

# St Andrew's College

Headmaster's Newsletter 21 May 2010



ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE



## Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

The past couple of weeks have been something of an emotional roller coaster for the school. In an increasingly secular and often cynical age, most of us probably don't believe in miracles any longer. However, three weeks ago, our School Counsellor and wife of the College Chaplain, Mrs Debbie Griffith-Smith, appeared to be very close to death. She was in a coma with a suspected aneurism and in a critical condition. Debbie made a



Mrs Debbie Griffith-Smith

miraculous recovery and has been convalescing well but a recent scan has shown that she must undergo surgery immediately and she and Father Gary are presently on their way to Cape Town. The support from the Andrean and Grahamstown community has been extraordinary and we would ask you to keep them in your prayers. I asked Father Gary to share the gist of his sermon last Wednesday (12th May) with you:

*Dear Andrean family*

*I write to say a hearty thank you from Debbie and my family. We have been so touched by the generosity of the spirit of the school community these past weeks. The numerous messages of support and offers of assistance have been so uplifting for us. We are confident that all will be well. This has been a shock for us as a family and has prompted Debbie to ask how she should make the most of her 2nd chance at life. It is a big question. It has got me thinking about the fact that in and through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God has given every human being a 2nd chance to be in a right relationship with God. On Wednesday in Chapel I asked the boys whether or not they have taken a hold of this 2nd chance. I urged them to think long and hard about it and to act upon it. With love and concern I now ask YOU whether or not YOU have accepted this great gift from God and are making the most of YOUR 2nd chance?*

*I ask that you keep praying for Debbie and I assure you of our ongoing prayers for you.*

*With every blessing,  
Gary.*

## The Winter Season

The winter season is in full swing and we have enjoyed Derby Days over the past two Saturdays, firstly against Graeme College in our annual FNB Classic Clash, and last Saturday against Queen's College. In the fixture against Queen's we put out 19 rugby sides, 11 hockey sides and in addition, there was debating, chess, cross country and squash. It is imperative for College that we maintain links with our fellow Eastern Cape schools and that these traditional fixtures remain strong and competitive. The spirit and support at both these home games was terrific.



On the cultural side the main theatre at the Monument was filled to capacity last Thursday and Friday evening when the Rhodes Orchestra and the combined choirs of the Grahamstown schools produced Carl Orff's Carmina Burana. It was a splendid occasion and really portrayed education in Grahamstown, and Grahamstown as a centre of the arts, in its best possible light. Our congratulations go to all the musicians and choristers involved, and especially to Mrs Priscilla Glover of Graeme College who produced the spectacle under the baton of Mr Juan Munoz of Rhodes University.



Photo: Steven Lang

## Staff News

I regret to inform you that Mr Wayne Joubert, Senior Housemaster and Life Sciences teacher, will be leaving College in September to take up a similar position at Wanganui Collegiate in New Zealand.

Mrs Karen Ireland, who is an outstanding teacher of Mathematics, will be leaving at the end of the year to take up a post at our neighbours, Kingswood College.

We will acknowledge them and say goodbye more appropriately at a later stage.

Our congratulations go to Mr Steven Ireland, currently Housemaster of Merriman, on his promotion to the position of Senior Housemaster.



Mr Wayne Joubert



Mrs Karen Ireland



Mr Steven Ireland, new Senior Housemaster

## Branding



Staff, pupils, parents and Old Boys of St Andrew's College are all custodians of the College brand. It is imperative that we safe guard it and when it is used, it is done so in manner that keeps the brand strong and true.

If you would like to use the College logo in a school-related or personal capacity on clothing or stationery, please contact our marketing office to gain permission to do so ([marketing@sacschool.com](mailto:marketing@sacschool.com)). They can also guide you on the correct specs of the logo (the font, pantones, layout etc) and forward you the relevant information to ensure it is used correctly. Media packs will also be placed shortly on our website to give guidelines on the above.

