



Chairman's Message



MR ISRAEL SKOSANA

CHAIRMAN OF THE OLD STITHIAN ASSOCIATION

Dear Old Stithians

It is both my honour and pleasure to present this newsletter to you, covering the significant developments within the Old Stithian Association since January 2023. The tone of triumph and camaraderie that rings through our recent...



When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.

Viktor Frankl

...successes is tinged with solemnity, as I must also acknowledge a personal loss that has deeply moved our community. Firstly, let me take a moment to express my profound gratitude for the outpouring of support and love provided by our alumni, parents, the church, and the school on the passing of my beautiful wife, Robyn Skosana. Your kind words, gestures, and heartfelt sympathy have been a source of strength during this difficult time.

Membership and Engagement

We have experienced healthy growth in membership, with a 15% increase since the start of 2023. This is due to active engagement campaigns, the introduction of more well-attended events, both virtual and in-person.





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Events and Activities



Since January, we have successfully held several events, including our first Old Boys Cricket match vs Saints XI, Cape Reunions in Stellenbosch and Cape Town where we saw close to 230 Old Stithians. The Saints Sports Festival was the biggest success in the last 39 years, with over 55,000 attendees. The OSA, in conjunction with Sun Vacation Club, hosted Alumni Sports Games, the OSA Zone welcomed over 7,000 patrons, and we had international reunions in various cities. We also had our AGM in June, focusing on key areas within the School and aligning ourselves with the Ethos and Values of the College.

Mentorship and Networking

Our mentorship program has started to take off, leading to increased engagement between alumni and current students, valuable insights, internships, and job opportunities. If you can assist, please get in touch with Caitlyn at alumni@stithian.com

Fundraising

We have been successful in raising significant funds for scholarships and infrastructure improvement, and have also assisted the Rugby with fundraising initiatives.

Communication

We are continually looking for ways to improve our communication through newsletters, websites, and social media like Facebook and Instagram.

Challenges

While we've had many successes, engaging younger alumni and attracting female alumni to our committee has been a struggle.

We're developing strategies to address these challenges.

As we move forward, we aim to continue growing our Association's membership, improve engagement, and raise more funds to support St Stithians College. We are optimistic about the future of our Association and look forward to the rest of 2023.



The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers.



M. Scott Peck



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Girls' College



DR SALLY JAMES
HEAD OF GIRLS' COLLEGE

I am continuously enthused by the Girls' College staff and the students for their commitment and care for our school. I am inspired by our current group of Matrics who have led the school with grace, compassion and as exemplary role models under the leadership of Head Girl Jozi Nupen, and deputies Rutendo Kawelenga and Khanya Ndimande. There is much to be proud of as I reflect on all that we have achieved and accomplished as a school over the course of the past few months. Our school spirit is alive and well as was showcased at the recent Easter Festival and during various winter sports derby days. What an honour and privilege to lead young women of character.

Girls' College PTA

Our GC PTA together with our staff are working hard on a number of fundraising initiatives as we...

...look towards the design and construction of a new performing arts facility, our GC dream. One of our successful fundraising events included the PTA Annual Lecture. Speaker Brent Lindeque set the tone most appropriately and reminded us of the positivity around us and the value of taking time to extend gratitude.

We appeal to our OSA to support us as we continue our fundraising efforts. Please visit the [Saints Giving](#) page and follow the links to the [Performing Arts Centre](#) to make your pledge. Every donation assists us moving closer to the construction of this much needed performance space.

Girls' College Alumnae

A number of highlights stand out for us as a Girls' College which will be of interest to our GC alumnae. On the sporting front our hockey, netball and squash squads were all fortunate to tour internationally to Europe and the UK over the April holidays which has assisted in the enormous success of our winter sporting codes. The first XI hockey side remains unbeaten this season in our girls' school league, whilst the first netball team were overall winners of the Netball District 13 A pool, a huge accomplishment for both sports. Our first XI hockey side have made it through to the quarter finals of the Howell-Pullen cup.

Phenomenal individual sporting accomplishments to be proud of over the past few months include:

- Hockey: **Reabetwe Phume** (Gr 11) has been selected to represent South Africa in the u18A Protea hockey side.
- Rowing: **Holly Crews** (Gr 12) has been selected to represent South Africa in the u19 team to compete at the World Rowing...



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- ...Championships at the Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium in Paris, in August this year.
- Swimming: **Jessica Thompson** (Gr 10) has been selected to represent South Africa at the upcoming 7th Commonwealth Youth Games taking place on the Islands of Trinidad and Tobago between 4-11 August as well as the 9th World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships held in Netanya, Israel from 06 –10 September 2023.
- Water polo: The following Grade 12 students who have been selected for the U20 National Training Squad: Lauren Fox, Liyakhanya Ndamane, Derryn Wedderburn, Charlotte Crick, Georgia Eccles and Jenna Penney. These students are preparing for the World Championship event to be hosted in Portugal later this year.

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Visual and Performing Arts

In the Visual and Performing Arts space the College's joint production of the Bird Cage under the direction of **Steven Kotze** was a colourful and bold creation which gave many of our students an opportunity to showcase their dancing, acting and musical talents. Our girls had a great deal of fun being a part of this large-scale collaboration between the Boys' and Girls' College.

Oratory has taken off in a large way in the Girls' College this year. We are very proud of our students' achievements in public speaking and the MUN style debate.

This term we were honoured to host the inaugural mini-Model United Nations Conference which was moderated and adjudicated by the **South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)**; very proudly one of the GC teams won the 'Best Delegation'.

