

Campus News

St Stithians College

Dear Saints family,

A welcoming quintet

The Chair of Council, Mr Carel Nolte, welcomed me officially as the new Rector at the first chapel service of Term 3 in each school. Mr Nolte and I had the privilege – and it really was a special experience – of participating in and speaking at these five services. We gained moving and important insights into the place of the chapel in our community, and into the differing characters of each of the schools. The College song has pride of place in our worship, sung with energy and meaning, and it is clearly part of our identity. In some of the services I was asked to ring the small bell at the West door of the Chapel, a symbolic crossing of the threshold into the College, applying the tradition for newly arriving students. A number of other symbols were spoken about and treasured. I referred to the beauty of the stained glass windows signifying colour, diversity, light and life. I was handed a rounded stone brought back from Tumna, Ireland, connecting us to the birthplace of Saint Etain, whose mission work in the 9th century gave rise to the village of Stithians in Cornwall, England. Through our founding benefactors, Albert Collins and William Mountstephens, the name of Collins's birthplace was brought to Johannesburg. The prominence of St Stithians in South Africa's landscape gives life and significance to a long and significant lineage. (For those who wonder why the name St Stithians does not have an apostrophe before the 's', here is the answer.) The Girls' College war cry and bell-ringing ceremony, conducted in a circle of unity, was a memorable finale to the five services. There was the lovely experience, as one service followed the other during the first week, of being greeted directly by widening circles of students, now officially introduced to their Rector. I strongly promote the value of us greeting one another in the Saints community of staff, students, parents and visitors. To greet is to recognise, reinforce and reciprocate our value as humans – our togetherness – in this place.

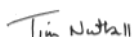
The Rector's roles

With the freshness of arrival, and the benefits of an outsider's perspective, I am devoting significant attention and energy to listening and to asking questions. Asking big and broad questions, developing new perspectives, building strong relationships across the College constituencies, fostering external relations, giving strategic focus, gazing to the future, and enabling a 'make it happen' climate are important roles for the Rector. The Rector rightly occupies 'in between spaces', connecting issues, people and priorities; sometimes communicating and directing from the bridge, sometimes being the bridge-maker. Aside from being the focal custodian of the core values and the brand of St Stithians, the Rector promotes synergy, seeking to mobilise the seven schools (including Kamoka and Thandulwazi), to be 7+. The Rector's preoccupation is with the nature, extent and significance of the 'plus' – or even better the multiplication – of our synergy as a dynamic and vibrant village of schools.

I trust that you will enjoy reading this Campus Newsletter, designed to complement the newsletters of each school by highlighting themes, work and impact relating to the campus departments and the St Stithians Foundation.

We wish all our Matrics well as they write their final examinations. May they truly pull together as One and All.

Sincerely,



Dr Tim Nuttall
Rector



Campus News



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Jubilee activities

Jubilee Rose



Spring is here and time to buy the Saints Jubilee rose for your garden. Just follow the link below to place your order:

<http://www.stithian.com/index.php/news/1239-bc-saints-jubilee-rose>

Staff Wellness Day

Kim Urquhart, HR Director writes:

St Stithians recognises that our staff are a critical factor to our success and, as a result and as part of our commitment to promoting health and the annual staff wellness day was held in Mears Hall on the 9th July 2013.

Since its inception six years ago, the staff wellness day has grown in both attendance and in the scope of services on offer. This year the staff wellness day offered staff the opportunity to evaluate the healthiness of their lifestyles and to learn more about health choices and support that is available. Over 270 staff attended the wellness day, making use of services that included, amongst others, glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure, HIV, eye tests, nutrition advice and blood grouping. In accordance with the philosophy of providing holistic wellness, support service providers were also on hand to provide advice in respect of retirement planning, financial wellbeing, and organ donations to

name a few. But it wasn't all hard work! On completion of their assessments all staff received a well-deserved smoothie from Boost Juice plus they could choose to participate in a lucky draw for lots of great spot prizes.

