



GC NEWS

A SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOL MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

No 4 Vol 2008

GIRLS' COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY

<input type="checkbox"/>	In the News	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	OSA	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Round Square	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Houses	3,4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural	6,7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sport	8



Youth
Against
Crime

Wednesday
18 June – during
Youth Week...

We are proud of our youth at this school and will continue to provide opportunities for all our learners to take the lead and to feel empowered to make a world of difference both at school and in the world at large.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION COMES TO FOUNDERS' DAY

A celebration of the founding of St Stithians College was held on 07 June 2008 on Baytopp Field. Guests of honour were **Ms Nqobani Mkhwanazi** former head girl, St Cyprian's school - 2002 and **Mrs Naledi Pandor** the Minister of Education. The theme was HIV/AIDS. For the week we focused on breaking the silence associated with HIV and emphasised wellness.



YAC

An early morning protest against crime by the grade 8,9 & the grade 11 history girls set the tone for the rest of the day.

Director Hugo from the Randburg Police was invited to receive memorandums from the learner representatives from each school.

The youth staged a "sit in" on the field to support the slogan – "We won't stand for crime!". Prayers were read by representatives of all five schools and each school had the opportunity to sing a war cry or chant. This was also filmed for a TV documentary.



Rainbow Day



In the News

PRESIDENTIAL YOUTH INAUGURAL CONFERENCE – WASHINGTON DC

Our delegates to the Global Young Leaders have also been invited to attend a Youth conference in the USA in January 2009. Besides being inspired by keynote speakers, Lance Armstrong, Senator John Edwards and Elizabeth Edwards, they will also witness the President and Vice President of the United States take their official oath of office and will view the inaugural parade to the White House.

SAINTS WELCOME

Welcome to the Connell family who have joined the Girls' College this term, we wish Robynne a happy time at Stithians:

- **Robynne Connell** Grade 10

SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTING STARS

Congratulations to **Bryerly Nassif** (SA Wakeboarding), **Megan Taylor** (SA Vaulting/ Equestrian), **Kim Johnstone** (SA Rowing), **Jamie Croly** (Coach – SA Rowing).



Left: Megan Taylor
Top: Bryerly Nassif
Above: Jamie Croly, Kate Johnstone with Ms van Veyeren

Megan was selected as part of team of 7 members to compete in Czech Republic in July. She was placed 1st in the Open female class and is representing SA in the individual and the team event. **Bryerly** competed in the World Champs in Malaysia this year. **Kate & Jamie** leave soon for Austria.

SUGAR BAY RESCHEDULED

The new date for the optional geography Sugar Bay trip to Kwazulu Natal is 24 October. The trip had to be rescheduled due to the eye problems that we were experiencing caused by a problem in our gym. We are very pleased to state that we have been given a clean bill of health in the gym and that the much awaited trip to the holiday camp is back on – it will be much warmer at this time of the year!



OSA

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UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Old Stithians, please update your details online on the OSA website by following this link:
<http://www.stithian.com/OSA/AlumniDirectory/AddUpdateYourEntry/tabid/70/Default.aspx>

THE NEW CLUBHOUSE



Building is set to start soon on the ground overlooking the Wayne Joubert field. Soon all Old Stithians will be able to enjoy the magnificent view across Sandton. The clubhouse will feature the favourite watering hole, shower and change room facilities, offices, a boardroom and even hotel rooms for Old Stithian visiting Johannesburg and in need of accommodation.



Staff News

Mr Ancillotti was recently invited to the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, East London, to present a paper entitled, "Enhancing Maths Education through the use of IT" for the Association of Maths Education of SA – AMESA. He also presented at the AdvTech conference.

Mr Gear (Geography teacher from the Boys' College) was our tour guide on our staff bus tour of Johannesburg. He entertained staff with his amazing knowledge of "The City he loves and grew up in." We travelled through Sandton, Alexandra, Houghton, Hillbrow, City, Carlton Centre and then on to Soweto where we had lunch at "The Cave".



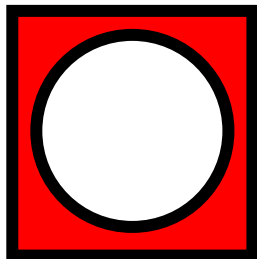
Ms Avery played Ultimate Frizzbee in Mozambique as a member of the Gauteng team. (Picture on left)

Ms Everson was invited to present poetry workshops at the Grahamstown National Schools' Festival for the Arts. Her poetry presentation to over 300 learners and teachers was 'astounding'. Ruth carried the St Stithians name to over 700 learners and teachers in the four days that she worked at the Festival.

