

Campus News

St Stithians College

Dear Saints family,

The year has begun on the positive note of our excellent Matric results, our full schools with waiting lists, and the inflow of new teachers, teacher interns, students and parents joining St Stithians. There is fresh energy and intent. I look forward with excitement to the year ahead.

As we make 2014 a year to remember, I draw inspiration from the following quotations and the inspiration they provide for us in the Saints family:

'...in happy fulfilment...'
(Phrase on the foundation stone of St Stithians 1953)

'Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.'
(Nelson Mandela speaking at The Planetarium, Johannesburg, 16 July 2003)

'Learning enables us to know, to do, to be and to live with others.'
(Learning - The Treasure Within, UNESCO Report 1996)

'A Saint is someone true to herself, one who strives for excellence, and one who provides a shoulder to lean on.'
Grade 7 leaver at the Girls' Prep Leavers' Service, 28 November 2013

'May St Stithians be a school of dreams, a valley of hope'
(Bishop Zipho Siwa, Rector's Induction Service 19 January 2014)

Thumbs up to the Matrics of 2013

Our matriculants received their results from the IEB on 31 December, giving a particular flavour to New Year celebrations. There was indeed much to celebrate, from the stellar performers at the top - standing tall with the best in the country - to those who achieved their personal bests and those who jumped the hurdle of a Bachelor's pass when earlier in the year this seemed a stretch too far. A 98% Bachelor degree pass rate across both the Girls' and the Boys' Colleges is, for me, the statistic to emphasise. This figure highlights the breadth and depth of our excellence across a range of subjects and student learning abilities, and flows from a positive working partnership of teachers, students and parents. Thank you and congratulations to all who were involved in this impressive team effort.

Our teachers are heavily involved as Independent Examinations Board (IEB) examiners, moderators and markers, and St Stithians is the IEB's major marking venue each December. This signals our commitment to the work of the IEB as a reputable South African assessment institution, and our concern to prepare our students with intent and focus for Matriculation and tertiary study.

All the best to our 2013 Matrics as they embark on the next phase of their lives. It was a real pleasure seeing some sixty of the newest members of the Old Stithian Association gather at the Higher Ground in January for the first of many alumni gatherings. Connecting St Stithians with our alumni and past parents is a top priority for me. The appointment of a database administrator in the Rector's Office is an important step in this journey of building relationships between St Stithians and our alumni community.



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Editor:
Jill Wheeler
Rector's Office

Letter from the Rector (continued)

Moments of Arrival

The many commencement events and parent information evenings during the first few weeks of term signalled each school's intent to embrace new students and to engage with parents. The ringing of the bell as a mark of arrival, matched by the same ritual at the moment of departure, is a poignant symbol of belonging. Other rites of passage reinforce the significance of arrival.

The Grade R parents' welcome evening was an opportunity for the Heads of the Preps and the Colleges and myself to join Mel Dace, Head of the Junior Prep in welcoming new parents. The 169 Grade Rs have entered the gateway into the College and look ahead to 13 years at St Stithians. The Rector and each of the Heads introduced themselves and their schools to the Grade R parents. This overview and personal touch was a wonderful cameo of the Saints Journey, under the custodianship of each school and its leaders. We are looking to introduce a Saints passport, a document which will chart key moments of this journey from the age of 5 to 18.

Moments of Induction

It was an honour to be inducted as the new Rector in a memorable and uplifting Chapel service led by Bishop Zipho Siwa, presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. In the presence of representatives of each school, alumni, Council members, past teachers, and the Methodist Church, I made my vows of leadership and service. Bishop Siwa's injunction that St Stithians be 'a school of dreams, a valley of hope' was a powerful inspiration for our educational mission. In echoes of this event, the 2014 student leaders in the schools have been inducted and made their pledges.

We welcome 29 new teachers and teacher interns to the College. Their induction day involved a guided walk around the campus, measured on a cell phone as covering 3.4kms. Our Campus Staff Development Day saw our 385 staff members gathered to participate in a facilitated discussion on the theme 'Nelson Mandela: the Champion Within'. We concluded with a mass jembe drum experience: it was wonderful mosaic of laughter and sound moulded into a gathering unison, a unifying experience of belonging in this unique institution.

