

# Rector's Newsletter

## St Stithians College

Dear Saints family

The term began with all the staff members of the College – 385 individuals gathered in Mears Hall – beating djembe drums amidst laughter, anticipation and unison. The term ends with the Easter Sports Festival, a drum beat where the whole Saints community joins 1 200 players and 300 coaching staff on field and court – the largest and most interesting event of its kind in the country. What a massive team effort this is, drawing in staff, students, parents and alumni. As I consider the alpha and omega of Term One of 2014, I am moved to reflect on Saints Spirit.

There is a remarkable zest and energy in this 'valley of dreams', this 'school of hope' – words of stretch and inspiration uttered by Bishop Zipho Siwa in our Chapel at the start of the term. This is a place of vigorous action, reflection, and review. The weekly chapel services for each school provide a spiritual mooring amidst the swirling daily tides. As we experience the weekly timetable, we are bracketed by the whole spectrum of human life, from the joys of birth and anniversaries to the sadness of death and mourning.

I am conscious of how many courses and development opportunities our teachers and administrators embrace as they sharpen their swords as committed professionals. Thank you to our staff who go way beyond the call of duty in making St Stithians a place of excellence. We set a high and demanding standard as a hallmark of Saints education. We celebrate the natural beauty and soulfulness of our lovely campus, an oasis in the city. Thank you to the operations staff who tend and care for the grounds and buildings, giving us a place of welcome and replenishment.

I am conscious of how the vast majority of our students seize the moment on a daily basis to be the best they can be, to learn and grow. We are a College of vibrancy and energy: from the playgrounds of the Junior Prep to the quadrangles of the senior schools; from the music halls to the sports fields; from the film studio and stage to the libraries and classrooms; from the labyrinth to the echoes of cheerleading; from Kamoka to Ivory Park.

We are a College where we greet each other, connect, make eye contact, and shake hands. We are College where the words on the walls of our gathering spaces – the IDEALS of Round Square, the Honour Code, and the Fruits of the Spirit – reflect our ethos, our soul. We strive to provide an education in which our students grow in their capacity to 'Know Yourself, Be Yourself, Make Your Contribution'.

On behalf of the College I express appreciation to our parents for their investment in a St Stithians education for their children, our students. It is my ambition to promote school-parent relations which go way beyond a mere transactional relationship to a shared partnership based on understanding of our different roles.

Our parent community, present and past, contains within it a rich tapestry of resources, perspectives and experiences that can enhance our offering as an educational institution. The mantra of 'parent connect' provides the avenue for growing this mutually interactive space, and deepening parents' appreciation of the critical roles they play in their child's education.



### News from the Rector's office



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Editor:  
Jill Wheeler  
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## Letter from the Rector (continued)

The continuum of Saints Spirit relies on a healthy relationship between the College and our alumni. It is encouraging to reflect on the vitality of the Old Stithian Association in recent years, and its engagement with a dynamic future, working in close relationship with the school. We are taking active steps as a College to grow our capacity to connect with our alumni and past parents, starting with systematic work to improve our database and moving towards a strengthened Foundation Office.


Saints Spirit is infused by the influence of our governing institutions – the trustees, the Council members, the Church representatives and the Foundation governors – who give generously of their time to bring wisdom, expertise, resources and stewardship. The College Executive – the Heads and Campus Directors – have provided leadership and management of high quality and dedication, as we engage with the challenges and opportunities of the present, and plan towards a significant future.

I ask you to note the Thandulwazi fundraiser “Vintage with love” on P. 5 and remind you that the small actions we take can make such a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you to One and All for an invigorating first term of 2014. May the Easter commemoration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ deepen our humility, gratitude, embrace of life, and commitment to making a difference.

In conclusion, I wish our Saints families a fulfilling holiday. We anticipate an exciting Easter Sports Festival. Looking ahead, please diarise Founders’ Day – Saturday 7 June.

Good wishes



Dr Tim Nuttall  
Rector



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## 2014 Easter sports festival

The Festival takes place on 17, 19 and 21 April. The Festival has broadened sporting opportunities for all competitors, boys and girls, including rugby, hockey, netball, tennis, and the new additions of basketball and squash. With over 1200 players competing in the Festival, there will be teams from all corners of South Africa including some sponsored teams of enthusiastic and extremely talented youngsters from schools in disadvantaged areas.

The Festival offers the whole family a weekend of entertainment from the hospitality tent, to the children's play area, live music shows and a relaxing pavilion offering good food and wine.

