

# newsLetter



ST STITHIANS BOYS' COLLEGE

A South African School Making a World of Difference

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ONE AND ALL



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NEWS

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Dear Parents

## ROUND SQUARE ROUNDUP

The Round Square is alive and well in the Boys' College, with many opportunities for the boys to be involved in a diverse range of activities. The popularity of all the activities has increased, with boys applying in greater numbers than ever before for Exchanges, Conferences, Projects and the other activities on offer.

The activities mentioned in this Newsletter are a sample of the numerous Round Square activities that have taken place this term in the Boys' College. There are numerous other ongoing activities such as the Grade 8 Community Service visits, the Grade 9 teaching at Witkoppen Primary School, the many hours of Community Service put in by the Grade 9 boys at various institutions and the regular visits to the Leeuwkop Prison School by a group of Grade 10 boys.

The Parents Samaritan Group are also involved in service to the community. Their collections of clothes, sports equipment, clothes, toys, stationery and toiletries are most successful and over the years many needy charities and schools have benefited from these collections. The Group also hosts an outing for the Grade 2 children at Witkoppen School once a term, assisted by our Grade 9 boys. These outings are a highlight of the Witkoppen children's school term.

Every boy in the Boys' College is a member of Round Square. The late Kurt Hahn, the founder of the Round Square, believed that there is more in each one of us than we think – more courage, more strength and more compassion. Hahn's objective was to propel boys into activities that challenged them to develop these aspects of their character. The boys have every opportunity to do this in the Boys' College.

Mrs Wendy Kerr

The following is a summary of recent Round Square happenings in the Boys' College.

**Grade 8/2006  
Scholarships  
as follows:**

**Academic:**

Douglas Heale  
St Peter's Prep

Nicholas  
Harrison  
St Peter's Prep

Shayne Wright  
Rivonia Primary

Timothy Mitchell  
St Stithians  
Boys' Prep

Alex Gordon  
St Stithians  
Boys' Prep

**Sport:**

Sean Sanders  
Trinity House  
Prep

Scott Carroll  
Trinity House  
Prep

Renier Moolman  
Unika Laerskool

Challen Krichel  
Trinity House  
Prep

**Music:** TBA

**SAINTS  
SINGER OF  
THE YEAR**

**JUNIOR:**  
ZACH PITSILLIS  
GR 9

**SENIOR:**  
ROURKE  
HULETT GR 12

**GR11  
SCHOLARSHIP:**  
RICHARD PARK

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

International Exchanges to Round Square schools around the world, both incoming and outgoing, have enriched the Boys' College community this term.

The Boys' College has hosted four incoming exchange students from schools in India, Oman, Germany and Australia. These boys were good ambassadors for their schools and will also be giving positive feedback in their home countries about both the Boys' College and South Africa.

Interviews for Exchange places for 2006 are currently taking place. There has been a significant increase in the number of boys applying and we do our best to find places for the boys who are chosen to go on Exchange.

The following is a speech made in Chapel by Varun Khandelwal from The Doon School in India on the day he returned home.

*"When I was asked which country I would like to go to for Exchange, I said South Africa with a firm determination that I would love to see this special country where the father of my nation, Mahatma Gandhi, had spent 21 years of his life. Also, South Africa is blessed with nature's richness, which was worth human exploration. Not only does it boast a rich wildlife and natural beauty, it also holds a very rich and diverse cultural society, which never fails to intrigue me.*

*India too, has a rich and unique cultural heritage, and has actively preserved its glorious traditions, defying various cultural erosions by invaders and immigrants. Many rituals and monuments, such as the Taj Mahal have given India a dominant place in the World Heritage map. Ours is a socialist and secular fraternity, where all the religions and religious practices, and more than a dozen different cultures blend together to form the hues of our national flag, the Tricolour.*

