their all and we were narrowly beaten by our rivals.

Special congratulations to the U14 girls for their constant commitment as well as their winning many of their races, one being the freestyle relay race at the co-ed gala at Epworth.

Thanks must go to our devoted coach, Mrs Schirge, and Miss Adam. Without them, we wouldn't have achieved as much as we did. To the squad of 2010, all the best for next season, give of your best and the hard work you put into practices will be rewarded.

**Robynne Balcomb**





Tennis this year has had a very busy programme. We had a large number of teams competing which has meant that a large number of girls have enthusiastically participated in both the 1<sup>st</sup> term and 3<sup>rd</sup> term leagues.

The 1<sup>st</sup> team has had a successful year. Although we have no major results to boast, we can maintain that we were a competitive opposition to all the schools in the Lyle League whilst showing our most competitive results against Treverton, Epworth and The Wykeham Collegiate.

The 1<sup>st</sup> team also participated in the KwaZulu-Natal Interschool tournament and finished 1<sup>st</sup> in their section before losing to TWC in the play-off round. In the second term our first team also travelled to St Andrew's School in Johannesburg to take part in the Independent Schools' Sports

Festival. There the team excelled and younger players were given the opportunity to be exposed to some top class opposition. Despite having a mixed bag of results across the board,

the 1<sup>st</sup> team has had a successful season filled with laughs, memories and competitive tennis. Well done to all members of the first team and to all the girls that make up our numerous league teams. Your commitment and enthusiasm is truly commendable.

Thanks must, of course, go to Mrs Stakemire who really goes the extra mile to ensure that the tennis season runs smoothly and successfully. And then a big "thank you" must go to Mrs Osborne for her enthusiasm, advice and organisation as our coach. Her efforts have truly reflected her commitment to tennis at St John's and her passion for this wonderful sport that is growing in popularity each year. I hope that next year's season will be just as fun-filled and successful!



# Waterpolo

The 4<sup>th</sup> term waterpolo season is a short, but busy one owing to exams. Our teams have trained hard but the rainy weather has certainly made it miserable to be in the pool. Our results have been pleasing, despite training in a sub-standard sized pool.

The Junior team has achieved outstanding results losing only two matches – one to TWC and the other by one goal to Girls' High.

The Senior team has met with mixed fortunes but has played with determination and enthusiasm.

Congratulations to Helen Aadnesgaard and Jeunesse van Zuydam who were selected for the U16 KZN Waterpolo training squad that attended final KZN trials.

Our junior players attended a coaching session at Clifton College with SA coach Brad Rowe. This proved to be a worthwhile exercise for refining skills. Thank you to those girls who attended.

Thanks to all the players for their commitment to matches and practices and to Kate Rosario our coach who has so willingly given of her time and expertise.





# Humanities

There continues to be a high level of participation in and enjoyment of cultural and extension activities which fall under the Humanities banner. Girls seem to find the opportunities to extend their general knowledge, express their ideas, and engage in lively debate and discussion, both stimulating and enriching.

## DEBATING

We were once again able to field teams in all three leagues this year, thanks to Alexandra Kilgour's efforts with the Grade 8 team. She trained them and assisted them in preparing for their first season of Debating, a commitment for which we are most grateful. We also entered three teams into the Junior league – such was the level of interest in participation – and one team in the Senior league.

The junior debaters, in particular, impressed with their dedication and enthusiasm. Although it meant juggling other commitments, a large group of Grade 9's and 10's met on most Tuesday afternoons to discuss the next topic and decide who would research, write speeches, and debate in the next round. Altogether, eighteen junior girls debated in the league, using a rotation system to make sure everyone got a turn, but ensuring that we remained competitive.

The seniors had to do a great deal of research to be ready to debate on one out of two possible topics each week. Despite the demands of academics and sport, they managed to get themselves organised week by week.

The first round of the league comprised seven debates.

Our senior team debated fairly well, coming 10<sup>th</sup> overall.

**St John's:** won 3; lost 3; 1 bye

Darsha Indrajith was named Best Speaker on two occasions. She was invited to attend the selection tournament in the September holidays.

The junior teams fared well, all being placed in the top 10 teams (out of 22).

**St John's 1:** won 5; lost 2; made it to the semi-finals; finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

**St John's 2:** won 4; lost 3; 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

**St John's 3:** won 4; lost 3; 8<sup>th</sup> overall.

Our junior speakers garnered 12 Best Speaker awards in all. These went to Nkosinothando Mayisela (3); Rachel Alberts (3); and Pooja Singh, Catherine Elstob, Helen Aadnesgaard, Thelishia Moodley, Lauren Sole and Victoria Aadnesgaard who earned one award each.

Nkosinothando Mayisela, Rachel Alberts, Helen Aadnesgaard and Pooja Singh were all invited to attend the first Inter-league tournament in May. Nkosinothando and Helen were also invited to a selection tournament in the September holidays.

We were delighted that Nkosinothando was selected to be part of the KwaZulu-Natal Junior team which will take part in a national tournament in Cape Town during the December holidays.

The Grade 8 team debated six times, with ten girls participating over the weeks. They won only one of their debates, but benefited enormously from the opportunity to develop their debating skills in preparation for the junior league next year. Sarah Murphy and Angelique dos Santos won Best Speaker on one occasion each.

We are very grateful for the patient fetching and carrying undertaken by Mr Payne, Mr Thabethe and parents, sometimes very late at night.





## LECTERN CLUB

The St John's Lectern Club had a very active and successful year under the able leadership of the 2009 Committee consisting of Alexandra Kilgour, Hayley Knight, Cara Marx and Nicola Mundell.

Lectern Club members met every week in the first term to practise the different skills related to public-speaking and to develop their confidence levels in this field.

We also had two very successful Lectern Club evenings – an internal “pudding” evening of much hilarity and sugar and a formal dinner where we hosted the Toastmasters' Club of St Charles.

Thanks are due to the 2009 Committee for their dedication and commitment and congratulations to the incoming Committee for 2010: Darsha Indrajith, Fezeka Mayisela, Nqobile Msomi and Khanyisile Ndlela.

Jean Dyson



## PUBLIC-SPEAKING

The Interhouse Speech competition was once again well-supported and hotly contested. Girls had to select between one and four lines of a (well-known) song and use them as a springboard for their speech. This led to some very amused speculation before the speeches started: what does one expect, for example, from a speech inspired by “*I’m the only gay Eskimo/ I’m the only one I know...*”?

It was encouraging to see, once again, meaningful engagement with important topical issues, as well as evidence of introspection, reflection and self-awareness. The speakers charmed, entertained and challenged the audience with their thought-provoking contributions.

In the Junior section a tie was awarded, to Kimberley Bingel (Athlone) and Helen Aadnesgaard (Athlone), whose topics were “*I’m too sexy for my shirt, so sexy it hurts*” and “*I’ll take my clothes off and it will be shameless/’cos everyone knows that’s how you get famous*”, respectively! Others who took part were: Jodi Battershill, Thelishia Moodley, Camryn Cochrane, Lonathemba Radebe and Janine Meyer. Their efforts were most appreciated.

The quality of speeches in the senior section reflected the experience of the participants. Those placed were: Nqobile Msomi, who wove her topic “*I’m so 3008, you’re so 2000 and late/ I’ve got that boom boom boom*” into her speech wonderfully; Darsha Indrajith, whose observations on the topic “*Teenagers scare the living \*\*\*\* out of me*” were suitably hilarious; and Carmen Leisegang, who presented a mature and insightful reflection on “*If I were a boy ...*”. There were also worthy contributions from Emalin Govender, Mbalenhle Majola and Khanyisile Ndlela.

Khanyisile delivered an edited version of the speech she had given at the Nelson Mandela Speech Competition the week before. We were extremely proud of her performance

in this competition. It was the first time we have entered, and Khanyisile was a little daunted by the impromptu speech required. This was clearly not enough to put her off, however, as she is keen to enter again next year and build on what she has learnt. Her perceptive and erudite speech focused on cultural and identity issues in schools today.

## ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

44 girls in Grades 10 to 12 wrote the English Olympiad this year. The theme was “The Conundrums of Ambition”, with the questions based on an anthology of poetry and song lyrics. There is no teaching involved in preparing for the Olympiad: girls are expected to engage with the material themselves, and use the study guide provided to approach it in a creative and analytical way. The questions are open-ended to encourage original and personal responses. We had two group discussion sessions to provide girls with an opportunity to share their ideas with one another, to listen to some of the songs, and to familiarise themselves with the context of some of the material.

We were extremely pleased with this year’s results, an improvement on last year’s, reflecting perhaps the appeal and accessibility of the anthology choices. Two of our girls were awarded Gold Certificates, which are awarded to the top 100-150 candidates: Supriya Soorju and Sharon Faure. This is an excellent achievement, bearing in mind that this is a national competition with thousands of entrants. Sharon was placed 82<sup>nd</sup> overall.

Samantha Arnold, Kirsty Weaver, Julia van Niekerk, Darsha Indrajith, Mbalenhle Majola, Nqobile Msomi, Robyn Johnson, Carmen Leisegang and Tegan Mill won Silver Certificates. Other girls were awarded Bronze, Merit or Participation Certificates.

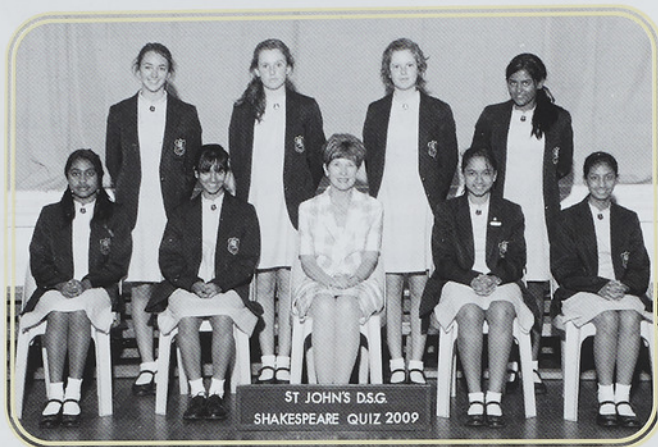


## SHAKESPEARE INTERSCHOOL QUIZ

### – Brush up Your Shakespeare

2009 marked the nineteenth year that the challenging Shakespeare Interschool Quiz has been held. A great deal of time and a high level of commitment are required for participation in the competition.

Teams are required to be familiar with Shakespeare's biographical details and the Elizabethan age. They also have to read and answer questions on twenty-four Shakespearean plays; prepare a television advertisement with a Shakespearean theme; and, through charades, illustrate quotations from Shakespeare's plays. It is extremely demanding.



This year **Helen** and **Victoria Aadnesgaard** and **Liane Chetty** as the Shakespeare Quiz team, "Shakespeare's Children", sacrificed the Sunday of their half-term weekend to participate in the second round of this interschool competition.

They were an absolute credit to St John's and although they did not win through to the Semi-Finals, they can take comfort from the fact that they were beaten by a far more experienced team (from Durban Girls' High), who were also the top-scoring school on the day and ultimately won the competition in the Final Round.



SHAKESPEARE QUIZ TEAM: HELEN AND VICTORIA AADNESGAARD AND LIANE CHETTY.

## 2009 SACF LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

This year, everyone in Grades 1 to 11 wrote this spelling- and vocabulary-based benchmarking test. The test includes spelling and "general knowledge" sections like idioms and word origins. Going over the test is, in itself, a valuable learning opportunity.

Once again, Darsha Indrajith was among those placed nationally, being awarded joint first in Grade 11, with an outstanding achievement of 93%. We are incredibly proud of her.

Our results overall were very encouraging, with our grade averages consistently between 5 and 10% higher than the national averages.

In an ever-changing world of techno-language, SMS-speak and declining reading skills, we feel that it is increasingly important to engage in activities which promote vocabulary-building and good grammar!

Of course, there is no substitute for **READING** when it comes to developing these skills: not just modern, light, teen/tween reads, but those beautifully written classics, too (*Anne of Green Gables*, anyone?).

### THE RESULTS IN THE HIGH SCHOOL WERE:

#### GRADE 8

**Tied 1<sup>st</sup>** Ashleigh Dean and Candice Price  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Lara Denton

#### GRADE 9

**1<sup>st</sup>** Justine Pearson  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Elsa Schärf  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** Shannon Nieuwoudt and Kimberley Bingel

#### GRADE 10

**1<sup>st</sup>** Julia van Niekerk  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Helen Aadnesgaard  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** Jenna Annandale, Samantha Arnold and Catherine Elstob

#### GRADE 11

**1<sup>st</sup>** Darsha Indrajith  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Siobhan Borain  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** Abbey Hudson





The Interact Committee of 2009 have been hard at work this year but besides being busy, it's been fun and memorable for us all.

A verse that has had influence on our committee this year comes from Matthew 25:35-36 & 40. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" This is how we have viewed being a part of the committee and what is involved in being so.

There have been many highlights throughout this year. We have continued our usual weekly trips to the Salvation Army which is always a delight for both the girls who attend and the children at the home. Their bright smiles and welcoming hugs never cease to make us feel a huge and important part of their lives.

This year the Interact Committee have donated new curtaining to some of the bedrooms since the change of the children's dorm. We will end our year with the usual Salvation Army party.

Our visits to the local old age home, Bethel, have continued this year, unfortunately not as frequently as we would like. The times that we have attended never fail to brighten our

day and plant a new and wonderful "life lesson" in our hearts. Not only do we feel uplifted by it but we leave feeling as though we have touched the lives of the ladies and gentlemen who live at Bethel. Our visits are most appreciated by them as they share stories from their pasts with us.

Interact has also been involved in much fund-raising. This year we continued with our annual "Kom Ons Sökkie" which as usual, was a fun, exciting afternoon for all.

One of our biggest fund-raisers this year was the annual Coin Chain. The girls' enthusiasm was greatly appreciated as they created their own designs and enjoyed their well deserved hot chocolate and biscuits. We have also donated money to St John's driver, Mr Thabethe who has had many health issues this year. We wish him a fast recovery.

Our smaller fund-raisers included a savoury sale and a smoothie stand at the Welcome to Wellness expo.

Special thanks go to Mev. Malherbe who has been our back-bone throughout this year. Her organisational skills and committed spirit have helped us more than we could express.

Lastly, thank you to all the Interact girls who made our load a little lighter as well as the girls who faithfully support us in any way.

