

newsLetter



ST STITHIANS BOYS' COLLEGE

A South African School Making a World of Difference

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NO. 3 6 APRIL 2005

ONE AND ALL



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NEWS

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REPORTS

Term 1 Reports for Grades 8-11 will be ready for collection from Reception on Tuesday 12 April 08:00-15:00

Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents

This has been a most productive term and Staff members and pupils alike have been heavily involved in extra-mural activities, whilst maintaining a rigorous academic programme. The holidays will afford families to spend time together and recharge batteries. I hope that Easter has brought a sense of regeneration and celebration.

I will be on long leave in the 2nd Term. Mr Dave Ryan will serve as Acting Headmaster and Mr Dave Knowles will assume Mr Ryan's duties. Mr Piet van Tonder will fill Mr Dave Knowles's position for the Term. Mr Ryan will, therefore, handle any appointments, queries or concerns that need to be addressed by the Headmaster. Other Staff members on Long Leave in Term 2 will be Mr George Harris, and Mesdames Sandy Catterson and Marion Kamps.

During my long leave I will be attending the International Boys' School Conference in Washington D.C and visiting renowned educationalist Dr Michael Shayer at his home in Cambridge.

The Second Term starts on Wednesday 4 May. I am certain that the positive spirit of co-operation and concern for the individual and the Saints community will continue to prosper as the year progresses.

With kind regards

Ian D McLachlan

Headmaster

Chapel: Friday 11 March 2005

Mr Dave Knowles, Deputy Headmaster delivered the following thought provoking speech during Chapel.

A number of events and happenings, over the past few weeks, seemingly unrelated, got me thinking about the possibility of a common thread between these events, and the lessons for life to be learnt from them.

I'd like to share that thinking and those events with you this morning.

**Summer
Sports
Honours:**

Cricket:
Ryan Bishop,
Allister Majola

Golf:
Andi Dill

Swimming:
Richard Burge,
Luke Hall,
Nicholas Gohl,
Re-award:
Walter Ward,
Greg Widmer,
Jean Basson,
Richard Ellis

Tennis:
Andrew
Strydom, Jared
Robinson

**Summer
Sports
Colours:**

Cricket:
Gert Olivier,
Matthew
Jurgensen,
Graeme
Hutchinson,
Graeme
Falconer, Prieur
de Jager, David
Smith, Peter
Platt, Silumke
Njenje

Rowing:
Wade Turnbull
(re-award),
Lloyd Bemelman
(re-award),
Chris Robinson,
Calvin Rogers,
Peter Brookstein

Swimming:
Matthew
Bouton,
Nicholas
Tessendorf
Waterpolo:
Alastair Martin,
Blake Sing,
Michael
Jorgensen,
Nicholas Gohl,
Scott Schroenn,
Andrew
Middleton

You will remember that on Wednesday we applauded two anonymous Saints boys, whose good manners had a positive consequence for the school. Their simple act of standing and greeting a visiting Grade 7 parent convinced that parent that this is the right school for his son.

(As an aside, on the subject of good manners, I share with you the tale from a famous school in Natal whose headmaster was visited on day, some years ago, by a neighbour of the school. The neighbour explained that he had walked on the school fields for fifteen years with his dogs, and had always been shown such good manners and greetings by the boys that he wished to donate something substantial in gratitude – as a result the school hall was paid for by that neighbour.)

You may remember in the week before Half Term, I made announcements about the dress to be worn at the major production – No1s, and another announcement about departing from school early on the day of Half Term. I was intrigued to see that some of you chose to defy or ignore those instructions, either by dressing in civvies, or by leaving school early on the Thursday (let me say, before any of you panic, that I do know that there was some confusion about the dress for the major production – that’s not the point I want to make now). Instead, I wondered if that handful of boys who chose to do differently had considered the consequences?

Again, I was intrigued to be told the story of one of our junior boys who transgressed and was given an appropriate punishment by one of our Prefects. The House Director received a phone call shortly afterwards from the boy’s distressed mother, and I wondered why the Mom was trying to protect her son from the reasonable consequence of his own behaviour? And as I watch the start of the Winter Sports season, and the training that is happening, and see that some boys are fitter than others, I wonder if the boys who decided not to get fit, realise that the consequence maybe that they don’t achieve the team that they hope to?

And as we wait in anticipation of a great season from the 1st Hockey XI, I wonder if any of those boys realise that the consequence of their trip to Australia and Malaysia last year is the expectation of a wonderfully successful season this year – and the pressure that brings?

And finally the decision by our musicians and singers some years ago to practice their art would result in their ability to perform like they did this morning?

And so these unrelated events got me thinking about the importance of consequences, and why it is important for us, as a school, as Staff and as Mentors, as people who care about your future well-being and development, to deliver consequences, both good and not so good.

You see, in this world, with its emphasis on rights rather than responsibilities, there is one right that you do not have – the right to a life without consequences; the right to make decisions that have no consequences. Indeed, the decisions you make will have consequences, and often those consequences are beyond your control – and are not negotiable. Too often unfortunately, we think that we can navigate past unpleasant consequences simply by complaining, or getting our parents to complain for us. In reality, that is not life.