Honouring Nelson Mandela

Dr Mandela's death on 5 December 2014 was an important milestone in our national psyche: a time to mourn, to remember, to celebrate, and to pledge ourselves to building on Madiba's legacy. At the start of the year, each of the schools held a memorial service for Nelson Mandela, and we encourage students, staff and parents to sign the St Stithians memorial booklets. These are located in the school receptions and will be delivered to the Mandela family in due course. Members of the Mandela family have been educated at St Stithians, and we remembered during our memorial services that Nelson Mandela had sat in the front pew in our chapel. Among the many images and photographs published at the time of Dr Mandela's death, I found most arresting the picture taken by Adrian Steirn of our elderly leader looking in a mirror, his eyes reflecting back to us and beckoning us to take up the baton.

Rector's Roles and Rector Connect meeting

From questions asked by students, parents and those outside our school community, I sense a lack of clarity about the roles and functions of Rector. The term 'rector' is commonly associated with a church priest, minister or pastor. I definitely see myself having a role to play in the spiritual life of St Stithians, so this is a starting point. In educational circles in the English-speaking world, the term 'Rector' is not commonly used.



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Letter from the Rector (continued)

In continental Europe, the heads of educational institutions are commonly called rectors, and the term found its way via Dutch and German heritage into the South African lexicon. The roots of the word 'rector' are to be found in the Latin word, *regere* – to rule, and the most common application in today's language is 'director'.

The scale, complexity and ambition of St Stithians College, with its five schools on the Bryanston campus, the Kamoka Bush School, and the Thandulwazi Maths and Science Academy, justifies the need for an executive head, someone with overall responsibility. In this role, which spans across chief executive, statesman, village mayor and global leader, I see myself having the following main responsibilities:

- Being a custodian of the core values, ethos and brand.
- Promoting and enabling productive relationships, synergies, positive energy and connectedness in a vibrant school community: staff, students, parents, alumni.
- Mobilising a sense of purpose and directing our educational mission, creating momentum, transformation, reinvention and strategic intent.
- Implementing processes and systems which optimize our offering as a school of significance and educational excellence.
- Meaningfully connecting St Stithians to the world beyond our gates as an institutional citizen.

The image which comes most readily to mind is that the Rector occupies the 'bridge' between the schools and between the school and its wider communities. The bridge is the connector, the passage of energy flows, and the vantage point for the 'big picture' and the future.

I made these points at my recent Rector Connect meeting with parents and staff, as I outlined ideas of reinvention, renewal and educational mission; focused on the power and purpose of the College motto *One and All*; looked to the future of our Campus 2053 facilities plan; addressed the 2014 budget and concepts of annual and legacy fundraising; and highlighted 'citizenship' as a mantra for St Stithians. I look forward to fleshing out these concepts and ambitions in conversations within the Saints family as the year unfolds.

Cameo of events

Our schools are energetic, busy and productive places. I am invited to participate in many events, and enjoy the opportunity to do so. Here I mention a few. I addressed the Matrics in a combined sitting on the topic 'Thoughts on Legacy' and was privileged to be the guest speaker at the Girls' College Academic Awards evening where my theme was 'The Treasure of Learning: To know, to do, to be, and to learn to live with others'. I hosted the student leaders for a wonderful Barn Dance evening, where the Virginia Reel brought unity, fun and friendship. My wife, Margie, and I joined the St Stithians College orchestra at the inaugural inter-schools orchestral festival hosted by the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls. I spent a day at the Buffalo Rowing Regatta in East London, sharing the experience of our Boys' and Girls' College rowers. Most recently, I was privileged to meet Doreen Read who has just celebrated her 100th birthday and whose family has been associated with St Stithians since the late 1940s when the campus was being planned and Basil Read Construction created our roads and levelled our fields and building spaces.