**Jodi Melrose and Rachel Bean**





# Youth Forum and Ashburton Outreach

This year Youth Forum have taken part in a number of activities in order to raise money for various charities, e.g. by doing things such as, running a tuck shop at the interhouse gala and at the Quiz Evening. During tea we have held a cake sale and sold doughnuts. All of these would not have been a success had it not been for the girls' support.

Our weekly visits to Pam Boakes house continued this year. The committee would just like to thank all the girls who take time out of their busy schedules to participate in the Wednesday afternoon visits. We really do appreciate the time you are willing to put towards the children to ensure smiles on their faces.

I would just like to thank Mrs Stakemire for helping with all the little questions that needed answers. Youth Forum is truly blessed to have someone as caring and loving as Mrs Stakemire helping as the head teacher of Youth Forum.

The support from the girls has been very rewarding and successful. I would like to thank all the girls who have supported the committee whether it by buying from the cake sales or visiting the children during the week.

To my fellow Youth Forum Grade 11's, Stephanie Bruce, Emily Key, Zola Conco and Lihle Bhengu, thank you for helping this year be so much fun. It has been so worthwhile

– all of it; for all the memories we have from being a part of Youth Forum, all of which will be remembered time and time again. I want to thank you for helping with all the tasks at hand. You have made it easier than it would have been.

To the committee of 2010 I wish you the best of luck and I know you'll do great things for the committee. Brittney Freese, Camryn Cochrane, Bophelo Nakin and Bianca Wittig, I know you will do so well leading Youth Forum. Thank you for making this a really memorable year.

**Robyn Lang**



## ASHBURTON OUTREACH

There are so many high ideals in education that often the most basic and yet the most important become overshadowed. There is a need in our world for people to become less self-centred and more aware of the plight of others. St John's tries to instil in the girls a firm sense of duty to exercise charity in a quiet, unobtrusive way. We hope that by the end of the Grade 10 year our girls, through the involvement at the Ashburton Farm School, have recognised the

importance of helping the less fortunate. The weekly visits to "Ashburton" play a large role in planting the seed for future works of charity. This year's Grade 10 girls have had fun, enjoyed their time at the school, learned much and gained more. We are most

grateful to the Headmistress and staff for allowing us to visit their school.

This year Mrs Gunning, Ms Cumming and Mr Feese joined the outreach team in that they conducted computer skills lessons on a weekly basis for the Ashburton staff. The progress and success of the very keen "pupils" is testament to the dedication and the good teaching of Mrs Gunning and her helpers.

We look forward to continued involvement at the Ashburton Farm School in 2010.



LINDELWA NDLOVU GIVING A HELPING HAND



FRANCES BAM SHOWS THE CHILDREN HOW MUCH FUN LEARNING CAN BE!



SAMANTHA NTOMBELA MAKING ST VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS



BOPHELO NAKIN INTERACTING WITH THE CHILDREN IN CLASS



# Doing something good

## RECYCLING

During 2007, the grade 6 class started a drive to collect newspapers. Here they are seen "feeding" the Mondi orange paper dome. For your convenience, the Mondi dome has been moved into the New England Road car park.

The coloured bins are for plastic (yellow), cans (blue) and Tetra Pak foil-lined cartons (red). The bins are emptied weekly, and the contents taken to a recycling depot in Howick. **The main aim of recycling is to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.**

There is a nest of coloured bins in the Harwin Road car park for easy access when collecting your daughters from school.



MONDI DOME IN THE NEW ENGLAND ROAD CAR PARK



BINS IN THE HARWIN ROAD CAR PARK



EASTER EGG COLLECTION - BIANCA WITTIG, JEMMA BREWITT AND CHLOË KILGOUR

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Mrs Brenda Willows had a lot of our girls and their families knitting for a good cause.

To celebrate the International Day for Knitting In Public (KIP), girls and staff were encouraged to purchase a Breast Cancer Awareness knitting kit.

Eighty girls, staff, moms and grans knitted balls of soft, fluffy pink wool into small rectangles, which were then sewn into blankets.

During October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness month, the blankets were donated to Msundusi Hospice. Thank you to all those who so willingly purchased the kits.



SHOWING FULL COMMITMENT TO THEIR TASK ARE TWO GRADE 8'S, LAUREN SEYMOUR AND SINQOBILE MDLALOSE.



# Thailand Culinary Tour

To try and sum up two weeks of a truly breath-taking and eye-opening experience in a few hundred words is near impossible. No one expected the deeply rooted culture or the natural beauty of the countryside. Being part of a completely different religion, lifestyle and population wasn't only fun and exciting, but extremely enlightening too.

The Thai people have such an honest respect for their religion (Buddhism), which is evident in the extravagance and fine detail of the temples. Temple walls are covered in tiny, gold plated, mosaic tiles, and many temples have images of Buddha carved in semi-precious stone such as jade or crystal. The way the people conduct themselves within the temples is also admirable. Appropriate clothing has to be worn, silence must be kept and shoes must be removed. The religion itself is so complex, that only a brief glimpse could never give a true impression.

The temples weren't the only aspect of Thailand that were too beautiful to be described. The countryside and the natural vegetation had the perfect mixture of trees, shrubs, clearings and water features. All 22 of us were delighted by river-rafting and the performances of the local elephants, which we were told are much smarter than African elephants. The environment was so serene, that not even 18 high school girls could be enticed into chatting.

An interesting change to note between the two countries was the locals' personalities. In South Africa we are lucky enough to be surrounded by a population of relaxed, friendly people. But, unfortunately, even we could not live up to the Thai people's warm and welcoming manner. They were never without a smile or a joke, and a prime example was our tour guide, Usa, who was tirelessly enthusiastic. She managed to bring us through our own fatigue, to find a deeper culture and education than we could have had alone.

Of course, as revealing and intriguing as the cultural aspects of the tour were, no one could deny that we were swept up in the shopping experiences of the night bazaar, silver factories, markets, shopping malls and countless others. We were all told the shopping would be cheap, but the

shopping was practically free. With a well-planned budget, one could return with a hefty sum of around 40 new garments. Alas, no one budgeted very well, so this was never achieved, but it can definitely not be said that we returned empty-handed.

Another attraction which Thailand is traditionally famous for is its beaches. Everybody was waiting with critical eyes to see whether the beaches really were as fabulous as the brochures make out. We were not disappointed. The sand was indeed blindingly white, extremely fine and surprisingly soft on the skin. Naturally, the sea was the perfect temperature and exceptionally clear, considering the recent monsoon. I'm afraid to say it, but our beloved African shores have been outdone.

Now here is the part everyone has been so curious about. How did the St. John's group cope with the Thai cooking? Well, what seemed to be a daunting task to those of us who have only just mastered the microwave, turned out to be surprisingly fun and successful. All cooking classes were full of fun and jokes, and the chefs were all very patient with our lack of experience. The majority of the group was shocked to find that we can indeed cook, and once the parents of the girls who went on the tour convince them to share their skills, I'm sure they will be pleasantly surprised.

Finally, the tour may not have been so wonderful had we not had the same collection of people. The accompanying adults, Ms Whitfield, Mrs Crosson, Ms Singh and Mrs Tiffin, imposed the perfect balance of freedom and restraint, making sure there was not the total formal environment of school. All 18 students hugged the teachers goodbye... it was that good! Speaking from a personal perspective, I really felt that all the girls in different grades interacted and formed relationships more freely than we might have at school. Even bonds within our own grades were strengthened.

Writing a report can never truly do justice to our Thailand experience, but hopefully this expressed a small amount of the fun, education and adventure that was had by all.

**Michaela Jahnig (Gr 11)**



# Thailand Culinary Tour





# Bundu Bash



**Bundu Bash** this year was quite an event as is evident from the photographs! The rain fell steadily a few days before the chosen day, and the mist hung low in the early morning of Sunday, 11 October, 2009.

The more courageous and adventurous faced the challenge with determination and many came away with superb prizes and lucky draws- chopper flights, and weekends away, to mention a few.

The meteorological website predicted the weather changes well and the last drop of rain fell just before 11:00 a.m., close to the end of a fairly gruelling day! We are very proud of all the competitors, especially the little Bundu Buddies.

A big thank you to Mr Dave Hutton and Mrs Priscilla Saville from Stihl, for their most generous sponsorship again this year. St John's is most grateful for their contribution and we look forward to another successful event with them in 2010.

We thank the most able and competent Parents' Association for an event well-organized and well-managed on the day, despite the adverse conditions.

To the Chairman, Mr Greg du Preez, and his wife, Karen, St John's thanks you for the inordinate amount of time you both give to the school. We include your two daughters, Dale and Jodie, who have had to wake at 4:00 a.m. sometimes, and often wait patiently whilst meetings run. We are most fortunate to have parents such as you, and the rest of the Parents' Association, who willingly assist in various aspects of the school.

The parents in the food tent excelled themselves again. Superb cuisine was enjoyed by all! The course organizers spent hours "out there", ensuring that as much fun could be enjoyed by all ages. The total profit made from this event was R 90 000.00. An amount will be given back to the Baynesfield Conservancy and a percentage to the St John's Outreach Programme, which is Ashburton Primary School.

None of this could have been possible without the many other sponsors who so generously gave to the school, either in monetary terms or prizes. We thank them and list them here.

**Robyn Kirkby, Marketing Department**

## sponsors

Amber Steel	Molumong Lodge
Aquelle	Mr A Meyer
Arnolds Trout Farm	Mr Spike Holley
Belgotex	Mrs Lindy Joubert
Bell Equipment	Narasimulu & Ass.
Blackwood Nursery	Nashua
Blomeyers	NSI Shopfitters
Boëfs Plant Hire	Nyala Pans River Lodge
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BP Drakensberg	PG Bison
Brasfort Park Farming	Piggly Wiggly
Brokers	PMB Mouldings
Brokersure	Poobie Naidoo Sports
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Kemayu Spa	Tsonga Shoes
Kent Canham Insurance	Urban Machines
Mascor	Varsity College
Mbangewni Lodge	Waltons Carpets
Meadow Feeds	Warren Geyser
Miglio	Yobo Snacks



# Bundu Bash

Mud!



And more mud!



Run in the mud?  
You have to be kidding!



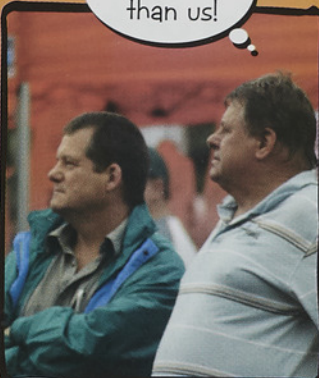
What mud?  
We don't see any mud.



Just keep  
on running!



Rather them  
than us!



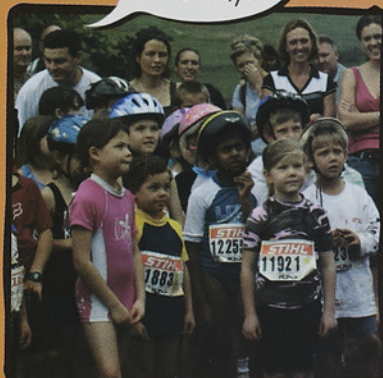
Girls, are  
you sure  
about this?



Go, girls, GO!



Okay,  
you lead  
the way!



How far  
did he say we  
must run?



Ready, Steady, Go!



If we stay  
together, we  
should be fine!



No, you can't have a  
rest with your friends!



Tut! Tut! It  
looks like rain!



Perhaps a song will  
keep the rain away!



Some  
of us  
just came  
prepared!





# The Junior School

## *Report by the Headmistress of the Junior School*

When I first embarked on my teaching profession, I was struck by the following words written by Kahlil Gibran, author of "The Prophet":-

*Then said a teacher, Speak to us of Teaching.*

*And he said:*

*No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge.*

*The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness.*

*If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.*

As I look back on a lengthy, varied and rewarding career in teaching and management, I hope that I will be remembered for being faithful and loving, and that I have managed to lead some children to the thresholds of their own minds.

The past fourteen years at St John's have flitted by in an instant. I treasure every moment I have spent in this unique school. It has been an extraordinary privilege to work alongside so many excellent teachers and to interact with such charming, unpretentious girls and parents, who all have given me the greatest gifts of all – their loyalty and their love. I wish my successor, Miss Petra Wiesinger, all the joy and happiness that I have experienced at St John's. Farewell!

**Annette Symes**



MRS ANNETTE SYMES WITH HER SUCCESSOR  
MISS PETRA WIESINGER



# Junior Prize-giving

The Junior School Prize-giving ceremony was held on Friday, 20 November, 2009. It was a most memorable occasion for everyone who attended. Mrs Annette Symes delivered her final speech as Headmistress, after fourteen very happy years at St John's. Bishop Michael Nuttall, our Guest Speaker, entertained us all with anecdotes and snippets describing Mrs Symes written by some of the girls in the Junior School.



Miss Petra Wiesinger (incoming Junior School Head), Headmistress Mrs Stoffberg and Mrs Symes (outgoing Junior School Head)



**Grade 7 Prize Winners**

**Back row:** Tayla Chubb, Kelly Donaldson, Megan Walsh  
**Front row:** Raine Booy, Alexandra Mapstone, Phillia Smart, Georgie Twycross, Jessica Stegen



Dr and Mrs Smart with Phillipa who shared the Lisa & Jenna Brown Trophy, won the Junior Swimming and Junior Squash Champion, and was named Junior Sports Girl of 2009



Mr and Mrs Stegen with Jessica who was awarded Junior School Dux for 2009, won the Hennessy Music Cup and shared the Lisa & Jenna Brown Trophy



Mr and Mrs Twycross with Georgie who won the Good Fellowship Cup



Mrs Annette Symes with Paige Jennings



St Joseph Boarder Mistresses, Sarah and Emma Worthington



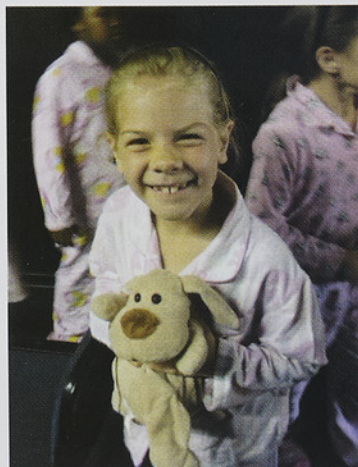
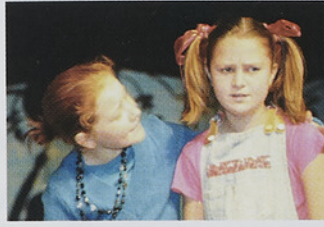
# We are the Children

All the girls in the Junior School were given the opportunity to participate in the musical entitled *We Are The Children*, which was staged from 11 - 14 August, 2009. A production such as this enables **all pupils**, with multiple various talents, to showcase their stage skills at differing levels of competence.

