



Chairman's Message



MR ISRAEL SKOSANA

CHAIRMAN OF THE OLD STITHIAN ASSOCIATION

Dear Old Stithians

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, it's with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect on the journey we've shared throughout the past year. In the words of our revered ethos, "Mphakathi", which embodies ...



"Mphakathi", which embodies the spirit of togetherness and unity, we stand here, united in the face of adversity.

ISRAEL SKOSANA

...the spirit of togetherness and unity, we stand here, united in the face of adversity. It is this principle of community, of standing shoulder to shoulder, that has always been the bedrock of our Association, and it is this very principle that we call upon now more than ever.

Regrettably, we have been let down by the BHI Trustees. The revelations surrounding BHI Trust and its unfortunate link with our Association's investments have come as a shock to all of us. This betrayal of trust is deeply felt, for it is not just a financial loss but a breach of the faith we place in our community members.

However, in this trying time, it is crucial to remember that the Old Stithian Association is much more than just a sum of its investments.





OLD STITHIAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



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We are a tapestry woven from the rich threads of dedication, support, and resilience. Our scholarships, sponsorships, and events - the lifeblood of our community activities - remain unaffected. They continue to thrive, underpinned by our separate and secure funding channels.

In dealing with the ramifications of this setback, we have engaged with legal advisors. We are actively working to understand the implications and assert our claims in the sequestration process. Let me assure you, we are leaving no stone unturned in safeguarding our Association's interests.

The Committee has taken several corrective steps and measures in the light of this event regarding its investments and finances.

A review of the entire investment process has commenced, with proposals made including the establishment of an investment mandate, an investment sub-committee, and changes in the internal controls around banking and investment transactions being proposed.

More importantly, this incident, while unfortunate, serves as a catalyst for us to reaffirm our values and commitment to each other. "Mphakathi" is not just a word; it's our collective strength. It is what will enable us to not just recover but to rebuild stronger and more resilient than before.

Our collective will is unbreakable, our dedication to our cause unwavering. We will rise from this challenge, and in doing so, we will reach new heights, surpassing our previous achievements.

Key Highlights

- **Alumni Engagement:** Our alumni community has grown stronger through various events and ...

- ...initiatives, including reunions, webinars, and mentoring programs. The increased participation reflects the dedication of our alumni to stay connected and contribute to the association's growth.

- **Scholarships:** It was an honour to be able to sponsor two Thandulwazi Scholarship students for their boarding house fees to enable them secure housing during the week as their academic days were long and the trips home were becoming unsafe.

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- **Networking and Professional Development:** Our association facilitated networking events across the world, workshops, and career development opportunities within the Boys' and Girls' College, ensuring that our members continue to excel in their respective fields. We are still looking at more ways where our alumni can engage with one another for their business & networking opportunities.

Celebrating Achievements

Let's take a moment to celebrate the milestones we've achieved together- each accomplishment stands as a testament to our collective dedication and hard work. As we gaze towards the horizon of 2024 let's embrace it with hope and optimism. We are poised to embark on a new chapter filled with opportunities, fresh endeavours, and renewed determination. The challenges we faced have only fortified our resolve to overcome and thrive.



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The Power of Unity

Our strength lies in our unity and shared purpose. As we move forward, let's continue to support, uplift, and inspire one another. Together, there's no limit to what we can achieve.

As we navigate this challenging period, we do so not just with strategic resolve but with the heart of our community beating strongly at our core. Together, as a united mphakathi, we will emerge from this stronger, bound by our shared experiences and our unyielding commitment to each other and to the future of the Old Stithian Association.

In closing, I recall the words of Nelson Mandela, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." Together, we shall rise, stronger and more united than ever. This is not just a promise; it is the essence of our existence, our bond, our 'Mphakathi.'

Thank you all for your unwavering support and commitment to our beloved Association.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Old Stithian Association. Here's to a year filled with hope, success, and boundless possibilities!

Rector's Message

This has been an important year for the College as we celebrate our 70th anniversary. The College theme, taken from the Foundation stone laid in the Chapel, celebrates the 'Happy fulfilment' of the Founders' vision.

As alumni of St Stithians, you have all played a part in fulfilling the vision. A great deal has changed in 70 years but the Foundation stone, representing our vision, faith, and values, is still firmly in place.



The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

Nelson. Mandela

The Rector



Mrs **CELESTE GILARDI**
EXECUTIVE HEAD



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Since our founding, over 11,000 matriculants have graduated from Saints, taught by over 3,000 teachers. The Thandulwazi Maths and Science Academy has educated over 14,000 students and trained over 16,000 teachers. Penryn College in Mpumalanga, founded by St Stithians 32 years ago, has over 3,000 alumni. The profound impact of Penreach and Thandulwazi has changed the lives of teachers and children in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Gauteng.

We are proud of our history, but we are also a school determined to meet current needs. This year might arguably be seen as the most successful of any of the past 70 years. Some of the highlights include opening in January with 2 623 students, the highest enrollment ever. We have grown into a College of seven schools. Although each school has its own unique character, an essential part of our College DNA, we also see the need to shift our gaze and pay attention to the inherent dynamism and agility of our existing model. It is, therefore, also part of our DNA that we are continually evolving in response to changes around us; that indeed, not only our seven schools, but our campus, our supporting services, our very infrastructure, coalesce into an eighth singularity, a whole which is always greater than the sum of its constituent parts. This is our Power of Eight. Our power enables synergy. It is the dynamism we need to become antifragile as we face the future.

