



ST GEORGE'S PREPARATORY



NEWSLETTER | 1 DECEMBER 2011



FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK



The 2011 academic year has flown by. It has been a year of exceptional achievement academically; on the sportsfield; and in the Arts, and all of us should be justly proud of our accomplishments over the past 12 months. I am always amazed when I reflect on how much we do at St

George's Prep that is over and above the curriculum of any primary school.

I would like to thank you all for your wonderful support over the past year. Let us continue to work together for the good of our school.

This year was a very special year in that it marked the 75th anniversary of St George's Preparatory School. In looking back at the past 75 years of the Prep I am acutely aware of the enormous contributions many people have made to ensure that our school has been at the forefront of educational excellence in South Africa.

Running a school, especially an independent one, has significant financial challenges. We are acutely aware of the economic pressures facing the majority of those who choose to send their children to our school. We try wherever possible to contain fee increases as best we can, which, coupled with a limit on the number of pupils which can be accommodated on our campus, restricts our revenue growth. More than 80% of our costs are fixed or semi-fixed. Added to this is the fact that independent schools now have to pay property rates for

the first time. At the same time we need to be competitive in everything we offer.

The only way we can possibly do this is to rely on the generosity of the St George's community to help build and improve our offering. Just as the pupils who are currently at the Prep are benefiting from the generosity of those who have already given, we need to perpetuate this generosity to ensure the sustainability of the school for future generations.



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

In order to stay at the forefront of education, many strategic planning sessions have been undertaken by the school management and staff and the establishment of an Arts and Media Centre has been identified as a priority. Our new Arts and Media Centre at the school

will comprise of 2 new computer laboratories, a new art room, library and drama studio. We appeal to everyone involved in the St Georges family and the greater community to contribute towards making this happens.



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF ARTS & MEDIA CENTRE

Almost every visitor to the school comments to me on how happy the pupils seem to be. The enthusiasm of the pupils for the school, and everything that goes on here, is almost tangible, and hardly any visitor leaves unimpressed. We have had a good year and we are ever conscious of our great privilege.

As we enter each New Year, we do not seek to excel only in the classroom and on the sportsfield, but also to create a greater awareness of the needs of others and the realization that privilege carries with it the bonds of responsibility, so that all may be granted opportunity through our combined endeavours. To this end each Grade supported a different community service project this year as part of the school's outreach programme



GRADE 4'S VISITING ANIMAL WELFARE WITH PET FOOD DONATED

As we enter the next 75 years our challenge will be to provide our pupils with the best facilities, the best teachers, the best educational programmes and a nurturing environment so that they are afforded the opportunities to be the best they can be for our collective futures.

In a hugely changing education scene in South Africa, St George's Prep remains a beacon of continuity and strength with a proven track record. Be assured that the staff and I will continue to do our part to ensure that our pupils leave us confident and well educated, ready to take on any challenges that lie ahead and eager to embrace the future.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

I am enormously grateful to our Governing Body Chairman, Mr Dave Honeyball, and the members of our Governing Body for showing so much devotion to our school. Their concern for the well-being of our school has been an inspiration to me.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

I would also like to thank the Parents' Association under the chair of Mrs. Eusentha Pillay for the tremendous support that they have given the school this year

SCHOOL SHOPS

We are so fortunate to have Mrs. Dianne Allen, ably assisted by Caitlin van Heerden, at school, to run our School Clothing Shop. Dianne is so efficient and her efforts are greatly appreciated.

Opening Times School clothing Shop
Monday 16 January to Friday 20 January :

Monday	09:00 to 12:00
Tuesday	07:30 to 09:00 and 11:30 to 14:00
Wednesday	07:30 to 09:00 and 11:30 to 14:00
Thursday	07:30 to 09:00 and 11:30 to 14:00
Friday	07:30 to 09:00
Thereafter normal opening hours apply.	

