

Campus News

St Stithians College

Dear Saints family,

Being on a journey

I love being on a journey, whether this is physical or metaphorical. Journeys involved destinations, and experiences along the way amongst fellow travellers. Journeys need to be planned ahead; and they involve momentum. Journeys are acts of motion, releasing new energy.

I write here about five meaningful journeys I have participated in during recent weeks, starting 'local' and ending far away. I have chosen these from a number, for my start as the new Rector has involved many experiences which fall under the heading 'going places', both on campus and beyond it.

The gateway – Junior Preparatory (JP)

I walked from the Rector's House to the Stythian Shop, revelling in the green and washed beauty of our campus after the previous day's thunder storm. The purpose of this short journey was to get to the Stythian Shop before 169 little people arrived there with their parents. I wanted to see the school bags and arrival packs for the Grade Rs of 2014, neatly laid out with care by our staff. Each bag carries the College badge, of which we are so proud, and sitting waiting for each new Grade R student was a teddy bear adorned with a Saints scarf, lovingly knitted by hand. Soon, as the reception day began, the Stythian shop turned into a buzzing bee hive of children and parents.

As the Grade R's of 2014 enter our gateway and begin their 13-year journey at Saints – 37% of the intake consists of black children, reflecting our growth in diversity – I feel honoured to lead this great institution of learning and growth.

Ivory Park's Nehemiah Pre-Schools

I travelled with Alistair Stewart, Head of the Boys' Prep, and Jill Wheeler of the Rector's Office to the township of Ivory Park near Midrand. Ivory Park and surrounding areas reflect a dynamic and growing residential space; it was once an informal settlement of shanties and it is now a mix of formal housing and shacks. St Stithians Boy's Prep has been on a journey of partnership with the Methodist Church in Ivory Park for the past decade. The seed for the idea was planted by Bishop Paul Verryn, in conversation with Alistair Stewart. Saints parents have over the years fund-raised to assist with property purchases in Ivory Park which have become sites of Methodist worship and five pre-schools. Through regular termly visits, each boy and teacher at the Prep and groups of dedicated parents have come to know the children and staff at these pre-schools. The visits are microcosms of interaction across our social divides that shape all involved. I spoke to one Saints mother who has been visiting Ivory Park in this manner for the past seven years. The Nehemiah Pre-School teachers participate in our Thandulwazi-Rokunda teacher development programme. The Pre-School children – a few hundred – visited St Stithians last week for their annual Christmas Party. The next, challenging phase of the Nehemiah partnership is to find a way to build a primary school in the area.



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Letter from the Rector (continued)

Welgevonden Bush Camp and Kamoka Bush School

Retiring Deputy Headmaster of the Boys' College, Piet van Tonder, hosted me at Welgevonden, and Kate Doyle, Director of Kamoka, and the Bush School staff welcomed me for an overnight visit the same weekend. What a privilege it is for St Stithians to offer both these venues to our staff and students, highlighted our commitment to outdoor education there, alongside our other camps. I am hugely excited by these two sites and their potential for making a difference of significance in the lives of our staff and students. Welgevonden offers a more rustic opportunity, as well as Big 5 game viewing. At the time of my visit, the executive of the Girls' College were camping there for a weekend of strategic planning. Kamoka offers a high-quality and structured programme, with the flagship being the 21-day camps of our Grade 9s.

Lebone II College and the Royal Bafokeng Institute (RBI), Phokeng

I travelled to Rustenburg, past the beautiful Hartebeestpoort Dam with its ring of mountains. This was my first visit to Lebone College and the RBI, remarkable institutions begun by St Stithians staff, led by Ian McLachlan, former Head of the Boys' College, and George Harris, former teacher at the Boys' College. This initiative has not been without controversy from the perspective of some at St Stithians. Our chair of Council, Carel Nolte, pioneered the possibility of a new era in fruitful relations between St Stithians and the RBI when he visited the King of the Bafokeng, Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, earlier in the year, and this was reciprocated when the King came to our campus for our Council meeting at the end of October. Lebone College, built in the mid-2000s as a flagship centre of excellence – and what a successful initiative it has been – sits at the pinnacle of an initiative to re-invent and develop the 42 public schools which exist in the Bafokeng region. There are many possible synergies between our two institutions, and we have taken the first steps along this journey of interaction.