*My school The Doon School, was started in 1935. It was developed with the idea that the men who leave it must be those who are going to lead the nation in all departments of life, and till today it carries on with its tradition of all round education based on an adaptation of the English public school system on India's traditionally – enriched soil. My school is as rich traditionally, as it is modern in its facilities. Hidden amidst the Chandbagh Estate in the foothills of the majestic Himalayas, the Doon School provides the best infrastructure of any school in India, making an emphatic statement about its commitment to groom visionaries from amongst young boys.*

*I am fascinated by St Stithians. It has so much in common with us. I have stayed here as any other student and earned acceptance from your entire school fraternity, which gave me the sense of belonging and security, which I could relate to my good old school back home. I enjoyed every bit of the time I have spent here, and I do long for more. Besides a lot of learning and grooming, I*

### **TRI-ARTS COMPETITION**

**Six Senior Saints boys entered for the Singing Section of this Competition recently, and two are into the semi-finals - Rourke Hulett and Richard Park.**

**They are due to perform at the Finals on 30 July. The total entry had been over 600 applications.**

### **CONDOLENCES**

The Boys' College would like to offer its deepest sympathy to the following families on their recent bereavements:

Mrs Sue Hockey and family – tragic death of their nephew and cousin  
Dr and Mrs Carter on the death of Bev Carter' s father.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

*carry back with me great memories of people here.*

*It was a bit unfortunate that I fell sick during my Exchange programme. I spent almost 3 weeks of sickness at Tom Dittmer's house. It surely amazes me how naturally Dr Collin and Mrs Jenny Dittmer acted just as my parents during that time giving me the love and care, which was what I needed most. It is a custom in India to touch the feet of elders and those whom one respects. I would like to convey my deepest and strongest regards by touching their feet. Tom is very fortunate to have such lovely parents.*

*South Africa shares a very common bonding with India. The people here are very warm, welcoming and affectionate. I carry with me a very deep impression of a country and its people who care. Standing before you today I to tell you that I feel very similar to what Gandhi must've felt after he left South Africa.... he said...'I have left South Africa but not my connection with that country....'*

*I am leaving with a very heavy heart...Many amongst you will remain etched in my memory forever.... By God's grace, some of us may meet somewhere sometime in future. I just want to tell all of you, whenever in India, please let me know. I will love to be with you, to show you my country and try to be as good a host as you all have been.*

*May I take this opportunity to ask the Headmaster, Mr Ryan, on behalf of Saints to please accept from me a small token of my appreciation and regard.*

*I would like to thank the Headmaster, all the members of the Staff, the head of Krige House and Mountstephens, my Tutor Mrs Reynolds, all the students and my friends for making my Exchange so pleasure able. A special thanks to the Dittmer's for being such good hosts and, last but not the least, Mrs Wendy Kerr who helped me throughout my time at Saints."*

We also quote below from an email Mr Ryan received from Varun's parents expressing their gratitude for the care and attention that Varun received during time at the Boys' College.

*Dear Sir,*

*Our son Varun Khandelwal returned home completing his exchange at St Stithians, with extremely happy memories. From what he narrates to us, St Stithians and the people associated with the school, all are responsible in giving him his life' s best experiences. Despite his sickness and associated difficulties, Varun never felt out of home and St Stithians is credited to have arranged a lovely family, the Dittmer's, who looked after him as their own son. We will remain forever indebted to the Dittmer family for the love, affection and support they provided to our son, much more than what is usually expected of an Exchange family.*

*Varun is equally in praise of the Staff of St Stithians. All the Staff*

**SPORT  
HOCKEY**

The **U18A** Southern Gauteng team (containing Jay Caboz and Ryan Eichstadt) is the National champions, defeating Eastern Province in the Final on Saturday. Half the EP Team comes from Grey High (PE) and Jay Caboz reports that "it [was] the hardest game I've ever played. I just didn't stop running and marking."

The **U18B** Southern Gauteng team (containing Gareth Dixon and Mark Pomroy) finished 6th in the A section, the highest placed "B" team.