I would also like to thank Mrs. Debby Elsner and her team for running our second hand clothing shop so effectively. All profits from this are donated to purchase school library books.

MOTHERS WHO CARE

Mrs. Sue Hageman and the Mothers Who Care group also play a vital role at our school and their input is greatly valued by pupils and staff.

ST GEORGE'S ASSOCIATION

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the President of the St George's Association, Dr Mike Dean and Mr Mike Helliwell, Chairman in bringing together the family of Old Boys and Girls of the school.

STAFFING

It is often said that a school is only as good as its staff and St George's Prep is no exception. I am blessed with a staff of the very highest calibre. The joyful enthusiasm which is thrown into their teaching makes for a happy and productive atmosphere at school. Our system of education depends for its success on the capabilities, enthusiasm and dedication of the staff and in the final reckoning the reputation of St George's Prep stands or falls by the quality of its staff. Our staff are quite simply, this school's most valuable resource, and the main reason for our success.

I would also like to pay tribute to the staff at the Pre Primary under the guidance of Mrs. Jill Wilson. The Pre Primary is a happy, vibrant place and our Foundation Phase staff often comment on how well our Pre Primary pupils are prepared for their more formal years of school. I would also like to thank Mr Chris Erasmus and the College staff for their support this year. The admin staff, ground staff and kitchen staff too have played an important part in the smooth running of our school – to them too our grateful thanks and appreciation.

We are very fortunate to have a very stable staff complement. Our staff turn-over over the past 6 years has been minimal and this continuity can only benefit our pupils.

Sadly we do bid farewell to a few staff members at the end of this academic year. Our long-serving Grade 1 teacher, Mrs. Carol Marriner retires at the end of the year. I would like to thank Mrs. Marriner for her immense contribution to the school – she will be sorely

missed by the St George's family and I would like to wish her a happy and well-earned retirement.



SADLY WE BID FAREWELL TO MRS MAYA LONGK, MR KEVIN LEES AND MRS CAROL MARRINER

Mr Kevin Lees also leaves us at the end of the year. I would like to thank Mr Lees for his valued input over the years. Mr Lees, we shall miss you and wish you well in your new role. Mrs. Longk, our German teacher, returns to Germany at the end of the year upon the completion of her 2 year contract at the school. We have been fortunate to have had a teacher of her calibre heading up the German programme at our school; ably assisted by Miss Reiners and Mr Schneider. Miss Melody Durrheim has spent the past year on a Learnership at the school. I would like to thank Miss Durrheim for her contribution – she will be an asset to the teaching profession. Mrs Berry will head up Marketing at the school as from January next year with Miss Gill Pattison taking on the role as school secretary. Miss Penny has been promoted to Head of Academics with Mr Andrew Hayidakis being appointed Head of Sport. Mrs. Tess Jennings takes over from Mrs. Carol Marriner in Grade 1 with Mrs. Cindy Tanner standing in for Mrs. Hall while she is on maternity leave. Mr Chris Stottelaar has been appointed as a Grade 5 teacher while Mr David Glover returns next year, to teach Maths to pupils in Grades 3, 5, 6 and 7. Miss Alexander Mitchell and Miss Claudia Dalla-Vecchia have been appointed as Foundation Phase classroom assistants. We are fortunate to be in a position to attract the very best staff out there. New staff appointed for next year are of the very highest calibre and we look forward to working with them.

ACADEMIC NEWS

While the balanced 'holistic' education will always be a major objective, I feel that our academic programme must always be given priority and it is gratifying to report that academically it has been an outstanding year.

We received our 2010 Conquesta results in March this year. The Conquesta Olympiad is written by over 1400 independent and ex Model C schools in South Africa. The results attained by our pupils were outstanding with our school being placed in the Top 20 in South Africa in all 3 subjects written – namely English, Afrikaans and Mathematics.