Our Senior Wind Band were the "backing band" for the show and this gave the musicians valuable experience in the art of accompanying singers.

A production such as this would never occur or succeed without the support of all staff and the Junior School staff – without exception – were absolutely phenomenal in every aspect of preparation and performance! The team-work throughout the process of staging this show was truly unifying – and energising!

The production proved to be a huge success, both financially and educationally and without a doubt – memorable!





# Nativity

AS USUAL, THE JUNIOR SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY CHARMED US ALL WITH THE SMILES AND ENTHUSIASM OF THE PUPILS.





# Grade 7

## Class of 2009



Caydwen Bause



Raine Booy



Grace Buthelezi



Tayla Chubb



Lauren Clark



Sarah Currie



Kelly Donaldson



Sasha Erskine



Bridgitt Leahy



Kelly Logan



Sarah Logan



Jowhara Mahomad



Alexandra Mapstone



Natisha Naicker



Amy Oosthuizen



Tejal Panday



Akira Pillay



Aadila Rahman



Philippa Smart



Dunette Smith



Jessica Stegen



Georgie Twycross



Kerryn van der  
Westhuizen



Bronwen van Tonder



Megan Walsh



Tessa Westwood



Sarah Williams



Samantha Wimbush





**Front row:** Kelly Logan, Tessa Westwood, Georgie Twycross, Mrs Anderson, Alexandra Mapstone, Akira Pillay, Amy Oosthuizen  
**Second row:** Dunette Smith, Bridgitt Leahy, Raine Booy, Jessica Stegen, Lauren Clark, Sarah Logan, Aadila Rahman, Tejal Panday  
**Third row:** Sasha Erskine, Bronwen van Tonder, Megan Walsh, Sarah Currie, Sarah Williams, Jowhara Mahomad, Samantha Wimbush  
**Back row:** Caydwen Bause, Tayla Chubb, Kelly Donaldson, Kerryn van der Westhuizen, Natisha Naicker, Philippa Smart  
**Not in photo:** Grace Buthelezi

**Volcanoes**  
 Erupting menace  
 Lava splutters everywhere  
 Throwing ash all over  
 Destructive  
 By Sarah W, Alexandra,  
 Jowhara, Grace,  
 Megan

**Floods**  
 Torrential rain  
 Destroying, damaging, dangerous  
 Taking everything for itself  
 Engulfs  
 By Jessica, Bronwen, Sarah L,  
 Tessa, Tejal, Sarah C

**Volcano**  
 Spewing cinders  
 Violent, vomiting, vicious  
 Melting magma murders millions  
 Ferocious  
 By Akira, Amy, Georgie, Samantha,  
 Tayla, Sasha

**Tsunami**  
 Vicious waves  
 Ferociously ruling seas  
 Tidal waves of doom  
 Destructive  
 By Bridgitt, Caydwen,  
 Natisha, Dunette,  
 Aadila

**Winter Personified:**  
 Winter, it creeps in on us  
 Winter grasps us with its coldness  
 The winter brings chill and brings us closer,  
 Closer to our families for warmth  
 Winter is a prison of coldness.  
 by Dunette Smith

**Autumn Personified:**  
 The cold trees in autumn,  
 Stand tall and proud.  
 Despite the fact that they are balding.  
 And even when the jeering wind blows,  
 Through its almost empty branches,  
 They still stand tall.  
 by Samantha Wimbush

**Tornadoes**  
 Whirling winds  
 Spinning, turning, devouring  
 Spreading destruction, causing panic  
 Deadly  
 By Philippa, Raine, Kelly D, Kelly L,  
 Kerryn, Lauren

**Pollution**  
 Plastic bags floating  
 Over the hills I see  
 Lurking behind me  
 Lingering in front of me  
 Underneath my feet  
 They crackle  
 In the soil beneath me, they hide  
 Over under, everywhere  
 Never seeming to cease.  
 By Lauren, Kelly L, Kelly D,  
 Kerryn, Raine

**Winter**  
 The trees bid farewell to their fur coats  
 The snow buries the floor  
 The rain pounds on the ground  
 The wind moans in the chilly night.  
 The feeling of emptiness haunts the trees,  
 Who are now without their beloved leaves.  
 The wind rattles the trees  
 The wind whistles, as it soars across the plain  
 The trees shiver.  
 Pieces of bark break loose; they fall to the ground  
 And the feeling of winter sets in, all around.  
 by Sasha Erskine



## Fish River, alias Umgeni Valley

The girls were divided into "cooking groups" and had to decide what food they would be taking for lunch, supper and breakfast. Their backpacks also contained cooking utensils, sleeping bags and the odd item of clothing. Tents and mattresses were left at school for the "sleepover".

"When we arrived, we weighed our bags. It was almost a competition. Mine weighed a whopping 10.7kg! The heaviest was Bronwen's, at 11.6kg. Sam was very lucky; her bag weighed 4.8kg. The tension was building up quickly. Finally we got into the buses. Everyone was buzzing with chatter, laughter and excitement." (Kerryn)

### Hiking in Umgeni



Kerryn, the experienced hiker

"The first part of the hike was quite easy but as we journeyed further on into the valley, it became harder. Even when we were going downhill, there were still uphill." (Megan)

"Halfway down we were all exhausted from the weight of our backpacks. I found the hike really hard, but the beautiful scenery kept me going. It was picturesque and tranquil. Once in the valley, we were tired and sore." (Jo)

"Our next stop was lunch. That was when we had finally made it to the bottom of the ever-stretching valley. We relaxed there again and ate, rejuvenating ourselves for what we knew, would be a strenuous and painful hike back up to the top.

I was intrigued to find that when we started again, the time passed quickly. I think it must have been because we were talking and singing at 'full speed', trying to distract ourselves. Through our facade, though, we all knew our shoulders were begging us to stop. The final climb was absolute torture! The path was like a winding staircase of doom. We could only walk a few steps before collapsing on the floor." (Phil)

There were many sighs of relief when the school buses were spotted. They signalled the end and meant that backpacks could be offloaded. The bus trip home was at first quiet, but spirits soon lifted and once again a noisy buzz was heard. The gazebo area was soon transformed into "Tent City".

The erecting of tents proved challenging for some, but with a little team effort, soon everyone had accommodation. Bath time was heralded by squealing girls as they plunged into an icy pool, whilst others opted for the showers. Then the cooking process started. There was a little trading, as girls suddenly found that they lacked certain utensils, or other menus proved to be more attractive. Finally, the campsite quietened down. The next morning,

### Tent City



girls were up early to make breakfast and pack up.

"In the morning we all woke up with bad hair and sore shoulders." (Tayla)

Then the trek back to the Grade 7 classroom began. Once everyone was reinstated in her desk, diaries of experiences were recorded. As tea time approached, tummies were once again grumbling and the girls waited in anticipation for The Pizza Delivery Man to arrive.

I think the words "travel light" will be a motto for many a Grade 7, in future hiking experiences!



## Freezing Water Obstacle:

The worst obstacle ever invented! There was a square pool, in which freezing cold water was pumped and there were dead fish, frogs and rumour says, there was even a dead donkey! Along the pool, were two logs that were slippery and narrow. We had five planks and had somehow to make our way across this "pool". It was terrifying knowing that you could fall in at any moment! Our plan was to pass the planks back as we progressed. The planks were wet and it was frightening. Eventually we began the horrific journey. We ended up with four on a plank, because someone accidentally stepped on the logs, which was forbidden. Dunette fell in, Katie screamed, the logs wobbled and the water haunted us silently below ....

(Sasha)

WHO SAID HANGING IN A TREE LIKE A MONKEY WASN'T FUN? JUST LOOK AT BRONWEN



## Tree-climbing:

Tree-climbing was the activity I was most nervous for. As I saw everybody climb the tree, one by one, anxiety overwhelmed me. When it was my turn, I took a deep breath and decided to be brave. Before I knew it, it was over and I came down from the top of the tree with a wide grin on my face and a great feeling of satisfaction.

(Raine)



## GREYSTONES

The girls were kept very busy with numerous activities. Here are a few extracts of some of the activities that they experienced on tour.

## Trust fall:

We did something called The Trust Fall, where we had to trust our team-mates and fall off a 1-metre-high pole, into their arms. When your feet have left the pole, you get this sudden adrenalin going through your body. I did very well in my fall and trusted my friends. (Bronwen)



TRUSTFALL – BRIDGITT PUTTING COMPLETE TRUST IN HER FRIENDS.

One of the highlights of our tour was on our return journey. On the bus, excitement was building more and more and I almost wanted to burst! I absolutely loved the canopy tour and in my opinion, it's one of those things you can do over and over again! On one of the slides you had to lift your legs quite high to land on the platform, and next to the platform was the most magnificent rock face, with towering boulders and a tiny silver waterfall running down it. It was simply stunning.

(Jess)



KELLY L DOING THE FOFIE-SLIDE

Once we had our harnesses on, as well as safety helmets, gloves and three safety cables, we set off in the back of a bakkie, up to the rocky mountain side. The first slide was a 40m short practice slide, on which we practised breaking. I was a bit worried, but after our practice, I was confident and not scared at all. From there on it was absolutely amazing! As you slid across a dip in the valley, you saw a stunning view that looked like a massive green sea swallowing you up.

(Phil)



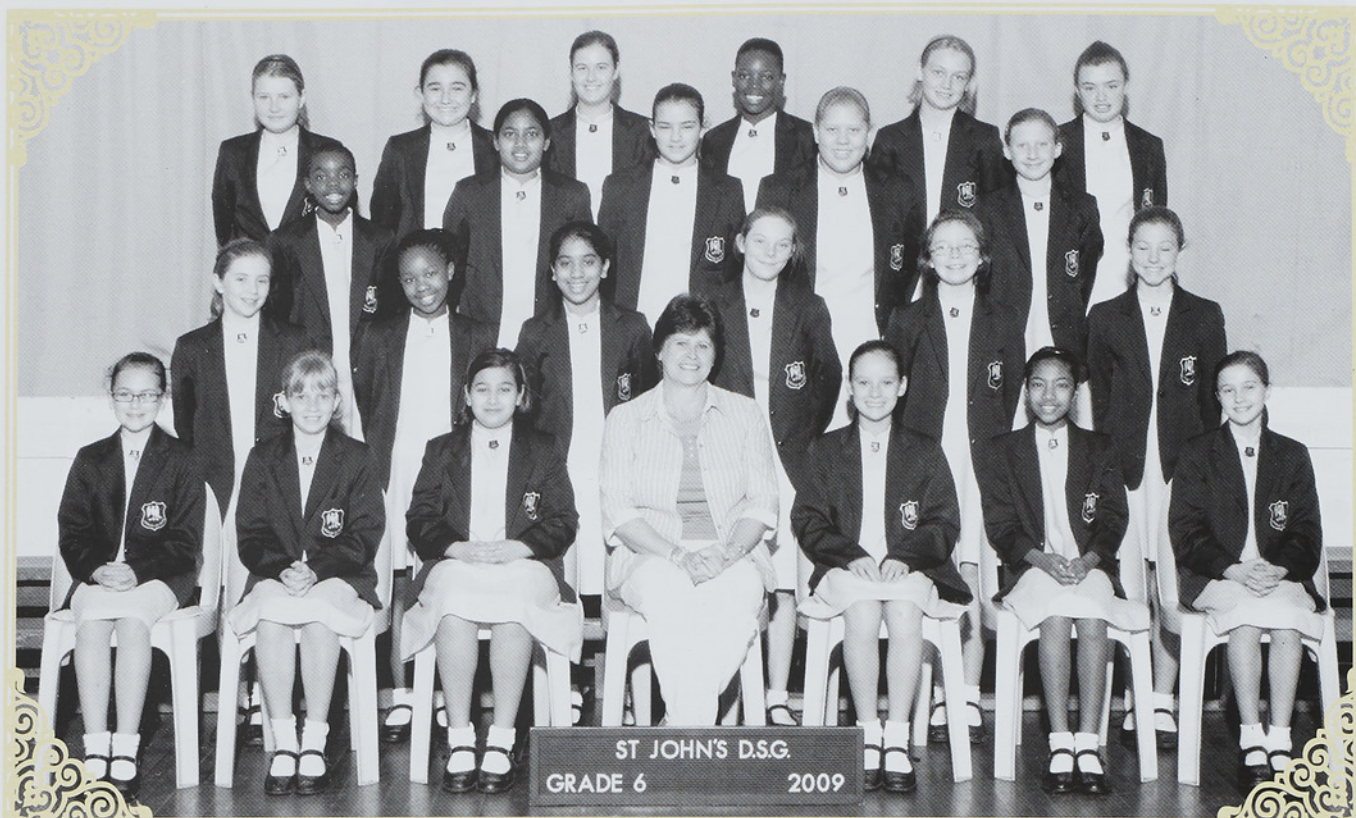
ALL KITTED OUT AND READY TO RUN THE COMRADES. READY, STEADY, GO! WATCH OUT 2010!



AFTER LEARNING ABOUT THE COMRADES MARATHON, GIRLS WERE KEEN TO MODEL THEIR COMRADES PEAKS.



# Grade 6



**Front row:** Madison Barnard, Kayla Coetzee, Najiya Maharaj, Mrs Adam, Leigh van Romburgh, Akira Sewsunker, Katherine Usher

**Second row:** Samantha Bell, Ntando Ndebele, Rupika Chuntarpursat, Shannon Gough, Isobel Dyson, Hannah Mayer

**Third row:** Khwezi Nyandu, Darshana Govender, Tracey Meyer, Tayla Pope, Ashleigh Jennings

**Back row:** Lara Coldbeck, Shannon Hurly, Devoney van Rooyen, Vuyiswa Mchunu, Jamie Reynolds, Crystal Hepple

**Not in photo:** Kimberley Henman

## THE ROYAL SHOW, what a place!

What a week! A place where you can see different stores, go on rides, watch shows, see animals and so much more. It is one of the main events in the city because it is the only agricultural show in South Africa. The Royal Show started on 23 December 1851 and it has been going for 160 years. It is ten days (with two full weekends) long.