SPRING FESTIVAL - 27 SEPTEMBER

Round Square

International
Democracy
Environment
Adventure
Leadership
Service



EXCHANGES OUT

Lauren Gray – Australia – Ballarat Grammar
Aston Holtes – Australia – St Philip's College
Nthabi Shongwe – Australia – Ivanhoe Grammar
Cassandra Pitsillis – Peru – Markham College
Jo Tilley – USA – Harpeth Hall
Eden Louw – USA – Harpeth Hall

EXCHANGES IN

Rosie Bichell, Stephanie Miller, Justine Brittain visited our school from Harpeth Hall in Tennessee, USA.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment club are actively collecting plastics and cans. Please support them by bringing your recycled goods to school and placing them in the packets provided. Remember that paper recycling is an on going project at our school and you are encouraged to fill those bins too.

SERVICE

Another successful blood drive was held this term. In assembly, after an emotional appeal from Mrs Roberts in assembly, who told us her story about her twins needing blood at their birth, eligible girls signed up to give towards this very needy cause.



We held two civvies days this term, the usual one for our community projects, the other to purchase the HIV/Aids awareness bunting that went around the perimeter of our school during Founders' Week. Staff were treated to a Wellness Testing day offered by Discovery Health resulting in many staff renewing their new year's resolutions to keep fit. Many thanks to those who participated in the Woolly Drive. The goodies were distributed recently to the people at Central Methodist Church who were seeking refuge there after the xenophobia attacks in our city.

Houses

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

This term we collected toiletries for Jordan House (Stratton & Trewen) and Ikageng Itireleng (Cambourne and Kenwyn). The agencies received these bags and boxes of donations at the Community Service chapel just before the exams.



INTERHOUSE NETBALL & HOCKEY

Kenwyn were the overall winners in the netball competition with Trewen winning the seniors and Kenwyn the junior section.

Kenwyn also won the Junior interhouse hockey competition and Stratton the senior. Overall for hockey there was a tie for first place between Trewen and Kenwyn. It was great to see the support for the hockey in particular.

INTERHOUSE ERGOS (ROWING)



We usually run this competition in the gym, but this year we had to make do with the quad. It was unfortunately too hot for the computer equipment out in the sun, we were not able to see the big screen. However, as usual, there was a great spirit surrounding the rowing event as usual. Congratulations to the staff team from Stratton who won their

race. **Ms Durow, Ms du Plessis, Mr Beynnon and Mrs Tolley** were awesome!



INTERHOUSE ROWING



Message from SIGH

(The Society Informing Girls of Harassment) Extracts taken from their presentation at assembly:

“ The definition of harassment is when someone repeatedly verbally abuses, repeatedly physically harms or destroys belongings or repeatedly encourages others to harass, embarrass, ignore or exclude a person or group from activities.”

“ Students who bully are encouraged when YOU...

- Watch them
- Laugh at what they do
- When you join in
- When you do nothing
- When you film their actions and distribute the footage for a laugh.

In that case the bystander is part of the bullying and will be held accountable for her actions.”

“Remember SIGH meets every Monday at 1st break at the Student centre. Suggestions are most welcome – post them in the peer counselling box.”

“DISCOURAGE BYSTANDER BEHAVIOUR – bad things will continue to happen if good people don’t act!”

Cambourne Dancers



PEER COUNSELLORS INITIATIVE

On a really cold day this month the Peer Counsellors treated the school to free hot chocolate at break.



Committee in action

INTERHOUSE DANCE - SONG

The interhouse dance and singing competition, in its 2nd year again showcased the talents of the girls, with Cambourne winning the dancing and Stratton winning the singing.

Stratton House singers



Grade News

GRADE 8

In June Mr Ken Hovelmeier talked to the girls about his personal journey after losing his sight and the strategies he used to cope emotionally. As part of a life orientation assessment, the grade 8s held a "cheerleading clinic" in July. Mrs Chilvers who comes from the USA assessed them on their group cheers.

