



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. 06 – 13 JULY 2007

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

Dear One & All

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE COLLEGE

You will have noticed the new building, on the corner of Baytopp Field, that is being erected at the site of the old “Glass House”. The project started as a renovation and extension to the Glass House, to provide for a gym facility, changerooms, First Aid/medical room and sports office for the Boys’ College. In the demolition process, it was discovered that the foundations would not be able to retain the new building and so the entire Glass House had to be demolished. It is hoped that the new building will be completed during the course of the Third Term. This project has been made possible by the very generous donation of one of our Old Stithians. A formal opening will be arranged for Founders’ Day 2008.

TREES

You are referred to my Newsletters No. 2 (2005) and No. 2 & 3 (2003) in which I advised the Saints Family, that the College’s policy was to remove all alien trees and trees deemed as “dangerous” by the Environmental Committee, i.e. those situated near school buildings and where they could endanger children at play. The College intends, over a period of time, to replace all the trees that have been removed with indigenous trees.

REPEAT: APPEAL – BOARDING FACILITIES FOR OUR SSP GIRLS

In 1996, St Stithians Collegiate (as it was known then) opened its doors and shortly thereafter, a relationship was forged between the College and an organisation called the Student Sponsorship Programme (SSP). The SSP aims to help disadvantaged pupils reach their full potential by placing them in good schools. SSP has various businesses in South Africa and the United States that sponsor the pupils. A huge number of applicants apply each year for assistance and after writing Mathematics and English examinations, to prove their proficiency in these subjects, they are then interviewed and offered a place at a school. Some of the other partner schools are St Mary’s, KES, Roedeane, Brescia and McCauley House. The Boys’ College also takes a number of SSP pupils each year.

Some of our past SSP girls have truly benefited from a St Stithians education and have been awarded full bursaries to study further in such fields as chemical engineering and industrial design.

The Girls' College generally accepts four girls onto the programme each year. Each of the parents pay a contribution, in proportion to their salary; the SSP pays a portion; and the College pays the rest. Students are provided with uniforms that have been donated by past pupils; and their textbooks are either from past pupils or bought from the stockists. The College also supply the girls with all the necessary stationery.

One of the main problems that the girls have faced is transport. The SSP students have to ensure that they are as involved as possible in school activities but still able to get home safely at the end of each school day. To help solve this problem, House No 19 on the school estate, is currently being used as a weekly boarding house. This is not ideal, but unlike the Boys' College, the Girls' College does not have a boarding facility.

The Southern Suns Hotel Group, City Lodge, Round Table and many individuals have been exceedingly generous in donating items to make this house habitable and a well functioning home. Each pupil pays R600 per month to stay in the house. As there is no allocated budget, the girls have no domestic help and have to do all the washing up, keep the house clean and do their own washing and ironing. The Boys' College Dining Hall provides dinner every night and the girls make their own breakfast and lunch from the groceries purchased each week by Ms de Wet.

The next step in the process is for the College to raise funds to build a proper SSP boarding house and, ultimately, to develop a fully functioning boarding house for the Girls' College. We would like to build residential type houses that can accommodate approximately twelve girls each and a flatlet for a housemother.

This article serves to appeal to parents and/or corporates, to help the College fund either the building of a new boarding house or to make a donation to the *One & All* Fund.

Should you be willing to assist, please contact Ms Pippa de Wet if you would like to become involved in this exciting initiative. Her contact details are Tel 011 577 6300/ 6376 or email pdewet@stithian.com

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2007

Please diarise the following important dates:

- **The next termly Rector-Parent Information Meeting is scheduled for:** 11 October 2007. The meeting will commence at 19:00 in the General Lecture Theatre (GLT).
- **Spring Festival** - Saturday, 29 September 2007

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.

SAINTS FAMILY NEWS

- We wish to express our sincere condolences to the following members of the Saints Family on their loss of loved ones in recent weeks. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.
 - Mrs Laura Vos (Girls' Prep Teacher) and family on the death of her father in Grahamstown.
 - Mr Ray van Gass (Boys' Prep Deputy Head) and family on the death of his father after a long illness.