Our visit was a great opportunity to learn about the history of many different stores. We visited stores such as the First National Bank and learnt that it started in 1984 and is still running, meaning it is about 25 years old. We also visited the Wizzard Worms @ Work and learnt that it is ten years old and was founded by Don Blacklaw. It provides a splendid fertilizer for plants. Another place we visited was the Sheep and Wool Expo, where you could see different breeds of sheep and goats. African Sheep do not have wool, but, hair, because of the climate.

As you can see, it is a wonderful place to take your children and family to learn interesting facts. So, we suggest you go to the Royal Show.

**Ntando, Shannon H and Akira**



THE WITNESS ROYAL SHOW TREASURE HUNT



THE WITNESS NEWS SEARCH

## MBANGWENI LODGE

We couldn't wait! The day finally arrived to go to Mbangweni Lodge. We all got ready and jumped onto the bus. With excitement we all screamed "goodbye". When we got there, we met George and Dickson. We all saw with our own eyes what a Bushman's life is about. We learnt a lot about his culture and traditions.

Dickson taught us how to make a San fire with a Natal fig, wood, stone, dry grass and a long stick. We all got a turn to shoot a bow and arrow. We had to shoot the middle of the box.

Afterwards we went and had tea and learnt how to make a bird trap. We all wanted to be the "bird". Dickson took his finger and stuck it in the trap and we started to laugh. Before we knew it, our outing was over.

**Najiya Maharaj, Madison Barnard and Lara Coldbeck**



## GREYSTONES REPORT

It started off with a long drive. We really didn't know what to expect as no one had ever been there. We finally arrived and four men were waiting for us. We were surprised as we thought there were going to be ladies. They helped us unload our excessive luggage and we got settled into our thatched dorms.

The main things that we learnt were, working as a team, to stay positive, helping one another and trusting one another. We were all in different groups, but we did the same activities. One of the activities was the "trust fall". Here we learnt to trust one another. There was a one-metre log standing upright. One girl had to stand on the log and the rest of us had to stand at the bottom and link our hands; she would have to trust us and fall backwards into our arms.

Another activity that we did was the “Great Wall of China” where we learnt team-work, by lifting one another over a high wall, and getting to the other side. Greystones was a very educational tour. It was extremely enjoyable.

Leigh van Romburgh, Isobel Dyson and  
Khwezi Nyandu



## OFF ON TOUR TO GREYSTONES



TREE CLIMB AT GREYSTONES



## TOWING THE LINE!



UP AND OVER!

## FINAL DESTINATION

The 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2009, dawned. We woke up bright and early, got dressed, ate breakfast, packed and left in the crammed bus of Grade 6's and 7's, and their luggage. It was quite a long journey, over highways, bumpy roads and through forests.

Eventually we arrived at our destination, the Karkloof Canopy Tours. We sprinted out of the bus, almost falling down the stairs. We walked quickly, chatting all the way to the office. There we had a talk on what to do.

We put on the heavy harnesses and other equipment, shortly after that we hauled ourselves into the small four-by-four bakkie. We went up the mountain on a twisty, bumpy road. We got to the top and walked to the first slide, and away we went, flying like the wind.

As we went we could see the splendid beauty of the forest below us. Time flew by so quickly and before we knew it was the end of the day. Off we went on our last slide. “

Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.”

Jamie Reynolds, Katherine Usher and  
Devoney van Rooyen

## AMABAGIBAGI MARKET DAY

The day finally arrived for the Grade 6 Market Day. Weeks of planning, discussion and production had eventually led to the big day. The pupils were excited to set up their stalls and Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, saw many parents carrying gazebos, umbrellas and boxes of produce into school.

There was a hive of activity in the Junior School quadrangle, and by 9:30 a.m., sales had already begun and the pace became frenetic as customers lined up to buy exciting goods from the stalls.

A percentage was collected from each stall and donated to a charity. The Grade 6 pupils would like to thank the St John's community for supporting their most successful Amabagibagi Market Day.

## AMABAGIBAGI POEMS

Markets on the go,  
The amabagibagi  
Everyone supports.  
Isobel Dyson

Market Day is here  
Every store is full of joy  
What will it bring us?

Darshana Govender

Working very hard  
Making posters and flyers  
Selling all our goods.  
Crystal Hepple

We're so excited  
Our market day is here now  
Come spend your money!

Rupika Chuntarpursat

## UMGENI VALLEY NATURE RESERVE

The girls in Grade 6 went on an outing to Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve. The drive was about half an hour long. We met "Ranger Dave" who showed us around the reserve.

We went into a room filled with animal skulls. After learning about animal skulls on a powerpoint presentation we had a test to see if we could remember all of them. Ranger Dave also took us on a long, tiring walk to the top of a waterfall. Finally we reached a shady spot to eat our lunch. We went to a place by the waterfall where if you shouted, it echoed. We had a fun-filled time.

Kayla Coetzee, Vuyiswa Mchunu and Tracey Meyer



MACRORIE  
HOUSE  
MUSEUM



DEVONEY VAN ROOYEN WON A PRIZE AT THE MUSEUM PASSPORT COMPETITION



TATHAM ART GALLERY



## BOTANICAL GARDENS

When we arrived at school, we heard lots off babbling coming from the grade 6 classroom, we went in to see what the commotion was about. They were all enthusiastic about going to Botanical Gardens.

We arrived to a magnificent scene of verdant grass and flowing rivers. The day before it rained a lot, so it was muddy. Botanical Gardens is one of the nine national gardens in South Africa, established in the early 1870s.

They have 150 bird species. We walked through an avenue of Plain Trees which was planted in 1918. We tramped along the path of the Smell, See and Feel Garden, we saw all the indigenous plants.

Then it was off to the river to test how dirty it was, it was quite dirty (2 out of 4). We had a very enjoyable time at Botanical Gardens.

**Darshana Govender, Crystal Hepple & Hannah Meyer**

### Friends

You can count on them  
Sometimes they might let you down  
But remain loyal

**Najiya Maharaj**

### Mrs Symes

Golf is her passion,  
Encouraging her pupils,  
Fun-loving and smart.

**Khwezi Nyandu**

### Wow

She is always there,  
We will all miss her dearly  
What a great person.

**Shannon Hurly**



**SHEENA'S FAREWELL**



**FREEZING AT THE POLAR BEAR SWIM!**



**SCRAPBOOKING FUN**



**COKE BOTTLE BOATS**



**RIVERBANK GAME AT BISLEY RESERVE**

## BISLEY VALLEY

We were all excited on the bus to Bisley Valley. We played "River Banks" before being split into two groups with Ranger Kevin and Ranger Vuyo. Kevin's group learnt about dung, wetlands, and why people loved the mud. There were lots of worms in the mud. We even went fishing for insects!

Vuyo's group went to a small wetland. We stayed on the bank and learnt about different types of wetlands and how some things destroyed them. Lots of the places we walked through smelled like mint. When we walked through the stickiest mud, all of us got stuck and Ashleigh almost lost her shoe.

After we all got muddy our rangers let us have a shower and clean our clothes. Most of us were still dirty. Afterwards we had our tea. When we were done we played a game where we had to match pictures of wetlands. Some animals we saw were giraffe, zebra and buck.

When everyone came back we walked back to the two kombis. We all took our takkies off at school because they were too muddy. This was the muddiest, most enjoyable outing ever!

**Samantha, Kimberley & Rupika**

## Butterfly Haikus

Their wings spread up high  
They are soft and beautiful  
They fly but soon die.

**By: Kimberley Henman**

Fluttering, flying.  
It is delicate and small.  
Landing so lightly.

**By: Katy Usher**

They're graceful creatures  
Best thing about them is their,  
Delicate colours.

**By: Ntandu Ndebele**

Flip and flap they go  
They fly so high in the sky  
It's a butterfly

**By: Jamie**

Pretty, colorful  
Camouflaged, Secretive, flight  
Very small, insect

**By: Lara Kate Coldbeck**

Beautiful creatures,  
Different shapes and colours.  
They flip flap and fly.

**By: Tayla Pope**

Butterfly up high  
Touching your wonderful dreams  
Living a short life

**By: Shannon Gough**

Collect sweet nectar  
An array of bright colours  
Go fly, fly away!

**By: Akira Sewsunker**

Summer is here now,  
The butterflies fly around,  
A wonderful time.

**By: Devoney Van Rooyen**

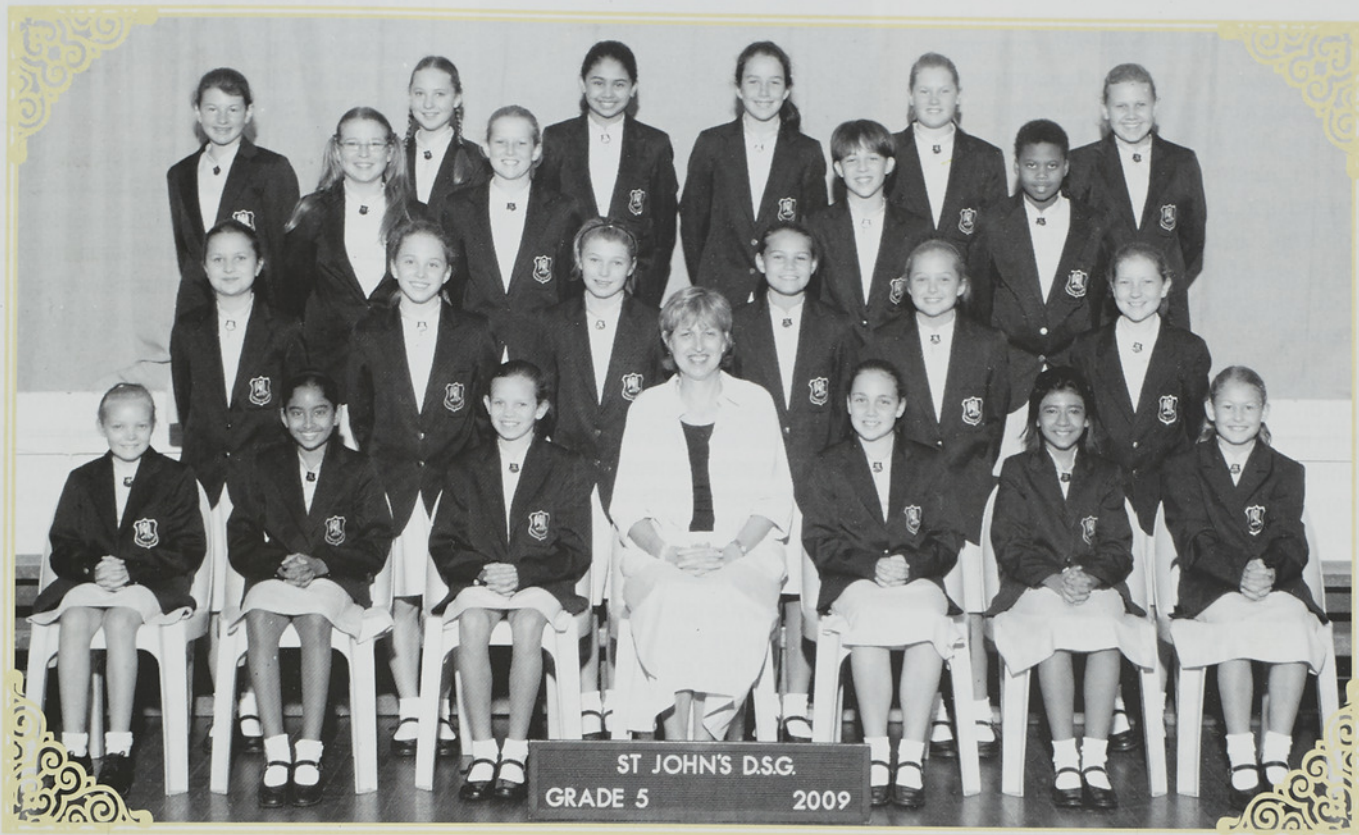
Butterflies are soft  
They are graceful and peaceful  
Always beautiful

**By: Leigh van Romburgh**

They flap their wings  
In and out the red roses  
Sucking sweet nectar

**By: Madison Barnard**





**Front row:** Paige Howland, Jadasia Narasimulu, Christin Adam, Mrs Ducasse, Hannah Scott, Naish Ramlal, Emma Dick

**Second row:** Samantha du Toit, Courtney Maud, Megan Coldbeck, Katelyn Fyvie, Sarah Trautman, Tara Oldfield

**Third row:** Courtney Geyser, Robyn Morgan, Monique Fitchat, Imkhitha Tyumre

**Back row:** Dale Du Preez, Simone Searle, Courtnee Francis, Aimée Pousson, Kayleigh Parker, Cayleigh Rice

## OUR OUTING TO THE MORGAN'S FARM IN RICHMOND

On Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March we went on an outing to the Morgan's farm. We travelled in different cars. When we arrived there, we were greeted by Mr and Mrs Morgan. Then we had to put our bags in their lounge.

We split up into two groups and all got on the bakkies. We were taken around the farm and shown different kinds of trees. We saw people stripping off the bark from the gum trees. We were told that the large poles get used for telephone poles or fences. Leftover wood gets made into paper. We saw wood being loaded on to a large lorry. Then we were taken to the wattle trees and we saw a sticky substance called resin on the bark of the trees. Mr Morgan told us that people use the resin when they make glue. We even saw what lightning can do to trees!

Later we were taken back to the house for tea. We had delicious cake to eat. We then were taken down to the a field of

'mdumbies'. We learnt that they grow from tubers and that you can eat them. We jumped off the bakkie and all ran through them. It was so funny because the sprinklers were on, and kept wetting us. When they aimed at us, we took a

huge leaf and covered ourselves! The plants were bigger than us so it was fun to hide inside them.

On the way back to the house we stopped off at the piggery. We saw piglets and they were so cute. There were many pigs and when we would put our gumboots against the cage, they tried to nibble them! We saw a very large boar too. We were busy scratching it and it suddenly got up. We ran like mad out of then pigsty.

Before we set off for home, we had a swim in the pool. We then thanked Mr and Mrs Morgan for a lovely outing. We had learnt such a lot about trees and plants. Then we got into our cars and waved goodbye. The girls in our car sang songs all the way back to school. We really enjoyed the trip and thanked our teacher for planning it.