Good wishes



Dr Tim Nuttall
Rector



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Letter from the Rector (continued)

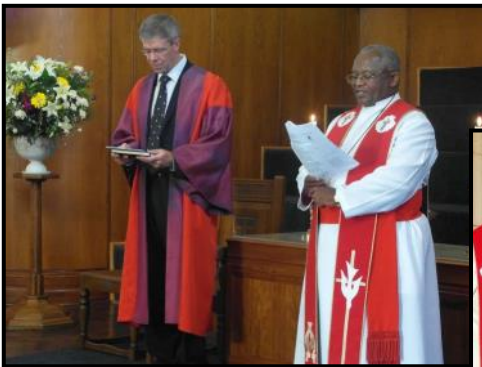


The portrait shows Mandela's image reflected in the mirror - looking at us as we look at him. As Adrian Steirn explains: "*Nelson Mandela has come to symbolise hope for many South Africans. He was a man whose life and principles have captured the imagination of the world. I wanted to shoot a portrait that reflected his legacy - a legacy that we can all carry into the future by sharing his integrity and belief that a bright future lies ahead.*"

<http://www.21icons.com/twentyone-icons/portraits/nelson-mandela>



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St Stithians College Chapel:
Induction of the Rector



From left to right: Bishop Peter Witbooi, Bishop Zipho Siwa, Dr Tim Nuttall, Mr Carel Nolte (Chair of Council)

2014 Matric student leaders learning the steps at the Rector's barn dance



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New Interns 2014

Welcome to the new interns of 2014! We wish you a long and happy career in education.



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Thandulwazi Matric results

The Grade 12 Class of 2013 achieved an overall pass rate of 97,5%. The overall pass rate at Thandulwazi was slightly down on the previous year, but is still well ahead of both the regional and national pass rates (see table below). However, more significant is to focus on the quality of these results:

58,8% of the Thandulwazi students achieved Bachelor Degree passes. This is up by 7,4% on the previous year (51,4%).

The number of Level 7s (80% and above) achieved in subjects offered by the Thandulwazi Saturday School has more than doubled: from 32 in 2012 to 75 in 2013.

In 2013 the Thandulwazi Matric learners achieved:

- 20 distinctions in Accounting;
- 19 distinctions in Core Maths and 3 in Maths Literacy;
- 19 distinctions in Life Science;
- 11 distinctions in Physical Science;
- 3 distinctions in English.



Comparison to GDE and National Results for the 2013 NSC

2013	Thandulwazi	Gauteng (GDE)	National (DoBE)
NSC pass rate	97,5%	87%	78,2
BD pass rate	58,8%	38,9%	30,6%

Thandulwazi Matric results (continued)

Congratulations to all the Thandulwazi learners on these outstanding results, which are the result of their diligence and commitment; and to the Programme Director, staff and tutors involved in the Saturday School, who always go the extra mile for their students.

Sincere thanks too to Thandulwazi's major partner, St Stithians College; and all the corporate funders and individual donors who make it possible for these learners to attend the Thandulwazi Saturday School. And a letter from one of our supporters

"I would just like to share with you how much of an impact the Thandulwazi programme makes on young lives. Nomalanga Faith Ndlovu (called Faith) was sponsored by us to attend Thandulwazi, which she did with gratitude for the past 2 years.

Today she collected her matric results, and against all odds and amidst great adversity, she achieved 2 distinctions: Accountancy and Business Studies! I am absolutely humbled by the tenacity, drive and determination of this young girl. She was orphaned at a young age, both her parents passed away from Aids and she has been raised by Daisy, our domestic worker. She attended a less than adequate secondary school in Soweto. Faith lives on our property and I was witness to her burning the midnight oil most nights this past year, her results being a deserved reflection of this.

It is her dream to study accountancy at University next year. Her results and hard work make this a possibility and to this end, if you know of any bursaries being offered for accountancy by any corporates, please could you let me know. I would love to help her further her education.

I would just like to thank you for making Thandulwazi possible and hope that this story goes some way to showing you how much of an impact you are making on young lives."

Bev Johnson: Foundation Director



Saints Family News

We would like to congratulate Lesley and Tim Hutchinson on becoming grandparents to a baby girl.