The Grade 9s had a successful three-week Kamoka Bush School adventure. This is always a tough experience but I am in awe of the students' resilience and 'can do' attitude. The group have returned with a new sense of independence and maturity as they prepare for their senior years at the College. The Grade 9s had a successful three-week Kamoka Bush School adventure. This is always a tough experience but I am in awe of the students' resilience and 'can do' attitude. The group have returned with a new sense of independence and maturity as they prepare for their senior years at the College.

I am sure many of you continue to regale stories of your bush school adventure, memories of the wood carry, the three-day hike and of course the solitary experience which at the girls' request is now 30 hours in length!

The Grade 11s participated in their annual leadership training camp at the outset of Term Two. This camp was conducted in partnership with Spirit of Adventure in Magaliesburg. The leadership development programme was in-depth and challenged the students to new heights in terms of their physical capabilities and problem-solving skills. This programme is an integral step in developing our new leadership body. Towards the middle of July our new student leadership team were elected. We are very proud of our new student executive, Head Girl, Tanatswa Mugadza, and Deputy Head Girls, Keinemigisha Mwebeiha and Cayla Dhaeyere.



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Our **Grade 12s** celebrated their ultimate rite of passage, their Matric Dance in grand splendour in May this year. The Grade 11s worked very hard to transform Dace Hall into a 'night under Italian Skies'. The girls looked beautiful, always a highlight event on the GC calendar.

Academics

On the academic front we continually strive for new and innovative initiatives designed to prepare our girls for the world of work beyond school. Our **Grade 9s** participated in a 3-week journey this year to improve their understanding of the scientific method. The end goal being to create a love of curiosity and develop an admiration for, and hopefully inspiration to be, women in science. As a part of the programme the Grade 9s were required to interview and engage with leading women in science from our community, some of the budding volunteers included OSA members for which we were so grateful.

You have no idea how meaningful it is for our girls to connect with our alumnae and see what is possible beyond school. You are all incredible role models for our students, thank you to those individuals who generously supported the GC with this initiative.

Once more focusing on real world issues, our **Grade 10s** students tackled a different approach to work experience. This year each group was provided with realistic industry related problems from which they were required to prepare a solution and present this back to the industry professionals where they received feedback and insight into the many challenges in the workplace and within broader society. Once again GC alumnae came on board to support this initiative and host girls in their workplaces and support this worthwhile opportunity.

Gratitude is extended to **the alumnae** who attended the online meet where we discussed the Girls' College new house system, with the shift from four to six houses, and in the process, the renaming of the houses.

The renaming of Cambourne, Kenwyn, Stratton and Trewen is associated with our need to be different from the Girls' Prep, as the sharing of house names between our two schools has been problematic over the past few years, especially as students move up from the Prep to the College are having to shift houses as we are needing to navigate numbers and ensure a sense of belonging with a large cohort of new students joining the College in the Grade 8 year.

We had a fruitful online discussion and valued the input from alumnae around this plan. Ideas around new house names as well as how we continue the legacy of the former names was valuable. We will continue to keep our community informed.

In line with fostering a sense of belonging, our beautiful wellbeing space, Acacia Place was officially opened at Founders' Day. Acacia Place is our wellbeing centre and houses our counselling team.

Please do pop into Acacia Place next time you are on campus. It is located across the road from the GC, close to the tennis courts.

Rich and varied community engagement partnerships and opportunities for our students have continued in the GC. This year we are especially proud of our GC Mandela Day initiative where our focus has been around supporting the [Swarangano Feeding scheme](#) project in Alexandra.

Mpho Mmasechaba is the inspiring champion behind the work of this NPO, who had the...



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...opportunity to address our students in chapel. Each of our grade groups have assisted in a different way and have volunteered in making hundreds of meals in her kitchen in Alex. It is our dream to fundraise enough money to assist Mpho purchase a container to store her food and kitchen equipment. The Swarangano scheme feeds 200 children and 50 adults, mostly women, each day.

There are many ways you can serve and support the GC, we are always looking to our alumnae to come on board in support of our school. Looking ahead to the final stretch of the year, some of these opportunities include:

- Sharing a motivational moment at a Chapel or Assembly.
- Assisting one of our partners at our whole school Community Engagement Day – Saturday 14 October.
- Volunteering your workplace expertise at the Gr 11 Career speed dating evening – Wednesday 25 October.
- Supporting our polo girls at the Saints Invitational Water Polo Tournament over the October half term 27-29 October.

Please contact at CLoneon@stithian.com if you are keen to be a part of any of the above and she will put you in contact with the relevant GC organiser. Thank You.

OSA Events

65 Old Stithian Association
Dinner Celebration

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All Old Stithians are welcome!
We look forward to welcoming reunion groups
Please RSVP on the link provided

FRIDAY SEP, 15 TH	Dress Code: Smart Time: 6pm	Tickets: R500pp Under 25s R350pp
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Higher Ground Restaurant,
One & All Club,
St Stithians College

Old Stithian Association Dinner Event 2023

[R.S.V.P. Here](#)

OLD STITHIAN ASSOCIATION
GOLF DAY 2023

R800 per player or R3200 per four ball
which includes, Green Fees, halfway house lunch,
prize giving dinner and fantastic prizes!
Friday 3rd November 2023!