**Paige Howland, Monique Fitchat, Tara Oldfield and Imkhitha Tyumre**



PAIGE HOWLAND HIDING UNDER THE MDUMBIS AT THE MORGAN'S FARM



DALE DU PREEZ, SAMANTHA DU TOIT AND PAIGE HOWLAND AT THE FOEFIE SLIDE



# Grade 5

## OUR SCHOOL MUSICAL

On 11 August we held a school musical at St John's in our theatre. Our music teacher, Mrs Forbes, was the producer and I think she was brilliant to write up the musical. It was called 'We are the Children'. On each of the four nights, there was a full audience. The play was about children growing up into teenagers.

We had to act, dance and sing. I had to run on stage and hit a bright yellow ball with my tennis racquet, it was very funny. Every time I went on stage I got scared. I will never forget when Samantha Du Toit came on to do 'I lost my Mommy'. I thought Dimpho's act was the best, she acted very well. My favourite song was 'Special Star'. Other songs we sang were 'Simple Simon Says', 'Dance Some More' and 'We are the World'. The band that played the music was very good.

I learnt that acting is great fun and we also learnt to work with each other all the time. I thought my parents loved the play, especially my dad. I think Mrs Forbes never runs out of energy and she deserves a great big hug.

Sarah Trautman



Heating experiment for Science Day:  
Dale du Preez, Sarah Trautman  
and Courtney Maud

## OUR SCIENCE WEEK

When we started preparing for our science, we were put into teams. Then we started our experiments. We all did experiments on heating or cooling of liquids. We enjoyed working together. When we had all completed our investigations, we put our results on brightly coloured paper. We were very proud of ourselves, when our projects were finally finished. We put them up in the gym hall and our class theme topic was "Let's heat it up!"

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, Kimbo the clown was dressed as a professor. He came to school to give us a science show. He was funny and did many strange experiments that made us laugh.

On the final day of Science Week, we went to the Science laboratory and did an experiment about heating and we were shown a bunsen burner. We timed how long it took to melt ice. It was fun to be in real laboratory.

We also went to the biology laboratory to learn about plants. We learnt about a jungle plant that smells to attract flies to pollinate it! We were shown a plant called 'Leonotus Leonorus'. We looked through microscopes and saw an ovary of a plant. I cannot believe how interesting plants are. I will definitely do Biology and Science when I am in high school. We had such an interesting week at school.

Megan Colbeck, Hannah Scott,  
Jadasia Narasimulu and  
Christin Adam

## OSTRICH

Ostriches are vegetation  
Swallows pebbles he help grip hard food  
They are very fast runners  
Ratite's family member  
It cannot fly  
Curving white beak  
Humped body

By Samantha Du Toit

Advertisement for a new cereal!

## BRIGHT BUBBLE BREAKFAST

IT PUTS THE TASTE ON YOUR TONGUE,  
AND A BOUNCE IN YOUR BELLY!  
IT'S OH - SO YUM!  
IT'S GOT ALL THE VITAMINS  
WHICH YOU CAN'T SEE.  
BUT COME AND GET IT,  
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

BY COURTNEY GEYSER

Poems written about our imaginary  
product made from a plant!

### A Fruit Juice

Fruity Looty Strawberry juice,  
Good for me and my brother Bruce.  
Makes you smart, makes you strong,  
Makes you want to sing a song.  
Drink this juice every day,  
And things will start,  
To go your way!

By Aimée Pousson

### Breakfast Cereal

Candy Crunchers are pretty wonderful,  
Making you feel absolutely incredible.  
They are colourful and bright,  
Crunchy and very light.  
A superior breakfast,  
And a nutritional delight!

By Cayleigh Rice

## OUR THOUGHTS ON 'INDABA DAY'

What did you enjoy the most?

*I enjoyed it when the little ones came in to buy. (Rachel Moffat)*

*I enjoyed eating lots of food. (Courtney Maud)*

*I enjoyed it when people came to buy things at our shop. (Niash Ramlal)*

*I enjoyed helping customers. (Simone Searle)*

What didn't you enjoy?

*I didn't like it when people walked away from our stall. (Rachael Moffat)*

*I didn't like shouting to get people's attention. (Courtney Maud)*

*I didn't like when I had to look for two rands. (Naish Ramlal)*

*I didn't like it when we ran out of biltong. (Simone Searle)*

What did you learn from this activity?

*I learnt to bargain. (Rachael Moffat)*

*I learnt not to be shy. (Courtney Maud)*

*I learnt to work with money. (Naish Ramlal)*

*I learnt how to pack things out and display them. (Simone Searle)*



Dressing up Book Day!



Flowers for mum. Christin Adam,  
Emma Dick, Samantha du Toit



Robyn Morgan, Jadasia Narasimulu,  
Rachel Moffat and Imkhitha Tyumre



## Roselands

We set off to Roselands on the 27 May for a two day outing. We first went to Mr and Mrs Chubb's farm in Eston. We saw Nguni cattle and how sugar cane was grown. We were given naartjies to eat and we had a lovely yummy chocolate cake to eat in their garden.

We then set off to the Byrne Vallley and went straight to a teddy bear factory. I bought myself a teddy bear and named it Angel. Then we went to the Little Jam Factory. There were many types of jam to choose from. We then walked to a dear old lady's house and she told us all about the early Bynre settlers. We had hot-dogs and juice in her beautiful garden,

Finally we set off to Roselands. We met our leaders, Hazel, Wanda, Lulu and Nathan. They told us all about the farm. We then changed into old clothes and were ready for the obstacle course! All the groups had to make up their names like, "Mud Fighters" or "Tornado Crushers". We first rolled in a muddy pool then we climbed up ropes. We walked along poles and swam. It was fun except some of the heights. At the end of it, I gave Mrs Ducasse a wet hug



CANOEING AT ROSELANDS



HAVING FUN AT ROSELANDS

and mud kisses! We ran back to our rooms and then had a warm shower.

The next day we drove to the end of the farm that over looked a large valley. There were no tarred roads and it was very quiet, all you could hear were the chickens from the rural homes. I even heard the wind blowing gently in the grass. While I was writing in my diary, a little butterfly flew on my book.

We then went to the dam and we played in the tubes and boats. We went on the foefie slide. It was so much fun because I went down forwards and even backwards. The only problem was that the water was very cold.

In the afternoon we went on a nature walk. We learnt about trees and plants that are important to our country. We were even taken to the Blue Swallow nests which are in sink holes in the ground. When we reached a little stream, each of us could catch fish and crabs. That night we played duster hockey and sat around a campfire and sang songs and ate marshmallows.

The last day started by milking cows. Then we played football with a very large parachute, and a game called cat and mouse. We then went to do a team building activity. We had to step on stepping stones and if you touched the ground your whole team had to start again. We learnt at the end of the game to always work together as a team.

We then packed up our things and set off in the bus to the Rodiadale Flower Farm. A lady showed us how they grow plants and then they sell them as cut flowers in town. We had fun choosing bunches of flowers to buy. We arrived back to school and our parents were waiting for us. We all enjoyed the outing. The food was good and we learnt many funny songs.

**Courtney Francis, Robyn Morgan, Katelyn Fyvie, Emma Dick and Kayleigh Parker**



KATELYN FYRVIE AND HANNAH SCOTT PLAYING WITH A CALF AT ROSELANDS



AT THE DAM AT ROSELANDS



EMMA DICK AND CHRISTIN ADAM AT THE TEDDY BEAR SHOP

### GRADE FIVE VISITS THE S.P.C.A.

On the fourteenth of September the Grade Five Class went to the S.P.C.A. The previous week we went to 'Pick and Pay' to buy food for the animals. My class raised four thousand rand on our Indaba Day. We spent nearly three thousand rand on food for the animals and the rest of the money we donated to this charity.

When we arrived there, we unloaded all the goods and headed off to the

'Garden of Remembrance'. There is a lovely statue in the garden in memory of St Francis. I learnt that the people who work there, go to places where there are not any vets for the animals. Then they bring them back and treat them. When they are well, they send them back to their owners.

There were pigs that had been abused. They were thin and had long faces. There were many animals that had to be treated for diseases. Some

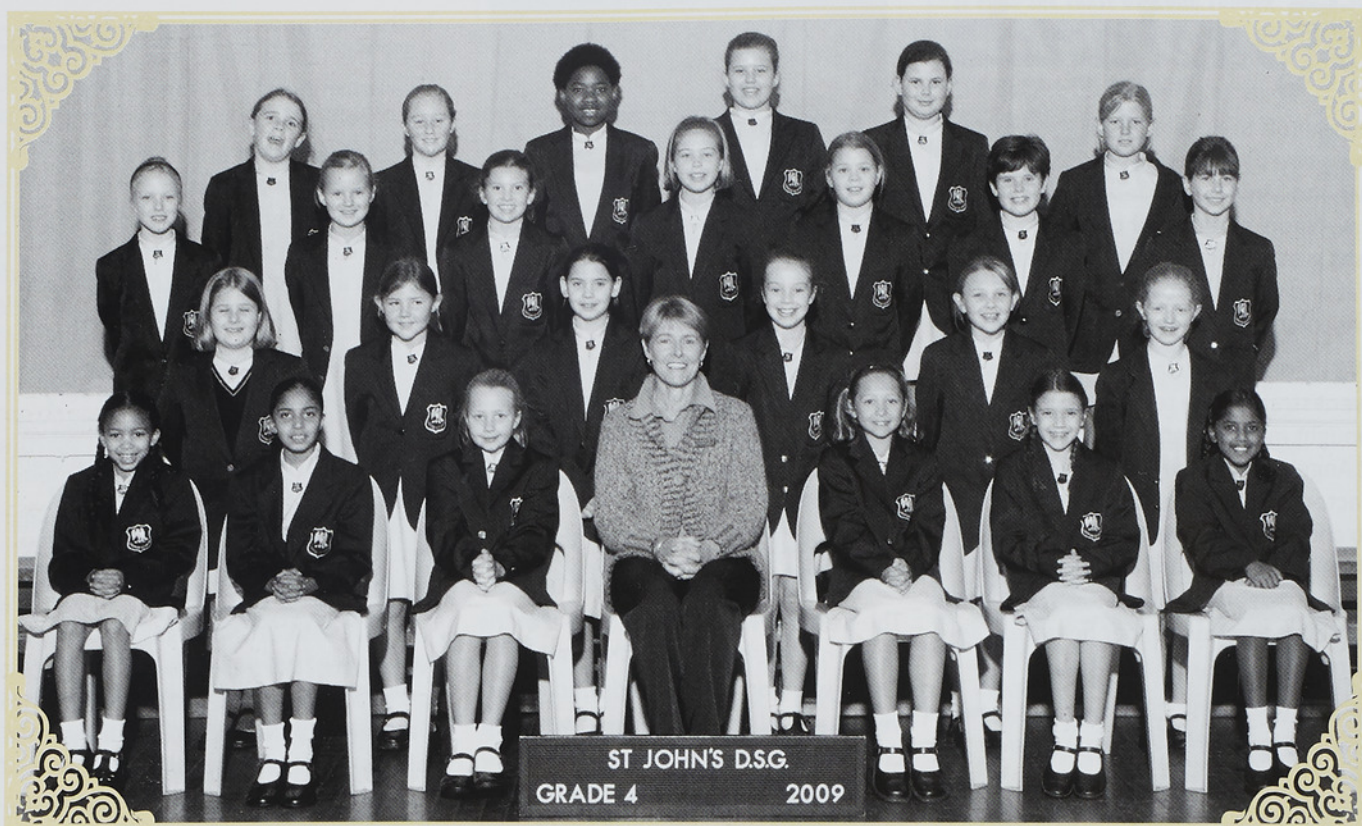
animals just need a home and someone to care for them. All the animals were adorable, I wanted them all. We were also taken to the boarding kennels. This is where people who go on holiday, can leave their animals.

It was a very special day for me. I hope that all those animals get homes. I will always remember to continue to support this charity.

**Dale Du Preez**



# Grade 4



**Front row:** Jessica Smith, Ameera Yacoob, Abigail Jacobsen, Mrs Perks, Kristen Stevens, Megan Bourne, Qelsee Jacobs

**Second row:** Sarah Dickson, Amy Karlsen, Angela Charlton, Kirsten Smith, Gabriella Chantler

**Third row:** Samantha Faure, Carla Widlake, Samantha Hockey, Ashleigh Haines, Sarah de Lange, Paige Bowton, Carmen Lunn

**Back row:** Claire Kidger, Kelsey Swan, Amanda Khumalo, Tahlia de Beer, Chloë Bonner

## Roseland's Outlook by Jessica Smith

The mountains stretched out across Roselands, with pockets of lush, green, SAPPI trees popping out of the brown, soft, crunchy grass. The cool fresh breeze stroked my warm cheek as it carried the buzzing sound of a bee. The hard brown rocks poked their heads out of the grass as different coloured bugs crawled and hopped upon them. Thorny thistles sprouted around the trees and the purple flowers blew in the breeze. A white and brown butterfly fluttered round my head as the sound of cockerels crowing carried along the breeze from the beautiful valley down below.



Jessica Smith on the tube

On the 27<sup>th</sup> May we were on our way to Roselands. We talked and talked to the teachers and to the Grade 5's. **Amy Karlsen**

Our first stop was at the Eston Sugar Mill. The mill was smokey and very big. The sugar-cane arrived in long trucks. **Kelsey Swan**

We arrived at the beautiful Thurlow Farm owned by the Chubbs. Mr Chubb told us how to cut sugar-cane and all about the coloured Inguni cattle. **Samantha Faure**



*Samantha Faure on our visit to St John's Church. Looking through the St John's History Book, April 2009.*



## DOGS

I am a dog and my name is Scout. I am brown and dark black, very fluffy and smooth. I am a German Shepherd, I go woof, woof and love to get dirty and muddy. **Samantha Hockey**

The Labrador is a guide dog and it helps blind people at home and in the city. It is trained at a training centre and I have one as a pet at home. His name is Nugget. **Gabriella Chantler**



GABRIELLA AND NICOLA CHANTLER WITH NUGGET, MARCH 2009



ABIGAIL JACOBSEN



SARAH DE LANGE MEASURING NUGGET

## Our Animal Projects/Cinquains

### Starfish

Colourful, beautiful  
Swims, eats, lays  
It likes to eat shellfish  
Invertebrate.

Angela Charlton



### Butterfly

Bright, colourful  
Flies, flaps, sucks  
Likes to sip nectar  
Insect.

Megan Bourne



### Crowned Crane

Colourful, feathery  
Walking, poking, swallowing  
Likes to eat fish and insects  
Big bird.