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:

- Catherine Erwee on the death of her mother
- Loedi van Aswegen on the death of her mother
- Ema Robey on the death of her mother
- Bongani Ndaba on the death of his mother
- The Naidoo family on the death of their father
- The family and friends of Lebo Molefe

We also think of those in the community who are struggling with illness and sadness and pray for a time of renewal and healing.



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Green campus news

St Stithians College have been participating in the Bottle2Build project for the last 6 months, and as a result of combined efforts of students and recycling staff, we have collected the most bottles out of all the schools participating and have won the use of a 22 seater Mercedes Benz bus, sponsored by Mercedes Benz Commercial Vehicles East Rand until the end of April 2014.



Students, staff, parents and visitors are encouraged to buy water or fruit juice from their local Spar / Saints Cafes (water only at this stage) and bring the bottles to the College and deposit them in the Bottle2Build bins located around campus or at the recycling depot. There are also regular draws for prizes such as movie tickets, iPads, etc., so encourage your children to write their names and name of school on the bottles they deposit in the bins and they could be the lucky winner of smaller prizes too.



For those that aren't aware of the Bottle2Build project, please visit their website www.bottle2build.co.za / www.bottleworx.co.za to read up on the fantastic initiative of how these bottles are put to good use and how we are contributing towards this and at the same time reducing our waste. So, keep buying the square water bottles and support this worthwhile project.



Rene Swart: Operations Director

Kamoka Bush School



Kate & Mike Doyle, who run the Kamoka Bush School, were very lucky to spend 24 days travelling around Australia & New Zealand visiting 9 Outdoor Education centres & attending The World Outdoor's Summit in Rotorua, New Zealand. Kate was also a guest speaker at the conference and got to share ideas with the delegates about what we are achieving at Kamoka Bush School.

Kate at the outdoor education conference in New Zealand.



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Kamoka (continued)

The grade 7 boys from the Boys Prep recently held their leadership camp at Kamoka Bush School. A big thanks to all the staff from Kamoka, the Boys' Prep & even three visiting students from Cornwall, who looked after the boys during their 4 day stay.



BP staff at Kamoka

Tech corner: MeLT Official Launch

During the past twelve months there has been much discussion around the launch of MeLT (Mobile e-Learning and Teaching) in March 2014 in both Girls' and Boys' Prep schools. In the Girls' Prep each Grade 6 student is required to bring their own iPad, and in the Boys Prep any device that will connect to our WIFI network. The network and WIFI infrastructure has been upgraded so that there is now WIFI coverage for every classroom in both these schools. Our new internet connection is running at 100Mbps, connecting us to the TENET university network. This network gives us major advantages in caching educational content so that this doesn't affect our international bandwidth (currently 10Mbps International traffic).

In both Prep schools teacher training has been a major focus over the last 6 months to ensure that our teachers in Grade 6 and 7 are comfortable using a range of technologies and apps to enhance learning and teaching. Teachers are focusing on how to integrate the use of technology into the curriculum so that we can do things that we couldn't do before. The use of technology should not be an

add-on, but rather an integrated approach to how we learn.

In the Junior Prep the traditional computer lab has been replaced with a full complement of Windows 8 touch screen devices that can operate as both a laptop and a tablet. In addition to these devices a number of "All In One" touch screen desktops have been put in these labs to assist some of the children with visual and tactile learning challenges. In redesigning the computer room we have designed and ordered new furniture so that we can turn this space into an age appropriate, flexible learning space.



St Stithians is excited to be trialing a number of cross platform technologies in anticipation of a much larger rollout in both of the Colleges in 2015. There are a number of students who are already bringing their own devices and the school continues to encourage students to do so as we discover together how the use of technology is changing the way we learn.

Paul Mayers: IT Director



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Celebrating 575 years of service to the College!

On the 14th January at the start of term staff Chapel, we acknowledged 39 of our staff who had reached long service milestones ranging from 10 to 30 years. These staff included academic and support staff that have a combined 575 years of service to the College!



One of our longest serving staff members is Noko Ephraim Maleka who joined the College on the 7 November 1984 as a cleaner in Mount Stephens boarding house. He remembers that Mr Henning was the Headmaster of the Boys' College and Mr Verner was the Boarding House Master of Mountstephens at the time. Back then everything on the far side of Jameson field (where the Girls' College is now) used to be forest where the support staff lived in a compound. All the support staff were housed in the compound in single rooms and they had shared bathroom facilities. Their wives were allowed to visit them occasionally but not for longer than a month at a time.

