



## Saints Honour: Honour God, Honour Others, Honour Self

6 August 2004

St Swithians Boys' College  
NEWSLETTER No.5

Dear Parents

The following is taken from an address, given in one of this Term's Headmaster's Chapel, by **Gideon Ochar**. Gideon is from Starehe Boys' Centre and School in Kenya, and is attending Post Matric at the College, this year,

"One of the most important lessons that have been passed down at Starehe over the years, is living life with an attitude of gratitude. Most of the boys at Starehe have known nothing about life, other than its bitterness. Even so, we are taught to be grateful for the little that we have. It's humannature to take the small or everyday things for granted, or the plenty that we have as well, since it has always been there anyway. We must show gratitude, because without gratitude, life cannot be lived to the fullest. I can testify to there being a calmness to a life lived in gratitude; a certain kind of quiet joy. Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It can turn what we have to enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, and confusion to clarity. It can turn a humble meal to a feast, a house into a home, and a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Surely God has granted us all here more than enough to be thankful for. Some amongst us have never lacked in our short lives. We've been blessed to have parents who can provide for us. But how often do we show gratitude for all that we have? How often do we say thank you for that God has given to us, without us having to put in effort for it?

There's no denying that virtually everyone here has more to be grateful for that any Starehian. In every Starehian's heart are etched the following words, *'to whom much has been given, much shall be required'*. Now ask yourself, how much more gratitude will be required from you? Some of us do say thank you, but that's not all. It is not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them that is a true measure of our thanksgiving. That is what living life with an attitude of gratitude is all about. As we express out gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words but to live them.

Our gratitude is not one-sided either; it is not about being grateful only for the good things in life.

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*A South African School Making a World of Difference*

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire,  
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something,  
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times,  
During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations,  
Because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge,  
Because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes,  
They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you are tired and weary,  
Because it means you have made a difference.

It is easy to be thankful for the good things,  
But a life of fulfillment comes to those who are  
also thankful for their shortcomings and setbacks.

Gratitude turns negative into positive.  
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your  
blessing.

To the poor, God has given wealthy,  
To the lonely, comfort;  
To the sick, healing;  
To the hopeless, hope;  
But to us He has given all these and more.  
Pray that He helps us to be grateful.

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## **REPORTS**

School Reports may be collected from the Boys' College Reception from  
Wednesday 11 August until Wednesday 18 August, after which those  
remaining will be posted.

Collection times: 08h00-15h30

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## ***THANK YOU***

To the many Boys' College families who so generously contribute to the  
Bursary boys' clothing stock. Most donations are given anonymously, so this  
is a general thank you to all concerned. Your kindness is appreciated.

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## PARKING

It has come to our attention that Staff are battling to gain access to the officially allotted Staff Parking bays at the Jubilee / Mears Hall area. Staff would appreciate parents and visitors adhering to the erected signs, and request that they utilise the alternative areas for drop off/collection. Many thanks.

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## SWOPSHOP

Swopshop will not be open the day before school opens for the Third Term, on Monday 6 September.

**However, it will be open on Tuesday 7 September from 13h00-14h00.**

From 13 September, times will revert to normal ie Mondays 13h15-14h15.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused by this change.

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## COMMONPURPOSE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

St Stithians Boys' College was recently offered places for three Grade 9 boys to take part in the Commonpurpose Leadership Programme which takes place during the Third Term. Congratulations to the following boys who were selected to represent the College:

Robert Attwell

Gabriel Crouse

Macdonald Moteane

The boys will be involved in discussions and visits with learners from other schools in the Johannesburg area. Topics will include Poverty and Social Exclusion, the Economy and Employment, Crime and Justice and How the City Works. Some outstanding speakers will also be addressing the students on these topics. We look forward to feedback from the boys at the completion of the Programme.

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## ROUND SQUARE NEWS

This holiday boys from all Grades will be taking part in a number of Service and Adventure activities that are offered under the umbrella of Round Square. Groups of boys will be taking part in:

- The Cwebe Community Project
- The Ubombo Community Project
- The Saints Trek
- The de Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre Community Service Project:  
and
- The Scuba Diving Trip to Mozambique

Many of these boys are also doing their Presidents Award. We wish all staff and boys involved in these activities a safe, fulfilling and happy time.

## **ROUND SQUARE ST STITHIANS COLLEGE PARTICIPATION IN THE ATHENS CLASSIC MARATHON 2004**

This is a reminder about the possibility of a St Stithians College group of students, staff and parents taking part in the Athens Classic Marathon which is to be run on 7 November 2004. My email to parents dated 22 July gives details of this incredible opportunity for members of the Saints family to run the Marathon in the actual year that the Olympic Games are taking place in Athens. If anyone is interested in taking part please contact me as soon as possible. If there is interest we will set up a meeting at the beginning of next term to discuss the matter further.