The **U18C** Southern Gauteng team (containing Joshua Walter and Dane Mather) won the C Section and are now promoted to the B Section of the National Championships. Again this is the highest placed "C" team in the country.

*has shown exemplary affection to him. Mrs Kerr needs special mention as she has helped us arrange the whole trip, never getting annoyed at times when we maybe disturbing her unnecessarily, as also, she has helped Varun at all times during his stay there.*

*Varun feels St Stithians is like The Doon School and we are pleased to see that he has learnt a lot from his stay there. As parents of Varun, we extend our hearty welcome to anyone visiting Agra to stay with us. We will inform The Doon school and are informing you too that Varun desires all students of St Stithians who visit the Doon school as Exchange students can stay with us at Agra for any period of time and we will show him around. It holds true for the Staff members also.*

*He has special words of praise for you. He tells us that he chose to continue in Maths classes because he liked your way of teaching and desired to attend your classes even though he does not prefer Maths.*

*We thank you immensely,  
With kind regards  
Dr (Mrs) And Dr Pankaj Khandelwal*

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Eight of our Grade 10 boys go out on Exchange this term, with six Grade 10 boys going on Exchange next term. The boys are going to schools in Australia, Peru, Canada, England, the USA and Germany. It is the first time that we have sent a boy to a school in Peru and we look forward to feedback from Graham Rex on his return.

Cavan Bartlett recently returned from his exchange to Appleby College, Toronto, Canada. The exchange experience is definitely a growth experience for the boys.

*"My Exchange experience was one of the most fulfilling experience I have ever had, teaching me valuable life skills and helping me become a more mature and independent individual.*

*My journey started at Johannesburg International, where I was soon to depart for a connecting flight to London. I checked in with the guidance of my parents and braced myself for our goodbye. The flight was very tiring and long but I eventually arrived in Toronto a day after I had left.*

*I met up with a Mandarin teacher at the airport for my transfer to the Appleby College campus. The campus was very big, with lots of great fields and buildings. The boarding house I stayed in was amazing, the room was very big and the guys were great in welcoming me as one of their own.*

*My first day of school I was a bit nervous, but as soon as I got there, I fitted in immediately making many friends from the first day. I was amazed how handy a South African accent is to have. People love the accent.*

*The amazing thing about Exchange is the fact that everyone wants to know the new guy and where he's from. I thought this would be the opposite and that I would have difficulty fitting in with*

*such different cultural backgrounds. The main thing in terms of school, I had to get used to, is the fact that Appleby is an e-school. The whole school uses laptops. These also really came in handy for games, DVD's and music. I started playing rugby that afternoon where the whole side was wondering how good this new South African was, well, he was ok! I helped the U16s win the CISAA championship (of the world). This was one of the many highlights of my awesome trip.*

*Great weeks and weekends followed with the tons of new friends I had made. I spent a long weekend with a couple guys at a cottage, which was such a good time. We went tubing in absolutely freezing water and enjoyed ourselves playing touch rugby and poker. The cottage was situated on a Lake in Muskoka, about an hour or two away from Toronto, an ideal place to go for the weekend.*

*The last couple weeks of my Exchange continued on the same path as it started, if not getting better. Had it not been the end of their school year, I would have loved to stay longer. Sadly my last school day at Appleby College arrived and everyone had come to sign my school shirt as a memento along with other gifts for back home. I gave quite a few gifts including rugby jerseys, Rands and a few other things on the side.*

*Cavan at Niagara Falls*



*The second last night of my Exchange I experienced a charity event in order to raise funds for cancer, called 'relay for life' where we had lapped around a track the whole night. We slept on the school fields in tents and anything else we could find. It was indeed an experience I shall never forget.*

*My trip back was again via London, where I would have to spend a day in the British capital on my own. I took the Underground from Heathrow to Piccadilly Circus and was able to catch a bus to tour and shop around the whole city, while seeing every major tourist attraction that London has to offer. Without any hiccups at all, I was able to complete my trip from Toronto all the way to London and home. London was another highlight of my trip, even if it was only for a short time.*