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER - BRYANSTON COUNTRY CLUB
To book a fourball please email Caitlyn on
cloneon@stithian.com

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE EMAIL CLONEON@STITHIAN.COM



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Boys' College



MR **DAVID DU TOIT**
HEAD OF BOYS' COLLEGE

Visiting alumni abroad

In June and July the Head of Boys' College, **Mr David du Toit**, had the opportunity to travel to Australia and New Zealand. In his time abroad he met alumni in Sydney and Perth, and together with Mr Sanele Majola, Head of Boys' Prep, and a few other staff members met a small group of alumni in Auckland. Stand out features in all of these gatherings was the wide range of age cohorts who attended, with some of our 1960's alumni attending alongside younger alumni from 2016 and 2017, and the passion and interest that exists in those who attended for their school, for South Africa, and their desire to know how the school is continuing to Make a World of Difference.

IBSC Conference 2026 – Boys' College to host

Mr du Toit was travelling to Auckland to attend the International Boys' Schools Coalition (IBSC) annual conference. This was attended by over 630 delegates from boys' schools from around the world and hosted by Westlake Boys' High School. Mr Majola also attended together with 2 staff from the Boys' College, Mrs Katy Mclachlan and Mr Luke Pearson who both presented their separate Action Research projects, and Mr Des van Wyk from the Boys' Prep who is also participating in the Action Research programme and will present his project at Harrow in 2024.

The IBSC conference is held each year and offers the opportunity to delegates from boys' schools from 6 continents to gather to discuss best practise in the teaching of boys. It is a great honour to host the international conference, and St Stithians College has been appointed as the host school for the 2026 conference – a great privilege. This will be a great opportunity for our Saints community to rally together and to showcase our beautiful school and our amazing country. We will be called on, One and All, to contribute to the successful hosting of this conference. Furthermore, Mr du Toit has been appointed as a Trustee on the Board of the IBSC for 2024 to 2026.

Changes in leadership

Mrs Heather Frankiskos will be retiring as our Deputy Head: Academics at the end of 2023. She has served at the Boys' College for 26 years, impacting positively on the lives of thousands of boys in the Mathematics classroom, as a tutor, a leader and as a caring and passionate supporter of our boys.



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Mr Luke Hartley has been working at the Boys' College for 27 years. He began at Saints as a Rowing coach and teacher intern, and now serves as our Deputy Head: School Administration. Luke has been appointed as the new Headmaster of Woodridge College in the Eastern Cape from January 2024.

As such the Boys' College is currently in the process of appointing 2 new deputy heads to take up the reigns from 1 January 2024.

Highlights

Below are some reflections by Mr du Toit in his recent Council Report regarding the last few months. There are many more incredible achievements and special moments that occur daily in our busy and vibrant school which continues to excel in providing a rich, holistic ...education founded on our Honour Code and our Seven Pillars of a healthy education for boys, namely: Academics, Community Engagement, Culture, Leadership, Outdoor Education, Spirituality and Sport.

For me our connection with fellow boys' schools, and more importantly our fellow Saints schools, has been a strategic drive. I am particularly pleased with our work across many pillars with the Girls' College and more recently, with the Boys' Prep and the Junior Prep as we work together on understanding the academic journey of a boy from age 5 to 18.

Admissions is always at the forefront of our thinking, and we always hope to attract many sons of our alumni. The Boys' College currently has a healthy student population of just under 780 young men.

Culture

- Our Debating and Public Speaking teams have excelled in Gauteng Leagues and recently won the Pan-African Schools' Debating and Public Speaking competition, with Richard Leschner and Arabile Maphiri being adjudicated as the best speaker and best debater respectively.
- A highlight for me is our 'Music in the Quad' programme. We have built a small stage in the Chapel Quad to create a space where our musicians regularly perform break-time concerts. We have had 3 of these concerts this term. The focus is to showcase talent and to provide our student body with access to a wide range of music.
- Our Drama Department produced a stunning version of "The Birdcage" as our Major Production for 2023. The production was of the highest standard, included many students from both GC and BC, and was a visual feast. Earlier in this year they also produced the South African theatre masterpiece, Sophiatown.

Sport

- A highlight for our boys would be the derby day win against St John's for both our rugby and hockey boys. For the boys (and alumni and parents) this fixture is always a little more special and means quite a bit more than the average Saturday matche.
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- Our first Hockey team won the Aitken Cup for the first time in 48 years. This is a Gauteng hockey tournament which draws all of the top teams in our region. There was an enormous crowd at our Astroturf to witness and celebrate this special achievement.
- We had record numbers of boys selected for Gauteng hockey teams this year, as well as two boys in Gauteng Rugby teams. These are in addition to our many provincial representatives in Tennis, Squash, Water Polo, Cricket, Football, Rowing and Swimming.
- We have celebrated many students being selected for national sports teams or winning national events: 2 SA hockey players, 2 SA Rowers, 4 SA Cricket players, a National Road Cycling champion, SA u17 and SA u15 Football players, a National Swimmer, National Powerlifting champions. There are further selections to happen this year where we hope to see more of our boys excel. It has been quite superb to have so many of our students being recognised on such a big stage.

Leadership

- In Johannesburg there are two student leadership councils. Currently both Junior Mayors are Saints boys.

Academics

- I was particularly pleased with the news that 164 of our boys had qualified for the Second Round of the Maths Olympiad. We then heard that 5 of the top 100 students in the final round were from the Boys' College.
- This is the culmination of intentional work done by our Mathematics Department to excite boys about this subject and to attempt to change the narrative of Maths being 'hard'.