The 2022 matric results delivered over 500 distinctions. Kamoka Bush school continues to enrich our students by educating and challenging them while developing character in a natural environment. Sports Fest saw an attendance of 56,000 people. Next year, our 40th year of Sports Fest, will be even bigger. In other sporting arenas, Saints had a phenomenal year. We are the first school in SA history to have four Saints boys in the SA U19 Cricket squad.

Our girls and boys are top in water polo and both SA men and women's national teams are captained by Saints alumni. In rowing, our boys won SA champs for the first time since 1993 and achieved the most gold medals in 53 years of rowing. The boys' hockey first team won the Aitken Trophy for the first time since 1975. Our Girls' hockey first team won the Pullen Cup, making us the first school to hold both trophies at the same time. The Prep cricket team won the County Competition at King's College in Somerset, UK.

Culturally, the performances of Sophiatown and The Birdcage were of a professional level. Old Boy, Chris Morgan, won an Emmy Award for the Kids: Factual Entertainment category. The Dukes were invited to open the National ISASA Conference. The College continues to grow and innovate. The water treatment plant is being used as a learning experience for our students. The opening of Gr RRR is an important milestone, and we now have 15 grades in the College, matching the 15 bezants.



I wish you and your loved ones a restful and happy Christmas and festive season in which we can all find time to celebrate our faith and spirituality.

Celeste Gilardi



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We continue to modernize our classrooms, with a focus this year on the GP and the BC. A refurbishment of the BC boarding houses will start in 2024, with Mountstephens, followed by Collins in 2025. We have done great work on AI and the role it could play in educational best practice. We have successfully completed two quality assurance processes - UMALUSI and OISESA.

As we look ahead, with the Founders' vision firmly in mind, we have ambitious goals. We have set the bar high, and our aim is to grow our Endowment to ensure our sustainability, beginning by raising R75 million for Saints and another R75 million for Thandulwazi by 2028. We want to ensure that our legacy continues to inspire generations of learners and leaders who will continue, like you, to make a positive difference in the world.

In my address at the OSA dinner, I quoted Pericles: "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." The Foundation stone in the chapel reminds us of the vision of a school that allows its students to live a life of 'Happy fulfillment'.

Through our alumni, I know that those words have been lifted from the stone and woven into your lives and the lives of One and All. I am so grateful to you for your legacy, and your overwhelming support for our reunions around the world as you turned out in Cape Town, Stellenbosch, New York, London, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland and here at Saints.

I wish you and your loved ones a restful and happy Christmas and festive season in which we can all find time to celebrate our faith and spirituality.

“
What you leave behind is
not what is engraved in
stone monuments, but
what is woven into the
lives of others.
Pericles”

Girls' College



DR SALLY JAMES

HEAD OF GIRLS' COLLEGE

This year the Girls' College has flourished in every way as our community has pulled together and united around the attributes that we stand for namely, belonging, learning, leading and...



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...at the highest level. This year our Class of 2023, a steadfast and united group under the leadership of Head Girl Jozi Nupen and deputies Liyakhanya Ndamane and Rufaro Kawelenga (see image below) have woven our school attributes of belong, learn, lead and serve into their unique theme for 2023, aptly termed the Umbrella Vision. The umbrella was chosen as a “symbol for protection and nurturing and it is a place where people can come together and feel safe”.



R. KWALENGA, L. NDAMANE & J. NUPEN (LEFT TO RIGHT)
THE 2023 GC LEADERSHIP EXEC TEAM

Academics

Academically the third term is very significant as our Matric students’ 13-year journey is evaluated and assessed via the IEB NSC final examinations. It is always a relief and a moment of celebration once the final NSC examinations are complete. Overall, the 2023 examination sessions went very well, with our Class of 2023 being thoroughly prepared. The Class of 2023 are a strong group, with 31 students qualifying for the academic Honours awards (85% average and or above during the Preliminary Examination term) and 10 qualifying for academic Colours (80% average).

We are holding thumbs for an excellent set of results on release day come the 18th of January next year! There was much jubilation on Thursday 23 November when the Class of 2023 finished their final English examination, a huge achievement in the life of every student!



THE CLASS OF 2023
CELEBRATING IEB NSC EXAM END

Heritage Day Highlights

Over the past few months there have been many opportunities for our girls to stretch themselves, find new challenges and importantly reflect on all that they have achieved. Heritage Day this September was a glorious feast and celebration of all that makes us unique. Our staff and students worked hard to prepare a Heritage Fair which consisted of several interactive workshop events including dance workshops, and a heritage quiz activity to name a few.



GIRLS’ COLLEGE STUDENTS
CELEBRATING HERITAGE DAY 2023



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Thereafter a delicious food fair was prepared together with a variety of indigenous games which made for a relaxing and festive afternoon on the Bell Tower Lawns. Looking ahead to 2024 there are grand plans to extend this celebration into a Campus Heritage Day on Saturday 28 September. Please save the date, there are always opportunities for alumnae to get involved, we welcome your ideas and involvement.

this year with a junior evening, a senior evening and finally a gala evening at the Bryanston Country Club where all our winners performed to a cabaret style evening with a delicious meal served to a large audience. We are also incredibly proud of our very talented visual arts students, the quality and variety of work produced this year is phenomenal under the direction of Visual Arts, HoD, **Ms Bronwyn Myles**.