New York's Old Stithians, Deerfield, Hotchkiss and the Round Square conference, Florida

The fourth journey took me across the Atlantic Ocean. The primary reason was to join the St Stithians delegation to the annual international Round Square conference, an impressive gathering of some 160 school representatives from around the world. This was a good networking opportunity for me personally, making contacts with school leaders from elsewhere in Africa and all the other continents. St Stithians is well-known internationally; many of the Round Square schools and their leaders have visited us over the years.

I took the opportunity of the Round Square trip to have a memorable dinner with two Old Stithians in New York, planting seeds for future interactions with a wider group, and to visit two pre-eminent US schools. At Deerfield and Hotchkiss I met the Heads of School, the Directors of Academics and of Global Studies, and engaged with Development Office staff – we shared ideas and experiences in a fruitful manner, and created opportunities for future interactions.

continued



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"When they saw
the star, they
rejoiced
exceedingly with
great joy."

Matthew 2:10

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Letter from the Rector (continued)

Ending the year

I have been impressed by the rites of passage which characterise the ending of the year in all five of the campus schools. We are a College of significance, where our staff and students embark on personal journeys of growth. As the days of our 60th year draw to a close, I pray that the holiday and Christmas season might be a time of family togetherness and fulfilment.

Tim Nuttall

Dr Tim Nuttall
Rector

Tim Nuttall listening to the Grade 10's reading their original stories to Grade R children.



Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, King of the Bafokeng Nation visits Saints

Kgosi Molotlegi, George Harris from Lebone College and Ian McLachlan from the Royal Bafokeng Institute visited St Stithians on 31 October. After an extensive campus walk-about (despite the rain) the King and Dr Tim Nuttall presented to the termly Council meeting their thoughts on opportunities for collaboration between St Stithians and the RBI.

The Royal Bafokeng Institute exists primarily for the delivery of quality education and training of the Bafokeng Nation. From its inception, the RBI has focused on identifying problems with education and facilitating ways of providing sustainable solutions by educating the trainer in an attempt to advance the knowledge and skills of students. They also focus on empowering Principals, educators and learners; addressing educational challenges from early childhood to adulthood.

In the future collaboration on shared opportunities can make a meaningful contribution to our country's education system.



Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi with Ian McLachlan, meeting the deputy Chair of Council, Ntombi Langa- Royds and the Chair, Carel Nolte.



Campus News

"Be filled with wonder, be touched by peace, believe in the miracle."

Anonymous

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Etana DAREdevil Run at Saints

A couple of weeks ago, thousands of men from around the country, stepped out of their comfort zones and took to the streets, in nothing but a RED speedo, all in aid of cancer awareness - especially prostate and testicular cancer.

The Johannesburg event used the St Stithians campus as their venue and the efficiency of the grounds staff ensured that this was a hugely successful event.



This year the event raised R500 000 for CANSA; more than doubling the amount from last year. St Stithians is proud of the contribution it made to this worthy cause.



2013 Easter sports festival: financial report

The Easter Festival plays a pivotal role in the life of the College. In addition to Boys' College rugby and both Boys' College and Girls' College hockey, the 2013 event incorporated netball and tennis. When one considers the involvement of the OSA in organising the hospitality tent, the rowing fraternity manning the gate and the Boys' Prep parents who man the gate at the Hospitality tent, this cross campus event is a great integrator of the St Stithians family.

Both the timing of the Festival and the weather during the weekend, were much improved on last year and together with the high quality of sport played, resulted in record gate

attendances. This boosted revenue. With the addition of the netball and tennis festivals there were some significant cost increases. The bulk of the costs incurred are fixed and are not impacted by spectator volumes. These costs are covered in the main by sponsorships (Standard Bank, Aon and Goscor), advertising in the brochure, players fees and the revenues from the sale of tickets to the school community as well as profit on the sales of food and beverages.

The breakdown of the Festival revenues and costs are shown in the following table:



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"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel- which means, 'God with us.'"