GOOD NEWS COLUMN

It is always gratifying to receive letters of praise and congratulations about our staff and learners. May I share with you just a few of the wonderful e-mails that we received from the Saints Family after Founders' Day 2007:

"Yesterday it was founders day ... it was so fun ... normally they are so boring." (Emma, Grade 5)

“A short note to say a big thank you to you and your team for a wonderful Founders' Day. I have been to 20 or so, and this was certainly the best. Best wishes - Carel Nolte (Old Stithian)”

*“A note of congratulation on your Founder's Day. As I had told you, I could not stay long, but that which I saw was extremely worth seeing. The entire feel and vibe and flavour was fairly throat-lumping; such a sense of cohesion, a nation coming together, and for that matter a continent too. Linda was an inspiration. The repeat of the best-ever rendition of Weeping was one of (the) finer moments. My eyes ..., were not entirely dry. A triumph altogether.
Khotso! Denis Beckett (Old Stithian)”*

“I told you when I accepted my invitation to attend Founders' Day that it was one of the highlights of my year and I was not disappointed. I would like to offer my congratulations to you for the impeccable arrangements and to all concerned for the accomplished performances throughout the well-chosen programme. In particular, I won't ever forget listening to those young voices and musicians rendering Weeping. I was so glad when the Rector requested they do it a second time as it was even better than the first rendition – probably because we all knew what was coming the second time round ... How lovely for you and everyone concerned to be able to reflect on the undoubted success of the 2007 Celebration and to enjoy the pleasure of a job superbly done!”

*With my warmest thanks.
Rosemary Fowkes (Schools Programmes, Outward Bound South Africa)”*

*“A miserably cold wintery morning was all we could think off, as we left our house to get to School by ten past eight.
Yet another Founders' day was ahead off us, and being only our fourth, we still had huge reservations about having to sit through another laborious ceremony. I felt slightly more involved in the school as my son Kyle was singing in the choir, and was hugely excited to hear him sing the song that he had been practising all month.
My wife and I made our way to the grass bank and met all the other parents who had wrapped up for the chilly morning ahead, with blankets and flasks of coffee. I did not stay cold for long as my heart was quickly warmed by an amazing spirit that flowed out of the pupils and all that attended.
Thank you Rector for asking the choir to sing again, Thank you to the Junior Prep boys who started to clap, Thank you to the College boys who continued clapping, Thank you to the girls who started standing and waving your hands in the air, Thank you to all the Teachers and staff who did not look down on such an amazingly natural force of combined spirit and celebration as not serious enough for a Founders Day Ceremony, and Thank you to all the parents who by now had shrugged off their blankets and not only stood, but started to dance and clap and cry. It was a day that I believe completely cemented our passion and belief in St Stithians and yes, what a world of difference our South African School made that glorious morning.
Thank you everyone.
James Daniels (Parent) “*

Should you wish to contribute any Good News, please send the details to: rector@stithian.com.

With kind regards

STEPHEN LOWRY
RECTOR

GENERAL NOTICES

ST STITHIANS COLLEGE CALENDAR FOR 2008

(APPROVED BY COLLEGE EXEC: 06 NOVEMBER 2006)

TERM 1 (58 days)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Staff Development Days: | Monday, 14 & Tuesday, 15 January 2008 |
| School Commences: | Wednesday, 16 January 2008 |
| Ends: | Friday, 11 April 2008 |
| Half Term: | 12:00 on Thursday, 14 February 2008 to 07:00 Tuesday, 19 February 2008 |
| Saints School Holiday | <i>Thursday, 20 March 2008 (for learners & academic staff)</i> |
| Public Holiday/s: | Friday, 21 March 2008 (Good Friday & Human Rights Day) Monday, 24 March 2008 (Family Day) |

TERM 2 (63 days)

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Staff Development Day: | Monday, 05 May 2008 |
| Commences: | Tuesday 6 May 2008 |
| Ends: | Friday, 1 August 2008 |
| Half Term: | Normal closing Friday, 27 June 2008 to 07:00 on Monday, 7 July 2008 |
| Public Holiday/s: | Monday, 16 June 2008 (Youth Day) |

TERM 3 (64 days)

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Staff Development Day: | Monday, 01 September 2008 |
| Commences: | Tuesday, 02 September 2008 |
| Ends: | Tuesday, 02 December 2008 |
| IEB marking: | Thursday, 04 December to Tuesday 9 December 2008. |
| Half Term: | 12:00 on Thursday, 16 October 2008 to 07:00 on Monday, 20 October 2008 |
| Public Holiday/s: | Wednesday, 24 September 2008 (Heritage Day) |

2009: School commences – Wednesday, 14 January 2009

REMINDER: DOGS ON CAMPUS

All members of the Saints Family, who walk their dogs on the College estate, both in the mornings and evenings, are reminded to please ensure that their pets are kept on leads at all times. People walking dogs on the property are also requested to clean up after their animals and to carry 'pooper-scoopers' for this purpose. It has reached the point that if these rules are not strictly adhered to by all, we will have to seriously consider banning "visiting" dogs from the campus.