HERITAGE DAY 2023

GIRLS' COLLEGE STUDENTS

The annual Matric Final Examination Exhibition is always a highlight in the third term calendar. An online exhibition of all our students and even some of our staff work can be viewed via this link:

[Online Exhibition](#)

Sporting Highlights

Reflecting on Girls' College sport this year, we can be proud of the many individual achievements as well as the success of many of our team sports. During this year we have a number of accolades which stand out including winning the Buffalo Rowing Regatta in February this year, our First Team Water Polo team remain unbeaten this year, winning the St Anne's tournament over the Heritage weekend and the Roedean Old Mutual tournament means that we have won all major polo tournaments this year.



THE 1ST TEAM WATER POLO OF 2022/3
GC SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR

Visual and Performance Arts

Within the Visual and Performing Arts the recent highlights include our prestigious Night of the Stars event which took on a slightly different form...



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No other girls' school has achieved such success to date. The First Team Water Polo were unbeaten in the 2022-3 season winning all 60 of their games. This is an incredible achievement; the team were named GC Sports Team of the Year at the recent Valedictory Service.

Our diving team won the prestigious Inter High competition, whilst our U17 netball team finished top in the district and our First XI hockey won the Pullen trophy. Girls' squash continues to do well with many of our students being chosen for Gauteng teams across the variety of age groups. Basketball continues to go from strength to strength, we were excited to host the inaugural U16 girls' basketball tournament earlier this year. We had two successful international sporting tours with our hockey, netball and squash teams all travelling to Europe in April this year. We have achieved a lot and there is still much to be done. I express gratitude to the GC sports staff and coaches for their hours alongside the pool, on the field and court and for their unwavering dedication to our athletes.

Rowing

The rowing club has been very fortunate to have acquired several new boats to add to their fleet. It is tradition that we name and bless the new fleet. The Rowing Club hosted a very meaningful naming ceremony this November. It was very special to see several of our rowing alumnae at this occasion. The Girls' College has had a boat called Bennett for many years, after former rowing student Lindsay Bennet who tragically lost her life in a motor vehicle accident in her Grade 11 year. We retired the former Bennett boat, and at this naming ceremony renamed one of our new boats, Bennett once more after Lindsay's incredible legacy. One of Lindsay's former crew mates, Donna Roberts (Class of 1999) spoke of ...



DONNA ROBERTS [1999]

LINDSAY'S LEGACY

...her memories of the founding of the Girls' College Rowing Club and of Lindsay Bennett, and what a wonderful friend and crew mate she was. She implored the girls to "remember that you are not just doing these things for yourselves, but for those who struggled and worked and celebrated to form this club for you and also for the legacy you are leaving for the next generation."

GC Alumnae events

The Girls' College love hosting our alumnae and were thrilled to host two groups this September, the Class of 2003 and the Class of 2013 who celebrated their twenty and ten year reunions respectively. This is always a highlight in our calendar, where staff love connecting with some of their former students and our current girls love to hear the stories of the past and the possibilities that lie ahead.

I express gratitude to Julia Phipps and Caitlyn Loneon from the Advancement Office for all their support, enthusiasm, and assistance around these OSA reunion occasions.



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Hayley Owen, deputy head girl of the Class of 2003 addressed the school and **Ayanda Heita** and **Bianca Biehler**, Head and Deputy head girl of the Class of 2013 shared a meaningful message with the school.

The Class of 2013 really made an effort to attend their ten year reunion with over 30 women in attendance at their reunion supper evening on Friday 22 September. This was a very happy occasion, with much nostalgia where photos and stories of school days were shared. It was wonderful to have many staff members from years past attend this reunion gathering.

Alumnae support

I would like to pay tribute to the many alumnae that assist the Girls' College at our annual Career Evening hosted in October. The focus of the evening is to allow our Grade 11 students to engage with professionals in the working world and ask them a variety of questions to gain a better understanding of what a particular role may entail and to hear from real life experiences.

Adventure at its best

Our alumnae are important role models for our girls in this regard, we are so grateful for your ongoing support shown towards this evening.

Many of our alumnae over their time at the College will have had the opportunity to attend a Round Square conference or go off on the Saints Trek adventure. It is fascinating how these experiences are often reflected upon so meaningfully at our various reunion events.

The Saints Trek is alive and well and continues to be an annual event each August holiday. This year 29 BC and GC students tackled the physical challenges of this brilliant adventure. GC staff, Mr Paul Statham and Ms Nicci Glanville lead this 10 day adventure consisting of a gruelling adventurous 72-kilometre hike in the Wolksberg mountains as well as a community engagement initiative partnering with the Appel Combined School in Haenertsburg.

This year's annual Round Square International conference took place in Nairobi from 9 - 13 October at Brookhouse School. The theme of the conference was "The New Africa". The conference examined the challenges and opportunities surrounding Africa's role on the global stage in the 21st Century.