The College has outsourced the design of a mobile app which will be launched at the Easter Sports Festival 2014 and will allow mobile users to track fixtures, results, player profiles and have access to maps to venues around the campus.

Sport is a great way to build relationships, humility and cooperation. Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this exciting sporting event particularly the organising committees, staff, parents, students and our sponsors.

*For more information download the app on [www.saintsfestival.com](http://www.saintsfestival.com)*



## Stop Crime Initiative

On the 19th March this year, all five schools on campus came together to take part in the Stop Crime campaign. The event was initiated by an ex Girls' College pupil in Matric, who wanted to bring together all the students and staff in order to protest against the growing crime rate in our country. The organisers were the student Transformation Committee in the Girls' College and the Inter-School Relations Committee in the Boys' College. (continued)



Students with their STOP Crime posters



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## Stop Crime Initiative (continued)

The event included speeches from pupils, the school war cry and the Girls' and Boys' colleges spelling out the words 'STOP CRIME'. A video of the event will be released on YouTube and will include the war cry. The aim of this video is to add our voice to those who are committed to the prevention of rape, domestic violence, sexual abuse and all other crimes taking place in our country. The Stop Crime campaign was a good opportunity for the students to show their support of a safer future for our nation.

## Drum Café – Saints staff in action

Watch the Saints staff enjoying a drumming workshop held at the beginning of term by following this link: <http://youtu.be/lZrKmKzbS1E>



## Shavathon

Kim Urquhart—HR Director



CANSA Shavathon is one of South Africa's best-loved events in support of a very worthy cause, namely showing solidarity with those affected by cancer. Losing one's hair is a common side-effect of cancer therapy – so shaving your head has become a symbolic gesture of support for cancer survivors. Colouring your hair or paying a "Bail Out Fee" have become options for those who prefer not to shave, or who can't shave on the day.

Thursday 20 February saw a team of volunteers at Saints shaving heads and colouring hair – a total of 2500 heads in 4 hours! This whole campus event raised over R80 000 for CANSA. Many thanks to all those heads for your generosity!

Dr Nuttall changing his hair colour, along with our enthusiastic JP children!



## Wellness Day

Kim Urquhart—HR Director

The staff Wellness Day held on 26 March saw 250 staff members put their busy schedules on hold for the sake of their health. Discovery screening tests including BMI levels, glucose and cholesterol tests, blood pressure and HIV testing were on offer. Staff were offered flu jabs, vitamin B injections (very valuable at this time in the term!) eye screening, back and neck massages and of course access to other medical services. A few lucky members won prizes donated by the various service providers.

Thanks to the HR department for promoting a healthy life style to the Saints staff.



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## Thandulwazi

Bev Johnson – Foundation Director

### Thandulwazi to benefit from Vintage with Love Fundraiser

Vintage with Love is South Africa's most exciting sale of vintage fashion and accessories. Co-founded by a former St Stithians parent, Mrs Leigh Ord (also a former teacher), the funds raised by this project are donated to the following literacy charities and programmes in Johannesburg:

- ◆ The Thandulwazi Trust Maths & Science Academy, St Stithians Foundation
- ◆ The Click Foundation
- ◆ The Lunchbox Fund
- ◆ Columba Leadership Academy

*How can Saints parents help raise funds for Thandulwazi through this initiative?*

By going through your wardrobe and donating all gently worn fashion items and accessories you no longer want or need. Designer labels are most welcome, but we are also looking for good quality “high street” clothes plus those unique pieces that one is unlikely to find in the shops.

Drop off:

Please drop off these items at St Stithians College on the following dates:

- ◆ Wednesday, 16 April 2014 – between 06:45 to 08:30 or
- ◆ Friday, 09 May 2014 - between 06:45 to 08:30

Collection points will be set up in the carparks at The Stythian Shop, Boys' College and Girls' College.

Alternatively, if these times do not suit, you can also drop off your donated items at the St Stithians Foundation Office (Lower level of the Henning Block, St Stithians Boys' College). Contact: Kelly Brimacombe (Cell: 083 227-3109) or Bev Johnson (Tel: 011577-6193 or [thandulwazi@stithian.com](mailto:thandulwazi@stithian.com)).



[www.vintagewithlove.co.za](http://www.vintagewithlove.co.za)

### Thandulwazi Trust – a potential B-BBEE partner for your company

Thandulwazi is committed to the transformation of education and there is substantial alignment between the objectives of B-BBEE and the activities undertaken by the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy. The Thandulwazi Trust offers St Stithians parents and alumni, who run their own companies, with a wonderful opportunity to improve their company's B-BBEE scores in a number of key areas of the scorecard.