Matthew 1:23

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	R'000
Revenue	
Sponsorships	1026
School Tickets	429
Gate Takings	495
Advertising	120
Players fees	266
Other	88
Total Revenue	2,424
Costs	
Facilities	652
Players Food	569
Marketing	396
Event Management	376
Sundry	58
Total Costs	2,051
Revenue less costs	373
Net surplus on sale of food	187
Net surplus at Hospitality Tent	341
Total Operating surplus	901
Allocation to role players:	901
Rowing (fee for handling ticket sales)	72
Boys Prep (Access control at Hospitality Tent)	67
Interact (Drink sales at Rugby Festival)	32
Hockey	55
Netball	3
Tennis	2
Rugby	170
OSA (Hospitality tent)	500

The event not only provides a weekend of excellent rugby and hockey, but offers both the players and spectators a variety of other entertainment. The participating rugby teams are accommodated on campus as guests of the Boys' College and enjoy expert speakers, social gatherings, outings for out-of-town teams and a sponsored kitbag filled with goodies. Spectators have options of music concerts, a hospitality tent, an up-market Pavilion, children's play area and a food court. Critical to an event of this nature, is that the participating athletes will recall the experience in years ahead. In today's highly competitive sports environment the ethos of a festival of sports shone through and the sense of enjoyment and camaraderie was tangible and indeed was what mattered most.

The Saints family is indebted to Standard Bank who has supported our event as well as the festivals at St John's College, King Edward School and Kearsney College through substantial sponsorships. Thanks are extended to all our sponsors.



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“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

Luke 2:14

Kamoka Bush School

Tim Nuttall visited Kamoka Bush School and met the Kamoka staff and the landlords of the farm, the "Barrow family" .



Thandulwazi Closing Ceremony

Nearly 1000 teachers, funders/donors and exhibitors attended the Closing Ceremony of the Thandulwazi Teacher Development Programme on Saturday, 12 October 2013. The guest speaker was Xoliswa Moraka, who grew up poverty-stricken and abused in Alexandra Township, and today is a community project co-ordinator and motivational speaker. Xoliswa gave an inspiring address and spoke about how her views on life were changed when a teacher showed an interest in her, and taught her to value herself and to find her life's purpose.

Thandulwazi strives to help teachers awaken in their learners a "love of learning". One of the ECD (early childhood development) teachers attending Thandulwazi is Ms Elizabeth Dube, from Little Fingers Day Care, who commented that *"Children are the backbone of society and he who helps them makes them better people. What you are teaching us has made our classroom environments to be the most popular places to be, so much that even when sick, our learners come to school not wanting to miss all the fun and learning."*

Established in 2006, the Thandulwazi teacher workshops focus on the development and up-skilling of teachers (Pre-school to Grade 9) currently working in under-resourced schools serving disadvantaged communities; and providing professional growth for these educators. Workshops focus on the curriculum (numeracy/Maths, literacy, Natural Science and Technology), as well as classroom management and leadership skills; and are held on 11 Saturdays a year. There is no charge to schools or teachers wishing to attend the sessions, which are funded by Thandulwazi's generous corporate and individual donors. The workshops are co-ordinated by Mrs Karen Walstra, a highly experienced educator, and hosted by St Stithians Boys' Prep School. Should you be interested in attending workshops in 2014, please contact Karen Walstra (Tel: 011-577-6200 or thandulwazi@stithian.com).



Campus News

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!"

Anonymous

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Thandulwazi Closing Ceremony (continued)



Saints Family News

We would like to congratulate Liz Ashmore on the birth of her son.

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:

- Julia Pechey on the death of her mother
- Leanne Rees on the death of her mother
- Connie Coetzee on the death of her mother-in-law
- Gayl Kennedy on the death of her mother
- Bev Ritcher on the death of her father
- Toni Brooks on the death of her mother-in-law
- Otto Beck, grandfather of Emma and Wesley Beck, who died at the age of 103



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

Annual memorial service



Our annual Memorial Service was held on 31 October 2013 to commemorate members of the Saints family who have gone before us. A plaque was unveiled in the Garden of Remembrance for Phakama Ndlovu, a Boys' College student who passed away earlier this year.

At the Memorial Service we pay tribute to the history of those who are remembered on the grounds of Saints as well as the stories of those who have gone before us. We honour the families who have chosen Saints as either the last resting place for their loved ones, or as the place in which they are remembered and we inspire our young people by the manner in which we remember, honour and revere those who were part of the Saints community.



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"The angel said unto them , Fear not: behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

Green campus news

RING ROAD & SURROUNDS UPGRADE

The road has been completed (with the exception of adding a few speed humps!) and is working really well. Nearly all the alien trees and plants have been removed and close on 200 trees planted to replace the aliens that have been removed. The embankments have been prepared for seeding, which will happen within the next week and within 10-14 days, we will be seeing the new indigenous grasses coming through, which will transform this area yet again.