The focus of the conference was to expose our young people to the emerging talent and many global players on the continent, all of whom are seeking to expand the profile of African achievers. Eight students were selected to attend this conference, which proved to be a wonderful adventure and rich learning opportunity for One and All.



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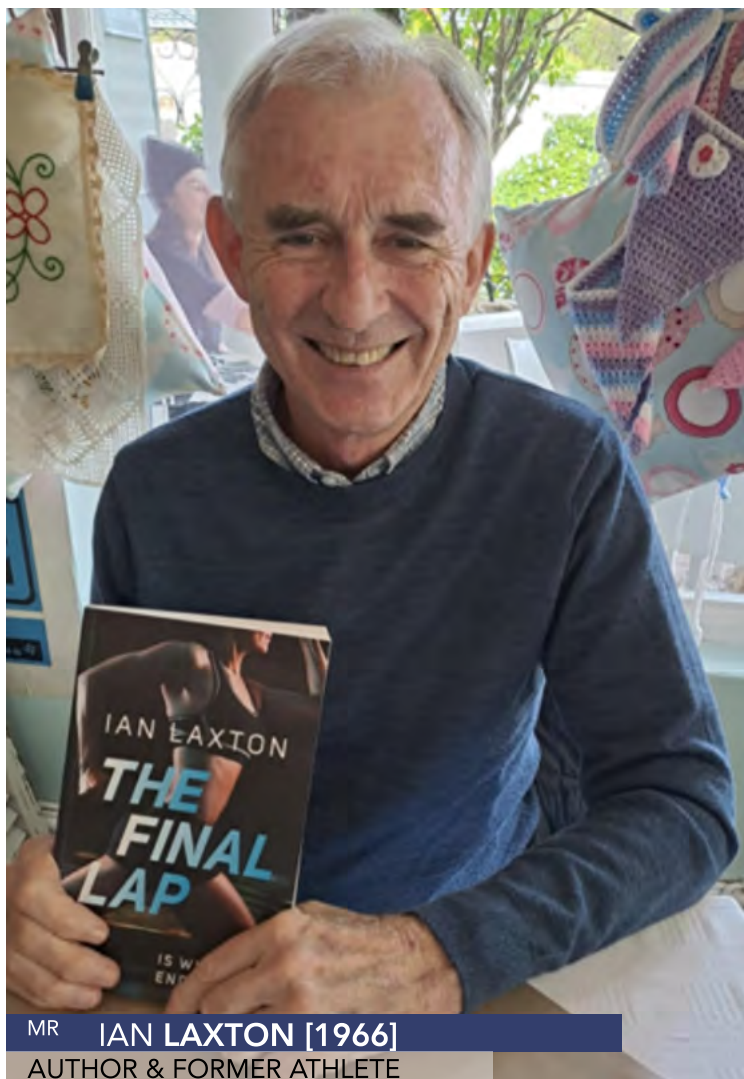


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Alumni News

Mr Ian Laxton [1966]

I was for many years involved in the media as an athletics commentator for the SABC radio and television and also TV New Zealand. I commentated on 30 Comrades and 28 Two Oceans Marathon live from 1986 to 2015, plus countless local athletics meetings. Internationally I went to 3 Olympic Games (1996, 2000 and 2004), 3 Athletics World Champs, 1 Commonwealth Games and 4 World Cross-Country Champs. In 1974 I married **Sonja van Zyl** (now **Sonja Laxton**), one of SA's most respected internationally ranked runners on the track, road and cross-country.



MR **IAN LAXTON [1966]**
AUTHOR & FORMER ATHLETE

Next year we will celebrate our 50th anniversary. The reason for this note is this: when we retired to Somerset West in 2020, I decided to follow a dream I'd had for years - to write a novel. The result is THE FINAL LAP, a work of fiction (not any sort of autobiography) that was published by Guide Book Publications and launched in March this year. So far I have been amazed and gratified by the excellent reviews and reports I've received about the book, which I am confident has real value as a South African work of fiction by a first-time author.

The story is set in the world of international athletics, which is accurate in terms of how things happen. The heroine is a SA woman who is ranked #1 in the world over 1 500 metres and is aiming to break the world for the mile distance. It's the story of her life, training, competing and much more.

OLD STITHIAN ZARRET MILLS HARVARD SUCCESS



MR **ZARRET MILLS [2021]**
HARVARD STUDENT & ATHLETE



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"I BELIEVE"

SAINTS DOCUMENTARY

We are proud to share news of Old Stithian Zarret Mills (Class of 2021) who is currently in second year at Harvard doing Applied Maths and Computer Science and was offered his place due to his exceptional Matric results and his rowing ability. To keep up with his demanding degree, he works hard all the time and he rows every free minute that he has. While he was on his holiday break he also taught himself the drums and is now part of a band which performs at Harvard campus events. His Mom Bernadett shared his successes with Head of our Boys' College, **Mr David du Toit** and commented, "He is extremely happy and living the life. He couldn't have achieved what he did if it wasn't for Saints!".

I BELIEVE DOCUMENTARY

'I Believe' is an upcoming documentary that chronicles the inspiring sporting weekend in the middle of May 2023 where St. Stithians Boys College, after an inspiring movement titled 'I Believe', triumphed over their rivals St. John's College in Rugby and the 1st XI Hockey team won the Aitken Cup for the first time in 48 years. The documentary features exclusive insights from the teams and the Head Boy and is directed by Old Stithian Jackson Gondo (2015)."