I learnt this lesson from a fair and wise man, my father, and I share this true story with you. As a boy in Matric, like you, I was subjected to the odd hair and uniform inspection, carried out by the Headmaster and his Deputies. As luck would have it, I was “bust” one day in my second last term of school,

Summer Sports

Wreaths:

Cricket:

Daniel Ford,
Gary Manchip,
Andrew
McCurrie,
Matthew Walsh,
John Wessels
(Scorer)

Golf:

Dong Kim
Rowing: Tristen
Gevers, Andrew
Elliot, Lucky du
Plessis, Chris
Sephton
Swimming :
Henno Fourie,
Tyron
Theessen,
Andrew
Lowndes, Kieron
Brown, Bradley
Wilding

Tennis:

Dylan Stafford,
Philip Lawson
Waterpolo: Chris
Biley, Johnno
Bolleurs, Daniel
Chatfield, Greg
Gardner

Community Service

Honours:

Daniel du Toit,
Andre Strydom,
Richard
Wilkinson

Community Service

Colours:

Paul Sprenger

believe it or not, for wearing grey socks instead of black ones. Not white, or red, or rugby socks- grey sock- and I was taken off to the Head's office, with a group of similar offenders, and given two strokes across my backside.

Now normally I never told my parents if I received a punishment at school, but I was quite indignant – I was in Matric, my second last term, and after all, they were grey! I approached my father that night, and his response was as follows: “Did you know that you were meant to wear black socks?” “Yes, but it’s not fair”. “Did you know that you could be punished for wearing the wrong socks?” “Yes but.....”. “Then you deserve what you got”.

My response now? I am grateful for the lesson he taught me – that you cannot always control these consequences – but that you can take responsibility and control for your own actions that lead to consequences.

Of course, on the grand scale of things, the wearing of the wrong socks at school is not a big thing – but it is here at school where the lesson learnt – for if you do not learn the lesson here, the consequences in the big world are more severe.

Witness, if you will, the scene up the road, past Hyde Park Shopping Centre, at the intersection of Jan Smuts and Bompas Road – two large crosses on the fence, some flowers and the sign “Two lives extinguished by a drunk” – the consequence, unfortunately of someone’s decision to drink too much, and then drive her vehicle – the death of two innocents. Life does not confer upon us the right to do stupid and thoughtless things without cost, consequence or guilt.

And unfortunately, life does not always reward appropriately either – you may have trained really hard for this winter season, and still don’t get into the team you wanted to; or worked really hard in the classroom and not the marks you were aiming for. But my second message to you is – never give up. Listen to the story of Abraham Lincoln, the great American President, and regarded as one of the great leaders of all time: He had an impoverished and difficult childhood; he failed in business when he was twenty-two; he was defeated when he ran for the state legislature; he failed in business again; he tried for the state legislature and was elected. His fiancée died when he was twenty-six; he was defeated when he ran for speaker three years later. He was married at thirty-one, but on one of his four sons lived past eighteen. He was defeated when he ran for the US Congress at thirty-two, but elected when he ran again at thirty-five. He was defeated when he ran for the US Senate at age forty-six, defeated when ran for Vice-President a year later, and defeated three years after that when he ran again for the Senate.

Yet he went on to be one of the greats of American History.

So, my message to you this morning might be quite sobering

– one, you do not have a right to actions without

consequences, and two, you do not have a right to a happy

outcome for all your efforts.

However, there is a happy ending – the path to real happiness, to a life without bitterness, lies not in asserting your rights or dwelling on all that you do not have in life. Instead, the path to happiness lies in sacrificing your rights for the betterment and service of others, and by thinking on all that is good and true and beautiful in your life and being thankful for it. Remember

Community Service

Wreath:

Tim Willis, Steven Johnstone, Michael Webb, Greg White, Byron Bester, Tumai Kaseke, Byron de John, Adam Griffiths, Stefan Gutstadt, Thato Modisagae

THE BOYS' COLLEGE WEBSITE

For recent News articles and publications by the boys please visit our website under the link news at www.stithian.com

the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

The old formula - "God first, others second, myself last", is the time -tested formula for the best of lives. I wish you a life of challenge, hard work, meaningful consequence, real reward and true happiness.

Witkoppen Party

Many thanks for the generous donations and time given towards the Witkoppen party, which was a HUGE success.

This was definitely the highlight of the year for the sixty Grade 2 children who attended (some of whom had never been in a swimming pool before). They were totally overwhelmed with the hotdogs, coldrinks, chips, sweets and the delightful party packs that were handed out. We were fortunate enough to have some boys from Tucker House assist with the swimming, football and running races, adding to the fun!

For a lot of these children a hotdog at 09h30 in the morning was breakfast. We were also able to give them another hotdog for lunch before returning them to School with a party pack in hand.

And the rain stayed away until after the party! This fun time could not have happened without the generous support of the Saints parent body.

St Stithians Parent Samaritan Group

SAINTS CALENDAR 2006 (FINAL: 05 APRIL 2006)

TERM 1 (59 days)

Staff Development Days: Monday, 16 & Tuesday, 17 January 2006
School Commences: Wednesday, 18 January 2006
Ends: Wednesday, 12 April 2006
Half Term: 12 noon on Thursday, 23 February 2006 to 07:00 Monday, 27 February 2006

Saints School Holiday: Monday, 20 March 2006 (for learners & academic staff)
Public Holiday/s: Tuesday, 21 March 2006 (Human Rights Day)

TERM 2 (62 days)

Staff Development Day: Tuesday, 02 May 2006
Commences: Wednesday, 03 May 2006
Ends: Friday, 04 August 2006
Half Term: Monday, 26 June 2006 to 07:00 on Monday, 03 July 2006
Public Holiday/s: Friday, 16 June 2006 (Youth Day)

TERM 3 (64 days)

Staff Development Day: Monday, 04 September 2006
Commences: Tuesday, 05 September 2006
Ends: Wednesday, 06 December 2006
Half Term: 12 noon on Thursday, 26 October 2006 to 07:00 on Tuesday, 31 October 2006
Public Holiday/s: Monday, 25 September 2006 (Heritage Day)

2007: School commences – Wednesday, 10 January 2007

Send all e-mails to: BoysCollege@stithian.com
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