*Exchange was one of the most rewarding things I have done in life. I would recommend it to any Junior and hope the Round Square continues for many years to come. I definitely missed a lot of work back home, but it was a very small price to pay for the absolutely sensational time I experienced.*

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### **QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF NKOSI'S HAVEN**

The Boys' College Staff and the boys on the Service and Round Square Committees held a very successful Quiz Night on 8 July in aid of Nkosi's Haven. The evening was great fun and there was strong competition between the twenty-six teams who entered. Ms Gail Johnson, the founder of Nkosi's Haven, is extremely grateful for the donation of R26 500, which was raised by the Quiz Night.



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### **THE INTERACT CLUB**

The Interact Club of 2004/2005 ended their very successful year with a Winter Ball at The Castle, Kyalami. The Castle was a magical setting and all had a good time.

The new Interact Committee for 2005/2006 has been selected and they have started their term in office with enthusiasm and a great sense of responsibility. They have chosen "Grace's Haven", a home for abandoned and HIV positive children, as the charity that they wish to support. Their first fund raising activity is the running the tuck-shop at The Science Expo on 23 July. We wish them everything of the best for their term in office.

2005/2006 Committee:

Tom Dittmer – President  
Ross Baker – Deputy President  
Robert Attwell  
Tinashe Chandauka  
Rimon du Plessis  
James White  
Michael Ord  
Matthew Preston  
Jarryd Mather  
Mac Moteane  
Calvin Tribelhorne  
David Shaw  
Gareth Burton-Durham

We wish these boys well during their term of office.

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### **THE ROUND SQUARE AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, PHILIPPOLIS**

Eleven boys represented the Boys' College at the Round Square Regional Conference in Philippolis in May. The Conference was organized by Stithians Boys' and Girls' Colleges and was hosted by Kate Groch and her Future Nature team. The theme of the Conference was "Diamonds in the Dust". The delegates were challenged to find something more within themselves – their own specific inner diamonds. Delegates from seven member schools and three regional member schools attended the Conference, which was a great success. The activities varied from paddling on the Gariep River, to "Walking in someone else's shoes", to painting the ABET Centre in the local community and were enjoyed by all.

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### **THE ROUND SQUARE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, IVANHOE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

The International Conference of the fifty-four Round Square member schools takes place from 25 September to 1 October at the Ivanhoe Grammar School in Australia. Eight boys have been selected to attend the Conference. They will be visiting a Round Square school, The Indian School, in Muscat, Oman, en route to the Conference, at the kind invitation of the Headmaster, Mr Vijay Bhatnagar. The Conference will challenge the boys in many ways, while the visit to Oman will be an enriching cultural experience for them.

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### **THE ROUND SQUARE UBOMBO COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Twenty-eight boys and girls from the Boys' and Girls' Colleges will be going on the Ubombo Community Project in August. Teachers from two overseas Round Square schools will join the group, namely Box Hill School in England and Salem School in Germany. The group will be working in the Ubombo community where they will paint the local church, do repairs and building works on the homes of the local people, visit the Hospital and Sewing Centre and teach at the local High School and the Ubombo Entabeni Children's' Care Village. The Project will involve the students and Staff in the way of life in rural South Africa, where poverty, disease and unemployment are rife.

Mr Terry Guest, the Executive Director of Round Square, his wife Sue and Mrs Ann West, the Round Square International Service Project Co-ordinator, visited the Ubombo Community Project in May. A decision was taken to grant the Ubombo Project International status, as from August 2006. This means that the Round Square will fund the bricks and mortar for building projects at the Children's' Care Village over a period of three years. It also means that boys and girls from Round Square schools around the world will participate in the Projects in future.