[I BELIEVE TRAILER](#)



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Boys' College



MR DAVID DU TOIT
HEAD OF BOYS' COLLEGE

Year-End Message

As we near the end of 2023 I would like to extend warm wishes and thanks to Old Stithian Association and to many alumni who we have had contact with, for their support and interest in St Stithians and the Boys' College in particular. It is always a highlight for me to engage with 'old boys' as they return to the campus and reminisce on their time at the school. What I can say with confidence is that the school is currently in a good space. I thank the entire staff, our parents and our awesome boys for their passion and commitment to Saints. I do wish all Old Stithians a richly Blessed Christmas and Festive Season. As I remind the boys regularly: Take care. Stay safe. Be kind. I do wish to thank the OSA for arranging various reunions, which always include a school tour, and where possible the opportunity for former students to attend Chapel.

In 2023 these visits have been really inspirational. Meeting alumni who are doing amazing things in the world is exciting for our boys. They love hearing tales of the 'old days' and meeting men who walked the halls of our school and are now continuing to make a world of difference. I do wish that we would have greater numbers visiting the school on these occasions. I would also add that our visit by the class of 1963 was very special. Having the Dux Scholar of 1963, **Mr Frank Touwen**, handing out academic awards in Chapel was really unique and memorable, for Frank and our boys.

Our aspiration at Saints and in the Boys' College remains: *"to be a leading school for boys, modern in practise, holding on to important traditions, focussed on positive experiences for boys, staff and students, a place where every student has a sense of belonging, where we include rather than exclude, where we are open-minded and where we embrace change and challenge, producing young men who seek to positively impact the world."*

As an alumnus of a school I enjoy visiting my alma mater, following the progress of the school, and contributing to its development and evolution where I can. And I expect that evolution. As I often say to Saints alumni when I engage with them, they should expect a different school when they return here. A school that has held onto core values and principles that have defined the space over time, but which has moved on to more updated practices, keeping the school relevant in its context. I also wish to acknowledge the old boys who have generously given of their time and skills and experiences in our school. We have had various alumni speaking to our boys, mentoring students, contributing to scholarships to afford boys the chance to attend your awesome school, or simply meeting with me to plan future projects for the school.



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MRS H. FRANKISKOS; MR J. PHALA; MR L. HARTLEY; AND MR J. KHWINANA (LEFT TO RIGHT)
BOYS' COLLEGE LEGENDS

I include a recent visit with an architect who is an alumnus as we plan for some changes to the physical space of the school. Please continue to seek ways in which you can add to the learning experience of the boys at the school. You can be an inspiration. I do wish to thank many Old Stithians who coach teams, who work in our school space, or who have joined our teaching staff. Thank you One and All.

Please continue to give back, in various ways, as we grow the school over the next 70 years.

To further reflect on generosity, I wish to thank a few Boys' College legends for their service to the school, as they now depart to retire or take up new leadership positions. **Mr Johannes Phala** (started in 1983) and **Mr Jacob Khwinana** (1996) have served the school for a combined total of 69 years, recently together as our Print Room clerks for the past 24 years. **Mrs Heather Frankiskos** (27 years) and **Mr Luke Hartley** (28 years) will both leave the school at the end of 2023.

They have served most recently as Deputy Heads of School, and have both been outstanding in their work, leaving positive legacies and impact at Saints. These two educational leaders are superb role models in our profession: they give selflessly, care deeply, go to the end of the earth for students, are trusted colleagues, and are open to new ideas and growth.

We salute these leaders and thank them for their tremendous work. We also bid farewell to Mr Adrian Carter who has had a profoundly positive impact on BC sport in the 5 years he has served as Director of Sport. 2023 has arguably been our best year of sport as a college, and a fitting send off to Adrian as he moves off to Australia.

Many alumni might recall **Monsieur Jean-Luc Michel** who has taught French here for 17 years. He retires this year having contributed heavily in our school. We also say farewell to **Mr Greg Carter** (BC alumnus) and **Mr Sizo Chalufu** as they bid farewell to our school.



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The Boys' College will have a new look senior leadership team in 2024. This is exciting and daunting at the same time, but we are energised and positive and will continue to grow the school. At Saints we continue to be proud of producing leaders in education. Two of our departing staff are leaving to become Heads of school. My three deputies for 2024, Mr Sandile Khuluse, Mr Eugene Stolk and Mr Luke Pearson are also all internal appointments, standing out above other applicants through our rigorous selection processes.

I do hope that you regularly check in on our social media spaces to stay updated to the goings-on and significant achievements of the College, our staff and our students. The intent and aims of the school can never be questioned. We seek to be the very best school, every day, in every interaction, that we can be. You should feel assured that your College is in good hands.

We have great plans for 2024 which we will share in the new year. These range from building and landscaping ideas to all aspects of our broader curriculum and to mentoring plans with some alumni who wish to contribute. Watch this space.

Highlights



In my recent Council Report I shared a few celebrations as I highlight below. The challenge in doing this is that we leave so much behind. There are magic moments daily which we just cannot list.

