

September 2014

Dear Parents

This letter is distributed every year but we always think it's worth up-dating and sending out again.

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP MATTERS**

As you are all aware, it is that time of year again during which we elect our Grade 12 leaders for 2014/5. We would like to take this opportunity to share with you the opportunities we provide to our girls for leadership development, as well as the leadership election process that we follow, in keeping with our servant leadership philosophy. We provide the girls with leadership opportunities that encourage each and every girl to take up the role of leadership in the school.

### **School Leadership Opportunities at Matric level**

**Head Girl:** Chair of the School Leadership Council

**Deputy Head Girl:** Chair of the Student Representative Council

**Leadership Committees:** This year, there are fourteen different leadership committees, each with a Chair and Deputy Chair.

All Grade 11 girls are expected to select a leadership committee on which they wish to serve. The committees meet every Wednesday morning. These meetings are chaired by the committee chair and facilitated by a staff member. The committee chair of each committee is expected to provide opportunities for the development of leadership of the members in their committees. They are also responsible for running the vertical committees every second Friday. Every girl in the school belongs to one of these committees.

### **Student Leadership Council (SLC):**

The head and deputy head girl, house chairs and committee chairs serve on the Saints Leadership Council. The SLC meets every Tuesday morning at 7am. The committee chairs report on matters discussed at the SLC to their respective committees in their committee meetings. The SLC meetings are facilitated by the Head Girls with the Leadership Director (Ms Everson), in attendance.

Girls also have the opportunity to serve the school through leadership in the SRC (Students Representative Council) at every grade. Girls also serve through their vertical committees. Two girls are also elected to serve on the Old Stithian Association, this representation extends beyond school, as they represent their year on the OSA. As from this year, the Chair and Deputy of the newly formed Jabulani Committee will automatically serve on the OSA.

Girls are encouraged to build their leadership skills through opportunities to speak and perform publicly and to learn how to work in teams. The Grade 11s over their year, fund raise and create the matric dance as a service to the matrics. All of these opportunities enhance each girl's positive influence.

### **Leadership Election Process**

The leadership election process that we currently follow is outlined below.

## **Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl**

- The Grade 11 girls are invited to apply for the role of head/deputy head girl.
- They submit a formal written application (candidate profile), which details their contribution to, and participation in, all areas of school life, including academics, sports and cultural activities, community service, other school interests and outside interests. The purpose of the candidate profiles is to give the school body the opportunity to familiarise themselves with all of the candidates, particularly those they do not know personally. This enables them to make a more informed choice.
- The candidate profiles are displayed for one to two weeks.
- The Grade 10 girls are then tasked with the running of the election process, through their life orientation classes. The Grade 10s elect an Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) which then takes responsibility for the election process. They set up the polling stations, draw up the ballot sheets, ballot boxes and they run the voting process. This is a wonderful way for the Grade 10s to learn about the election process and it also provides them with the opportunity to develop their own leadership skills through service.
- The votes are weighted appropriately (G8 -1; G9 – 2; G10 – 3; G11 – 5; G12 and staff – 4) and then counted by the Leadership Director, the current head and deputy head girl and a member of staff.
- The candidate with the highest number of votes is elected head girl, while the candidate with the second highest number of votes is elected deputy head girl.

## **Committee Chairs**

In keeping with our principle of encouraging all Grade 12 girls to be leaders, the girls select a leadership committee on which they would like to serve (see Leadership Opportunities above). The process is run in exactly the same way as the head girl elections.

- All Grade 11 girls are invited to apply for the role of Chair of any of the leadership committees. Before elections take place, each girl must decide which committee she wishes to serve on. She should have served on her chosen committee for her Grade 11 year.
- Each girl is given the opportunity to speak to the committee they wish to serve before voting takes place.
- The House Chairs are elected at the same time, but are voted for by their House, from Grade 8 – 12.
- The Grade 11s vote for all the committees, as they know their peers best.
- All of the Grade 11 girls will serve the school on a leadership committee in their matric year.

## **CONCLUSION**

As can be seen from the above, we try as a Round Square school to develop democracy and to be faithful to the four principles of servant leadership that begin from entry into Saints.

- Everyone is a leader – we encourage opportunities to lead from the front, from the side and from behind
- Leadership is about knowing your BEST SELF – you will lead in front from the area of your strength
- Leadership can only occur in COMMUNITY
- Leadership is essentially about SERVICE

Every girl is expected to lead and to role model leadership to younger grades, just as the teacher/tutor mentors her/his students. Leadership is an ongoing journey. As leadership is developed, we encourage our girls to follow Andy Cope's BIG 5 in leadership:

1. Choose to be positive

2. Know your own impact
3. Develop bounce-back-ability (Resilience)
4. Take personal responsibility
5. Set HUGS (Huge, unbelievably great goals)

Yours Sincerely

**Mrs I Acquisto**  
Head

**Ms R Everson**  
Leadership Director