Outdoor Education

- 15 boys and 2 staff will be going to the Thuli block in August. This has now become an annual outing which we run for boys who are interested in wildlife and wildlife photography in particular.
- We are really proud of Mrs Gretchen Maruggi and her team and staff and students who hosted a brilliant Round Square Global Conference in the Dinokeng area. There were over 200 international delegates who attended. The focus in this conference was very much on the environment and our responsibility as human beings, as custodians of our world and how we can better understand what we can do to positively impact and bring about change in our lived space.

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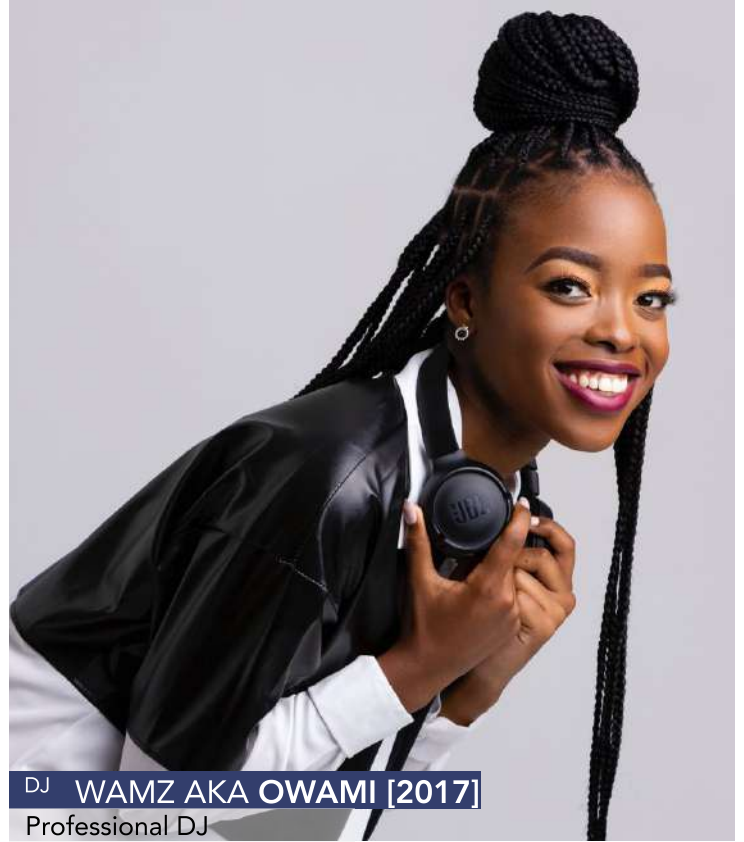
Alumni News



A big congratulations to David Stockigt who was awarded a Gold Medal for Judo at the 2023 Commonwealth Championships. David is no stranger to winning but the discipline and consistency it takes to remain in the Gold category cannot be understated. Well done, David!

Owami Mkhize [2017]

An exceptional Saints Talent, Owami Mkhize is a multi-talented individual who excels in her qualifications as equally as she does in her passions and she has the immense capacity of being able to distribute her efforts across multiple spheres while still producing excellent output from all sides. She is Owamazing.



Owami has a BCom marketing degree from the University of Pretoria, but she is also a prolific DJ. She has progressed extremely far in competitions held by big brands like Smirnoff and has done corporate gigs for some of the biggest companies in South Africa, among them, Deloitte.

Every video of Owami in action includes a vibrant crowd and atmosphere, her brilliance cannot be denied. Owami was seen in attendance at the 2023 Easter Festival, we sure hope to see her perform at the Festival in the future!

Owami did an amazing interview with podcast platform 'Golden Generation', linked below:



[Spotify - Episode 32 - DJ WAMZ AKA "Owami"](#)



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Mr. JACKSON GONDO [2015]

Professional Filmmaker

Jackson Gondo is a filmmaker who works as a writer, director and actor across the film and media industry. As an actor he featured in the 2021 Showmax feature film "Nandi" in which he starred as the character 'Bubber' alongside A.K.A, RickyRick, Naakmusiq, Lorcía Cooper and Camilla Waldman amongst many other exceptional South African talents.

Jackson is also an animator and his first animated short film "Unathi" was featured at the 2021 Africa Rising Film Festival. When not pursuing his personal projects, Jackson works for hire for corporate entities, most recently working with Sanlam in filming their 2023 Innovation & Growth Conference. Jackson obtained a Master of Arts Degree in Film and Television from Wits University. His most recent highlights as a writer include him being the Head Writer on E! Entertainment's 'E! VIP' program where the E! team went around Africa interviewing the...

...biggest stars and entertainers on the continent.

The celebrities interviewed by Jackson include Boity, Nasty C, Mhlahi Ndamase, Yemi Alade, Churchill Ndambuki and Gert-Johan Coetzee to name a few.

On the first episode of the most recent season, Jackson featured in multiple capacities. The first episode of the latest season was chronicling the life of musician RickyRick. Jackson wrote the episode, edited the episode, and also featured in the episode to express his insights given that he had starred alongside Ricky on his final film appearance.

Jackson is passionate about making a change in his industry and currently serves on the OSA Committee as Head of the Cultural Portfolio.

Fiona and Zanele Nzau (Classes of 2015 and 2019)

Old Stithian sisters, Fiona and Zanele Nzau (Classes of 2015 and 2019) both wanted to provide opportunities for historically disadvantaged students, with leadership potential to receive a financial aid. Together with their parents they partnered with the Endowment Fund to create the Fiona and Zanele Nzau Endowment fund.