GRADE 9

Grade 9s are currently at Bush School where they are camping out and experiencing a completely different way of life. Reports have come back that their tent flags are awesome and that many of the girls have already accumulated some "Polar Bear" points. (Swimming in the river at 06:00 each morning!) A function for parents will be held at the One and All on Monday 21 July – all welcome. Many thanks to Uwe Wischnewski and his wife Marietta who sponsored the Bush School togbags this year. Also to Mrs Penfold who has worked tirelessly on the collections for the orphanage at Babanango.



Photographs will be arriving soon! Grade 9s participated in a 3 day workshop called "Go For It" facilitated by, Ms Everson, Mrs Tolley, Mrs Chilvers and Ms Nel.

GRADE 10

Grade 10 girls reached their half way there milestone and celebrated at the Halfway There Dinner. As part of the College's diversity theme, girls were asked to decorate their own tables this year in the spirit of diversity. The venue was also changed to Mears Hall to try and keep the costs down for parents. Although there were some obstacles to change that we faced, it was still a great opportunity for families to be together.

Photos from the dinner...



Grade 10s attended a talk together with the Boys' College by Mr Allan Heyl a member of the notorious Stander Gang of 1983/84. He spoke from the heart about improving self esteem and choosing to be responsible for one's own happiness. He shared his story of years of crime and dodging imprisonment.

GRADE 11

A highlight this term was the Fashion Show fundraiser that was hosted by grade 11s for the matric dance for the Class of 2008. It was an extremely well organised event showcasing: Benetton, Earthquake, Aftershock, Ama Kip Kip, Cameroon, Episode, Hip Hop, Honey, Bride & Company and Soteri Collection. **Prianka Soni** and her team is to be congratulated on this outstanding event.

Grade 11s also held a very successful golf day raising more funds towards what is going to be a spectacular evening for our matrics.

Spirit of Adventure was a very cold experience for our grade 11 girls as they participated in many challenging events at their leadership camp in the Magaliesberg recently.



GRADE 12

We hope our grade 12s have been focussing on their preliminary examinations!

STAFF DIVERSITY DAY



Cultural News

NIGHT OF THE STARS

Night of the Stars is a prestigious event at the Girls' College. Girls audition for a place to participate in one of the four categories: Instrumental, Vocal, Drama and Dance. The finalists then perform for an audience and adjudication panel and the winners are announced at the end of the evening. Below are the winners for 2008 in the various categories: (L-R) **Merilyn Sandnes** (Instrumental), **Donna Taylor** (Vocal), **Marie Botha** (Drama), **Lane Botha** (Dance).



Winners of the Night of the Stars Competition 2008

INSTRUMENTAL:

1. Merilyn Sandnes Piano
2. Nicole Holder Violin
3. Megan Nel Piano

Finalists: Pamela Nel, Danielle Michael

VOCAL:

1. Donna Taylor
2. Kate Lawless
3. Caylee Dixon

Finalists: Justine Bernert, Naomi Hoogeweegen

DRAMA:

1. Marie Botha
2. Randzo Manganye
3. Thando Mangcu

Finalists: Kineta Kinutu, Nancy Mahlo

DANCE:

1. Lane Botha
2. Nicole Preston
3. Kelly Cresswell

Finalists: Pamela Nel, Ashleigh van der Wee

The adjudicators were Malcolm Nay (Vocal & Instrumental), Pauline Nossel (Instrumental), Joan Robertson, Lionel Tsime and Jennifer Aldridge (Drama), Penny Ho Hin (Dance).

All the finalists were given the opportunity to perform at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for girls the following weekend. They loved the performance!

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL



Samantha Brill and **Pamela Nel** went through to the final auditions for the lead role for High School Musical. After an exhausting day being constantly filmed and



taught dance routines and songs, they had to make a difficult decision as to whether to continue with auditions or not, as they were told they would have to forgo their matric studies if they should be chosen. They decided to pursue their studies.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

We are very proud of our girl band, *Standing Ground*; they were placed 3rd at the annual Saints Battle of the Bands competition.

MUSIC STAFF

Congratulations to **Mr David Conway** our guitar teacher who got married on the 29 June. **Mr Stephen Gericke** our piano, voice and violin teacher is going on an international competition choir tour via Egypt to Ireland. He also flew to Cape Town to give a lecture on Kwaito at a UCT International conference as an invited guest and is also attending a conference in America in his capacity as President (Pretoria region) of Golden Key. Two of our voice teachers who are professional singers in their own right, **Ms Aukse Trinkinas** and **Ms Linelle Wimbles** and their accompanist, Johan Botha, a highly acclaimed international pianist, performed for the audience at Night of the Stars whilst the adjudicators were deciding on the winners for the evening.

