



ST STITHIANS COLLEGE

A South African School Making a World of Difference



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*Saints Honour:
Honour God, Honour Others, Honour Self*

NEWSLETTER NO. 05 – 05 JUNE 2006

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

Dear One & All

FOUNDERS' DAY – SATURDAY, 10 JUNE 2006 AT 09:00 (BAYTOPP FIELD)

Founders' Day is one of the highlights of the year at St Stithians College.

This special day is intended primarily to give thanks to God for the vision of our founders in the happy fulfilment of the founding of this great College. It is a day on which we celebrate all that St Stithians College is today, by viewing, observing and listening to the work of our students under the inspiration of our staff. Finally, it is a day in which the whole Saints family gathers together to reaffirm our values and integrity as a community and to strengthen the bonds, which give us all strength and hope for the future.

The programme for the morning is as follows:

08:30 Pupils to register with their Tutors and Class Teachers

08:45 VIP Guests, Parents and Pupils to be seated in assigned areas on Baytopp Field

09:50 Academic procession onto Baytopp Field

09:00 Service begins – Guest Speaker: Ms Cheryl Gillwald

10:30 Tea for staff, parents and guests served outside the Girls' College Admin Block

11:00 Programme of events commences:

- Girls' Prep Interhouse Netball (Netball Courts)
- Boys' Prep Interhouse Soccer (Prep Field)
- Girls' College Interhouse Rowing (Gym)
- Boys' College Hockey & Rugby vs Beaulieu College
- Girls' Prep Grade 7 Food Stalls (Netball Courts)
- Boys' College Grade 8 Businesses (Baytopp Field)
- Rowing Club Display
- Bush School Display
- Sale of the Saints History – *To serve the Future Hour*

We look forward to welcoming One & All to this happy day in which we celebrate our College.

REPORT ON THE TUCKSHOP

I have picked up that there are numerous rumours doing the rounds about the upgrade to the Boys' Tuckshop. I thought it prudent to set the record straight. The Saints PA has plans to renovate and revamp the Boys' Tuckshop, which is long overdue, and this project is supported by the College with gratitude. As always with projects of this nature, the requests and demands from the different stakeholders have grown. We are hoping to extend this project to include a revamp of the change rooms, the restrooms, as well as the tuckshop. However, at the moment, the "wish list" bears very little resemblance to the funds available for this project. Therefore, the PA is **investigating** the idea of funding the project by entering into a partnership with a commercial venture to help fund the proposal. A number of other schools have gone down this route. However, the College needs to discuss fully the principle of working with an external agency in this manner; and to review thoroughly **all** aspects of such a venture, e.g. commercial, security, and increased traffic. Please note that Council will make decisions on projects of this nature, only after a full discussion and thorough debate have occurred.

UPGRADE TO THE WAYNE JOUBERT FIELD

Many of you may have noticed a number of earth moving vehicles and deliveries of earth taking place on the south end of the Wayne Joubert Field (nicknamed "Everest" by the pupils) at the top of the estate. I have no doubt that the residents in that area are very aware of these deliveries.

Recently we were approached by building contractors, who are involved in a major development in the centre of Sandton, requesting permission to dump the soil that they were excavating and suggested that we could use this as land fill. We are informed that the soil is of a good quality and suitable for grass planting.

The Operations Manager, Michael Meyers, was able to negotiate with the company that they would landscape the fields, insert the appropriate drainage and ensure that the area will be functional as sports fields. This will all be done at the expense of the building company concerned. It suits them as it cuts down the distance of dumping the soil at another site. It is advantageous for the College as it will enable us to extend the Wayne Joubert Field by approximately the size of two football fields.

Although it will cause some inconvenience to those resident at the College and to parents, it is a great opportunity for the College and I hope that you will bear with us.

TRAFFIC AT THE INTERSECTION OF MILNER ROAD & HENDRIK VERWOERD DRIVE

It has been drawn to my attention that many parents seem to be unaware that the traffic lights at this intersection are three phase robots. During the morning peak hour, there is a right filter from Milner Road onto Hendrik Verwoerd; and a right filter from Hendrik Verwoerd into the College. In recent weeks, there have been several near accidents at this intersection and I would urge parents to be cautious please and only to cross the intersection when the lights go green for you.

IT REFERENCE GROUP

At the College we have what we call an Information Technology Reference Group, which reviews on a termly basis the Five Year IT Plan for the College. The IT Reference Group meets once a term, with the Rector, the Bursar and relevant IT Staff, to review the College's IT strategy, both from a curriculum and technical point of view. The Committee does not take any decisions, but assists in the broad thinking around the IT planning and strategy at the College. We are currently seeking one or two parents, skilled in the IT field, to assist us on this important advisory committee. It is essential that any parents who volunteer to serve on this committee do not have any business dealings with the College in the area of IT Support. If you are able to assist, please send an e-mail to the Rector (rector@stithian.com) expressing your interest and giving a brief summary of your experience in this field.