Currently this partial scholarship is awarded to a Grade 9 for 3 years starting in their Grade 10 year. The Nzau family commits a certain amount of funds each year, 75% of which is saved and invested, 25% of which is distributed. This ensures that their fund continues to grow while currently assisting students. Their long-term vision is to provide a full scholarship.



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Ms **FIONA & ZANELE NZAU [2015' & 19']**
SAINTS ALUMNI

Fiona and Zanele Nzau Leadership Scholarship Fund

A second recipient received her scholarship at the beginning of 2023 which means that there are now two girls receiving R50 000 fee assistance per annum. The Nzau sisters also reaffirmed their commitment to the Endowment Fund scholarships by committing a further R275 000 in 2023 which was paid at the end of March. This is encouraging as we can continue to support the two recipients of the bursary.

Thank you to Fiona and Zanele.



Mr & Mrs **AYAYA [2014 & 2015]**
NEWLY-WEDS

First and foremost, congratulations to newly-weds Rollins & Abby Ayaya. Rollins matriculated in 2014 and has two younger sisters who also went through the school. Rollins was a prolific scholar in his time at the Boys College. Along with a prominent list of accolades and a rare passionate curiosity in French, Rollins famously met Prince Edward, the brother of now King Charles, when he was a recipient of the President's Award in 2013. Rollins is remembered for his excellent contributions to the school as a prolific sportsman. Rollins represented St. Stithians as 1st Team Basketball Player. He was a tremendous athlete on the track and in all-round athletic activities which lead to him being a true and genuine utility for all interhouse sport engagements. The engagement photographs were done by another Old Stithian, Jackson Gondo (2015).

Congratulations, Rollins and Abby Ayaya.



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STEVE VAN WYK & CAITLIN COX [2014 & 15]
NEWLY ENGAGED

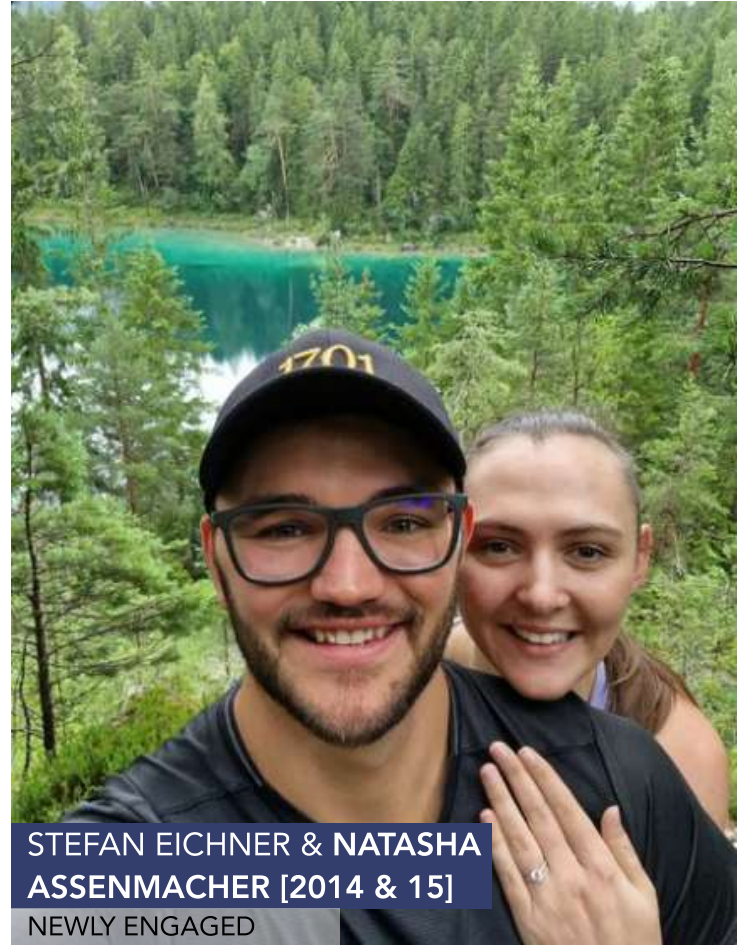
Steve matriculated in 2014 as well (looks like we've got a '2014 double' Ladies and Gentlemen) and Caitlin in 2015. The two have been together for as long as anyone can remember and the pair graced the OSA Last Thursday's Draw in July with their presence for the first time as fiancés! Steve is remembered by many as an iconic guitarist in his time at the Boys College and on top of being a friend to many, Caitlin Cox is a former teacher of the Junior Prep. The two have served St. Stithians well and with their best and we wish them well on their journey together!

What makes Steve and Cait extra special is that they are both Old Stithians! Proof that love really is in the air at our beloved Saints.

Congratulations to Steve and Cait!

Stefan Eichner & Natasha Assenmacher [2014 & 2015]

Stefan Eichner matriculated in 2014 (looks like we've got a '2014 triple!') and Natasha in 2015. Once again, another pair of Old Stithians!



STEFAN EICHNER & NATASHA ASSENMACHER [2014 & 15]
NEWLY ENGAGED

Stefan Eichner matriculated in 2014 (looks like we've got a '2014 triple!') and Natasha in 2015. Once again, another pair of Old Stithians! Stefan Eichner was Deputy-Head Boy in 2014 and also a prolific sportsman for the College, excelling in Waterpolo and Rugby.

Natasha Assenmacher was also an exemplary Waterpolo player for the College and she even went on to be the Vice Captain for the SA U19A Gauteng Waterpolo team. Natasha was also Captain of Waterpolo at the Girls' College in 2015.

Stefan and Natasha are proof that there is love in the water at St. Stithians!