Culture & School

In our recent Dukes Farewell concert and our Class of 2023 Final Chapel there was exceptional talent and raw emotion on display. But, what struck me the most was the absolute joy and camaraderie I witnessed amongst those boys.

These were happy moments and speak to what we have worked towards over the last 5 years for our Boys' College to be a place where warmth and kindness and joy abound.

Our recent refurbishment of our Life Sciences laboratories is very much appreciated. It is a strategic initiative for the College to roll out these upgrades and refurbishments. Each time we upgrade and modernise spaces we are sending out a message about our commitment to changing the learning environments in our school. Our boys and staff have responded very positively. We remain committed to our Boarding refurbishment.

There has been a lot of work being done to craft the scope of work and the aesthetic outcomes to being what we wish for our houses, at a budget impact that is feasible. We are also looking into how these projects across Mountstephens and Collins could be completed in a phased approach over a few years.

I would like to congratulate our boys and staff on the outstanding level of our Matric Drama Practicals. My favourite piece was a Shakespearean monologue delivered superbly, in isiZulu. Our students have incredible skills and confidence to deliver masterpieces on the stage. I was left mesmerised by the brilliance of our boys who entertained and wowed us with their superb vocal and instrumental performances in our recent Saints Singer and Musician of the Year competition.

Sport

The Boys' College wish to congratulate the Girls' College Water Polo First Team on their truly outstanding achievement of winning every game in a 12 month dominance of girls water polo.



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We are so proud of these girls and their staff for their brilliance, their hard work and their remarkable resilience.

Football in the BC has grown rapidly, as part of Adrian Carter's plan to ensure that more of our BC sporting codes receive the attention they deserve. Our coaching and managerial staff have led our programme to significant highs in this year. We hosted our First Team Easter Festival in April, following that up by finding sponsorship through DSTV to allow us to host an under 14 and under 16 DSTV Challenge Cup in August. These were all hugely successful festivals which brought together our staff and parents in the planning committees. Our teams have performed superbly.

The First Team finished 4th in the St David's tournament and then won the prestigious Grey College Nedbank Challenge Cup. Our under 16 team won our own DSTV Challenge Cup. Our programme has progressed very far, very quickly, with football at Saints very firmly on the map. Our cricketers have continued to do well. They toured to Sri Lanka in the recent holidays where they represented us very well. 4 of our boys, Esosa Ahevba, Luhandre Pretorius, Kwena Maphaka and Richard Seletswane have been selected in the SA under 19 team for the u19 World Cup. Be sure to watch these young stars in the coming weeks.

We continue to have boys excelling in various sports with recent news of a National under 17 Badminton selection, a National under 14 Road Cycling and Mountain-Biking champion, and 3 boys at the Powerlifting World Championship.

Academics & Adventures

Our Outdoor Education Pillar deserves to be celebrated. Our Grade 9 boys did very well at Kamoka, and I do thank Stephen and Kerry Baytopp and their staff for enriching our boys' lives.

Courtney Watson and his large and dedicated team of Boys' College staff and alumni facilitated the highly successful Grade 10 Siyawela Trek (Grade 10 Camp in the past), offering our boys a significant rite of passage as they 'cross' from being a junior to a senior in the school. Mr Watson also took a group of intrepid adventurers to the Tuli Block in the August holiday where the group were involved in conservation work.

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Our Oratory boys have excelled in the National Independent Debating and Public Speaking Competition. Richard Leschner ended the competition as the number 1 ranked speaker and together with Arabile Maphiri was selected for the South African team to compete in Australia. I wish to congratulate and thank our superb staff and coaches who prepare our boys so well. We were immensely proud to have 5 boys in the final round of the Mathematics Olympiad. This is the top 100 students out of over 80 000 who wrote the first round.

In our Community Engagement our boys participated in the Saints Trek while many served on our August holiday projects in Diepsloot, Liv-Lanseria and ...at San Salvador Home. We have launched our CommunityWell app, which allows all of our boys to now find community service partners and to record their service with a simple click of a button.



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In closing

'It takes the village to raise a child' is a well-known saying. Less well known is: 'It takes a community to nurture a Saints Knight'. The Saints community which year in and year out produces young graduate men who are primed and ready to go out and make a significant difference in the world, is a large one of friends, parents, staff, school departments, alumni and leaders. We have 138 Knights graduating this year. There are hundreds of community members who have contributed to helping them complete this journey. I wish to extend my gratitude to this community, One and All.



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OSA EVENTS



SEPTEMBER REUNION CLASS OF 2013

ST STITHIAN COLLEGE

September Reunion Season Friday, 8th September 2023

Reunions are a very special part of our calendar year in the Advancement office and with the Old Stithian Association.

The reconnecting with alumni and bringing them back to the campus is very special to the School as well as the Alumni to reminisce in stories and sharing the connections. The Advancement office in conjunction with the Old Stithian Association assist in bringing back the alumni to the school...

...by keeping the alumni database Up-To-Date and having the relevant class lists accessible to the alumni arranging their reunions.

St. Stithians Boys' College hosted a 10-year reunion for the class of 2013. Over 20 alumni attended a morning tour led by David Du Toit, Head of the Boys' College, and Alistair Stewart, Head of Advancement, who had taught them in prep school. **Lwazi Madi**, the current Men's Water Polo Captain of South Africa, was also in attendance. The group enjoyed catching up with classmates they hadn't seen in over 10 years.