Abigail Jacobsen

### Owls

Owls are vertebrates. That means they have a backbone. Owls eat rats, small birds and insects and they make their nests in barns and old buildings.

Tahlia de Beer

## THE JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSICAL

On the 11<sup>th</sup> August the happy Junior School will be starring in a special and fun musical play called "We are The Children". It is in the enormous theatre at the wonderful St John's School. **Amanda Khumalo**

I am excited about doing the play in front of a full audience! **Sarah Dickson**



SARAH DICKSON, SCIENCE EXPERIMENT, APRIL 2009

I feel that all the fun practising is paying off. I really think that this fantastic show is going to be the best yet. **Kirsten Smith**

I think the show gives everybody a big message and I thank Mrs Forbes, who put so much effort into the show. **Britney Holland**



Carmen Lunn and Samantha Faure after paddling at Roselands

We ate sweet chocolate cake and nutty crunchies. **Carmen Lunn**

At Byrne Valley we stopped at a cottage industry which had beautiful handmade teddy bears. Afterwards we walked to The Little Kitchen Jam Factory which smelt lovely. At Mrs Pottow's lovely old farmhouse we filled our empty tummies. **Paige Bowton**

Our first activity on the beautiful Roselands Farm was the exciting obstacle course! **Ameera Yacoob**

We had to roll in the mud, climb through tyres, go down slides and over logs. It was so much fun. **Chloë Bonner**

Early in the morning we played exciting games, milked cows and visited the water factory. **Sarah de Lange**

I felt sad leaving Roselands. I hope I can visit again. **Carla Widlake**

I'll miss Monkeyman and all the happy, joyful people at Roselands. **Ashleigh Haines**

We visited the beautiful Rhodiodale Farms on the way home and had lunch there too. **Qelsee Jacobs**



Grade 4's doing the obstacle course at Roselands



# Grade 4

SCIENCE EXPO, JUNE 2009



CARLA WIDLAK, PAIGE BOWTON, TAHLIA DE BEER AND ASHLEIGH HAINES



SARAH DICKSON, ANGELA CHARLTON, KRISTEN STEVENS AND AMY KARLSEN

## At the rugby

I saw a big grey thing run across the field! It was Sharky and I got his signature. Watching the rugby was an awesome experience.

Sara Chubb



SARA CHUBB, KELSEY SWAN AND CARMEN LUNN DOING TAPESTRIES, JUNE 2009

At the Museum, Sept 2009



Kirsten Smith and Gabriella Chantler with dodo



Britney Holland and Amanda Khumalo with Pume



GRADE 4'S AT ESTON MILL, MAY 2009



GRADE 4 CALENDAR GIRLS: POSING FOR CALENDAR PICS, SEPT 2009



CLAIRE KIDGER AND SARAH DICKSON CARRYING WATER FOR THE MINI COMRADES, MAY 2009



MEGAN BOURNE, CLAIRE KIDGER AND JESSICA SMITH AT THE CHUBBS' FARM, MAY 2009

## Weekend News

In wonderful Creighton I stayed with my loving grandparents. On Friday night we had the most tasty roast mutton, it was so delicious. For pudding we had creamy custard bake and it was amazing. I will definitely visit again!!

Claire Kidger



AMEERA YACOOB AND QELSEE JACOBS WITH THEIR PLANTS ON ARBOUR DAY, SEPT 2009

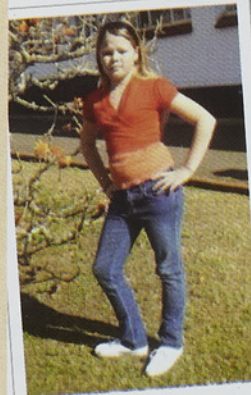
Book Character Day, June 2009



KELSEY SWAN AND SAMANTHA HOCKEY



TAHLIA DE BEER AND CHLOË BONNER



SARAH DE LANGE MODELLING FOR JS MUSICAL, AUG 2009



AMEERA YACOOB MEASURES HER FOOT, MAY 2009





**Front row:** Kimberley Shaw, Micaela Seery, Olivia Bowles, Mrs Joubert, Rachel Oosthuizen, Limpho Mokoatsi, Keryn Taylor  
**Second row:** Laeeqa Mahomed, Emily Pratt, Jaimee Gait, Lauren Burrows, Kaylee Walton, Blayne Augustus  
**Third row:** Hannah Brauteseth, Lauren Smith, Jenna Robertson, Julianne Sutton, Jenna Diedericks  
**Back row:** Emily Webster, Jordan Jacobs, Kelly Ballot, Christin Stubbs, Charlilene Boshoff, Cherise Khan



Fun in the leaves at the Botanical Garden.  
 Jaimee Gait, Micaela Seery, Kaylee Walton

## A Stray Hippopotamus

One day, on my home from school, I saw a hippopotamus. I was afraid of him at first but he was kind. So I decided to take him home. I made a bed for him and a mud hole. My mom said I could keep him. So I let him swim in my pool. He liked the pool a lot. Sometime he sleeps in my bed. Sometimes he gets caught sleeping in my bed! I love him.

Kaylee Walton

## A Stray Hippopotamus

On my way home I saw a hippopotamus in the park. The hippopotamus was exhausted from walking from the sea. I ran home to my mom to tell her that I had found a hippopotamus. She put him in the barnyard and she put fish in the swimming pool and she made mud for the hippopotamus. The hippopotamus enjoyed his mud bath and his dinner. One day the hippopotamus had to go back to where he had come from.

Jordan Jacobs



Measuring is fun! Micaela Seery and Lauren Burrows



Gala: Olivia Bowles and Kelly Ballot

## A Stray Hippopotamus

One day I saw a hippopotamus. His eyes were green and his lips were red. He was so, so cute. I took him home. Mom was in the garden playing with Dotty, my dog. I hid the hippopotamus in the swimming pool. I phoned the pet shop to ask for some fish, and the garden shop for some grass. His name is Ham because he loves ham! When the delivery man came, Ham attacked him. Mom heard the shouting.

When she came to the pool and saw Ham, she fainted!

Rachel Oosthuizen



## My Tree House

I have a big tree house. It has a chalk board. I always practise my tables! The floor is purple. I have a book shelf with lots of books. One of them is "Charlie And The Chocolate Factory". If it is raining I play with my dolls. I have an ice-cream machine. My tree house has three rooms.

Emily Pratt



Science week. Charlene Boshoff, Keryn Taylor, Micaela Seery, Lauren Smith, Emily Pratt, Limpho Mokoatsi and Jaimee Gait

## My Tree House

My tree house is a very pretty place. It has wall paper, curtains and carpets. You get in a tyre and you go up to the tree house. There are couches, with pillows, to sit on. There is tea to drink and books to read. I have a doll's house with dolls. There is a kitchen to play in, with pots, pans, cups and glasses.

Kelly Ballot



Easter egg collection for charity: Hannah Brauteseth, Laeeqa Mahomed, Jordan Jacobs, Christin Stubbs, Kaylee Walton, Jaimee Gait and Keryn Taylor



"We are the children" concert: Cherise Khan and Lauren Burrows

## The Easter Bunny Factory

Tom, a bunny in the factory, is the manager. Sam the hen checks the eggs. Timmy, the bunny, carries the eggs. Fimble paints the eggs. Toffee is in charge of the conveyor belt. Chip pours the chocolate. The bunnies at the chocolate factory ate lots of chocolate. Tom, the manager, sold lots of chocolate.

Lauren Smith

## A visit to the bottom of the ocean

One day I went to visit the ocean. I saw the most amazing things. I saw dolphins, sharks, star fish, whales, jelly fish, mermaids and even a sea monster. The sea monster and the sharks were so scary. The dolphins told the sharks and the sea monster to keep away. After that I saw three mermaids swimming past me and they were singing a lovely song. When I swam past the sea horses they were getting ready for a swimming race. I was tired so I made my way home.

Lauren Burrows

## A visit to the bottom of the ocean

One day I went to the sea. It was so pretty. The first thing I saw was a school of Clown fish. Then I saw a dolphin and I played with it. On a big rock was a mermaid. She told me that her name was Lilly. Lilly was very pretty. Then Lilly and I had sea tea together. All her friends came to play and everyone was happy. Then all of a sudden everyone went and I was all alone! Then I knew why! There was a big shark, but he didn't see me and I swam away. The next thing I saw was a sea horse. I also saw a starfish and an octopus. It was all so pretty but soon it was time for me to go home.

Hannah Brauteseth



Mother's day presents. Christin Stubbs, Rachel Oosthuizen, Blayne Augustus and Emily Webster

## The Bunnies Chocolate Factory

The chocolate factory does lots of work. Some of the bunnies paint the eggs. Some check that they have not made mistakes. The chocolate eggs go on the shelf. Some machines melt the chocolate. Sometimes the chicks help the bunnies. The melted chocolate goes into a Tupperware. One bunny controls the machines.

Jaimee Gait



## Camp Lynford

It was a long journey to Camp Lynford. We had a little snack on the bus. When we arrived we unpacked our bags into the dormitories. We got our beds ready. Then we met our guides. They were two nice ladies whose names were Lauren and Cathy. We went to a mud pool in our shorts, with no shirts on! We had a mud fight and got very, very dirty! There were girls covered in mud. We made a mud spa. It was really cool and muddy.

For lunch we had yummy chicken pies. After lunch we went in our bus to visit a farm. At the farm we saw a baby lamb. It was black with white feet. It was so cute. Some of us fed the lamb a bottle of milk. All the big cows ran away from us. When we went to see the baby calves, one was sucking my finger. We climbed on the very high haystack. It was spiky and I got scratched. We were going to go to a sugar cane farm but the farm road was too wet and our bus may have got stuck!

When we got back to Camp Lynford we had craft time. It was so much fun. We made beaded key rings. My key ring was red. We all had warm showers but the hot water took a long time to come. It was fun because we showered together. For supper we had pizza with salad. It was delicious. I loved it. Then we each had an ice cream cone with chocolate sauce. We ate it around the camp fire. The fire was very big. We had fun around the camp fire. We sang and told stories and did little plays. We played fireball hockey and it was very scary! The ball was on fire.

We played in our dormitories. We played with our torches. We were telling stories and Kimberley told such a funny story. Lauren was singing in the night. We also told scary stories and played with our toys. When it was time for bed we were all exhausted! I was in a dorm with Hannah and Jenna D. I was feeling cold so we all cuddled in Hannah's sleeping bag.

We woke up very, very, very early. We had such fun in our dorms, then we got dressed and had breakfast. We also baked bread. I loved squashing the dough. Our bread was delicious. On our last day we went up the road to Lynford School. It was fun meeting the Grade 3's. I was a bit shy. They are also learning Afrikaans. We were very sad to leave Camp Lynford. It was the best camp ever! We had so much fun.

**Charllene Boshoff, Jaimee Gait, Cherise Khan, Keryn Taylor, Lauren Smith, Julianne Sutton, Kaylee Walton, Kimberley Shaw, Lauren Burrows**



FUN IN THE MUD AT CAMP LYNFORD: JULIANNE SUTTON, KIMBERLEY SHAW, EMILY PRATT, JORDAN JACOBS



FEEDING A CALF AT CAMP LYNFORD: LIMPHO MOKOATSI AND KERYN TAYLOR



WE MADE OUR OWN BREAD AT LYNFORD: KIMBERLEY SHAW, JENNA ROBERTSON, JULIANNE SUTTON, MICAELA SEERY, LAUREN SMITH AND JENNA DIEDERICKS





**Front row:** Ashleigh Mayo, Amy Smith, Mrs Stretch, Megan Newlands, Mrs Serfontein, Siobhan Shearer, Jessica Chantler

**Second row:** Hannah Jacobs, Victoria Wood, Meg Bowton, Jennifer Kidger, Anathi Mntungwa, Mia Geyser

**Third row:** Sarah Burnett, Nicola McCord, Salma Mahomed, Rachel Moran, Seithati Khumalo, Sarah Lutz, Hannah Saunders

**Back row:** Tamsin Haines, Hannah Denny-Dimitriou, Chezne Strydom, Callan Nel, Lauren Sherwood, Leanne Cumming

## Mbangweni Lodge

This Monday we went on our trip to Mbangweni Lodge. Once we got there we had to carry our bags in the mud. Once we were settled we met George, Naomi, Girly and Joshua. Then we went for a walk. Very soon we came to an obstacle course. I was first to go on the obstacles. Then we met the Bushmen Dixon and Johannes. When we got back to camp we had lunch.

After lunch we got into two teams to do bow and arrow. My team lost but we still had lots of fun. After that we learnt how to make a bird trap. It was so cool. Later Dixon and Johannes got dressed in their traditional clothes and did some Bushmen dancing and we all joined in as well. That was fun as well. Then we went to shower. It was freezing! After that we had supper and pudding. Then we learnt about teeth. That was interesting. In the morning we had hot chocolate. Then we went on the longest zip line in KZN. I was third in the class to go on it. It was amazing! Mrs Stretch and Mrs Serfontein went on the zip line as well. It was hilarious! We had the most fun in the world.

Tamsin Haines



The girls with Dixon and Johannes

On Monday I came to school in civvies for we were going to Mbangweni Lodge. On the bus I sat next to Sarah Lutz. We had lots of fun on the bus. When we got there we unpacked on the two beds at the back. Then we went

to the dining hall and we had cake. We met George and Naomi and her baby Joshua. Then we went on the obstacle course. Then we met Dixon and Johannes who were Bushmen. We made fire with the Bushmen. We shot with bows and arrows and I almost hit the target. We went for a walk and found clay. I made a flower. Then it was shower hour. The water was freezing and I screamed. After supper Mr Currie talk talked to us about animal skulls. Before we went to bed we went on a night walk. Sarah and I were in front. We saw a buck and the others scared it off. The next day Sarah and I woke everyone by mistake. For breakfast we had French toast and bacon. We had free time until the bus came. What a lovely excursion. Thanks to Mrs Stretch.

Hannah Jacobs





Brave girl, Chezne



Salma



Dixon chatting to the girls



Mrs Serfontein, George and Joshua



Hannah, Lauren and Meg



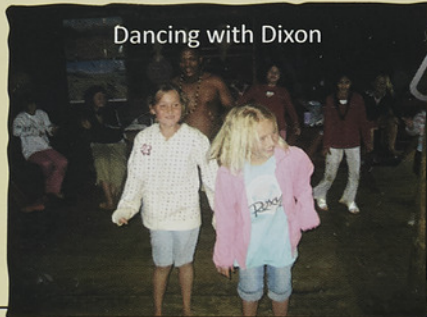
Mia making fire



Jessica and Megan



Nicola, Hannah and Siobhan listening carefully



Dancing with Dixon



Amy and Sarah getting ready for action



Lauren full of mud!