Mrs Wendy Kerr  
Email: [wkerr@stithian.com](mailto:wkerr@stithian.com)

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### **THE INTERACT CLUB**

The Interact Club of 2003/2004, led by Steven Tindall as President, had an extremely successful year. They gave many hours of service to the community and in addition raised a whopping R101,136.24 for charity. This incredible amount of money was raised by running the Science Expo Tuckshop, newspaper collections, holding a raffle and in particular through the Interact Golf Day. The Golf Day was a huge success and raised R93 245.97 through the hard work of the parents and boys involved and through the generosity of members of the Saints family and friends who participated. A very big thank you to the Interact Committee, all the boys involved and to the parents who supported them in this outstanding effort.

The boys donated R20 000 to The One and All Fund, which supports the College's bursary students, while R81 136.24 was donated to Boys Town in the Magaliesberg. A group of Interact boys visited Boys Town and established a bond with the boys. Boys Town were overwhelmed by the size of the donation which was very gratefully received. In the words of Boys Town's Development Officer "...how heart-warming it is to see what caring, positive action can produce. What a tremendous achievement – the result of dedication and such hard work."

Steven Tindall reported on the Interact Club's activities for the year at the annual Rotary Club of Johannesburg Dinner. The Rotary Club members were amazed at the Club's outstanding service to the community and decided that they could learn lessons from them.

The new Interact Committee for 2004/2005 took office on 1 July and has started the year with great enthusiasm and dedication. The new Committee consists of:

Paul Sprenger: President  
Byron Thomas: Treasurer  
Daniel Chatfield  
Lee Moodley  
Nicholas Smith  
Michael Webb

Richard Wilkinson: Deputy President  
Richard Burge: Secretary  
Marc Eskinazi  
Dane Peck  
Matthew Walsh  
Tim Willis

We wish these boys success in leading the Club during the coming year.

# THE INTERACT CLUB

## PAPER COLLECTION – PLEASE HELP

The Interact Club receives the proceeds of the paper collections from the Mondri Igloo, situated at the Squash Courts, for the charity that it supports. Please will you help by depositing your old newspapers, magazines, telephone directories, junk mail and old school books (plastic wrapping removed) in the Igloo on an ongoing basis. Every donation will help the Interact Club with their fund raising efforts. Thank you

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## CONGRATULATIONS

### SAINTS SINGER OF THE YEAR

SENIOR: Simon Elsworth and Nkosinathi Kunene

JUNIOR:     1<sup>st</sup> Mondy Ndlovu  
              2<sup>nd</sup> Abas Rashid  
              3<sup>rd</sup> Richard Park

SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2005:     Jason Jeftha

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### NEW DUKES ON PROBATION FOR DUKE of CORNWALL SINGERS 2005

JAMES CLAY  
GABRIEL CROUSE  
RICHARD HAUPT  
KAGISO KAU  
ZANO MABUZA  
THEO MOKOENA  
TAFADZWA MUGUTO  
THABO SIKWE

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## CULTURAL HONOURS, COLOURS & WREATHS AWARDS

**Honours:** Geoffrey Holtes, Rourke Hulett  
**Colours:** Clive Austin, Stewart McCulloch, Sifiso Mwelase  
**Wreath:** Graeme Adams, Jason Jeftha, Eric Kim, Dejan Kotze, Retief Lampen, Jason Malan, Chad Owen, Richard Park, Ben Ryan, Mico Stander, Byron Thomas, Matthew Townsend, Tim Willis, Amkelwe Bomvana, Brett Dace, Neill de Villiers, Stefan Gutstadt, Tim Harbour, Dave Pearce, Steven Mitchell.

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## **BIATHLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004**

South African Modern Pentathlon has selected **Waldo du Plessis** for the Biathle Team. The World Championships are to be held in Germany on 4 September. Waldo will do a 1000m run - 200m swim - 1000m run. The achievement of Waldo is remarkable and he must be complemented for all the training that went into this achievement.

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## **MATHS OLYMPIAD**

The following pupils are through to the third round. This means that they are in the top 100 in the country from about 28 000 participants.

Juniors: Alex Backwell; David Beeton; Luke Xin; Mark Rusch  
(all Grade 8)  
Michael Ord (Grade 9)  
Seniors: Christoph Hagspihl (Grade 10)

Congratulations to you all on such a fine achievement. Best of luck for the next round.

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## **EVEREADY COMPETITION**

Pupils had to design and make a product using an Eveready layer-cell battery. Three teams entered from the Boys' College, and reached the Top 10 out of 158 entries.

Congratulations to the following teams:

Byron Wright, Kevin Klaiss and Jian-ming Xie (all Grade 11) – designed and made a light activated alarm clock. The team won R500, and R500 for the Boys' College.

Devon Bester (Grade 8) designed and made a fish bite indicator. Devon won R500 and R500 for the Boys' College.

Christopher Croxton (Grade 8) designed and made a swimming pool overflow indicator. Christopher was placed second overall in the competition and won R4000 for himself, and R4000 for the Boys' College.