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NEWS

CONTENTS

HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

EASTER PRAYER

COMMUNITY SERVICE NOTICES

SPORTING NEWS

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COLLINS HOUSE UPDATE

GENERAL NEWS

Headmaster's Message

Dear One and All

I have included an extract from the final Headmaster's Chapel for the term. My address was made with two points in mind: the first was to give a brief review of the term; the second to make some comments on attitude and mental strength - it is on the latter aspect that I have chosen to focus in this newsletter.

"In my opinion, mental strength and a positive attitude comes firstly from an understanding that life is not meant to be smooth sailing all the way – there are going to be rough times; life will not adjust for us; we do not get everything we want; and complaining and whining does not actually help.

Once you understand that, it is easier to accept it, and get on with it.

Secondly, we are not victims. A 'can do' attitude will mean that we do not respond to life's disappointments by giving in to them. We can overcome problems with the help of the Lord - and I refer to the Chaplains' sermon of Monday - and the support of the people around us.

A 'can do' attitude is linked to a willingness to work and to prepare relentlessly. A work ethic in everything you do – training for sport, learning for tests, practising for a Drama or Music production, or working on a Community Service project – is a key component to a life lived well, a fulfilling life.

Thirdly and finally, mental strength also comes from seeing the positives in everything. This requires mental discipline and can be difficult. How do we see the positive in the Collins House fire, or in the death of a family member? This is not easy but we need to be aware that life does have positives and that there are possibilities everywhere.

My advice, get away from negative people who complain – rather mix with people who see life in terms of its highest possibilities.

That means opening your mind to the possibility of positiveness, even when things are dark. Much like seeds can blow in the wind before they settle, 'positives' will sometimes float until they find fertile ground on which to settle."

To everyone in the Saint Stithians community, I thank you for your positive involvement in, and for your contribution towards, ensuring that this term was so successful.

STOP PRESS

We have an exciting announcement for all at the Boys' College.

Immediately after the Easter Festival has ended building will commence on a Weights Room that will be located next to the Glass House. We are extremely grateful to one of our Old Boys, Mr Craig Warriner, who has made a donation for the construction of this new facility and we know that it will be welcomed by students and staff alike.

REPORT NOTICES

**PLEASE NOTE:
ALL GRADE 8 –
GRADE 11
REPORTS WILL
BE MAILED
THIS TERM AND
DO NOT NEED
TO BE
COLLECTED.
GRADE 12s
WILL RECEIVE
THEIR
REPORTS NEXT
TERM.**

I wish you all a healthy and relaxing holiday and a joyous, blessed Easter with family and friends. Finally, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Easter Festival.

With kind regards

Dave Knowles
Headmaster

EASTER PRAYER – from Rev Dan Nkomo, Chaplain

Almighty God, we are reminded again this Easter of the fact that your masterful and fatherly plan for the world and ourselves was carried out when you permitted our Lord Jesus Christ, to be imprisoned that we may be free, to be declared guilty so that our guilt may be taken away, to suffer that we may have joy, to be put to death that we may have life eternal, Lord we love You, we want to serve You, please show us how.

Amen

COMMUNITY SERVICE NOTICES

- Mrs Kerr made an award in Friday's Chapel to Isaac Similane who has driven us safely for many years to all our Community Service projects. Mrs Kerr awarded Isaac with a gift, a St Stithians Boys' College cap and certificate and formally thanked him for being such a faithful and trusted member of our Community.
- The Interact Committee held a highly successful Golf Day on Friday. The Golf Day is held annually by the Committee to raise funds for their Community Service projects and although the figures have not yet been finalised, a rough estimate of the monies raised is in excess of R100 000. We applaud you all on your efforts and commitment to helping those in need.

I commend all those of our students who have taken advantage of all the opportunities offered by the school for Community Service. I would personally like to see everyone involved in working in the service of others, and the Boys' College considers Community service as being critical, regarding it as one of our pillars along with Academics, Culture, Sport and Leadership Training.

SOME SPORTING NEWS AND RESULTS

- Congratulations to David Brookstein for his selection to the National Junior Selection Regatta – David coxed for the winning Four and their time was the fastest ever recorded in South Africa

OLD BOYS' NEWS



Billy Stelling, one of our Old Boys, was selected to play for the Netherlands National Cricket team at the World Cup Cricket in the West Indies.

Billy played Junior Representative Cricket for the Transvaal Nuffield Cricket squad in 1986 – 1987 and matriculated in 1987. He was awarded Sports Honours for Rugby as well.

Squash Tour

We wish our Squash Team everything of the best for their Tour to Malaysia and may they travel safely.

by any junior Coxed Four.

