



ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE

St Andrew's College News | February 2012



Dear College Community

“Back to School!”

No sooner are the Christmas decorations and adverts taken down in the shops than the “Back to School” adverts take their place, with specials being offered on everything from exercise books, sets of Bic pens, erasers, pencils, Bata Toughies, crisp white school shirts and grey flannel trousers. I often wonder how parents, children and teachers respond to these adverts which hit the newspapers before you’ve had time to digest the Christmas turkey. I am sure the pupils, and perhaps the odd teacher, let out a loud collective groan! Amongst the younger children there must be a sense of excitement mixed with a frisson of anxiety at the prospect of going to “big school”. Parents probably see the signs with considerable relief.



At the same time as the “Back to school” adverts appear, so we go through the annual frenzy about the matric results. This year was no different, although there was probably greater comment about the meaning of matric results than there has been in the past. The national obsession about pass rates tends to cloud the real issue of declining standards. For many candidates the Bachelor Degree endorsement on their certificate is misleading because the quality of their pass is hopelessly inadequate to cope with the demands of university.

You will have seen that College achieved a 92% Bachelor Degree pass against the IEB average of 82%, while the DSG girls achieved a 100% Bachelor Degree pass. While we salute the many pupils who have done exceptionally well, we need to examine these results and what they mean quite carefully. The top universities are increasingly using the National Benchmarking Tests (NBT’s) as the basis for offering places, as well as the candidates’ performance in their Home Language, Mathematics (as opposed to Maths Literacy) and Physical Science. In addition a candidate who offers Maths Paper 3 and Advanced Paper Mathematics will fare far better in first year courses which demand mathematical ability. Matric pupils need to be aware of what the requirements are to get into their course of choice and not apply at only one university for one course. We have pointed out many times that not everyone is going to get into U.C.T. which is hopelessly oversubscribed. It is rather like a school leaver in the U.K applying to Oxford or Cambridge and taking umbrage when they are turned down. Professor Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector of UFS commented recently that “if your NSC mark is below 70% you should consider not going to university” and his advice to parents was that “seven A’s is no longer a guarantee for a place in medicine or architecture” and that parents should encourage their children “to think of distinctions as completely normal and no longer the exception.”

College prides itself on producing well rounded young men and we expect our senior boys to lead very active and balanced lives throughout their Matric year by taking part in the sporting and cultural side of the school. Some boys manage this spectacularly well and a look at the top academic achievers of the 2011 group shows boys who played first team sport, often in more than

one sport, they debated, acted and played in musical ensembles and held positions of leadership. We salute all those boys who achieved way beyond their previous best and congratulate the following top achievers:



William Cahill
8 Distinctions



Xan Atkins
5 Distinctions



Graham McNaughton
5 Distinctions



Litha Bakumeni
6 Distinctions



Charles Price-Smith
7 Distinctions
IEB Commendable
Achievers List



Adam Dixon-Warren
5 Distinctions

Charles Price-Smith, who achieved seven distinctions, was placed on the IEB Commendable Achievers list as he achieved results in the top 5% in the country in five subjects. He achieved 97% for Mathematics, 97% for Advanced Programme Mathematics, 96% for Mathematics Paper 3, 92% for Accounting and 86% for Physical Science. Only 61 of the 8 454 candidates who wrote the IEB Examinations made the list of Commendable Achievements, and Charles and Josephine Llewellyn Palmer from the DSG were the only two IEB candidates from the Eastern Cape to make the list. These were singular achievements.

William Cahill achieved eight distinctions. He led by example during his career at College as Head of School, and as a genuine all-rounder. He epitomised the values that St Andrew's College holds dear and he is to be sincerely congratulated and thanked for everything that he has done.

All 84 candidates who wrote the examination passed, and achieved 107 subject distinctions. 151 B symbols were achieved. 92% of the Matrics qualify to apply to University for Degree courses. The IEB national average is 82%. Nearly two thirds of the boys (63%) got one or more subject distinctions.