Rachel, Amy and Chezne



Anathi and Seithati getting muddy





Having a wonderful time



Hannah enjoying her tea



Mia, Meg and Jennifer



Learning how to make a cuppa

## Making tea for Mom

Put the teabags in the teapot.  
Remember one teabag for two people.

Boil the water then pour the water into the teapot.

Pour the milk into the cup.

Pour the tea into the cup with the milk.

Put the sugar into the cup.

Stir the tea in the cup.

Enjoy!

Sarah Burnett



AMY AND ASHLEIGH

## Voortrekker Museum

Today we went to the Voortrekker Museum. We went to see the house, wagons and the olden day people and all kinds of things too. We also saw elephant tusks and a statue of many people.

Jessica Chantler

Today we went to the Voortrekker Museum. We went to see the house, wagons and old people and we also learnt lots of things too. We saw king things too. It was very fun. We saw bulls and lots of cows. I saw lots of elephant tusks too.

Megan Newlands

Today the whole class went to Voortrekker Museum. It was such fun. I saw an ox-wagon it was so nice. The whole place was nice. I saw a little hut.

Meg Bowton



SITTING PRETTY!





**Front row:** Chloë Stevens, Claudia Freese, Mrs Freese, Naeela Mahomed, Mrs Serfontein, Jessica Bourne, Emmi Wood  
**Second row:** Aliyah Mahomad, Erin Gait, Caitlyn Hardman, Michelle Eglington, Natalie Halford, Josephine Burczak, Aletia Lawler, Brenna Stewart-Burger  
**Third row:** Malaika Mbatha, Jade Coetzee, Jasmin Narasimulu, Alayka Haridass, Caitlin Mastross, Kerry Longhurst  
**Back row:** Paige Mayer, Tara van der Merwe, Samantha Halford, Tara Maskell, Owethu Mbangwa, Brianna Zartmann

## TRIP TO TALA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



All the Grade Ones are ready for a game drive at Tala



Michelle Eglington, Caitlin Mastross, Emmi Wood, Natalie Halford, Chloë Stevens, Jessica Bourne, Aliyah Mohamed and Alayka Haridass



Mum said I had to keep warm!  
 Jade Coetzee, Caitlyn Hardman and Aletia Lawler



Tara Maskell, Erin Gait, Jade Coetzee, Caitlyn Hardman, Aletia Lawler, Brianna Zartman, Jasmin Narisimulu and Malaika Mbatha



## Fairy Day



Jessica Bourne, Erin Gait, Caitlyn Hardman, Michelle Eglington and Tara van der Merwe



Tara Maskell, Chloë Stevens and Brenna Stewart-Burger



Kerry Longhurst, Aliyah Mohamad, Tara van der Merwe and Claudia Freese potting their own plants



Grade Ones enjoying the fresh air

## At the Gait's' nursery

Chloë Stevens, Brenna Stewart-Burger and Jasmin Narisimulu





## SPORTS DAY



Caitlin Mastross  
in a Sack



Chloë Stevens during the  
Egg and Spoon Race



Jasmin watching her egg  
very carefully



JP HOCKEY FESTIVAL. HOCKEY IS EXHAUSTING! JOSEPHINE BURCZAK, JESSICA BOURNE, EMMI WOOD, ERIN GAIT AND CAITLIN MASTROSS



THE GRADE ONE GIRLS WITH MRS TESSY BEAR, NODDY, GOLLIWOG AND BIG EARS



KERRY LONGHURST, ALIYAH MOHAMED, CHLOË STEVENS AND TARA VAN DER MERWE



ERIN GAIT SINGING HER HEART OUT AT A PRACTISE FOR "WE ARE THE CHILDREN"



ERIN GAIT FREEZING AT THE  
POLAR BEAR SWIM



MAILIKA AS A BANANA DURING  
A TALK ON HEALTHY EATING



# Grade 0



**Front row:** Paige Jennings, Tannit Hancock, Casey Joubert, Mrs Griffiths, Jena Hunter, Julie Jacobson, Kiera Jacobs

**Second row:** Julia Smith, Maddison Walton, Mikayla Brown, Lindsay Foss, Cassandra Lemon, Abby Reynolds

**Third row:** Megan Pratt, Camryn Jordaan

**Back row:** Emma Mundell, Robyn Hockey, Michaela Capper, Holly Brassell, Paige McCarthy, Rachel Dixon

## Grade 0 Memories...



Yummy iced biscuits



Bags packed ready to leave Mrs Griffiths



Thirsty girls at Sports Day



Always time for play time!



Dolls have fun at school too!



It was warm and bubbly in the jacuzzi





Look at my new gum guard!



On your marks, get set...



Our first day at school



We collected Easter eggs for charity



Cabbage Patch Kids



Story time



Dressed up for the CROW presentation



Follow the leader



Brrrr! The Polar Bear swim



We worked hard on our Christmas crafts



Waiting for our turn in the jacuzzi



"We are the children"



Who's the King of the Castle?



We helped tell a story at Open Day



# Grade 00



Zama



Tamlyn



Kiana



Isabella



Abigail R



Caitlin



Gemma



Paige



Abigail B.

## Snapshots from Grade 00



First week of Grade 00, 2009, with Mrs A Barry and Miss H Bates



Isabelle, Cherylin, Paige and Amy-Lee enjoying the sensopathic tray



Gemma, Hannah and Yauvana. Do you know what...?



Abigail R, Tamlynn, Hannah and Kiara at Mini Comrades



Paige, Abigail B and Precious in the Quiet Area



We Are The Children: Grade 00, Pretty in Pink





**Front row:** Yasmine Mahomed, Delia Greyling, Miss Bates, Abigail Brauteseth, Mrs Barry, Caitlin Gounden, Kiara Rampersad

**Second row:** Melanie Kimble, Hannah Riley, Amy-Lee Strydom, Ezamaphemba Ntuli, Paige Holland

**Back row:** Yauvana Naidoo, Gemma Visser, Isabella Reddy, Nadia Da Vale, Cherylin Cumming, Tamlynn Roseveare

## What I like about St John's?

**Hannah:** The monkey bars!  
I like playing with Delia.

**Paige:** Outside!

**Yauvana:** The slide  
and my friends!  
Everything is new and  
I like doing art.

**Cherylin:** I love playing in the  
sandpit.

**Isabella:** I like the monkey bars.

**Yasmine:** The swings and the slide.

**Abigail B:** I like playing  
in the sandpit.

**Gemma:** Swinging and  
Abigail Roberts playing  
with me!

**Melanie:** I like the  
swings and I like  
playing.

**Abigail R:**  
I like playing!

**Caitlin:** The best thing  
is the monkey bars.

**Tamlynn:** The tyre-swing!

**Ezamaphemba:** The sandpit, the  
monkey bars and the swings

**Isabelle:** I like to draw and  
to play in the sandpit.

**Kiara:** I like to go on the  
swings and playing in the  
sandpit.

**Nadia:** It's fun!

**Delia:** The swings and I like  
the sand in the sandpit.

**Amy-Lee:** Swinging on the swings.





# Junior Resource Centre



Healthy Mind and Body



Grade 2 in Care Bear Corner



This book looks lovely!

This is the first year in the history of SJS that such young children have made weekly visits to the Resource Centre. The Grade 00's come every Thursday morning when they each choose a picture book to take home with them. They soon settled into the routine of buying their books with their credit (library) cards! These little ones take very good care of their books.

The older learners have also made frequent visits to the Resource Centre – especially during reading competitions. This year, two reading competitions were held and I was very excited at the number of girls who took part whole-heartedly.

I look forward to 2010 with anticipation as even more exciting events come our way!

**KERRI-LYN BISSCHOFF**



Book donations for Thandanani in Weenen



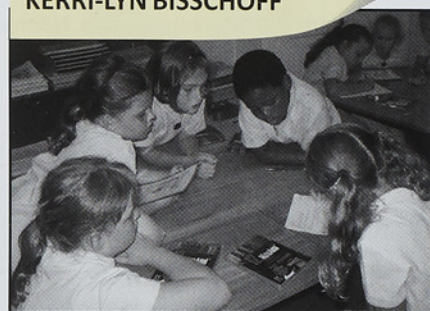
Healthy Mind and Body



Owethu, Aletia and Chloë in Care Bear Corner



**Books 2 You** sale in the Gym Hall



Grade 3 girls doing group work in Book Ed



Erin and Josephine looking at books



Crystal and Hannah hard at work in Book Ed



Healthy Mind and Body



Sarah Lutz looking like a princess



So many books. Which one should I choose?



Thandi, Leigh and Rupika completing an exercise on the Dewey System



Paige Mayer in Care Bear Corner



Hannah and Ashleigh choosing books at the sale



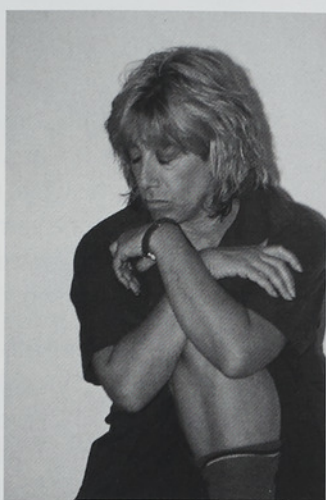
# Book Character Day

The focus of the second term reading competition was CHARACTERS.

Each time a learner completed a book, she needed to describe the main characters instead of explaining the plot of the story.

In celebration of these book characters, a Book Character Day was held in March.

There was a special assembly where the Grade 5's recited a poem, the Grade 4's sang a song and the teachers acted out a scene from Judy Blumes *SUPERFUDGE*. The learner's thoroughly enjoyed seeing their teachers up on stage!



Mrs Stretch as FUDGE



Mrs Perks as PETER HATCHER, Mrs Griffiths as THE HEADMASTER and Mrs Ducasse as FUDGE'S TEACHER



Courtney Geyser as Princess Penelope and Aimée Pousson as Mildred the Witch

Robyn Morgan as the Mad Hatter



Mrs Griffiths as MR GREEN and Mrs Ducasse as MRS HILDEBRANDT



Amy Karlsen as Pippi Longstocking

Paige Bowton, the Saucepan Man from *The Faraway Tree*





# Junior Sport

**2009 has been a busy and successful sporting year for the primary school.**

Our swimmers participated with enthusiasm and spirit in numerous galas in the 1<sup>st</sup> term. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the St John's team's 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Primary Schools' A Gala. This gala was won by The Wykeham Collegiate with Laddsworth in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The U11 team, consisting of Jamie Reynolds, Monique Fitchat, Aimée Pousson, Katelyn Fyvie, Rachel Moffatt and Courtney Maud, smashed four age group records in the 4x25m Backstroke, Breaststroke and Medley Relays and the 4x50m Freestyle relay. They are to be congratulated on this excellent achievement!

Four of our Junior swimmers (Jamie Reynolds, Monique Fitchat, Aimée Pousson and Jessica Stegen) were selected for the Midlands Swimming Team. Monique Fitchat went on to be selected for the KZN Swimming Team in the 50m butterfly event. Well done to these girls.

Jamie Reynolds has had an extremely successful year and her swimming results speak for themselves. She currently holds 7 KZN records and 3 South African records in the 11-12-year age group. Jamie was selected as a member of the KZN team to swim at the Johan Terblanche Gala and was also selected as a member of the Seals Swimming Club to tour the United States and participate in galas and coaching. She is to be congratulated on her outstanding achievements in and commitment to swimming.

On the hockey front we fielded 9 teams in the Primary School and our Junior Primary girls participated in a number of fun tournaments. Our girls have played enthusiastically and improved as the season progressed. Our newly introduced SJS Academy has also provided extra opportunity for the girls to develop their skills in the off-season. Congratulations to the following girls on their selection for the uMgungundlovu teams:

U13 A – Megan Walsh

U13B – Jessica Stegen

U12A – Jamie Reynolds

Tennis under the able guidance of Mrs Lorain Osborne continues to grow from strength to strength. Our Junior players have achieved excellent results in both the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> term leagues.

The Junior tennis team of Philippa Smart and Lauren Clarke participated in the Minolta Cup Tennis Festival held at Epworth in February. Philippa and Lauren played in the strongest section and produced an excellent standard of tennis throughout the morning. Philippa and Lauren also participated in the College Cup tennis tournament at Durban Girls College in the 4<sup>th</sup> term. They played very well finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in their section. In the playoffs they lost to TWC in the semi-finals and then lost to Pelham in the playoff for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all the tennis players for their commitment and dedication throughout the season.

This year we attempted to structure the netball and hockey practices and matches so that pupils were able to participate in both sports. Owing to

the smaller number of girls opting to play netball, our teams have had to fight hard to cope with the stiff opposition. Our girls have played well throughout the season and show great potential. The coaches have worked diligently with the girls, resulting in improved skills and greater levels of confidence.

Our squash players are also slowly developing as we have managed to provide more coaching opportunities. The Juniors are starting to master the game while our U13A team has only lost one game in the B-league. We look forward to the continued growth of this sport.

The basketball season was also a busy one. Our girls competed in numerous matches and the improvement in the calibre of their play is certainly evident when we compare their performance at the end of the season with their performance at the beginning of the season.

The cross-country runners, under the able guidance of Mrs Perks and Mrs Grové, have trained diligently and participated in the numerous Friday league runs. Their results are most encouraging.

We encourage our girls to participate in physical activity and are very proud of the achievements of girls in sports that are not offered by the school. Congratulations to Leigh von Romburgh on her selection to the KZN judo team and to Gabriella Chantler on her excellent achievements in rhythmic gymnastics.



**Junior Primary Gala**





**Annette Symes: Big Swim**



**Mini-Comrades**



**Cross-Country**



**Polar Bear Swim**



# Old Girls' News

## Hello, everyone!

Time, where has it gone? The year has been a busy one. The Matric results for last year were once again outstanding. With 100% pass rate and a total of 88 subject A's, we are exceptionally proud of all the girls.

