



Dear All

I am hugely excited by energy and commitment-working with Barbara Scott was an exciting time. She set very high standards in everything she undertook, demanded similar levels of energy and commitment from our young men and saw to it that processes were thoroughly completed. She taught our young men to care, to innovate and to manage. I have a major challenge in following Barbara in taking on responsibility for Community Engagement



Tim Barnard

President's Award

Somewhat unusually, we were able to get going before term had begun- fortunately, many of the committee members had returned for sports or prefects camp. Meeting the fine young men of the President's Award Committee under the leadership of Hodago Minney gives me the sense that much of Barbara's energy and commitment has rubbed off. Much of that energy will be devoted to making it possible for others of the 278 boys enrolled in the Award to progress to the next levels. I have asked the committee to focus on leading the boys in their houses, as we have many boys who become so busy they forget to record their activities.

The year has begun well, with the second day of term seeing President's Award service activities beginning with helping moving magazines in the national office and sorting store rooms. We hope to expand the range of these activities to include some joint projects with other schools, and offer more on Sundays to allow boys who are committed on Friday afternoons to gain "service hours".

We are delighted that two of my colleagues, Mr Alistair Ferreira and Ms Amy Taylor, have agreed to assist with running the President's Award.

At the end of this newsletter, I have attached a table of service activities we have planned, and some which have taken place.



James Holmes, Thamu Mnyulwa and Jade Repapis clearing paths at Dassiekrans

St Andrew's boys clear trail

Boys from the President's Award have begun clearing overgrown walking paths in the Featherstonekloof and Dassiekrans areas of the Mountain Drive commonage. Initially a survey was conducted by Mr Tim Barnard and Andile Win, a Gold Award participant, to establish the feasibility of clearing paths as a service activity. Win led a small team of committed and hard-working individuals to start the work under the supervision of Ms Amy Taylor, a member of staff involved in the President's Award. Mr Barnard said he was delighted with the progress made by the boys and the prospect that these wonderful paths would be easier to walk, run and enjoy. He expressed his gratitude for the co-operation of Mr Kevin Bates of the Makana departments of parks and recreation and the level of commitment shown by the boys.



Andile Win, the committee member in charge, leading the way with a slasher

Good Shepherd School

The Good Shepherd School is looking very close to completion-but the challenges facing the principal and staff have grown. The Eastern Cape Department of Education have not renewed the contracts of temporary teachers, leaving The Good Shepherd School with 8 members of academic staff (including the principal) to teach, manage and love 250 pupils. Two gap year students at St Andrew's College are assisting at the Good Shepherd School in the mornings. Their duties include administration, updating the school's database, taking Physical Education classes, filling in for teachers who are ill or called out of their classrooms. Jack Gooding and James Plumb have stepped in, fitted in and are doing a great job. Both have commented on how much they've enjoyed building a rapport with the children and staff.

The Grade 10/Good Shepherd weekly service clubs sessions start tomorrow, with boys meeting with their co-ordinators to plan the term's activities. The process of our boys taking responsibility for teaching a new skill or coaching and engaging and getting to know the Good Shepherd School's pupils is a very rewarding one. We are delighted to have been able to expand the number of activities on offer and more St Andrew's staff involved. We hope to move some of these to their new facilities which should be completed shortly. It is great to work with such willing colleagues.



This term we will offer:

Water Polo	Graham Creese and Jason Sileno
Swimming	Kate Cobbing
Tennis	Walter Eksteen
Cricket	Pete Andrew and Carl Bradfield
Basketball	Xolani Jonono
English Reading	Amy Taylor
Computers	Alistair Ferreira and Adele Lobb
Afrikaans reading	Andre Bouwer
Maths Games	Thomas Hagspihl
Science Club	Ontlometse Thipe
Cycling	Deon Boshoff
isiXhosa reading	Ntosh Libi
D&T projects	Steve Ireland, Nkosinathi Nikelo and Pat Nketsheni

Student Scholarship Programme

On Saturday the 16th of January, I attended the induction, graduation and prize giving of the Student Scholarship Programme. We were very proud of the pupils from DSG and St Andrew's who had done very well academically relative to their peers from the same programme. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the success of the scholarship holders at our schools and at other schools, but also to hear the Rhodes vice-chancellor speak frankly of the challenge of getting enough top quality candidates to enter tertiary education with the sort of background they need to succeed. One of our major challenges is finding co-funding for pupils who are offered partial funding by external funders. We love being "the boarding school of choice in Africa" for the scholarship funds as well.

Philosophy

In the next while I will be trying to resolve what we mean by "community" and "engagement". In thinking about this role, since the headmaster discussed it with me, probably the major credo I can state is, "community engagement must change who we are, as individuals, as a school, and as a community". I hope to build ways of measuring impact, so that we get more out of our energy and commitment than just warm fuzzy feeling and some good pictures for the magazine. In thinking about this, my wife drew my attention to some writings on change. Change in attitude is a necessary step to change behaviour, and changed behaviour is likewise required to change conditions. Measuring attitudes is something we can do, but I know that without deep immersion in the project or programme, measuring easily becomes artificial, and an end in itself. I want to know whether we are changing.

Invitation

I am not an experienced development worker, but am a teacher, who sees that boys learn best when they are fully engaged. I will need advice, guidance, and frequently being told to get back to my place. I invite all of you to advise, guide and put me in my place. I'd particularly like to hear ways of becoming more inclusive within our own school community.

Warm regards



Tim Barnard

Term 1 2011- President's Award Service Activity plan			
Date	Activity	Committee member	Staff member
21.1	Move magazines, clear store room	All	Mr Barnard
28.1	SPCA	Michael Bennett	Mr Barnard
	DSG Food garden	Mitch Foster	Mr Barnard
4.2	SPCA	----	Mr Barnard
	Dassie Krans path survey	Andile Win	Mr Barnard
11. 2	Dassie Krans path clearing	Andile Win	Ms Taylor
Fri	DSG food garden	Moses Iputo	Ms Taylor
13.2	River Mile	----	Ms Bouwer/ Mr Barnard
18.2	SPCA	Michael Bennett	Mr Barnard
Fri	Swop-a-choc distribution	Declan Williamson	Mr Ferreira
19.2	Brookshaw collection	Hodago Minney	Mr Barnard
25.2	G. Shepherd Food garden	Nic Ruprecht	Ms Taylor
Fri	Swop a choc collection	Martin Chandler	Ms Taylor
27.2	Kuyasa wall painting to be confirmed	Thando Kopolu/ Hodago Minney	Mr Ferreira
Sun (all day)			
11.3	Dassie Krans forest path	Edward Iputo	Mr Barnard
	Eloxlweni soccer	Andile Win	Mr Barnard
18.3	SPCA	Bruce Blaine	Ms Taylor
	DSG food garden	Mitch Foster	Ms Taylor
20.3 Sun (all day)	Featherstone kloof path clearing	Daniel Boshoff	Mr Barnard
25.3	G Shepherd food garden	Rupert Kieser	Mr Ferreira
	Kowie Ditch clean-up	Grant Rautenbach	Mr Ferreira
1.4	SPCA	Michael White	Mr Barnard
	Featherstone kloof path clearing	Matthew Fraser-Jones	Mr Barnard
3.4 Sun (all day)	Kuyasa wall painting (to be confirmed)	Hodago Minney	Ms Taylor