Should you wish to explore this opportunity further, or if more details are required, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Bev Johnson - Tel: 011-577-6193 [thandulwazi@stithian.com](mailto:thandulwazi@stithian.com) (or follow this link: <http://www.thandulwazi.com/index.php/donate/258> )



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## Interns

An integral component of the St Stithian community service programme is the development of skilled, young teachers. As part of this programme there are 25 interns working and studying at the College this year. Below are two extracts about their current experiences and their motivation to become a part of the educational community:

*"The decision that I made to become a teacher has been influenced by my own childhood. As a child I faced the battle of Central Auditory Processing Disorder; a disorder affecting my learning throughout my entire school career. After years of speech and occupational therapy, repeating my reception year of school and having loving and compassionate teachers; I finally made it through to my first years of school.*

*The skill of teaching myself how to work hard and independently and the support and challenges that all of my teachers gave me has made into the person I am today: a hard working, driven young woman. The values and morals that all of my teachers instilled in me have helped me overcome my most difficult obstacles. When people ask me why I want to be a teacher I think of how much my teachers changed my life and what a great impact they had on me. I want to do the same for the children that step through my classroom doors every year for the rest of my life. I want to challenge those who battle to overcome their obstacles and instill those morals that my teachers instilled in me. "*

*"I attended a primary school at Vumbeni Primary School and continued to finish my Grade 12 at Ponego Secondary School in 2006; both schools are in Katshehong (East Rand). Since Grade 6, I have always achieved excellent results in Mathematics. This made other learners come to me for help regarding Maths. When I was in Grade 10, I organised a group of learners to tutor Mathematics for free in the afternoons. I continued with these sessions until completion of Grade 12. I am currently the only person who has passed matric so far in my entire family...*

*In 2007, I was unable to go to tertiary because I did not have an ID book (due to not having my birth certificate). I then volunteered at my previous high school to tutor Grade 12 Maths and Physical Science learners on Saturdays. From 2007 until today, I have been breathing, feeding, drinking and dreaming Mathematics and Physical science.*

*The first day at St Stithians Girls' College in 2014 was marvellous. The induction and professionalism workshop prepared me for my journey in the teaching profession. My mentors are excellent role models. They advise me how to discipline learners; prepare for lessons, and how I should conduct myself as a teacher in front of learners in order for them to respect me.*

*I do community service at the Thandulwazi Saturday school, where I tutor Maths, and this is the most rewarding to me. I interact with learners from similar backgrounds as me which is great. Being at the Saturday School makes me feel like I am giving back to the community. I would like to continue teaching/tutoring until the end of the year because it is allowing me the opportunity to understand different learners (both privileged and unprivileged learners).*

*Since I started at Saints, I've gained confidence in my ability as a teacher. I am delighted and grateful and give thanks to God for this amazing opportunity."*

***Together, let's change the face of education, one teacher at a time.***



2014 Interns



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## Kamoka

Kate Doyle – Director of Kamoka

The Girls' College information evening was held in March and the Boys' College information evenings will be held on 20 May and 30 September and details will be communicated closer to the time. The website has been updated with current documents and the Kamoka brochure will be distributed at the relevant parent evenings.



Sunset at Kamoka

## Green campus news

Rene Swart – Director of Operations

Servest has recently completed a greening project at St. Stithians College which will help the school reach its target of being carbon neutral by 2015. One of the College's objectives was to reduce the kikuyu grass on the campus to effectively cut water and maintenance costs. Servest's solution to this was to install a mother bed which was used to create more indigenous gardens on the school property.



With indigenous areas and natural dams on the campus, Servest extended the natural footprint to attract wildlife, reduce the maintenance costs and create an aesthetically softer landscape. "Our aim was to help St Stithians reduce up to 10 000 square meters of kikuyu; which would result in a cost savings of R120 000 per year on mowing, water, and other maintenance costs," says Terry van der Riet, MD of Landscape and Turf at Servest. "This has been an exciting project to work on as it not only provides the school with a more green environment, but the mother bed and new gardens are also used as an educational tool for learners at St Stithians College".

Servest allocated a full time environment team to manage the area and ensure alien vegetation was completely removed and treated preventing the re-growth of dormant plants. In addition, Servest supplied the indigenous trees and plants to the college, and are also responsible for managing the compost site in the recycling centre on campus. "By utilising the cut grass and off cuts for recycling, we have been able to supply compost that serves the gardens throughout the College," says van der Riet.