The adoption of CAPS – the National and Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement by the Department of Education has resulted in us having to extend the length of our school day in Grades 1 and 2 from the beginning of next year. Subjects such as class music, the 2nd additional language and computer education are not regarded as compulsory Foundation Phase school subjects in state schools. We, however, still see the value in these subjects – hence the need to extend the school day.

A staggering 52 pupils qualified for the final round of the NMU Mathematics Olympiad – this is a fine achievement and confirms our status as one of the top Maths schools in the country.

Our pupils once again excelled in the Annual Science Expo. A record number of pupils – 4 in all – were invited to attend the National Science Expo in Pretoria this year. Special mention needs to be made of Grade 7 pupil, Michael Purchase, who received the award for the top Mathematics Project in South Africa – this up to Matric Level.



MICHAEL PURCHASE, WAS AWARDED THE SPECIAL AWARD FOR THE 'BEST MATHEMATICS PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA' AT THE NATIONAL ESKOM SCIENCE EXPO.

Another outstanding achievement was Sarah Henderson's Silver Award in the 2011 Commonwealth Essay competition. The Commonwealth Essay Competition is written by tens of thousands of pupils from Commonwealth Countries from all over the world which puts this award into perspective.



**SARAH HENDERSON
WON A SILVER AWARD IN THE 2011
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY
COMPETITION**

Our pupils from the Pre-Primary through to Grade 7 follow the K-Net Computer certificates and our K-Net Computer exam results over the past few years surely rank amongst the best in the country. Our pupils excelled again this year with 15 pupils attaining 100% in the external year-end examination.

SPORT NEWS

Sport is obviously dear to the heart of many a St George's parent and child, and our sport teams have enjoyed tremendous success in a multitude of different disciplines. In a programme such as ours, we must surely cater for the tastes of every pupil. I judge our success on the number of pupils actively involved in sport and on the results achieved. Both of these yardsticks indicate that this has been an extremely successful year.



**DANIEL RISTOW AND
EBRAHIM PATEL CAME
2ND AND 3RD
RESPECTIVELY IN THE
PE LEG OF THE SA KIDS
GOLF TOURNAMENT.**

**MTHA NGCAKANI WAS
CROWNED SCHOOL
GOLF CHAMPION OF
2011.**





OSCAR JENSEN ACHIEVED THE RARE FEAT OF TAKING 2 HAT TRICKS AT THE SCHOOL FOR THE U11a TEAM AND THIS YEAR FOR THE U13a TEAM.

On the sportsfield we have continued our attempts to achieve good performance and maintain a high standard of sportsmanship, spirit and enthusiasm. Our pupils have excelled at both a national and international level this year and they have brought much credit to our school.

Our 1st team boys' and girls' hockey teams and 1st team boys' soccer team undertook a very successful mid-year tour to the Southern Cape, while our B teams and U11A soccer team travelled to East London in August. Special mention needs to be made of our U11A team who returned unbeaten with victories over Crewe Primary, Merrifield and Selborne and they did not concede a single goal. Our U9A cricket team also performed exceptionally well this year and finished the year unbeaten.

A number of pupils were awarded provincial sporting colours this year. Thomas Wait our international gymnast received the award for the top primary school gymnast in South Africa at the South African Championships in August.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

This year also saw the introduction of a pupil exchange programme with a fourth UK school; namely Cumnor House. I am proud to say that all our pupil exchange programmes this year – with Kingshott, just outside London; Cumnor House in Purley; Holmewood House in Tunbridge Wells, Kent and Northcote Lodge in London were a resounding success. Seventeen of our Grade 7 pupils visited the UK this year as part of our UK Pupil Exchange Programme. All 17 had a great time and they were wonderful ambassadors for St George's Prep. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who hosted the visiting UK exchange students this year.



OUR EXCITED GROUP OF GRADE7'S LEAVING PORT ELIZABETH TO EMABARK ON THE UK EXCHANGE ROGRAMME IN JUNE 2011.