This day proves to be very popular with staff and forms part of our annual staff wellness programme. This term we have also offered free bone density screening and vitality nutrition assessments onsite for staff. We plan to participate in the Discovery Healthy Company Index again in 2014. When the survey was last run in 2012, out of 110 companies that participated, we were ranked as the 2nd overall healthiest organization in the medium size company category which was an achievement we were very proud of and will strive to uphold.



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"A fit, healthy body. That is the best fashion statement!"

www.stithian.com

Thandulwazi extends its footprint into Limpopo

Given the large numbers of Limpopo-based teachers who, over the years, have made the “great trek” on Saturdays to St Stithians to attend the Thandulwazi teacher workshops, it was decided to pilot a series of workshops in Limpopo. Thandulwazi facilitated 4 Saturday Sessions of upskilling, developmental workshops in April and August 2013 for primary school teachers.



Nearly 500 teachers registered for the Thandulwazi Limpopo workshops, which were hosted by the Future Comprehensive School, a small, independent school based in rural Limpopo. The feedback from the educators was overwhelmingly positive. The teachers responded that the workshops were practical, hands-

on and relevant to what they taught. Additional spin-offs of this pilot were:

- the Foundation sourced a donation of books to help build up a library at the Future Comprehensive School, which hosted the workshops;
- Vastratech, one of Thandulwazi’s strategic partners, renovated a classroom at the Future Comprehensive School on Mandela Day (18 July); donated and installed a fully-equipped SMART board in a classroom; and sourced a donated printer/copier for the school.

Thandulwazi is grateful to the following donors who funded this pilot:

The Solon Foundation, Babcock Africa Services, AKA Capital, IGS Consulting Engineering Services, Afrisam (Pty) Ltd; and our strategic partners Vastratech, Oxford University Press and St Stithians College.



Methodist Schools Conference

St Stithians College recently hosted the annual Methodist Schools Conference. The conference focused on discussing methods of presenting RE in the school environment.

Methodist Schools have a unique ethos, and together we made the following statement about our common heritage:

"A learner who is educated in the Methodist tradition will be one who is prepared to function in society with intellect, courage, compassion, and moral power."



Campus News

“Leadership is found in becoming the servant of all.”

Richard Foster

www.stithian.com

Kamoka Family Weekend

Kamoka would like to invite all interested Saints families to join them for a fun weekend at Kamoka Bush School from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 October 2013.

There will be a series of optional trail runs / walks on Saturday 19 October, which are age and ability dependant!

There are options of accommodation from the nicer staff rooms, to sharing a unit (and ablutions) to bring your own camping gear! All meals will be provided by Kamoka and the cost of the trail runs is included in the price. You will need to bring your own drinks and alcohol is allowed, as parents are responsible for their own children on this weekend. All the details can be found on the website.



Bird Sanctuary clean up day



Enthusiastic helpers!



The clean up of the bird sanctuary on 28 September was well supported by over 300 students, parents and sponsors. The enthusiasm was fantastic! Over 100 trees were planted, dozens of bags of litter and alien plants collected and 3 waterless toilets donated and installed. Many thanks to the sponsors of the refreshments, tools and staff and to everyone involved. Thank you for making a difference and we hope to make this a termly event.



And an unsure resident!

ISASA Deputy Heads Conference 2013

The annual Deputy Heads conference was hosted by St Stithians College on 12/13 September. The theme of "Shaken not stirred" was clearly emphasised by an array of dynamic speakers included Prof Jonathan Jansen, Brett StClair and Saffron Baggally to mention a few. Attended by over 250 delegates, including sponsored delegates from underprivileged schools, the conference was a huge success and many thanks to the hardworking organising committee.



Campus News

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

Ghandi

Saints Family News

We would like to congratulate the following members of the Saints family on their joyful events:

- Bev Hewson on the birth of her son, Nathan
- Juan Fourie on his marriage
- Lisa van Huyssteen on her marriage
- Ros Roberts on her engagement

We wish to express our sincere condolences to the following members of the Saints Family on the loss of their loved ones. Please keep the families in your thoughts and prayers:

- Rene Grobler on the death of her mother
- Trish Bornman on the death of her mother
- Charlene Bolleurs on the death of her father-in-law
- Leanne Rees on the death of her mother
- Connie Coetzee on the death of her mother-in-law
- The Radebe family on the death of their father



We also think of those in the community who are struggling with illness and sadness and hope that Spring can be a time of renewal and healing.