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THORISO SHIHOU [2004]

HEAD COACH of 1st XV RUGBY

Congratulations to Old Stithian Thoriso Shihau (Class of 2004) on being appointed as 1st XV Rugby Head Coach at the Boys' College for the upcoming 2024 season. Thoriso had been on the coaching side assisting with backline skills and has worked his way up into the Senior team. In this same transition, we congratulate Charlie Post (Class of 2000) for his appointment as Director of Rugby at the Boys' College.

Thoriso's appointment marks the milestone of the first black 1st XV Coach for St. Stithians Rugby. Thoriso was a prominent player for the 1st XV in his time as a flyhalf.

Charlie Post was also a notable player for the 1st XV and was part of a golden era in Saints Rugby that played tight games against schools like Affies. Charlie famously played as fullback for the iconic Saints side that played Affies when they had the likes of Fourie du Preez in the team.

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Old Stithian Association Dinner Event 2023

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OLD STITHIAN ASSOCIATION GOLF DAY 2023

R800 per player or R3200 per four ball which includes, Green Fees, halfway house lunch, prize giving dinner and fantastic prizes!
Friday 3rd November 2023!

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER - BRYANSTON COUNTRY CLUB
To book a fourball please email Caitlyn on cloneon@stithian.com

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE EMAIL CLONEON@STITHIAN.COM



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Founders' Day 2023



FOUNDERS' DAY 2023
HIGHER GROUND RESTAURANT

June 19, 2023 | [By Jackson Gondo](#)

It was a privilege to attend the annual Founder's Day ceremony held at St Stithians, where the Saints community comes together once a year to commemorate and celebrate the history of the school and the vision of its founders.

The 2023 ceremony was filled with an air of sentimentality and a rush of unusual excitement given that it was the day that officially acknowledges the school's 70th. This meant that along with the much-anticipated routine of the Founder's Day programme, there were a string of special events and unveilings that took place in the morning before the main ceremony began.

[Read more](#)

June 22, 2023 | [By Jackson Gondo](#)

On the 13th and 14th of June, St. Stithians once again hosted the annual Marimba Festival. The festival is split into two days, one day for the College and one day for the Prep. The College fest took place first and it was a spectacular showcase of music featuring St. Stithians Boys' College, St. Stithians Girls' College,



THE MARIMBA TEAM 2023
SAINTS MARIMBA FEST 2023

St. Mary's DSG and St. David's Marist Inanda. The Prep show featured St. Stithians Boys' Prep, St. Stithians Girls' Prep, St. Johns Prep, St. Mary's DSG, Holy Rosary and St. David's Marist Inanda. Mr. Mike Sibanda leads a joint performance of 'Stand By Me' featuring all participating colleges.

[Read more](#)

April 12, 2023 | [By Jackson Gondo](#)

Lots of words incoming, but if you care to hear something remarkable- please read along. I had an incredible time at Saints Fest. No really, a truly incredible time. Where do I begin...I suppose I'll begin at the start. In July 2022 I was having a heart to heart conversation with a friend (Bulumko Napakade). This was a conversation where as two mates we were really coming face to face with



THE OSA 7'S PLAYERS 2023
SAINTS FEST 2023



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some hard truths while at the same time expressing the optimism that we felt deep in our hearts. Among the optimistic expressions we shared was my very intense desire to play in the OSA 7's rugby game at Saints Fest 2023, knowing it would be my younger brother's (Ethan Gondo) matric year. What was striking about me expressing this desire was the elephant in the room. The elephant being the fact that I weighed 110kg's while expressing my desire to run rounds on Baytop Field. Bless my friend's heart, he really did indulge me! I could see it, I could feel it, I could taste it... But there was plenty of work to be done. A mere month later, my brother was appointed as the Head Boy at St. Stithians, a moment of deep pride knowing the journey we had walked as brothers and as a family. A moment that perhaps cemented my desire to step on the rugby field, believing that in a small way, I was showing up for my brother.

[Read more](#)

| **By Jackson Gondo**

Congratulations to the Girls College Hockey 1st XI on winning the Pullen Cup Tournament. This completes a magnificent double that is the first of its kind with the Boys College 1st XI Hockey also winning the Aitken Cup earlier this year.



This is immense history happening right before our very eyes and we are so proud of the St. Stithians sides for their phenomenal achievement and the hard work that got them there.



| **By Jackson Gondo**

The aforementioned Aitken Cup story is told in an upcoming documentary titled "I Believe". The documentary tells the story of the miracle Saints weekend where the 1st XV Rugby beat our rivals St. John's College along with the 1st XI Hockey, with the 1st XI Hockey taking it all to another level winning the Aitken Cup at home ground the following day. In the week leading up to the games, the entire Boys College, lead by the Head Boy, all focused on and spoke of one message "I Believe". The school believed and Saints did the impossible. The documentary interviews both the Boys College Hockey and Rugby teams on this iconic weekend and the story will be documented to inspire Saints generations to come. The documentary is written and directed by Old Stithian Jackson Gondo (2015).



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Thandulwazi



THANDULWAZI

THANDULWAZI SATURDAY SCHOOL

Thandulwazi Maths and Science Academy is the 6th school of St Stithians College. The Academy utilises the magnificent St Stithians campus and facilities, when not in use, to provide access to students and teachers who would not normally have access. There are 4 programmes run by Thandulwazi however, this newsletter discusses the Saturday School Programme.

In line with St Stithians College's Methodist ethos of doing "all the good you can", St Stithians College alumni can be proud that their school is making an impact and opening its classrooms and facilities to 1100 high school students from over...

...150 schools across Gauteng for 30 Saturdays per year.

The Academy offers free lessons for learners in Grade 9-12, covering Maths, Science, Accounting, English, and Life Science (subject to their individual preferences). The inclusive nature of the institution allows students of all academic backgrounds to attend, providing an opportunity for them to enhance their academic performance.

Notably, students are self-selecting, resulting in a motivated and self-driven cohort, committed to their academic pursuits.



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This fosters a community of dedicated learners, keen on making the most of their educational journey.

Over and above the academic rigour, students receive a snack each week which is sponsored by the St Stithians parent and student body. The academy also partners with NGO's such as Girl Power to enhance and assist students with the psycho-social issues which many struggle with.

Recently an extra-curricular activity programme was introduced, and students may attend football, netball, basketball, marimba, robotics and coding, drama, choir and a DIY skills course.

The Thandulwazi Academy is 100% donor funded and relies on the generosity of individuals and corporates to keep its doors open. The Academy is fully audited, and all funds are directed towards the beneficiaries. To donate to Thandulwazi visit <https://www.stithian.com/give-to-st-stithians/thandulwazi-maths-and-science-academy>

To visit the Academy or to find out more email the Fundraising Team on donations@thandulwazi.com or visit www.thandulwazi.com



The Advancement Team

Since its founding in 1953, St Stithians College has instilled a deeply felt understanding that remarkable things can be achieved when One and All unite in the pursuit of knowledge and goodness. The Saints Honour challenges all students to Honour God, Others, and Themselves as they grow to "Know Themselves, Be Themselves, and Make their Contribution."

Institutional Advancement

The institutional advancement of St Stithians relies on creating a community of belonging through positive relationships and encouraging a culture that encourages contributions which develop the College and the roles that it plays as a leading South African school. The College seeks to advance this community of belonging among students, staff, and parents, both in the present and through strong links with our alumni and past parents.

The Advancement Team's Mission

The mission of the Advancement Team is to ensure a coordinated approach to admissions, communication, public relations, marketing, events, fundraising, alumni relations, volunteer recruitment, the archives, and much more. The Advancement Office works in association with each of the schools and the Old Stithian Association to foster a positive relationship and to work closely with our alumni. The community of Old Stithians is a vital component of the St Stithians family, linking the present with the past and the future. We take care of every touch point in a Stithians' journey, from admissions to archives. Our goal and vision is to ensure the long-term sustainability of St Stithians College for future generations.

Sustainability Committee

Critical to the future and long-term sustainability is the St Stithians Sustainability Committee. Led by governors and supported by the Advancement Office, the Sustainability Committee supports strategic projects and priorities of the College. Alumni, parents, and friends of St Stithians who are interested in becoming more involved in the College and the Sustainability Committee are invited to contact Alistair Stewart at astewart@stithian.com.



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THE ADVANCEMENT TEAM

HAPPY FULFILMENT IN 2023 & BEYOND

[Learn more](#)

Embracing the Future

As St Stithians embraces the future, it strives to enhance its educational programs, facilities, Thandulwazi programs, and scholarships and bursaries for the College. We invite alumni, parents, grandparents, and scholars to consider donations of skills, contacts, expertise, and money. For more information visit our [Giving Page](#).

St Stithians College is a registered Public Benefit Organisation and Non-Profit Organisation. Donors can claim tax benefits in their annual returns. The Advancement Office headed by Alistair Stewart provides donor administration and maintains relationships with donors. St Stithians was founded on the Faith, generosity, and vision of Collins, Mountstephens, and Tucker.

Countless gifts of time, talent, and treasure over the past 70 years have ensured the growth and success of this vision. Our responsibility is to ensure that St Stithians continues to make a world of difference to future generations. Since the Advancement Office began in 2016 over R100 million has been received to continue the Faith based work of our Founders, much more is required to build on the vision and sustain the legacy. People have such a need for connecting and for community that fundraising must be community-building. From beginning to end, fundraising as ministry is grounded in prayer and undertaken in gratitude. Gratitude flows from the recognition that who we are and what we have are gifts to be received and shared (Henri Nouwen).



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THE NEW YORK REUNION
NEW YORK CITY

NYC Reunion

OSA Events

New York Reunion | By Caitlyn Loneon.

An interesting array of alumni attended the New York 2023 Reunion; from Rob Fryer- Class of '63, a founder student of the school, to Kate Hinrich Class of 2018, attending Long Island University on a Water Polo scholarship studying sports medicine. Despite the vast difference in age groups, it was exciting to see how everyone connected- great relationships were formed between young and old.

Pawan Varyani didn't end up finishing at Saints, but at Lonehill Crawford College, hence his nickname given to him "Crawford" for the rest of the evening. But he was excited to come to the function, along with his brother Neeraj, Class of 2007, and they both affirmed they would be there every year moving forward.

Neeraj is currently doing his master's in architecture at Columbia University. As it was a relatively small group (in comparison to London) the alumni were each asked to say who they were, where they were now living in the States, and what career they were involved in. This was extremely helpful as it enabled everyone to connect once they realised, they had also travelled from the same area or were following a similar career path.

It was amazing to learn that the majority of the group had travelled from far to be there- Toronto, Washington, Philadelphia, Boston and even L.A! We were also lucky enough to have Old Stithian Association Committee Member- Andrew Middleton who was in NYC for a business conference. It was great to have someone from the OSA telling the stories for the alumni and engaging with the various members.