This year we have been busy getting the Old Girls' database up to date. This is a daunting task, but the committee is determined to get as many Old Girls as possible onto an e-mail system. I would like to thank Robyn and Heather for all the effort they put into the Website and for keeping the lines of communication open, by means of e-mail and post. So many Old Girls expressed how pleased they were to receive "On Eagle's Wings", the June, 2009 edition of news for special friends of St John's D.S.G. It was great to be kept up with Linda Stoffberg's news, new developments, Board members, and with upcoming events.

Pudding Evening was held on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Overseas Visitors Club presented the Matrics with an interesting and informative video on the options of a gap year. The puddings were delicious and enjoyed by us all.

The Christmas Brunch held on 7<sup>th</sup> November was, once again, a delightful morning, with delicious eats, lots of stories and laughter. It was lovely to see so many Old Girls, and thank you for the children's gifts. These were given to the Salvation Army Children's Home.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2010.

With very best wishes,

**Diane Oldfield, Chairman**



Kelly Goldsworthy (McDuling – 2001), Sarah Sirilli (2001) and Kelly's sister Ashleigh McDuling (2008) at Kelly Goldsworthy's wedding in 2008

### Meghan Crosby (2007):

I'm in my second year at Rhodes University studying my BSS in Environmental Science and Anthropology. I then want to study my PGCE and become a teacher. I really enjoy tutoring history at Mary Waters, in Grahamstown Township, and have been involved in other community outreach programmes, like coaching netball.

### Melanie Haralambous (2004):

I am living in London, with trips to Greece in summer, and visits to SA. My sisters Natasha and Christine (St John's Old Girls) are both in Cape Town. Natasha is enjoying her year at Silwood Cheffing school. Christine is *Men's Health* magazine's Advertising and Media Executive. After spending the summer at Ithaca, in Greece, which is where our family is from, I am back in the hustle and bustle of London. I enjoyed my working holiday on the island, and it was sad to leave the simple and laid back lifestyle. I work for TfL (Transport for London), project-managing programmes and projects specialising in information management and IT. I am gaining loads of experience, and meeting great people. I am a contractor, as I work on Projects so we'll see where I will move on to next.

### Kirsten Talbot (2003):

I am currently working for the Msundusi Innovation and Development Institute (MIDI) as the Project Co-ordinator for the Children's City 2020 Project. Our goal is to make PMB a child-friendly city by the year 2020 by providing children with a platform to participate in decisions that affect their lives within the Msundusi community. Next year I will be doing a Masters in Clinical Psychology at UKZN, PMB.

### Jane Cole-Edwardes (Rogers – 2002):

We have been living in England since January, 2007. Married Murray in August 2007 in SA. We are currently living in the beautiful countryside of Somerset and are Assistant House Parents of a boys' boarding house at Millfield Senior School. Looking after 60 boys, aged between 13 and 18, is a challenge, but we absolutely love it – no plans of coming home just yet!

### Kelly Goldsworthy (McDuling – 2001):

I am expecting a little bundle of joy around 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2010. All is well so far – being pregnant is amazing! Here's holding thumbs for a little girl!

### Michelle Peddle (2001):

Teaching senior school Maths in London since 2007. Planning to return to SA towards the end of next year.

### Ryley Olivier (2000):

I am currently a director of photography and documentary film-maker in Joburg.



Linda (née Simpson) and Thomas Giese married on 28 Feb 2009. Katherine Thorncroft (Thorns), non-SJS, Bonnie Marwick, Linda Giese (Simpson), non-SJS, non-SJS, Lauren Knoetze (Blondie)

### Terry O'Grady (Ward – 1991):

I have been living in New Zealand since Jan 2002, in Rotorua for 5 years, and now in Whangarei (2 hours north of Auckland). I have boy twins, Cullen and Bridie (5), who started school in June. My husband, Greg, is a manager for an international forestry company, HANCOCKS. We live on a 50 acre rural plot with our sausage dog, "Worsie", our cat, Kitty, and 13 sheep (soon to be 15/16 with some new lambs expected!). I tutored at the Maori University in the Maori Performing Arts Degree course in Drama and Contemporary Dance. Currently working for DANZ (Dance Aotearoa New Zealand) on a Ministry of Education contract for Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom. I travel, and run creative movement workshops. My most popular workshop is THE GUMBOOT DANCE! At a Teachers' Conference in Wellington I was asked to tutor the Gumboot dance over a week of workshops! I always tell my audience how, on a school trip in Std 9 to Europe, we did the dance under the Eiffel Tower in Paris and all over Europe! New Zealand is a great place to live and raise kids but both Greg and I still miss "home" and family terribly. Our home is always open to any visiting South Africans!

### Cheryl Goodenough (1990):

Moved to Brisbane, Australia, in 2008. Married to Phillip, a financial planner, and have 2 boys, Slade and Kai. Appointed editor of *Sabona* magazine, for people from southern Africa living in Australia. Keen to hear from any Old Girls here.

### Jackie van Rijneveld (Varney – 1989):

We have lived in McKinney near Dallas, Texas for the past 2½ years, where Wimpie is working as Director of an American IT and Logistics company. We have been married for 11 years; he is the man of my dreams! We have a daughter, Julia (9), and a son, Pierre (7). Julia goes to a local school and Pierre is attending a private pre-school. I started running 6 years ago and am hooked! I ran Two Oceans 3 times and managed to run Comrades just before we left for the States in 2006. I came in just under 10 hours on the up-run. It is so FLAT here - finding a hill is a challenge!





Linda Royston (van Breda – 1995) married Gary in Dalton on 29 March, 2008

## Heather Evans (Lipsett – 1988):

Surprise surprise, nothing has changed since we were at school. I am still at St John's, although I am no longer a pupil, I made it to the Marketing Department. My daughter, Sarah, is a gorgeous 17-year-old and is currently matriculating at St John's and my son, Luke, is a wonderful 12-year-old finishing his Senior Primary year at Pelham. My husband, Tony, and I have just celebrated our 19th wedding anniversary and yes we still live in the same house, in the same town – nothing has changed except the wrinkles and the rolls!

## Angela Mills (1987):

I'm living in Knysna, managing my own travel business, Travel Counsellors, from home, and travelling widely. Still in contact with a lot of Old Girls from my Matric year.

## Sarah Cox (Doxey – 1985):

Living in Melbourne, Australia and loving it. Married with two children, a girl aged 17, and a boy aged 11.

## Stacey Luckin (Hayhoe – 1984):

I travelled after completing a BCom, then worked in Jo'burg for 14 years, marketing and advertising for Hollard Insurance. I have been living in Vancouver, Canada since 2008. I'm blessed with 2 boys, Darion (7) and Tyan (4), husband (Brett) and 2 dogs! I started my own small plant decor business: [www.leluelivingart.com](http://www.leluelivingart.com)

## Ros Coltman (Harris – 1983):

Living in East London teaching Computer Literacy at Gonubie Primary School. Married to Ian who works for a German International Donor Company. Children: Bronwyn (17) in Grade 11 and Trevor (16) in Grade 10 at Stirling High School.

## Belinda Bailey (McDonald – 1982):

My daughter started high school this year and how I wished she could have gone to SJS. I went to many schools in Sydney to find the one most like St John's, she is there now and loving it. I have been in Australia for 17 years now which I love and three years ago we spent 2½ fabulous years in Malta. I also have a son who is 11. If you ever get to Sydney, look us up!

## Bridget Sterling (Vere-Davies – 1982):

I moved to the UK in 1990 and have lost touch with most of my year group, sadly,

but I'd love to reconnect. Most of the time I lived in south-west London, but last year I made the leap and moved out to Bath in Somerset. I've just completed a Masters Degree in Fine Art at the local university here and I'm hoping to be accepted onto the PhD course next year, once I've finalised my research question.

## Kate du Toit (Holmes – 1981):

Married on 09.09.09 to Deon du Toit. Very happy in Namibia, but miss my children, Aimee (24) in Canada and Matthew (22) in Scotland. Still in touch with Ashlyn Renyard and Leanne van der Leeuw.



Laura and Ryan Reynolds married 21 March 2009. Front: Lauren Knoetze (Blondie) and Kathryn Calverly. Back: Melinda van Rooyen, Lilla Bassage and Bonnie Marwick.

## Julia Goodwin (Currie – 1978):

Still enjoy living in Fish Hoek with Paul, my husband, who is self-employed in the IT industry and works from home, and two adopted Xhosa children, Sally (9) and Luke (5). I started home-schooling Sally who is in Grade 3 and Luke still attends pre-school. Recently met up with Louise Kinrade in an aqua aerobics class at gym. Also, together with my niece of 18, I recently attended an excellent career guidance workshop run by Annie Oehley (Allchurch), who has completed her PhD in Industrial Psychology.

## Mandy Barrett (Burns – 1977):

I live on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia, and am a Library Technician at Matthew Flinders Anglican College. My daughter, Lucy (15), is in Year 10 and son, Jeremy (17), in his final year. Eldest son, Tim (23), finishing off a post grad degree and Andrew (21) is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of medicine. Husband, Mike is a GP. Love it here - we moved from NZ at the beginning of last year after 20 years. All my family live in Australia so it's good to be here too!

## Jane Booth (1976):

I'm living in Stockton-on-Tees in NE England and work for Middlesbrough Mind, a mental health charity working with families and friends of people with mental illnesses. My parents are doing

well (my father was a Governor of St John's in the mid-'70s).

## Robyn Kirkby (Frederick – 1974):

Working at St John's in the Marketing Department. Lindsay and Julia are both at Pretoria University doing Electrical Engineering and Medicine respectively and Nikki is currently in Grade 9 at St John's. Russel still in private practice in PMB.

## Brenda Evans. (Kirkpatrick – 1968):

I currently live in Grahamstown with my GP husband, Bert Evans, and I am retired from physiotherapy. Son, Paul, married to Caillie and living in Singapore with 2-year-old Pippa. Son, Mark, married to Nicolyn and living in Johannesburg.

## Hornby, Dorianne (Coubrough – 1968):

Still living in New Plymouth, New Zealand.

## Cindy May Wang (Green – 1967):

I've been working at *Country Life* magazine for the past 3 years and loving the industry. My husband and I are expecting our first child at the end of the year.

## Eileen Kretzschmar (Temple – 1960):

Now living up the North Coast. Both our daughters, Shelley and Lisa are well and living in Hillcrest and JHB respectively. My sister Patricia Temple is living in Kuwait and recently became a Grandmother!

## (Mary) Elizabeth Hertslet (Lynch – 1956):

Dick and I enjoy our retirement and live in a small town in central Queensland, Australia, having sold our farm 15 years ago. It's a tiny fishing village with a population of about 150 people. Our son is married with 2 girls and our daughter lives in Brisbane - both doing very well. We have been able to visit SA every year.

## Elizabeth Bowes: (Lyle – 1954):

Mid-September and quite autumnal as we prepare to cruise around the Black Sea with Miriam (Hay) and Richard. She and I were delighted to see Sr Mary Evelyn in June and at a happy lunch we were joined by Jane Finlayson (Allen), Rosemary Crowe and Heather Finnerty (Turnbull).



Bonnie (Marwick) and Grant Cornish-Bowden married on 28 March 2009. Vicki Cook, Lauren Knoetze (Blondie), Kathryn Calverly and Katherine Thorneycroft



## TAKE A BOW, MARITZBURG

Pietermaritzburg has been the font of a number of famous achievers in its time – the names of great men like politician, Peter Brown; sportsmen, Vincent van der Bijl, Jonty Rhodes and Joel Stransky, spring immediately to mind, and now it's come of age as a centre of culinary excellence.

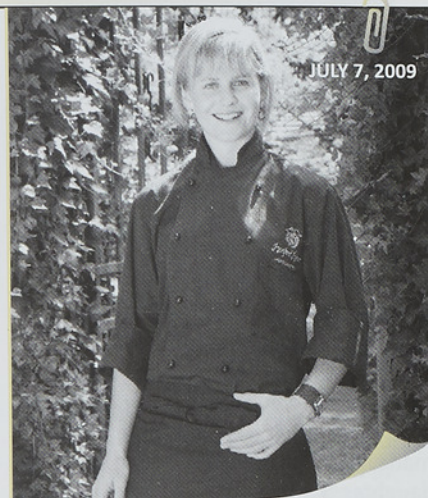
The recently announced Prudential Eat Out Awards listing the nation's top ten restaurants included Mooi River's Hartford House, where the resident chef is Pietermaritzburg's own protégé, **Jackie Cameron**, whose monthly column in *The Witness My Life* supplement is so avidly scanned by "foodie" readers.

While the fact that Hartford is the only KZN restaurant featured in the top ten is distinction enough, this accolade for the 26-year-old graduate of St John's Diocesan School is magnified by the fact that there are literally thousands of restaurants eligible for inclusion in such an elite listing. Considering where Hartford House is (10 km outside Mooi River on the Giant's Castle side), it's remarkable that this little gem in the firmament of boutique hotels

is busy celebrating its second top ten chef in less than a dozen years of existence. Just a few years back, it recruited the services of Richard Carstens as resident chef, and then relocated him when Hartford founded Lynton Hall on the South Coast, before it, too, joined the top ten.

Richard is, of course, back in the Cape now, so it's a stroke of good fortune that Jackie was ready to step up to the plate for KZN. According to Hartford's owner and Jackie's "second mother", Cheryl Goss, the youthful Cameron is not just a marvellous cook. She's also an exceptional teacher, and Cheryl illustrates this by reminding us that when Jackie first arrived at Hartford seven years ago, she recruited two young Zulu ladies out of the stables at Summerhill Stud (on which Hartford is located) where they were employed as casual cleaners. Jackie quickly taught them to wash dishes in the scullery, then to clean vegetables, then to make bread, and then they were soon cooking themselves.

Only three years ago, the first of these young ladies (with just a Grade 7



education) accompanied Jackie as a national representative to a world culinary exhibition in Zurich (having never been much further than Durban in her life). And last year, the other of these young ladies made it to Prague in the Czech Republic, on another representative occasion.

In a community where skills are short, employment opportunities are few, and poverty is rife, these are singular achievements for a young lady and her team. At 26, Jackie is, by some distance, the youngest chef to make the top ten.



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## *A word of thanks*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this year's magazine either by submitting written articles or photographs, as well as to Mrs Stoffberg, Mrs Zartmann and Mrs Kidd for again helping with all the proofreading.

I would also like to thank Tracy Freese from 'Purple Boa Creations' for all her hard work with regard to the final layout and presentation and for so patiently taking into consideration all my requests and ideas!

**Vesta Haskins, Editor**







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