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### **THE SAINTS TREK**

The Saints Trek takes place during the August school holidays. The first part of the Trek involves service in the Philippolis community, while the second part of the Trek involves the hike through the Karoo. Twelve boys

will be taking part in the Trek, together with girls from the Girls' College and students from Round Square schools in Canada, Australia and England.

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### **THE ROUND SQUARE CWEBE COMMUNITY PROJECT**

The Round Square Cwebe Community Project takes place each year in Cwebe in the Eastern Province. In a new initiative, boys and girls from the Boys' College and Fourways High School will be travelling to Cwebe to start the rebuilding of the Cwebe Primary School. The School is in a dilapidated state of repair and is inadequate for the number of children who attend the School. The facilities are almost nonexistent and the group will take books and stationery for the school community. The Cwebe Project is a seven-year Project with plans to complete the school by 2010.

#### **ROUND SQUARE PRESENTATIONS**

The Round Square and Service Committees held two Chapel Services this term with the themes, "Service" and "International Understanding". They also did presentations on Founders' Day and will be doing presentations to the College Council on 26 July.

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### **ROUND SQUARE SCUBA DIVING TRIP**

The Round Square Scuba Diving Club is thriving. During the August holidays there is a Scuba Diving Course and a Scuba Diving Trip to Mozambique. This is the third Scuba Diving Trip that has been organized by the Round Square Adventure Club.

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## **SCUBADIVINGMOZAMBIQUE**

Imagine wide open, white, deserted beaches, crystal clear waters teeming with life, trees swaying gently in the breeze and 7 days with nothing to do but chill!

Come join us for a week's scuba diving and relaxing in Ponta do Oura, Southern Mozambique.

#### **ACCOMMODATION:**

Planet Scuba overlooks the bay of Ponta do Oura. Accommodation is in the comfort of a private lodge. All rooms are equipped with mosquito nets and fans; showers have hot and cold water. Relax on the wooden deck and enjoy the view or spend time on the pristine beach. DSTV is available. Planet Scuba is an owner-managed resort and guarantees you personal attention and professional service.

#### **DATES:**

The trip runs from the 20 to 27 August 2005. We'll be running an Open Water 1 scuba diving course beforehand, for anyone interested in learning to dive.

#### **COSTS:**

Week in Mozambique at Planet Scuba:

- Includes:
- 7 nights accommodation
  - All meals (you need to take your own drinks with you, they have fridges at Planet Scuba and there is a supermarket in the town)
  - 5 dives
  - Air fills and cylinder hire

- Traveling expenses (fuel included, bus hire would be extra if necessary, to be confirmed closer to the time)
- Experienced instructors and staff accompanying us

Cost: R2900

Non-divers also welcome, R2200 pp

PADI scuba diving course:

- This will be arranged for anyone needing a course Before the trip, probably in the August holiday.

Equipment:

- Basic equipment for dives (BC's, regulators etc): the will be hired
- Individuals for the diving course and dives must acquire certain equipment; this includes a mask, fins and boots, snorkel, weight belts and wetsuits.

Some of these can possibly be hired; most will need to be bought. **Speak to Miss Procter for details on special prices available**

Passports and Visas:

- You must have a passport, at least valid up to February 2006
- Visas: - until recently visas were required for all South Africans visiting Mozambique. According to the Mozambican Embassy that is no longer the case. I will confirm this, but at this stage, **NO VISAS REQUIRED.**

PLACES LIMITED!!! Friends and family welcome. Book ASAP. A non-refundable deposit of R800 needs to be paid ASAP.

For more details speak to Miss Procter, SC10. [sprocter@stithian.com](mailto:sprocter@stithian.com)

## TENNIS

**Congratulations to Dean O'Brien, Grade 9, one of the top achievers in the U15 Interprovincial Tennis Tournament, who has been included in the International SA side to participate in the Les Jeunes Dodos U15 Tournament to be held in Mauritius and reunion in October.**

Send all e-mails to: [BoysCollege@stithian.com](mailto:BoysCollege@stithian.com)

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