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We met Chris Morgan- Class of 1995, a successful Film producer who won an Emmy Award in 2022 for the "My Better World" series he produced. A humble, fascinating young man who was then able to connect two of the younger alumnae who were attending, with contacts he had in the film industry.

It was a joy to see such a diverse and accomplished group of alumni at the reunion. They had made their mark in various domains, from the silver screen to silicon valley, from the banking sector to the creative arts. As we conversed with them, we realized that they were not only equipped with a strong academic and cultural foundation but were also outstanding athletes. We were surrounded by champions in athletics, rowing, swimming, tennis, water polo, and more, who were committed to giving back to making a world of difference. Rob Fryer, one of the founder students of Saints, was given a few minutes to address the group and spoke about his book *Running for your life*, highlighting the fact that you are never too old to set new goals or try something new. A fascinating gentleman who so enjoyed himself. So much so that he even attended the function in London, the following week.

Alistair Stewart presented an excellent talk about the school's remarkable journey and evolution over the years, cleverly bringing in members of the group who he identified by describing their remarkable achievements when they attended the school and, in some cases, after school. Alistair spoke about the importance of the Old Stithians Association and having a healthy Endowment Fund for sustainability and growth. Finally, he shared some inspiring stories from the Thandulwazi Maths and Science Academy and the impact it is having on the broader community.

As David Acott, Class of 1995 said, when leaving, "Tonight was incredible. Events such as these are essential for providing a safety net and networking system, for current and future alumni.

We all left with a sense of satisfaction and pride, knowing that the event was a resounding success and that the alumni, promising to bring along some of their peers next time, would all be back again. They left with Thandulwazi pamphlets and Old Stithian Association branded pens in their pockets, and Saints 70th Caps on their heads. A true feeling of "Happy Fulfilment" was felt by everyone that evening. From our South African catering to the countless stories from years gone by- it was truly a special evening for One & All.
By Caitlyn Loneon.

OSA Events

65 Old Stithian Association
Dinner Celebration

Enjoy a 3 Course dinner with Old Stithians on the beautiful St Stithians College Campus at Higher Ground.
All Old Stithians are welcome!
We look forward to welcoming reunion groups
Please RSVP on the link provided

FRIDAY SEP, 15TH	Dress Code: Smart Time: 6pm	Tickets: R500pp Under 25s R350pp
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Higher Ground Restaurant,
One & All Club,
St Stithians College

Old Stithian Association Dinner Event 2023

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THE LONDON REUNION
THE LONDON BRIDGE

LDN Reunion

The London Reunion was held at The Real Greek Restaurant situated at the foot of the London Bridge. Approximately 190 alumni attended this event- a mix of young and old, men and women. It was lovely to see more women attending this year as it is usually dominated by the Old Boys. This reunion was organized by our OSA UK Chapter, following from 2022 we met some keen Old Stithians who were wanting to create the official chapter. Having David Arendse- Deputy Chair of the OSA emigrate to the UK we were able to get this up and running and formalize the Chapter. We are thankful that we have started this process and still trying to formalize the processes. We thank Bryan Difford- Class of 2004 – who has been leading this group along with David Arendse and really creating the “Gees” behind the events. The UK team have also organized special...

... discounted Six Dogs Gin, Rio Largo Olive Oil and special prices from the beautiful Babylonstoren wine farm.

Once again there was a range of ages, from Rob Fryer and his classmate Nic Barcza who were both founder pupils of St Stithians, to some graduates who had only completed their studies recently. Once again Rob Fryer shared his story with the group, and they were thoroughly entertained by his tales and the references he made to his book. Rob even remembers our Chairman- Israel Skosana running around the campus as a young boy as Rob and Israel Skosana Senior – Israel’s Dad were colleagues. Nicholas Barcza spoke about his life after school and went on to emphasise the importance of giving back- paying it forward as it were.



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He reiterated that without Donor funding it would be near impossible to sustain or grow the school. He added that although they had chosen to leave their home country and reside in the UK, it is in his opinion, the right thing to show respect and love for the very institution that had prepared them so well for life after school.

OSA Chairman Israel Skosana also had an opportunity to address the alumni and provided updates about the school and how far the school had come over the past few years. He too encouraged the alumni to share their knowledge and success and to seriously consider paying it forward by donating, no matter how big or small, to the school.

A fun quiz with school-related questions, took place during the evening that provided much entertainment – thanks to Old Boys such as Charles Bryant from Six Dogs Gin and Nick Wilkinson from Rio Largo olive oil, for donating prizes, distributed in the UK via Old Stithian, Grand Sidwell. Thank you Grant for arranging these awesome prizes which our alumni loved!

There was much catching up and reconnecting with old friends, as well as establishing bonds with new ones from different years. Once again, the message was clear; that the OSA was creating a much-needed safety net and networking data base for those alumni who have chosen to relocate to another country.

[Learn more](#)

Thank you!

In closing the OSA Newsletter, we extend heartfelt gratitude. To you, our passionate reader in the Saints Community, your presence reflects dedication to St. Stithian's growth. Your support for projects, fundraising, and as a fan is cherished. Our thanks to Chairman Israel Skosana, who, despite personal loss, leads with unwavering strength, discipline, and humility. He guides us with grace through challenges. To Saints families, your time and donations uplift us. Parents' commitment mirrors the triumphs of our students, forming a strong bond. Teachers and coaches, your dedication molds not only students but also a brighter future for South Africa. Your tireless efforts are valued.

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We are constantly seeking stories from alumni all around the world. Share your story with us here!



[Submit your story](#)



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