MySchool competition

The College took part in the My School swipe for Africa competition earlier in the year. Due to the generous support of the Saints community the College won the overall prize of R100k and a further R50k donation to a My Planet organisation. The prize also included a presentation to students by Braam Malherbe a passionate conservationist and motivational speaker. The presentation of the cheques and talk by Braam all took place on Friday 27 September 2013.

further information on this will be given at a later stage.



The College wishes to thank all parents for swiping their My School Cards, My School for their generosity and Braam Malherbe for his excellent presentation.

Photo 1: Sandy Craig (My School) and Dr Tim Nuttall (Rector) Photo 2: Rynette Coetzee (EWT), Braam Malherbe, Dr Tim Nuttall, Sandi Craig

The College nominated the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) as the recipients of the R50 000 donation, in order to further support the fight against rhino poaching. The prize received by the College will be used along with other My School funds for a campus project that will benefit all five schools and



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“Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light.”

V.R Edman

www.stithian.com

Security matters

Following the incident in the Higher Ground parking two weeks ago, the facts are as follows: the lady was not harmed, there was no shoot-out and her cell phone was stolen. The vehicle containing the armed robbers had false registration plates and SAPS are investigating a possible link with her husband's business.

The College implemented **windscreen stickers** a few years ago to facilitate access for all staff, parents and students. Unfortunately, despite requests for everyone to put these stickers on the bottom right hand corner of the windscreen, there are still drivers without stickers or with outdated stickers. ***It is imperative that you have a current year sticker on your windscreen.***

In the future, scanning of driver's licenses will be implemented and vehicles without a current year sticker on the windscreen will be stopped at security and asked for their driver's license. This will be scanned together with the license disc (to ensure that

Facilities update

The Ring Road has been opened and is working well. **Please note that the roadway between the JP and the JP Hall will be closed off to all traffic from Monday, 7 October.** There are no speed humps on this new section of road and the speed limit on campus is 25km/h – please be mindful of this as pedestrians do use this road. We would like to thank all those who have so kindly donated trees – donations of money and actual trees amount to nearly 200 trees for planting at the Peter Place entrance.

Work on the basketball courts has been delayed due to Telkom cabling needing to be moved. The trenching

the number plate & license disc match) to provide an accurate record of entry. Stickers will no longer be available at school receptions and if you need a sticker please go to the security office at the workshop to sign for one. These measures are being implemented in the interests of the safety for everyone on our campus and we appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

As part of the security improvements, the push button system will also be installed at the Medfem gate in the near future and then Bram Fischer and Hurlingham gates.

Please be vigilant! Do not leave valuables in the car, lock your vehicle, check that it is locked before leaving, report any suspicious behavior to security immediately and if necessary, note details of any suspicious behavior (vehicle registration number, description of person etc.). Our security team is always quick to respond when an incident is reported, so please don't wait, report it!

and laying of sleeves is almost complete and Telkom will be installing new cables in due course. Apologies for the current road works; roads in that section should be back to normal within a week.

The ground in the Mother Bed section is really hard and the Servest staff working there have really had a battle on their hands, but are now almost at a point to start planting the indigenous plants and trees. The College is fortunate to have its own stockpiles of compost which have assisted with conditioning the soil – soon there will be pathways through this area with places to sit, relax and enjoy the tranquility of the surroundings.