The following boys who were placed in the top 1% of all the IEB candidates who wrote these subjects:

- William Cahill in Life Sciences
- Charles Price-Smith in Mathematics
- Xan Atkins in Mathematical Literacy

Other boys were not so fortunate and are rueing the fact that they did not prepare hard enough or do enough research on their tertiary options and entrance requirements. They now face the prospect of reapplying at universities or reconsidering their tertiary options. There is no doubt that we need to continue to set extremely high standards academically and to raise the bar for our promotion requirements and our expectations of our boys. We must also sit alongside our boys, set realistic but challenging goals with them and counsel them along the way.

As a result of the IQAA survey we have changed our tutor system. We have gone back to the horizontal tutor system that was running five years ago and the Tutor will be playing a more significant role in your son's life than before. I urge you to keep in contact with your son's Tutor and your son's Housemaster and to follow his progress academically. If you have any concerns please do not wait for the end of year report. From our side we shall endeavour to keep you up to date with your son's progress and warn you timeously if things are falling apart.

New Staff

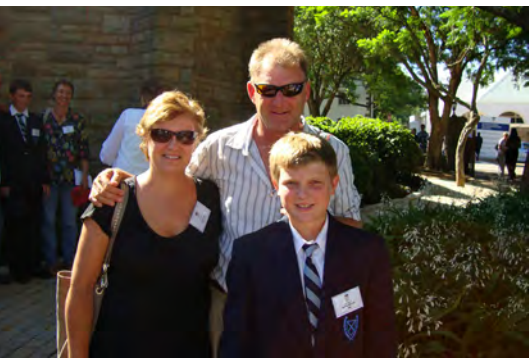
We welcome to the following new staff members to St Andrew's and wish them every success and fulfilment in their teaching careers at College.



New Staff are from the left: Sean Robinson, Graeme Lucas-Ball, Douglas Nupen and Joseph Orsmond

New Boys' Reception Day

We were delighted to welcome 100 Grade 8s to College recently. Not even the sweltering heat could diminish the enthusiasm on this great occasion. You may be interested to know that our 2012 intake included sixteen sons of Old Andreans (and many more who have strong Andrean connections), as well as three sons of past Head Boys. Boys have come from all over Africa and beyond. Nicholas Murray, Grade 8 Upper, has come all the way from Hong Kong. He resumes a long tradition of Murrays in Upper and is the grand nephew of Anton Murray, Springbok cricketer and Founder Headmaster of St Alban's College in Pretoria. The Chapel Service for new boys and their parents was followed by tea at The Highlander, and in the evening Housemasters warmly welcomed new parents to the Andrean family at a cocktail party held in each of the Houses.



Susan, Aidan and Luke Birrell



Kelly, William and Günther Marx



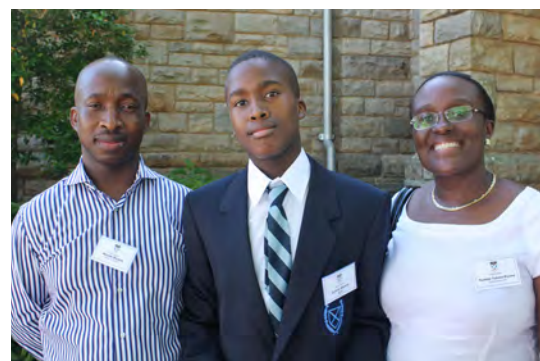
Penny, Angus and Steve Cook



Ian, Ross and Jillian Hunter



Jacko, John and Sandy Maree



Wanda, Zakisa and Pumela Tabata-Biyana

Over the next two weeks the new boys will continue their orientation programme under the guidance of their Prefects and Mentors, become accustomed to the boarding environment, the long and busy school day with all its routines, and continue to make new friends. We wish each boy well in his career at College and trust that they will make the most of all the opportunities which are on offer at this fine school.

New Boys' Picnic

After Chapel on the first Sunday of term, the new boys and several members of staff participated in the annual "new boy walk" from the Kariega River along the beach to Kasouga, a small seaside hamlet on the coast. It was a glorious day and the walk created a great appetite for the picnic lunch which followed.





