

2008 Community Engagement

This has been an exciting year. There is most definitely a heightened awareness of the role St Andrew's College can play in addressing some of the needs of our broader community and there is a greater level of commitment from both staff and boys in assisting with the projects.

One of the most exciting new projects is an Adult Basic Education program offered to our staff. The courses are held in a classroom over lunch and twenty six adults are tackling Level 1 and Level 2 Communications in English and Numeracy.

The LEAP program has continued successfully. This year the intake from 2007 is in Grade 11 and we took in a new group of Grade 10's from three East Grahamstown schools. Our greatest challenge for the program begins in 2009 when our first intake of learners enters their matriculation year. The aim of the program is to guide the learners to a matriculation result that will enable them to enter Rhodes University on a bursary. I am grateful to Karen Ireland, Xolani Jonono, Andrew Renard and David Molony for their efforts and for putting aside many Saturdays to help teach.

In April five boys in grade 10 were selected to represent College at the Regional Round Square conference in Gaborone Botswana. Round Square is an international association of schools that commit themselves to an education curriculum that embraces more than just academics and sport. The boys participated in a variety of activities that included some service projects.

The Good Shepherd Trust has managed to raise a significant amount of money that will be used to build new classrooms for the school. During the year we have had many wonderful interactions between the schools. College boys have assisted with sports coaching in athletics, basketball, cricket, swimming, hockey and tennis. In addition the Good Shepherd children have participated in computer literacy lessons and extra reading clubs. The annual outdoor excursion to Table Farm for the Grade 7's was once again a great success and was entirely organized by College boys.

Our relationship with St Matthew's School at Keiskammahoek goes from strength to strength. The success of the 2007 Maths camp prompted us to run it again. Of the twelve matriculants that attended last year, five achieved Maths distinctions – a first in the history of the school. This year eleven matriculants spent a week on campus attending revision lessons in many subjects, workshops in mathematics and visiting Rhodes University, among other things. My thanks to all the College staff who willingly gave up free time to assist with the camp, particularly the Maths department.

A group of more than seventy College and DSG learners spent a rainy day at St Matthew's repainting the matric dorms. It was a great day, many lessons were learnt, some new friendships were forged and happily the dorms got painted! We will go back next year to help with other dormitories and I am grateful to the DSG Challenge girls whose fund-raising efforts made it all possible.

Tuesday Clubs has once again provided us with the opportunity to involve boys in service activities during the week. This year the focus has been on planting trees at both Cradock Dam and Queen's Grove. Both of these sites are on-going projects that will involve College boys for many years. They form part of an environmental project that sees us working towards creating a green recreational space for use by both College and the broader community of Grahamstown. An initiative from SAHISA (South African Heads of Independent Schools Association) saw College hosting a ceremony re-dedicating the Queen's Grove site to 'Education that includes All'. In time College boys will plant one hundred trees on the site.

The children from the Seventh Day Adventist School have continued to receive Computer Literacy lessons from College boys during Clubs.

2008 has been a busy year and I am pleased to report that we are moving in the direction of our vision for Community Engagement.

Barbara Scott