KINGSMEAD FESTIVAL

The Saints School Orchestra, Girls' College Marimba band and the Girls' College Djembe group performed at the Kingsmead Festival and received a standing ovation for their exciting and polished performances. Our girls demonstrate such wonderful vitality when performing, showing their inherent love for music.

CONGRATULATIONS



Mirapelo Mamabolo-Williamson took her Royal Academy of Dancing (Ballet) Intermediate Exam recently and obtained a distinction. This is a vocational exam and being awarded a distinction is rare. She is now eligible to become an affiliate of the RAD and can teach grade ballet.

TRINITY SCHOOL OF ROCK EXAMS

Many of our girls took their Drumming exam recently. Their examiner was the drummer from the Rock Band – "*Fallout Boys*".

SONGWRITERS COMPETITION

Entries for this competition must be given to Mr Chris Harrison as soon as possible.

ARTS FESTIVAL

The Saints Arts Festival at the end of the term was another hugely successful event. Girls participated in many workshops, performed their play – Picasso's women, and enjoyed the wonderful line up of performers organized for their entertainment and appreciation.



This year the festival ran over two days. The Thursday evening saw top SA artists such as the Parletones performing at our school. On the Friday it was the time for our own performers to showcase their work.

GRAHAMSTOWN FESTIVAL

"The Grahamstown Drama tour this year was as varied and exciting as the previous one. Members of the touring team were 5 brave teachers; 1 mother; 2 strong interns; 21 girls and 15 boys (including drama, dance and music learners).

As usual the overnight bus trip was eventful and exhausting, except for the fact that we discovered the floor of the bus to be a comfortable alternative to the seats. In 4 days we managed to squeeze in 13 shows, and some even braved the hypnotist show, which did not disappoint. Comedy, drama, dance, stand-up and physical theatre comprised the variety of shows. Highlights include David Newton's "Politically Incorrect", where one of the girls was mercilessly picked on; Craig Morris' "Bar Flies" and Ben Voss' "Best Of Mamba". One of the more interestingly staged performances was "The Hamletmachine". The performance took place in a chapel, with the audience seated in the altar area. "
Ms T Schreuder

Drum Café workshop



Our girls performing



Family Picnics



Sports News

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to Leigh Barrow in grade 8, who was selected for the Northern Districts Cross country team. Well done to Naomi Hoogeweegen and Moira Jameson who also participated in all of the meetings this term.



NETBALL

Congratulations to all of our netball teams. The U14A, U15A and U17A teams advanced to the playoffs. The playoffs were tightly contested and provided good competition and sportsmanship. St Stithians were placed 3rd in the U15 and 2nd in the U17 sections.



HOCKEY

Results of the Howell Pullen tournament for 1st and U16 teams:

U16s beat Fourways 3-0 to end 5th; and the 1st team beat Noordheuwel 1-0 to also end 5th in their section.

Matches vs Parktown – Saints 1st team won 1-0 due to a superb team effort and a great goal by Jess Burgess.

Matches vs St Andrew's – U14 A lost 0-1, U14 B won 2-1, U16A won 1-0, U16B drew 1-1, 2nd team won 4-0, 1st team lost 0-2.

Hockey League results – 2008

1 st team	4 th
2 nd team	2 nd
U16	3 rd
U15	1 st
U14	4 th
Overall	2 nd

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

“Over the Founders’ Day weekend, our tennis, squash, netball and hockey girls travelled down to Durban to participate in the ISF tournament. Travelling on the train was a new experience for most and was certainly eventful. Our squash girls came up against some of the top players in the country but certainly gained a lot of experience from the matches. The netball team won two of their matches and the hockey girls were unbeaten, drawing all four of their matches against tough opposition and the tennis girls ended fourth after being unbeaten in their pool games. Congratulations to all the girls and thank you to staff who gave up their time to accompany their teams.”

Ms L van Veyeren



CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Taryn Mackeown, Caylee Dixon, Kearsney Cross-Zipp and Lauren Kinmont on their selection to represent the district for hockey.

Jenna du Preez recently represented Southern Gauteng at the U16 inter provincial hockey tournament in Pietermaritzburg. The Southerns team ended 3rd at this tournament and Jenna was then selected as a member of the SA U16 hockey squad.