- Many of our swimmers participated in the Junior Nationals and achieved excellent results in all strokes and events. Brady Rothschild. Special mention must be made of Heinrich Schoeman who is ranked 5th for his age group in the country. To all the swimmers, well done on your significant achievements and we wish Heinrich and Michael Myklusz the best of luck for the Senior Nationals.
- Two of our Grade 8s, Mark Winckler and Mikael Cloete have been ranked 26th and 30th respectively after their participation in the South African Closed Squash Challenge two weeks ago. The future looks very promising for these talented young men.
- We wish Stuart West all the best as he prepares to participate in a National Archery competition.
- The Hockey and Rugby seasons are well under way with fixtures having been played against Potchefstroom Boys' High, St John's, Bryanston High and St David's. We have had a mixed bag of results for both sports and we are extremely proud of the spirit and enthusiasm displayed by all our sportsmen, both on the field and off it, in particular at the matches against St David's this past weekend. An overview of the results of these matches is as follows:

Hockey	-	Played	10
	-	Won	3
	-	Drew	1
	-	Lost	6

An excellent result for the 1st XI Hockey who won 3 – 1.

Rugby	-	Played	14
	-	Won	11
	-	Drew	2
	-	Lost	1

We print the following message from Mr Malcolm Williams, Headmaster of St David's College:

"I apologise to the Saints community for the behaviour of our Old Boys during the 1st XV Game." Mr Williams also complimented the Saints boys on their behaviour.

We are looking forward with anticipation to the rest of the Season as the skills and confidence of our players grows.

Details of all results can be found on our website.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- I received a pleasing e-mail commending those of you who attended the Grade 12 'Antony and Cleopatra' revision lecture for your superb behaviour. You were impeccably dressed, paid attention and asked excellent questions.
- Congratulations to the following boys who have been placed on the short list for the Public Relations team:

Wilton Antonio
Alex Bailey
David Beeton
Peter Burge
Janko Burger
Stuart Edmond
Mnweba Gobodo
Ziyaad Hamid
Douglas Hoernle
Dean Johnston
Andrew Kleyn
Grant Langman
Webster Lenyanyabedi
Mark Leshnick
Douglas Mabotse
Farai Machapu
Ross Michelmore

Wandile Mtoba
Michael Myburgh
Matthew Neuhoff
Zac Pitsillis
Cameron Prior
Tshegofatso Rangaka
Alex Reimeringer-Visser
Stefan Rusch
Nicholas Sardianos
Jason Serra
Richard Sibeko
Andrew Smith
Miguel Tavares
Michael van Gysen
Dino Vichos
Matthew Vogel
Mikhail Wertheim-Aymes
Dylan Wilkinson

- We held our second Walkabout on Friday and, as with the first, it proved to be a successful event enjoyed by all who attended. Our first Walkabout resulted in two parents enrolling their sons immediately into the Boys' College, testimony to the positive impact made by the school.

The next two Walkabouts will be held on **FRIDAY 25 MAY AND FRIDAY 6 JULY**



Philma Bisschoff, from the Music Department, addressing prospective parents on a recent Walkabout

- The Grade 9s left on Saturday for their camp, accompanied by several members of the Boys' College staff assisted by expert outside facilitators and guides. We are confident the boys will have enjoyed their experience and learnt from it, and we hope to make this an annual event.

- The Grade 12 Drama students performed their Practical presentations and entertained all those who attended. The talent, enthusiasm and level of performance of the boys continue to impress and any of their performances are well worth viewing.

Well done to all.

COLLINS HOUSE UPDATE

Most of you will have seen the 'Village' slowly developing on the fields below our Aquatic Centre. All the Collins House boarders, with the exception of the Grade 12s, have now moved into their new accommodation, and although for now conditions are still somewhat rudimentary, spirit amongst the boys remains high and there is a tangible sense of camaraderie.

By the beginning of next term we hope to see all the units in place, including all the ablution and recreational facilities. At this stage the boys from Mountstephens House will also have moved to the 'Village' as renovations and building will have begun on both hostels.

Once again, we thank all of you for your unfailing support, donations and offers of assistance – we could not have coped as well as we have without you.

As a result of the amazing generosity of the Saints Community, we no longer feel it appropriate to accept more donations to this Fund – we have enough to help the boys. Further donations will be put towards the College charities.

GENERAL NEWS

- The Boys' College Staff was privileged to have a talk on Friday by Mr Tom Hamilton, Headmaster of St Alban's College in Pretoria. Mr Hamilton is a dynamic and enthusiastic speaker who shared with us a programme he has developed for his staff based on the writings of Jim Collins on how to work towards ensuring that all organisations move from 'good to great.'
- PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE BOYS' COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AS FROM 1 APRIL :

Ms Jessie Edmiston:	Personal Assistant to the Deputy Headmasters
Mrs Jenny Branch:	Administrative Personal Assistant to the Headmaster
Mrs Lynde Dicks:	Public Relations Personal Assistant to the Headmaster

We wish them all well in their new positions and the challenges that lie ahead.

- DATES FOR THE BEGINNING OF NEXT TERM:

Wednesday 2 May

07h30:	Staff Meeting
08h00:	School commences – Headmaster's Chapel
08h30:	House Chapel
09h00:	Period 3

Tuesday 8 May

15h00 – 17h00	Staff Workshop – no sports practices - where possible these will be moved to Wednesday afternoon
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- All Grade 8 and 9 parents look out for the new 'Proudly Saints' booklet your son will be

bringing home next term. The booklet has been compiled by the Grade 12 students in the 'Proudly Saints Committee' under the leadership of Kyle Junkhun.

Fight
Crime
Day



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