THE VISITING EXCHANGE PUPILS FROM KINGSHOTT, LONDON

I would like to congratulate the following Grade 6 pupils who have been selected for the 2012 UK Pupil Exchange Programme:

Northcote Lodge

- Jarred Elsner
- Shiven Moodley

Kingshott

- Lisa Han
- Ankit Hegde
- Mtha Ngcakani
- Abigail Petrie
- Shinade Hilliar
- Sino Nohashe

Cumnor House

- Khanya Dambuza
- Tessa Lawrence

Holmewood House

- Thabo Luthuli
- Jason Neilson
- Tony Ruiz-Mesa
- Mikaela Miller
- Savannah Currie
- Romy Hart
- Sarah Henderson
- Robyn Jensen



**HICKORY DICKORY DOCK FROM
A POCKETFUL OF RHYMES**

FAREWELL TO GRADE 7 CLASS OF 2011

The Grade 7 class of 2011 has talent and ability in abundance and I know that they will leave with great memories of their time here. Grade 7's – the memories of your time here may fade but your experiences here will have helped make you who you are and will help shape your future. We wish you fulfilment, success and happiness at high school.

CULTURAL NEWS

Our pupils have once again excelled on the cultural scene this year. Our junior band, senior band, strings group and choir have entertained us on numerous occasions this year and our pupils also excelled in the recent Trinity Music Examinations. All pupils passed with 6 pupils gaining distinction passes.. I would like to thank Mrs. de Meillon and her music staff for their enthusiasm and for giving the children the skills to perform with such confidence. I am proud to announce that Celeste Potgieter, Ilse-Marie Visser and Hanne Mertens have been awarded full colours for Music – well done.

The standard of art produced by our pupils is exceptional and our pupils under the guidance of Mrs. Maltby have featured prominently in local and national art competitions.

Our school production of 'A Pocketful of Rhymes' was an overwhelming success. I would like to congratulate Mrs. Anneline Stiglingh and her creative and hardworking cast and production team. 25 of the main cast and production team have been nominated for the Showtime Junior Awards. Well done – I am very proud of all of the boys and girls who took part.

FIRST TERM 2012

School will reopen on Tuesday, 17 January 2012.

On the first day we shall finish at the following times

Grade 1	12.00
Grade 2	13.15
Grades 3-7	14:10

Prep sessions and afternoon sport for pupils in Grades 4-7 will start on Wednesday, 18 January 2012.

Sport for pupils in Grades 1-3 will begin on Monday, 23 January 2012.

The school office will re-open on Wednesday, 11 January 2012.

I appeal to you to ensure that your children start the New Year with acceptable haircuts and wearing the correct uniform

CHRISTMAS BOX DONATION

There has been an overwhelming response to the request for foodstuffs for our Domestic and Ground Staff and on their behalf I thank you for your generous contributions.

UPDATING YOUR INFORMATION

You are reminded to keep the school office informed of any changes to your address, e-mail and telephone numbers. Our preferred method of communication is via e-mail and we use an SMS facility for urgent messages.

At the beginning of the first term next year, the school office will send out a Family/Parent/Learner form to each family, which we ask you to check carefully, amend accordingly and return to the school office.

In closing, the staff and I wish you and your family a very peaceful and happy Christmas and an enjoyable holiday with your children. May 2012 bring peace, joy and prosperity to our country.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Liss
HEADMASTER

MEMORIES OF 2011



ST GEORGE'S 75TH FLAG HAS FLOWN PROUDLY AS THE SCHOOL CELEBRATED ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY



PUPILS FROM GRADES 3 TO 7 AND ALL STAFF ENJOYED LUNCH IN THE JAN IMMELMAN HALL TO CELEBRATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY



MRS INGRAM AND PUPILS SUPPORTED THE PROTEAS AT THE START OF THE ICC WORLD CUP BY "GOING GREEN"