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LWAZI MADI &
DAVID DU TOIT
ST STITHIAN COLLEGE

The class took a moment to remember and honor their former classmate, Phakama Ndlovu, who passed away tragically during their matric year. The Boys' College students surrounded the alumni and the statue of "Phaks" and performed a moving war cry. It was a memorable moment to remember one of their own.

In the evening, the rest of the class joined the celebrations at Higher Ground Restaurant. They gathered for dinner and shared stories. It was a wonderful day celebrating the class of 2013, and we hope to see many of them back at the college on a regular basis. **#OnceASaintAlwaysASaint**

Old Stithian Association Reunion Dinner | Friday, 15th September 2023



PHILIP BRADFORD
OSA REUNION DINNER

The Old Stithian Dinner took place at Higher Ground Restaurant on the second Friday in September, as it does every year. 170 Old Stithians attended, along with the Heads of Schools, Former Teachers, and Chair of Council. Most reunion groups book their dates to coincide with this dinner, and this year was no exception. The Classes of 1973, 1983, 1993, and Boys and Girls Class of 2003 were all represented.

The Old Boys had a tour of the Boys' College before attending the Chapel service. There, **Philip Bradford**, Class of 1993 and current College Council Member, addressed the students on how the school shaped the person he is today. He reminded them that school is what you take from it, and that there is something for everyone at St Stithians. He also emphasized the value of the Old Stithian community and network, and the privilege of being a Saints Boy or Saints Girl.

Andrew Dikobo, Head Boy from 2003, also spoke to the students about how his life has been impacted in the last 20 years.



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THE CLASS OF 1993
OSA REUNION DINNER

He commended the school on its growth and diversity, and expressed his pride in being an Old Stithian.

The 65th Old Stithian Dinner was a wonderful evening to celebrate the school's rich history and its vibrant community of alumni.

Charles Bamford from the Class of 1973 came all the way from Texas USA to celebrate his 50th School Reunion. He attended with his niece, **Lisa Arrenbrecht**, who was also celebrating her 20th School Reunion.

The Old Boys enjoyed their tour around the Boys' College and were also introduced to the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy program.

Former Rector and Boys' College Head, **David Wylde** joined the boys on their walkabout tour and catch up.



THE CLASS OF 1993
OLD BOYS WALKABOUT



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THE CLASS OF 2003
THE HIGHER GROUND RESTAURANT

Girls' College Reunion

The Girls' College Class of 2003 celebrated their 20th reunion on Friday with an assembly. On Saturday, they enjoyed a luncheon at Higher Ground Restaurant.

Hayley Watters nee Owen, a member of the class, addressed the students in assembly on Friday morning. She shared her experiences at school and encouraged them to use the values they learned at St Stithians Girls' College to overcome challenges in their lives. She also commended the school for its transformation into a top girls' school in Johannesburg.

The students then sang war cries for the Old Girls and included them in the "Members" song, a tradition that has been going on for over 25 years.

The Old Girls thoroughly enjoyed the assembly and tour, especially as they saw how much the school had changed and grown.



THE CLASS OF 2003
GIRLS' COLLEGE



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THE CLASS OF 2013

THE GIRLS' COLLEGE: SERITI TREE

Girls' College Reunion

GC REUNION 2013

We welcomed back the Girls' College Class of 2013 to celebrate their 10 year reunion. They all took a nostalgic trip down memory lane as most of them had been a part of the Saints family for the full 13-year journey. The Class of 2013 standing outside their gift of the iconic Seriti Tree that they donated to the school ten years ago.

The class was excited to see their plaques at the Girls' Prep, which had been put up in their Grade 7 year.

Ayanda Heita, Head Girl, and **Bianca Biehler**, Deputy Head Girl, addressed the Girls' College students about their school days. They spoke about appreciating the time they have at school and the amazing opportunities available.



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THE CLASS OF 2013

THE GIRLS' COLLEGE: SERITI TREE

Girls' College Reunion

They mentioned that nearly all of the Old Girls are in a very different place than they had envisioned themselves 10 years out of school, but that most have exceeded their own expectations.

The Old Girls offered the following words of advice:

- Life is more than just moving from point A to point B. Things can change like the seasons, but most things work out in the end.
- Laugh as much as possible and be present in the moment with your friends and classmates.

- Always stay true to yourself. What you do at school doesn't define you for the rest of your life. You can still figure out who you want to be.
- Live life big. Don't make yourself smaller for anyone.

The class also reminisced about and honoured their Boys' College classmate, Phaks.

Among the festivities, the Old Girls got to watch on as the Girls College erupted in a full war-cry and spirit session, even joining in on the ones they remember.



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FRANK TOWEN, CLASS OF 1963
THE ACADEMIC AWARDS CHAPEL SERVICE

60th Reunion Celebration

We ended off our reunion month with the class of 1963 celebrating their 60th Reunion Celebration, what a milestone! This is a special group of Old Stithians, many of whom were married in our chapel around 46 years ago. We learnt that the the School song was sung for the first time in 1963 in term 3 and so was memorable for the group to sing this again 60 years later.

Frank Townen was the dux scholar in 1963 and was invited to hand out the Academic awards at the chapel service.

Johnny Arthur, who was the former OSA Chairman 1975-1980 and OSA President 2004, standing with the current OSA Chairman, **Israel Skosana**.





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THE OSA GOLF DAY PLAYERS
OSA GOLF DAY

Events

OSA Golf Day 2023

The Golf day took place on Friday, 3rd November 2023 at Bryanston Country Club. We had 132 players join us for this awesome day. It felt like our biggest golf day yet! Thank you to Fidelity Security who was the main sponsor of the Golf Day, we also thank Versofy Solar, GoSolr, Bateleur Advisory Security, Sun International, Real on Tap, Shelby Motors and more amazing sponsors for a wonderful Golf day.

Water Polo Festival

St Stithians College was proud to host the 29th Saints Water Polo Invitational for both our Preps and our Colleges in October 2023. We played host to the Saints Junior Water Polo Invitational from 20 - 22 October 2023 and the Senior Invitational over the half-term weekend...

...from 26 to 29 October 2023. The Saints Aquatics Centre is always a hive of activity over these two weekends, and we love welcoming spectators to our Saints Campus to enjoy some great water polo games over these action-packed days.

This year the Old Stithian Hospitality Area was fully decorated with Stella Artois branding. We thank AbInBev for their continued and valued support. This beautiful set up really elevated the overall experience and was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to our alumni who volunteered to serve behind the bar and contributed greatly to the success of the event. This was the first year where rain didn't slow down the order of play, and what phenomenal water polo there was.

The 2023 Rugby World Cup Semi final and final were streamed in the tent which brought the crowds and community together in the evening.



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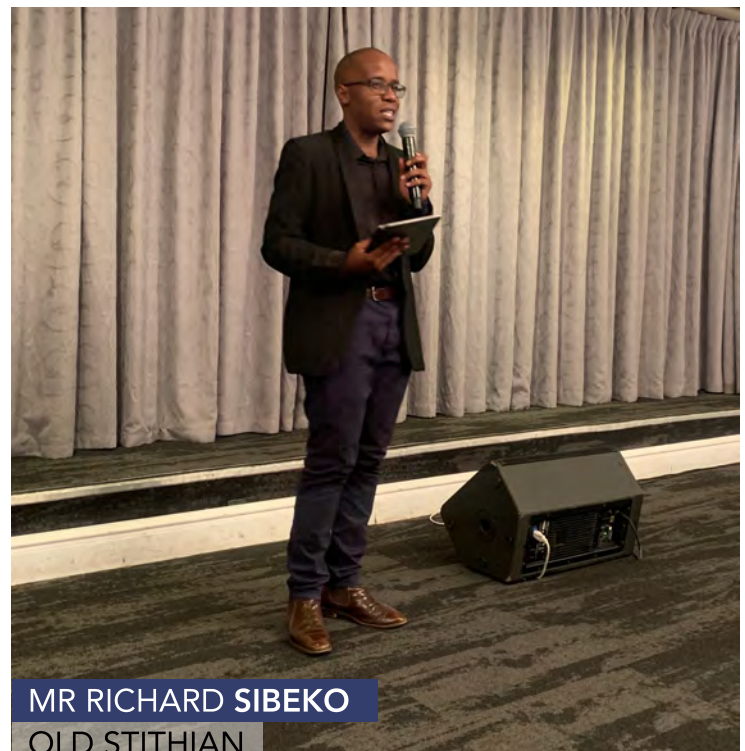


This was a great opportunity to join in the support for the Bokke and revel in our green and gold victory. We thank the Water polo Committee for their inclusion of the OSA and look forward to another successful Water polo season.

Congratulations to all who were involved in this most glamorous evening.

Night of the Stars

The night of the Stars Gala evening was truly sensational. The display of cultural talent was spectacular and a delight to witness. The Girls College put their best and brightest stars on the stage with a range of instrumental, vocal, dramatic art and visual art performances. The event was hosted by the superb Richard Sibeko and the GC cultural department to showcase the hard work and talent of the department and the girls, as well as to start raising funds towards the new performance center. Additionally, in the crowd were three old Stithian alumni who had themselves performed as night of the star's finalists while at school.



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THE SPEED DATING EVENT
GIRLS' COLLEGE

GC Career Speed Dating

The Girls' College speed dating careers evening is a wonderful, annual networking opportunity that was held on the 25th October this year. This event allowed the girls' college students to sit down and have a conversation with professionals from various fields. They can ask questions and engage with the reality of further studies and a variety of jobs that range from video game design to highly specialized medical professionals and interior designers.

The 'speed dating' nature of this occasion entails a short question and answer session with a professional and then a quick swap to the next specialist. Giving everyone a small dose of info from these top achieving guests. Several of our professionals were old Stithian alumni who came to share their insights and wisdom with the girls college, voluntarily.

We appreciate their time and commitment to giving back and guiding the young professionals of the future.



THE GC ATTENDEES
GIRLS' COLLEGE



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Wishing One and All
a blessed
Christmas
and a
happy new year

Best wishes from the Rector, Heads and staff

OLD STITHIAN ASSOCIATION 

 ST STITHIANS COLLEGE



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