PARENTING TIPS

Supervising Children Online

Children need parents and carers to teach them how to make smart choices about who and what they find online, to deal with commercial material, safeguard their privacy, to have a positive experience when meeting people online, and use their time on the Internet effectively.

The types of rules you may have made about how to deal with strangers and what children can watch on television or video are also relevant to the Internet.

There are some general principles that apply to children in most age groups:

- Involve the family.
- Set some appropriate guidelines for Internet use and discuss them with the children you care for.
- Take an interest in the new sites children are finding online and spend time exploring with them. This will help children retain your values for when you cannot be together.
- Keep in touch with what children are doing online.
- Put the computer with the Internet access in a public area of the home, such as the living room, rather than a child's bedroom or playroom.
- Have family talks about the Internet and encourage children to let you know if they come across anything disturbing.
- With older children, you may choose to discuss the nature of material found on the Internet.

Remember that children will have access to the Internet not only at home, but also at other places they frequent such as schools, friends houses and libraries. Mobile Internet Devices such as phones and PDA s are also being used by a number of children today for Internet access.

By allowing children to make informed decisions about the content they access, and by developing a sense of trust at home, your children will be in a good position to use the Internet in a responsible way when they are away from the home environment.

Kids on the Net

"This is a wake up call for parents to get more involved in their children's Internet lives. But the good news is that by simply moving the location of the family PC, taking a greater interest in what our kids are doing online and talking to them about it, we can make an immediate difference." Martin Hoffman, former CEO of Ninemsn.

Facts from The 'Online Safety for Teens' survey conducted by NetAlert and Ninemsn.

- 43% of teenage boys have downloaded files that they didn't want their parents to know about
- 50% of parents believe they always know what sites their children visit
- 56% of parents thought they had enough information about online safety
- More than half of parents claimed that they had better Internet knowledge than their children
- 24% of teens claim that their parents are never around when they are online. 6% of parents claimed that they were never around when their children were online
- The older the children, the less likely it is that their parents will join them online
- 71% of parents believe their children use the internet for research, while only 23% of teens say they research online.
- 55% of all parents claimed that they were checking their childrens ' online behaviour by watching them.

Internet Safety Tips for Kids and Teenagers

Kids! Enjoy your time on the Internet but BEWARE:

1. Always be alert when on the Internet while there are some excellent sites to visit there are also some bad ones like pornography, animal cruelty and hate sites.
2. If something appears on your screen that disturbs you, tell your friends, a teacher or parent or phone the NetAlert help line on 1800 880 176 or email enquiries@netalert.net.au for some advice on what to do. Remember you will not get into any trouble by letting people know what you have stumbled across.
3. If you hear or see your friends getting into places that look unsuitable, remind them of the potential dangers and advise them on how to get out of the site.
4. Keep all personal information to yourself (including photos, your name, the name of your school, the name of your family members and your phone number). Strangers might use your personal information in a way that you never intended them to.
5. Chat Rooms are great ways to talk to people but be aware that some people in them are not who they say they are. If someone or something disturbs you in a Chat Room, leave and find another one where there are people you like. Talk to your parents, carers or teachers about advice on how to deal with Stranger Danger.
6. Remember not everything you read on the Internet is true. Be smart and make decisions for yourself on what you think is right and wrong.
7. Be careful downloading free games or files. Sometimes people can trick you into clicking on a link that sends you to an Unsafe Zone or makes your computer download a Virus.
8. Only give your mobile phone number to your family and friends and if you start getting upsetting or annoying text messages, tell a teacher or parent.
9. Always seek help from adults or friends. Mum and dad might not know as much about the Internet as you, but they know about life and together you can work out any problem that you might encounter when online.

Source: And for other fact sheets in this series visit: www.netalert.net.au

The PARENTING TIPS PAGE is provided as a service to the
Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia