



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. 09 – 17 NOVEMBER 2006

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

Dear One & All

OBITUARY

MR WALTER MACFARLANE HEADMASTER: ST STITHIANS BOYS' PREP (1966-1983)

St Stithians College mourns the loss of Mr Walter Macfarlane, former Headmaster of St Stithians Boys' Prep School (1966-1983). Walter served with distinction as Head of the Boys' Prep School for 18 years and was the author of the Saints Jubilee History, *To Serve the Future Hour*, published earlier this year. He was a legend in independent school circles and one of the "wise owls" of education. His infectious laughter, sparkle in the eye, and overall sense of optimism will be what we remember most. Walter will be missed by all in the Saints Family who were privileged enough to know him: parents, staff and the many learners whose lives he impacted.

Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Kim, his children and the rest of the family.

A Memorial Service will be held for the late Mr Walter Macfarlane in the St Stithians College Chapel on:
Thursday, 23 November 2006 at 15:00.

TERM THREE WRAP-UP

What a full and busy term this has been. From the highly successful productions in the Girls' Prep (*Kulungile*) and Boys' Prep (*Our Stars Entertain*); to the Combined Choirs Festival and the various Prestige Music Concerts held in the schools, which showcased the musical talents of our students; to a fun-filled Spring Festival; to the strategic planning sessions held by the individual schools; to a Diversity Workshop, addressed by Dr Xolela Mangcu, for the senior management of the College; to the Matric Dinners and farewells, the Girls' College Valediction and the Boys' College *Bezant to Knight* Evening, to name but a few of the wonderful events that have taken place this term.

My sincere thanks go to all involved (pupils, staff and parents) for their hard work and commitment to the College.

THE SPRING FESTIVAL

The second Spring Festival held on Saturday, 30 September 2006, was a highly successful family day. Mrs Karen Prinsloo, Deputy at the Girls' College, sums up the day's events as follows:

"On the 30 September St Stithians held its second Spring Festival. The event was a huge success thanks to the dedication and passion of the driver of the festival, Mrs Ros Murray. In 2005 the Spring Festival was a means to celebrate the 2nd Foundation (the establishment of the girls' schools ten years before), and in fact was a girls' school initiative. This year it was decided to include the other schools in the celebration and so during the course of the year representatives from each of the schools met regularly with the Spring Festival Committee of parents, planning and perfecting the vision of a community builder and fundraising event at our College.

The weather was good to us and a fantastic day was enjoyed by all. Activities on the day ranged from helicopter rides; an entertainment tent featuring dancing, physical theatre, singing and bands; a magnificent tea garden showcasing flower arrangements that the Girls' College had put together the previous day at their interhouse competition, the tranquil atmosphere was set by students playing their musical instruments and providing an escape from the action in the main marquee; there were loads of crafters; an exciting adventure race; a ghost tunnel; train rides and activities for the little Saints; 20-20 cricket and food stalls provided for by the budding grade 8 entrepreneurs at the Girls' College. That evening the entertainment was provided by the Girls' Prep play called "Kulungile" which was held in Mears Hall.

As part of the charity drive that always forms part of any initiative at the College, we collected hundreds of soft toys and teddies to support CHOC. We received a lovely letter from CHOC describing the delight on behalf of the children receiving the bears and would really love to make the collection even bigger next year.

A special event was arranged after the Spring Festival for the 14 raffle prize winners. This was a very exciting time for those whose ticket stubs had been drawn as they were not sure if they were going to be going home with a luxury food or pamper hamper, with the lucky ticket affording them the opportunity to relax at a lodge for a weekend or if they were the lucky winner of the Old Stithian Association cash prize of R20 000.

Our grateful thanks to our anchor sponsors, Chrysler Jeep and FNB and to all the many "Friends of the Festival" your support is most valued. Next year we will hold an even bigger Spring Festival on 29 September 2007 – so keep that date open in your diaries!"

Mrs Ros Murray, who chaired the Spring Festival Committee, reports that:

"We were well represented by charity organisations – Men and Women against Child Abuse, The SPCA and The Blood Clinic – and we managed to collect hundreds of Teddy Bears and soft toys for CHOC. In addition, Refilwe (the AIDS Community Project supported by the Girls' College) received R40 000 from Chrysler Jeep Bryanston, one of the Spring Festival sponsors; and Meringue House benefited from a donation in excess of R 8 000 from the proceeds of the Grade 8 Girls' Businesses.

The inaugural Spring Festival Raffle, primarily sponsored by the Old Stithian Association, was very well supported and the 14 winners were announced at an exciting prize giving breakfast following the Festival. Photographs of the entire Festival are available on the St Stithians website– www.stithian.com (see Campus Photos/Girls' College)

I am pleased to announce that the total funds raised from the Spring Festival are in excess of R180 000,00. These funds will be put to good use in various initiatives around the entire Campus. Thank you 'One & All' for your commitment to this new event on our School calendar and I look forward to even greater participation across the Campus at the 2007 Spring Festival!"

To all involved, particularly Mrs Ros Murray and the Spring Festival Organising Committee, the staff, parents and learners, may I, on behalf of the College, express our gratitude to you for all your efforts, hours of work and commitment, and congratulate you on organising an outstanding event. Well done indeed.

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

The Deputy Head Boy of the Boys' College, Richard Wilkinson, gave a wonderful speech to mark International Teachers' Day. This is attached for the information of the Saints Family.

PETER PLACE GATE

An upgrade to the road leading into the Peter Place Gate is scheduled for December 2006. Kindly note that the Peter Place Entrance will be closed from 07 December 2006 until after New Year, due to road works. Please use the Corlett Gate (Hendrik Verwoerd Entrance) during this time.

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 Richter Family (Gideon, Grade 9, Boys' College) on the death of Mr Richter after a long illness;
- The de Montbron Family (Max, Grade 11, Boys' College) on the tragic death of Mrs de Montbron who was killed in a car accident;
- Ms Adelaide Malekela (Ops Department) on the tragic death of her father in a road accident;
- Mrs Joanne Doyle (Boys' Prep staff member) and family on the death of her father-in-law following a heart attack;
- Mr Klaas Mashiane (Boys' Prep Intern Teacher) on the tragic death of his brother in a car accident.

Congratulations to:

- Ian & Sue MacKenzie (Director of Counselling, Boys' College) on the birth of their granddaughter, Jessica Alison, in London on 23 October 2006.

RECTOR'S REPLY TO QUESTIONS

"I do find it shocking that when the country is going through a period of low inflation with a SARB target of 3-6%, that St Stithians can raise their fees almost double that of that rate of inflation. I do realise that the school needs to make a profit but it seems that the parents are being taken advantage of somewhat!"

Thank you for this most important question. Firstly may I say that the College does not organise the budget to make a profit. Profits are generally reserved for businesses that then share the profits amongst the owners or shareholders. In the College any surpluses generated in the annual budget are ploughed back into the facilities or a reserve. No "profits" are distributed to shareholders or others. The College is registered as a Trust and all monies are controlled by the school for the benefit of the school. We do aim to budget for a small surplus every year and of course this is pre-planning to hold the school in trust for future generations and not only those in our care at present. The Budget process is a delicate balancing act, which needs to take into account a range of different factors. One of the most important being fee increases that our parents have to bear. PA representatives on Council do remind the Council of this when the annual budget discussions are held.

We do have to recognise, however, that cost increases in independent schools are not necessarily constrained by the national inflation rate. A most important factor impacting is personnel salaries. It is key for the College to attract and retain the best in the teaching profession, which no doubt is of major concern to our parent body. Recently when writing about World Teachers' Day in my newsletter, I made the point that currently South Africa is losing anything between 20 to 30 000 teachers annually, but only training some 6 000 annually. There is a national crisis in the supply of educators, particularly high quality teachers, and this does translate directly to

the bottom line in the form of the school having to pay higher premiums for staff. Given that staff salaries account for some 67% of our income, this in turn impacts on fees.

The economic influences that impact on education have been recognised in the form of an EPI (Education Price Index), which is a “CPI for Education”. The EPI for 2006/7 is 8 %. The College also needs to ensure that it provides the facilities needed to meet the demands of the holistic education offered to Saints pupils. Hence the balancing act will continue

For information, I have enclosed two EPI graphs at the end of this newsletter.

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 assisted Walter Macfarlane with the design and layout of this wonderful coffee table book. The History is currently available for purchase from the Bursar’s Office at a cost of R295, 00 and makes a wonderful Christmas present.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2007

Please diarise the following important dates:

- **The termly College Report Back Meetings are scheduled for:**
21 February 2007; 14 June 2007; and 11 October 2007. These meetings commence at 19:00 in the General Lecture Theatre.
- **Founders’ Day:**
Saturday, 09 June 2007 – This is a compulsory day for all staff & learners and is held on Baytopp Field.
- **Annual Saints Easter Hockey & Rugby Festival**
Thursday, 05 to Monday, 09 April 2007
- **Spring Festival**
Saturday, 29 September 2007
- **Calendar 2007**
It was drawn to our attention that the 2007 Calendar, received from ISASA and circulated to parents, contained an error (1st Term, Half-Term dates, highlighted on the attachment). Enclosed please find a corrected calendar.

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. It gives me great pleasure to share the following e-mail, which I recently received, from CHOC, with the Saints Family:

YOUR DONATION TO CHOC CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION

On behalf of the Committee, staff and children at CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation, we would like to thank you, the principal and all the students of St. Stithians and their families for the most welcome and generous donation of teddy bears and soft toys delivered to CHOC House today. Childhood Cancer and Life Threatening Blood Disorders are illnesses which affect not only the child but also the whole family. CHOC’s objective is to contribute to the well being of these

children and their parents and families whilst at the same time focusing on uplifting the level of care at the government hospitals through a variety of programmes, the supply of much needed equipment, training etc. This generous donation of toys will most definitely bring a smile to the faces of our children and for this we thank you all. God Bless!

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Steyn
Secretary

Kind regards

STEPHEN LOWRY
RECTOR



ST STITHIANS COLLEGE CALENDAR FOR 2007
(CORRECTED: 12 OCTOBER 2006)

TERM 1 (58 days)

Staff Development Days: Monday, 08 & Tuesday, 09 January 2007

School Commences: Wednesday, 10 January 2007
Ends: Wednesday, 04 April 2007

Half Term: 12:00 on Thursday, 15 February 2007 to
07:00 Tuesday, 20 February 2007

Saints School Holiday Thursday, 05 April 2007 (for learners & academic staff)

Public Holiday/s: Wednesday, 21 March 2007 (Human Rights Day)
Friday, 06 April 2007 (Good Friday)
Monday, 09 April 2007 (Easter Monday)

TERM 2 (63 days)

Staff Development Day: Monday, 30 April 2007

Commences: Wednesday, 02 May 2007
Ends: Friday, 03 August 2007

Half Term: 12:00 Friday, 22 June 2007 to
07:00 on Monday, 02 July 2007

Public Holiday/s: Tuesday, 01 May 2007 (Workers' Day)
Saturday, 16 June 2007 (Youth Day)

TERM 3 (64 days)

Staff Development Day: Monday, 03 September 2007

Commences: Tuesday, 04 September 2007
Ends: Tuesday, 04 December 2007

Half Term: 12:00 on Thursday, 18 October 2007 to
07:00 on Tuesday, 23 October 2007

Public Holiday/s: Monday, 24 September 2007 (Heritage Day)

2008: School commences – Wednesday, 09 January 2008

ADDRESS BY RICHARD WILKINSON: WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Good morning,

I'm sure I speak for everyone here today when I say that no matter what we may do in life, no matter who we become, we will always be the furthest thing in the world from self made men and women.

Now I've been at Saints since I was 5, and for 13 years now my teachers have played a major role in shaping who I am. Earlier today I was chatting to some of my close friends about our teachers and it didn't take long at all to come up with loads of stories, some of them funny, most too embarrassing to tell. But I think that no matter who you are, teachers say things that will never leave you.

One of the teachers I spoke to said that he was once standing somewhere and the guy next to him suddenly said – Practice doesn't make perfect, does it sir? No, no it doesn't. Perfect practice makes perfect. That came from a student he hadn't seen in 15 years.

The words teachers say aren't always intended to stick, but sometimes they do.

- I'll never forget that excellence is a habit, and not a single action.
- One cricket coach told me to always treat every ball that is bowled on its merits, and never to pre-meditate.
- Another told me who the bowler is, or what he does doesn't matter. What matters is how you deal with what he bowls you.
- Take a chance, win a prize.
- I was taught to treat every cricket as if it were your last. I've played my last cricket match, but I'll never forget that.

Yes St Stithians is indeed the House of Knowledge. There is so much to be learnt here. And that's essentially what makes this school great. The 200 teachers who share hundreds of degrees between them are most responsible for consistently producing the top IEB results in the country.

But as any student knows, the job of a teacher extends far beyond the walls of a classroom. They are sports coaches, mentors, advisors, councilors. For some, they may even be parents.

Teachers play such an important role because, essentially, we are all a complex mixture of hopes and fears; dreams, triumphs, failures. Teachers bring the different parts of us together to form a whole person.

Our teachers play a major role in making this place the great community it is. A place that says be free; be what you want to be; a place where it is OK to cry.

And that is what being a teacher is all about. Its about widening the circle of opportunity, deepening the meaning of learning, strengthening the experience of being a boy or being a girl.

I will remember my teachers as people who saw wrong, and tried to right it, perhaps saw suffering and tried to heal it. I will remember my teachers as people who saw potential and tried to maximize it.

Now, although today is a special day in that it is World Teachers Day, I do not for a minute believe that it is necessary for our teachers to be idealized, or made greater than who they are in life. Instead, we should simply remember them as generous people who did a most important job very well. Perhaps, perhaps hopefully, many of us will be inspired to be teachers ourselves one day.

And so, in conclusion, I am sure that everyone hear will join with me in extending our warmest, most sincere thanks to all of our teachers for giving so much of themselves, and in doing so, making us who we are.

Finally, if I could give one word of advice to the little Grade 1's and 2's here, it would be this:

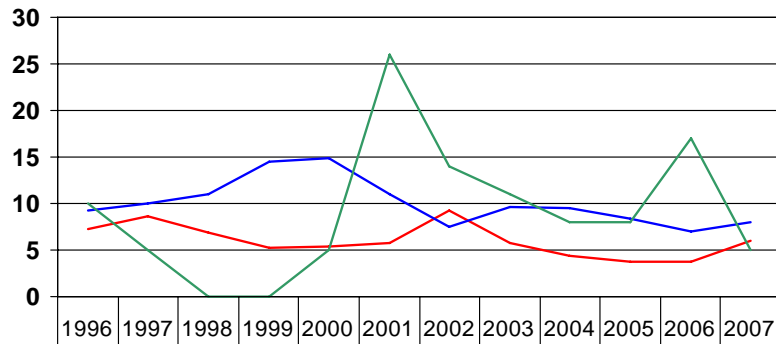
Seize every day,

Savour every moment

Watch every ball. Because if you don't, it will pass before you even knew it had left the bowler's hand.

CPIX, Education Price Index and ISASA fees

Year on year percentage change, 1996 to 2006 (June)



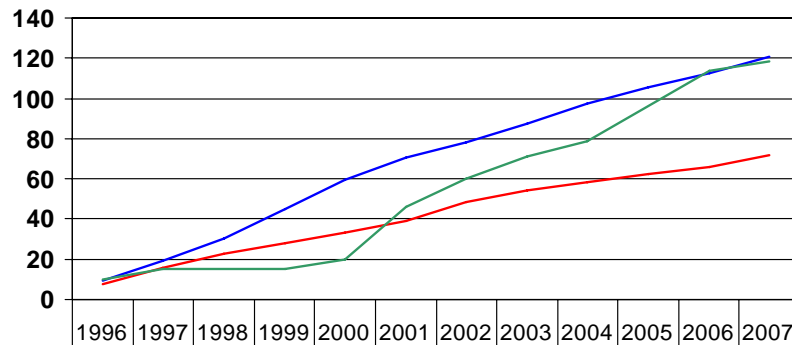
— CPIX	7.3	8.6	6.9	5.2	5.4	5.7	9.2	5.8	4.4	3.7	3.7	6
— Education Price Index	9.24	10	11	14.5	14.9	11	7.54	9.57	9.56	8.4	7	8
— ISASA Fees	10	5	0	0	5	26	14	11	8	8	17	5

The Education Price Index component of the CPIX is made up of public and independent school fees, tertiary education fees and some sundries related to education (e.g. boarding)

Source: BoE and StatsSA

CPIX, Education Price Index and ISASA fees

Cumulative percentage change, 1996 to 2005 (July)



— CPIX	7.3	15.9	22.8	28	33.4	39.1	48.3	54.1	58.5	62.2	65.9	71.9
— Education Price Index	9.24	19.2	30.2	44.7	59.6	70.6	78.2	87.7	97.3	106	113	121
— ISASA Fees	10	15	15	15	20	46	60	71	79	96.5	114	119

The Education Price Index component of the CPIX is made up of public and independent school fees, tertiary education fees and some sundries related to education (e.g. boarding)

Source: BoE and StatsSA