SAINTS FAMILY NEWS

- We wish to express our sincere condolences to the following members of the Saints Family on their loss of loved ones during recent weeks. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.
 - The Dunn Family on the death of Mr Colin Dunn, former Council Member;
 - The Govender Family (Elisha, Gr 9 St Stithians Girls' College) on the tragic death of their father who was killed in a road accident;
 - The Upton family (Mrs Lidia Upton, English Teacher, Boys' College) on the death of Lidia's father;
 - The Robb Family (Mrs Wendy Robb, English Teacher, Boys' College) on the death of Wendy's father.
- Congratulations to:

- Sue and Ian MacKenzie on the birth of their grandson, Neil;
- Graham MacCallum, whose son (Ivan) received Gold and Bronze Medals at the World Taekwondo Championships.

QUESTIONS FOR THE RECTOR:

If there is anything you would like more information about, please do not hesitate to send your questions to me at rector@stithian.com. Learners as well as parents are quite welcome to send their questions.

THE HISTORY OF ST STITHIANS COLLEGE

As announced at Founders' Day 2005, Mr Walter Macfarlane, former Head of the Boys' Prep, was commissioned some years ago to write the history of the College. Mrs Sandi Arrenbrecht, a former parent, of CREDA Publications has assisted Walter Macfarlane with the design and layout of this wonderful coffee table book and has done a magnificent job. The History is currently available for purchase from the Bursar's Office at a cost of R295, 00. These books will also be on sale at Founders' Day.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2006

Please diarise the following important dates:

- **Founders' Day**
Founders' Day will take place on Saturday, 10 June 2006. Parents are reminded that this is a compulsory function for all Saints staff and learners.
- **The College Report Back**
The College Report Back sessions for parents are scheduled for: 21 June 2006 and 17 October 2006.

GOOD NEWS COLUMN

It is always gratifying to receive letters of praise and congratulations about our staff and learners. Should you wish to contribute any Good News, please send the details to: rector@stithian.com.

With kind regards.

STEPHEN LOWRY
RECTOR



THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, COLLEGE EXECUTIVE, STAFF AND PUPILS OF ST STITHIANS COLLEGE
EXTEND A CORDIAL INVITATION TO YOU TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE

ON SATURDAY, 10 JUNE 2006 AT 09:00 ON BAYTOPP FIELD

GUEST OF HONOUR:

MS CHERYL GILLWALD
FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER
MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

TEA WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE OUTSIDE THE GIRLS' COLLEGE ADMIN BLOCK
SPORTING ACTIVITIES COMMENCE AT 11:00

Dear Parent

In November 2002, I took it upon myself to blatantly "advertise" to the parent body, and thus raise the ire of one or two of you. I'm doing it again ...

For 4 years now, the College has been supplying "flash drives" to its student body at extremely attractive prices. This is not because we hold shares in a memory company, nor because we want to make a huge profit from the sales (we don't). It is simply because we have seen so many learners upset when a "stiffy" disk written at home simply won't read when it gets to school. This can be due to the inherently unreliable nature of stiffies, or the stiffy could have been corrupted by a ringing cell phone kept in the same pocket, or our drives could simply be faulty. Whatever the reason, an enormous amount of work and emotion is wasted every time this happens.

Increasingly, the students' work won't even fit on a stiffy. Even the simplest documents or artworks nowadays are quite capable of being 20MB in size before you blink! Often, even emailing this work home and back again is out of the question. The only workable solution is the flash drive (what the Americans insist on calling a "memory key" or "thumb drive").

For those who are not familiar with these things, they are the size of a keyring fob and plug into the ubiquitous USB port found on all modern PCs. Thereafter, they appear and act as large removable disk drives – big stiffies, but infinitely more reliable.

My email of November 2002 noted that our 256MB drive sold for "only" R1360 – how things have changed! Flash memory has become commonplace in every cell phone and digital camera, and prices have tumbled. The current 256MB drive sells for R145 – less than 11% of its price 4 years ago!

Again, I would ask you to consider purchasing a flash drive to be used as the "carrier" for work to home and back again. It is not necessary to purchase these from the College, but we have negotiated extremely aggressive pricing on Kingston DataTraveler 2.0 Hi-Speed drives –

128MB -	R 99
256MB -	R 145
512MB -	R 195
1 Gig	R 370
2 Gig	R 585

It is also not necessary to regard this as a "students only" offer. If other members of the Saints Family have need of these drives, we will happily supply them.

Please contact our IT Administrator on (011) 577 6110, itadministrator@stithian.com or myself directly on 082 886 2955, gboxall@stithian.com to place any orders or direct any queries.

Please note these costs can be debited to your College account with your written permission (an email to me is sufficient), and that cheques must be made payable to **ST STITHIANS COLLEGE**.

Kind regards.

GAVIN BOXALL
IT DIRECTOR