This project has helped to create an African tone with the presence of indigenous plants, insects and birds. Already a number of local birds have returned to the sanctuary helping to create a balanced eco-system. Overall, this provides a greener, more environmentally friendly campus for the community and helps in the green education of the students.



The new indigenous beds (above) and Dr Nuttall (left) thanking the Servest team for their dedication to the Saints gardens.



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## Green campus news (continued)



The new ring road



The new basket ball courts

## Tech corner

*Paul Mayers – Director of IT*

We said goodbye to Microsoft XP on the 8th April 2014 as it reached end of support worldwide and we have moved to Windows 7 as our basic platform and Windows 8.1 in the Junior Prep computer lab. The new touch screen devices in the JP have revolutionised the traditional computer room space and boys and girls have been exposed to some of the latest technology in the form of Windows 8.1 tablets and iPads. While the transition hasn't been plain sailing, it is clear that there have been major advantages to thinking differently about the need for a computer lab in the traditional sense. With the touch screen tablets and a mouse on hand, we have been able to combine the traditional set of skills required to use a computer and still benefit from the advantage of the touch screen environment. One of the walls has been painted green and we will be experimenting with green screen techniques in term 2.

The Boys' Prep and Girls' Prep have continued with the MeLT (Mobile e-Learning and Teaching) pilot and we have seen amazing creativity from teachers and students. It has been great to see teachers and students learning in ways that were not possible without the technology. One of our big challenges is the internet bandwidth that we currently have coming into the school as the demand is always more than the supply. We often talk about this as the "Hot Water Problem". If we all shower at the same time the hot water runs out! In reality the more people using our line the slower our internet bandwidth becomes. As bandwidth costs decrease we will be able to increase bandwidth.

St Stithians launches our mobile event app at Easter Sports Festival this year which will have full details of fixtures and results. The app has been designed in such a way that we will be able to use this for all events held at Saints. The development of this app is part of a bigger project in completely redesigning our school website which will go live later this year.

During the April holidays we will complete the WIFI rollout in Boys' College and Girls' College so that every classroom will have WIFI coverage in preparation for launch of MeLT in the colleges in 2015.



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## Saints Family News

We would like to congratulate the following members of the Saints Family on their new family additions:

- ◆ Russell Williams on the birth of his granddaughter
- ◆ Mhlanga Nombewu on the birth of his 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:

- ◆ Family and friends of Ingrid Wustrow, one of our Girls' Prep teachers, who sadly passed away last month
- ◆ Debbie Robertson on the death of her father
- ◆ Gavin Olivier on the death of his father
- ◆ Cathy Sly on the death of her mother-in-law
- ◆ Isla Walters on the death of her brother
- ◆ To the Phala family on the death of Daniel, brother to Johannes and father to Shadrack
- ◆ Anna Selowa on the death of her two Aunts



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

### **Mrs Doreen Read – What a wonderful century!**

*Dr T Nuttall*

We congratulate Mrs Read as she celebrated her 100th birthday in March. Family and friends gathered for lunch at the Higher Ground, and I was privileged to meet Mrs Read on that occasion. A few weeks later Sonia Willoughby, PA to the Rector, and I visited Doreen for tea and enjoyed a lively conversation about the long links between the Read family and St Stithians. The connection began in the late 1940s and early 1950s when Basil Read, construction engineer, designed and built the roads and fields of the fledgling College. Mrs Read's sharp memory recalls many details from those years. Basil and Wally Mears, first Headmaster, both attended Kingswood College, the Methodist school in Grahamstown that was a central inspiration for the founding of St Stithians. Sandy Jamieson, employee of Basil Read and cousin to Doreen, continued the engineering work, and it was in recognition and appreciation that the Jamieson fields were named after him. Basil and Doreen's sons, Graeme and Malcolm, attended Saints in the 1950s, and as parents they were heavily involved in the life of the early College. In the 1970s, the Basil Read Pavilion was built and officially opened by Doreen, a fitting recognition of a significant benefactor of the College. The Pavilion is the site of the boys' Saints Café of today. The most recent connection between the Read family and St Stithians is represented by Andrew Joannou, Doreen's grandson, who matriculated from the Boys' College in 1994.



Dr Nuttall and Doreen Read



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## Mr Mark Henning turns 80

Dr T Nuttall

We sang Happy Birthday to Mark Henning in the Boys' College Chapel on 26 March. It was a lovely, rousing occasion – a fitting celebration of our former Headmaster reaching the milestone of 80 in style. After the chapel service, Mr Henning greeted the boys and staff of Henning House and gave each boy a birthday cupcake.

Mark Henning sharing  
a cupcake



## Alumni

With the national elections looming, we thought it would be appropriate to provide a cameo of our local ward councillor, David Potter, Saints alumnus 2004.



David is a proud Johannesburg citizen who has always had a passionate interest in community and civic matters. At 17, he became involved in the Blairgowrie Residents Association. The BRA however, was just the beginning for David, and his community involvement saw him becoming an active member of the Linden crime combating forum. In 2007 he joined the City of Johannesburg ward committee for ward 102, to be elected to the position of City Councillor in 2011 by the residents of Ward 102, of which St. Stithians College is a member.

After completing his matric at St Stithians, David continued his studies at the University of Johannesburg where he obtained a “BCom in Intrapreneurial Management”. He works enthusiastically with the residents of his Ward to improve and manage their suburb.

Over and above his position as Ward Councillor, David is also the Operations Director at the Acres of Love home for orphaned children. His role includes advocating for children's rights at local and government levels and the maintenance of their 27 “Forever Family Homes”, providing support to House Parents and building relationships with local schools, churches, businesses and medical practitioners.

If you have any Alumni cameo stories to tell, we would love to hear from you. Please email [rector@stithian.com](mailto:rector@stithian.com).

## Saints snippets

*“Everyone wants to be seen, validated and appreciated, but if we literally have our noses in something else, we are not giving them our time or our full attention.”*

*A reflection on the need for mindfulness.*



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## Chaplain's comment

Rev D Nkomo—Chaplain

### Lenten Season

In the Christian calendar Lent is a season characterised by prayer, repentance, fasting, self-examination and spiritual redirection. It is a period through which our communication with God remains consistent seeking to amend and correct our ways of relating to God. It is a forty-day period before Easter not counting Sundays from Ash Wednesday. During this period it is an opportunity for us to become pilgrims of the cross.

How well is your soul? Look deep into yourself and compare your life with the abundant life for which Christ came, lived, died and rose again. When you resolve, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to live your life as Jesus commands, you will understand the true meaning of Lent.

Easter reminds us about God's never ending love for us. Let us all together praise and worship God for his endless blessings. Have a blessed Easter.

Please join me in this prayer:

Gracious God, creator of all life, help me to prepare my heart and spirit during this season of Lent. I remember the sacrifice of your Son on the cross for my sins and please help me to turn more readily to You and honestly open my life to your healing grace.

Enable me to render willingly to You that greater measure of devotion that signifies my increased discipline of thought, action and my increased stewardship of resources and talent.

Help me to be concerned with the needs of others that I willingly bear with them in their pain, despair and loneliness.

Father, make me more willing to love, forgive and less ready to judge and condemn. Allow me to learn that lasting joy and meaning of life arise from a deeper understanding and experience of your Son's life, death and resurrection. Bless and heal my family and friends according to your divine will and purpose.

Amen.



*If there is anything you would like more information about,  
please do not hesitate to send your questions to [rector@stithian.com](mailto:rector@stithian.com).*



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Reflections on our village of schools



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## College Prayer

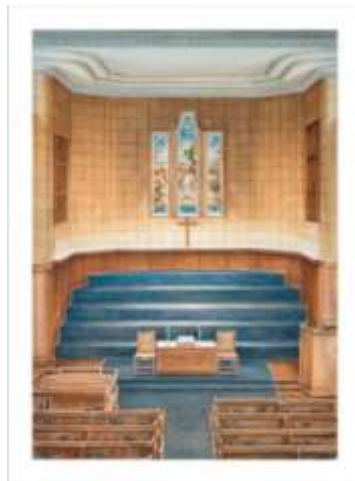
Dear God,  
Let my purpose each day be to honour You,  
I seek to praise You through faithful service,  
I seek to honour You through dedicated worship,  
I long to be filled with the fruit of Your Spirit  
So that I may journey along a path of prayer  
Towards knowing You as my God.

Let my purpose each day be to honour others,  
Let me seek to respect and value each person that I meet,  
And see You reflected in my neighbour.  
Help me to journey towards finding the beauty in others.

Help me to journey towards building others  
Through co-operation rather than competition,  
And towards an understanding of You as my God.

Let my purpose each day be to learn to honour self,  
Allow me to grow in moral courage so that I may express the truth,  
Allow me to find the strength to live a disciplined life.

I ask You to walk beside me,  
As I journey from loneliness to solitude,  
Towards a discovery of the uniqueness of self,  
And a personal knowledge of You as my God.  
Amen.



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