Ephraim remembers at that time there were coal boilers to heat the water for the showers in the boarding house. He also has fond memories of working with both Mr George Harris (now Head of Lebone College), and Mr Piet Van Tonder (recently retired Deputy Head of the Boys' College) when they were boarding house masters at Mountstephens. He remembers them as both being nice men who were strict with the boys.

When asked how he felt about how the College has changed over the years, Ephraim remembers that in the 1990s our rugby teams were winners at the Easter Festival but he feels we aren't so good right now!

Ephraim remained as a cleaner in Mountstephens until the end of 2009 when the boarding house cleaning function was outsourced to Prestige. He then moved to join the campus Operations Department responsible for cleaning the Astro and assisting in the Aquatics Centre.

Ephraim hails from the Nebo region in Limpopo and is married to Mataamane. He has 5 children, 3 girls aged 26, 23 and 13 years and twin boys aged 19 years. In his free time he likes to garden and watch soccer and is an avid Kaizer Chiefs Fan!

He told me that some of his fondest memories are the friendships he has built with other staff over the years and also receiving a surprise Christmas hamper!

Kim Urquhart: HR Director



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Marketing, out and about

The first term at the College is Open Day and Exhibition season for the Marketing team. These events provide us with an opportunity to showcase the College and introduce prospective families to our education offering. The College are invited to exhibit at the Grayston Prep afternoon, for two days at Bryandale Primary and an afternoon at Cliffview Primary. All the primary schools in the respective areas are invited to visit, and we meet families who are exploring High School options. In addition both the Boys' College and Girls' College host Open Mornings for prospective Grade 8 families. These mornings bring new families onto the campus to meet and tour with current students in both schools and experience our beautiful surroundings. The Junior Preparatory holds booked walkabouts twice a term, and these mornings show parents what they might expect for their children starting school with us.

These events not only invite families to apply to the College, but offer a platform to promote the excellent education provided on a scenic estate with significant facilities.

Megan van der Poll: Marketing Director

Saints snippets



Professor Jansen, Rector of the University of the Free State and significant educational commentator, included St Stithians Girls' College in his top 10 schools chosen for combining academic excellence with human spirit.

(<http://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/happiness-is-key-at-rector-s-top-10-schools-1.1627643#.UvxID2KSzRM>)

All members of the St Stithians staff participated in a Drum Café workshop on the staff development day at the beginning of term. Watch out for the video to be uploaded soon on the College website!



Saints afloat after recent heavy rains

...but the resident geese were very happy!



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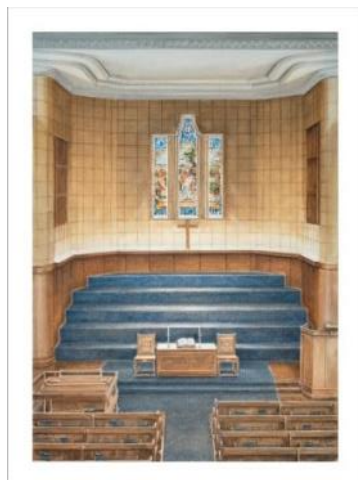
COLLEGE SONG

“In honour and in praises
To highest heav’nly rule
In gratitude to founders
We cherish this our school
We’ll “One and All” remember
and lest we should forget
Our song fore’er reminds us
Of our eternal debt

With hearts and minds we praise Thee
Our Savior and our King
To Thee our lives we render
Our all to Thee we bring
We’ll “One and All” remember
And may we ne’er forget
That Thou dost call to service
From heights of Olivet

When school’s a distant mem’ry
Of happy youthful years
We’ll oft times look behind us
To all that still endears
We’ll “One and All” remember
(How could we e’er forget!)

That here our ship once anchor’d
And here its course was set.



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Alumni

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

Need to update your details? Please just follow this link to the Alumni page on our website: www.stithian.com/index.php/alumni

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



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