I ask for your co-operation in this regard please, especially as we have had a proliferation of unofficial sports apparel being produced for tours and festivals. These are not part of our official uniforms and cannot be worn as such.



## Substance Abuse and Performance Enhancing Substances (Drugs)

At the International Boys' Schools Coalition Conference held a couple of months ago at Selborne College, one of the keynote addresses was on the use of performance enhancing substances. We all know that there is huge pressure on boys to perform on the sports field and that cheating is rife across the world of professional sport. Sadly it has entered into schoolboy sport as well. The Director of Sport, Mr Pete Andrew, wrote to you at the start of the year about creatine and the use of other supplements and how we are trying to discourage the use of these as we are uncertain about the long term effects of some of these supplements. We will not turn a blind eye to boys who are using steroids, or to coaches who are encouraging the use of performance enhancing drugs. The practice undermines the educational values of our school and the long term effects can be very dangerous. Certainly we are a school that places far greater store on the joy of sport and participation than on winning at all costs.

We will endeavour to educate our boys on the potentially devastating effects of steroids, but our school drug policy stands and that where there is suspicion, boys will be tested. I must further point out that boys who test positive for performance enhancing drugs will not represent the school or the Province in sport and face the prospect of being suspended from competitive sport for two years. Put simply, this is not worth it.



## St Andrew's College Rowing

We are very proud of the five rowing boys William Cahill, Michael Blunden, Graham Pringle, Daniel Still and Cameron Gardner, who represented the Eastern Cape Rowing Association at the Junior National Selection trials, to select one or two crews for the Junior World Championship, to be held in the Czech Republic in August. This crew is the same crew that convincingly won the Boys U19 Fours event at the SA Schools' Rowing Championship staged in the beginning of March. At the trials, our boys acquitted themselves extremely well and impressed the selection panel by running close to the much bigger provincial crews from Gauteng.



They came second in three of the four races and it is unfortunate that the selection panel eventually decided to send only one crew instead of the two originally envisaged, as our boys were certainly better than some previous years' national crews. At the end of the day, College has this year produced a rowing team that is on the verge of being of international standard and it took a very good provincial team from the combined schools of Gauteng to edge them out of national honours.

## Rowing Pledge



Make a pledge and stand a chance of having a boat named after you, a friend or family member.

St Andrew's College's rowing history dates back to 1956 with many historic victories by past crews, and surely many to be had. New rowing technologies, lighter composite boats, scientifically focused training and specifically targeted events like Boat Race and SA Champs have brought stronger and fiercer competition. College has seen the need to improve in a number of key areas, namely an improved ergo and specific rowing fitness centre, and the purchase of a number of new boats. We invite past and present rowers, their families, corporations, and all parents or interested parties to have naming rights on one of the two new boats arriving in October. A dedicated website, [www.standrewsrowing.co.za](http://www.standrewsrowing.co.za) has a running total, and a place where a bid or pledge will be offered, as well as two preferred names, the most preferred and a second name if the first is not acceptable.

Each bidder will have two numbers in the competition, one linked to the size of his bid and another in a draw to be drawn by the Headmaster. It is possible therefore for the highest bidder to be drawn as the second boat name as well. The winners will not know which is which, as the person who has tendered the highest bid will only receive notification that one of the boats will have their selected name. They might have been the highest bidder or they might have been the lucky draw winner.



Log on to [www.standrewsrowing.co.za](http://www.standrewsrowing.co.za) to pledge your support and stand a chance of naming one of the boats! (Bev McCarthy – Director: Andrean Foundation)

## Headmaster's Visit to New York

Suzie and I have been invited to the Old Andrean Dinner to be held in New York on 28th May. I will be away for ten days and Mr Aidan Smith, the Deputy Headmaster, will be in charge.

I will be visiting a number of schools in America and will return to school on Monday 31st May.

Yours sincerely

PAUL EDEY  
HEADMASTER