MOTHER BED

The mother bed has been completed on the planting side and just needs the pathways to be installed. Thanks to the recent rains the area will start flourishing. There have been many positive comments on the College decision to remove alien plants and trees. Future generations will see the results in a healthy, indigenous campus providing homes for birds and insects; a green piece of sanity in Randburg.

Many thanks to all the staff, parents and students who donated trees for both projects; more than 200 trees!

TARRING OF GIRLS' PREP SAND PARKING

As can be expected at this time of the year, this project is being hampered by the rain. It was scheduled for completion by the middle of November, but will probably only be complete by the end of November. Thank you for your co-operation.

BASKETBALL COURTS

Work has commenced again with the construction of the two basketball courts. Completion date for this project will be around mid December.

Again, thank you to all the basketball players and coaches for their patience.

RECYCLING DEPOT

Between January and September this year 145,698 kg of waste has been recycled and over 45,500 kg of food waste converted into compost. Many thanks to the committed Grounds staff who sort the waste and manage the compost heaps.

HEAT PUMPS / LIGHTING

A contract has been awarded to a company to install heat pumps to replace all the electric geysers on campus. Installation will start by the first week in November and the College electricity costs will decrease substantially. The next phase of the project will be to replace all the lights on campus with energy saving lights.

And an email from a positive parent:

"Having passed through the Saints property up to 6 times a day for the last 6 years and been a fan of positive change I have to compliment all involved in how beautiful the school is looking.

The cutting down of the alien forest both at the top of the school and down at the main gate has opened up some beautiful views. All the upgrading of the sport facilities and the extensive road works has improved the school system tremendously. I take every opportunity to brag to friends and family, and if I can, drive through the school with them. I am a proud Saints parent and will always be thankful I could send my kids to such a wonderful school."



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"And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger."

Luke 2:16

Dogs on campus

A decision has been taken by the management of the College to prohibit the walking of dogs on any of the sporting facilities around campus.

This means that dogs cannot be walked on, or taken into any of the playing fields, the pool area, the tennis courts, the astro turf, basketball courts, and squash courts. This is in the interests of hygiene for the students and staff who have to use these facilities.

Please feel free to walk your dogs in the many spaces other than the sports facilities, remembering to keep them on a lead at all times and to clean up after them. You are also reminded that the College has a policy controlling the walking of dogs on campus and a permit is required for this privilege (the permit can be obtained from Sylvia van der Walt in the Ops Office and the new rate will be R350.00 per annum with immediate effect.) You will be required to carry this permit on you at all times when walking your dog (dogs) on campus as random checks will be carried out.

Tech corner: more on MeLT

The classroom of the future looks very different to what we are used to. A number of schools are experimenting with flexible learning spaces and writable surfaces. These spaces are much bigger than a conventional classroom, often having one wall of glass and can accommodate more than one class in the venue. The brightly coloured furniture is light and highly mobile and can be easily reconfigured to suit the lesson planned. The library is becoming the learning hub in schools and the use of ICT is an integral

part of this space. There are “pods” where learners can gather in groups and share ideas and quiet meeting areas behind glass walls. There is a variety of “short stay”, “medium stay” and “long stay” furniture to support different activities in the library. With the integration of technology into the curriculum there is certainly a need to change the spaces in which we learn, so that we can support different learning styles. The College will be trialing a number of different spaces in 2014.



An example of a “21st century” classroom space

Here at St Stithians College, as we launch MeLT (Mobile eLearning and Teaching) in 2014 in the two Prep Schools, we are involved in strategic conversations about how to reinvent and redesign our learning and teaching spaces.



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“I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

Campus news

Some news of our talented staff:

Ms Ruth Everson recently had her poetry book published, entitled "Landscapes of Courage"; Mr Alf Mitchley has just had his second text book published for prep school technology and Mrs Juleika Naidoo two textbooks for Grade 8 and 9 Afrikaans.

Ms Rachel Manyati achieved a second place overall in the recent gruelling "100 miler road race". Mr Marangoni is well on his way to completing 1000km of road running, getting fit and raising funds for the Friends of Alexandra Swimming Development Fund. And of course congratulations to all our Saints cyclists who competed in the recent 94.7 cycling road race .



Alumni

Did you know that parents can become Associate members of the Old Stythian Association and enjoy the same benefits as full members? Contact Susannah Knowles at knowles@stithian.com for further details.

"The power of nature"

Captured by Andre Harmse at Higher Ground



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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Campus News

"Wishing you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of his love at Christmas and always."

Anonymous

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