Campus News

**"Is it not
wonderful news
that salvation lies
outside ourselves?"**

Martin Luther King

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St Stithians Foundation

Across the globe, great academic institutions, like Harvard, Deerfield and UCT, have recognised the importance of building a foundation that would secure the long-term, future sustainability of the institution. The mandate of the St Stithians Foundation is to ensure that St Stithians College, which has been described as a “national asset”, remains a centre of educational excellence for generations of learners to come. Hence, the future sustainability of this great College is the primary focus of the Foundation. The Foundation takes a long-term, forward-looking view and contends that future sustainability has two key components:

- financial sustainability; and
- relevance to the broader South African community in which the College operates.

To ensure the College’s future financial sustainability (i.e. the “inreach” component of sustainability) the St Stithians Foundation launched the **Saints Endowment Fund** in June 2011. This fund is currently chaired by Mr Russell Loubser (a past St Stithians parent and former CEO of the JSE) and aims at investing and safeguarding the funds raised for the College’s Endowment Fund, which in years to come will provide funding for key projects identified to benefit the St Stithians community. This would include providing funding for new St Stithians facilities, infrastructural development, professional

staff development, and scholarships for St Stithians pupils. The funds raised by the Endowment Fund are mainly from members of the St Stithians community, i.e. parents and alumni.

The **Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy** (i.e. the “outreach” component of sustainability), established in 2006, strives to ensure that St Stithians College is seen not as an island of privilege in a sea of poverty, but as an educational centre of excellence that contributes and is relevant to the broader South African community. Thandulwazi achieves this by facilitating educational programmes that contribute towards improving teaching and learning (in critical subjects) in schools across Gauteng; and adding value to the quality of education received by historically disadvantaged South Africans. These programmes are funded by donations from individuals and corporate funders.

For further information on the St Stithians Foundation, please contact the Foundation Director (Bev Johnson): Tel - 011-577-6193 or foundation@stithian.com



Tech corner

“It’s about learning and teaching”

The IT Director, Paul Mayers writes: In my recent trip to Australia and Singapore to investigate BYOD in schools in Australia, I was sitting having coffee in a restaurant writing up my findings for the day when I struck up a conversation with two principals from New Zealand. The conversation was all about teaching and learning when one of the corrected me and said: “We no longer talk about teaching and learning, but rather learning and teaching”. That seemed to sum up most of the investigation. There is a shift, and if we

want to keep ahead we need to change focus. The technology is easy, culture change is hard. There is certainly a shift in focus from the teacher being in the front of the classroom teaching, to what learning is taking place. We should all be life-long learners – the teachers and the learners.



Campus News

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”

Margaret Mead

www.stithian.com

Tech corner (continued)

Technology enables us to do this by allowing anywhere, anytime access to information. It is never about the technology – the focus must always be the learning. As Saints moves to a BYOD pilot in the prep schools in 2014 we are putting significant steps in

place in order to make this a success. One of the major keys is professional staff development with a specific focus on technology and how it can enhance learning and teaching in an authentic, appropriate way.

Other news

IQAA reports

Independent Quality Assurance Agency



It is a condition of membership of the Independent Schools Association of South Africa (ISASA) that member schools are periodically quality assured. The College has now completed the 2013 IQAA review. The schools and campus departments have been evaluated with the assistance of IQAA mentors and comprehensive reports have been prepared and submitted to IQAA.

The essential aim of the exercise is to ensure that the College remains excellent in its service delivery. The evaluation helps us to identify our strengths as well as any areas of concern so that we can provide the best possible education to our children.

Thank you to parents, staff and students who gave of their time and participated in the surveys and focus groups which provided valuable data for the evaluation.



These reports are now available on the website and can be located on the Rector page—click on the Rector button on the home page and go to the documents section.

Annual Remembrance Service

A reminder that the St Stithians Annual Remembrance Day service, in honour of loved ones commemorated at the College, will be held on Thursday 31 October at 08:30 in the chapel. Invitations will be sent out shortly and any queries in this regard can be sent to swilloughby@stithian.com.

Calendar 2015

Should you wish to start planning 2015 holidays, the approved 2015 school calendar can be found on the College website on the calendar page.

If there is anything you would like more information about, please do not hesitate to send your questions to rector@stithian.com.



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"Faith is the bird which sings while it is still dark."

Max Lucado

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