The Dining Hall Complex

I am pleased to report that our magnificent new facility is up and running!

The official opening of the Dining Hall and unveiling of the Foundation Stone will be held on Friday, 16th March.



Community Engagement

The Order of the Holy Cross, a community of Anglican Benedictine Monks at Hillandale, has responded to the needs of their surrounding community in a rural area immediately outside Grahamstown with a courageous decision. The farm school which had served these communities had closed and the Brothers' response has been to start the newest Anglican School in the Province.

As the oldest Church School and being very conscious of our humble beginnings in Huntley Street, St Andrew's is proud to be an active supporter of this initiative. After a long battle, the school has been registered as an independent school and the children who attend are the poorest of the surrounding areas. Classes began in 2011 with Grade R and this year, with their building completed, they will run both Grade R and Grade 1 classes.

The Holy Cross School offers our boys the chance to encounter the reality of what is possible through faith and love in response to desperation and poverty. Whilst we may feel like we are only digging holes to plant a windbreak of trees, we are showing love. The new school building will be blessed on the 4th February by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, an old friend of our schools and past parent of St Andrew's Prep, and Bishop of Grahamstown at the time of our 150th Jubilee.

Tim Barnard - Community Engagement Officer

A school built on rock, digging holes for trees at the Holy Cross School School

African Gifted Foundation conference - Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

I had the privilege of taking three boys, Peter Maffessanti, Momelezi Mdingi and Christopher Wilkinson to an unbelievable experience in Uganda in early January this year. Nearly 60 students from six countries attended – Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zanzibar. Students were selected from a range of backgrounds but all of them stood out as excellent mathematicians at their schools.

Various tutors from the UK ran a series of courses:

- Dr Nick Motson from Cass Business School, London ran a course on the dynamics of financial markets and banking. This included an online trading game and to bring it to life they organised a trip to the Uganda Securities Exchange.
- David Cope from Bletchley Park, the home of the legendary British code breakers ran a fascinating course on codes, ciphers and encryption.
- Dr Simon Roberts from the University of Nottingham and the UK's Space Academy presented an exploration of space science and the students got to build their own rockets. Nicholas' rocket was the one to go the furthest!

A visit to the huge Kakira Sugar Works opened our eyes to what it takes to produce nearly 50% of Uganda's entire sugar needs. We saw firsthand what engineering involves and got to chat to their engineers over lunch. Executives from Tullow Oil did a presentation to the Academy on the oil and gas sector across Africa and Executives from Czarnikow Group, one of the world's largest commodity trading groups based in the City of London flew in to share their insights about the global commodities industry. Ashish Thakker from Mara Foundation, one of Uganda's fastest growing technology companies and charitable groups with over 4,000 employees in 17 countries spoke to us one evening – he was absolutely inspirational. He is scheduled to fly into space aboard Virgin Galactic's spacecraft in the near future!

On one of the evenings we had the privilege of playing chess against Harold Wanyaman, the East African Chess Champion. He played 45 of us at the same time! Pete Maffessanti was the last man standing!

One's horizons are widened when one speaks to people from other countries and we came away from Uganda understanding again the privilege of going to a school like St Andrew's College.

Thomas Hagsphil - Director of Mathematics



Grahamstown is an extraordinary place with a world class University, top schools and an Arts Festival of renown, yet it retains its agricultural feel. These cows visited the Headmaster for breakfast on the 2nd February. We pride ourselves on being a school immersed in the culture of the Eastern Cape and this really fits the bill (or should that be 'bull'!).

Sport

Our summer sport season is off to a really good start and the cricketers, water polo players and rowers have enjoyed good results across the board. **The 1st XI cricket** have had a really busy start to the season playing in the Grahamstown Schools' Festival and additional matches against the touring Trinity House (Johannesburg) and St George's College (Harare) teams. In addition the boys have been involved in the national T20 Competition and have recorded wins against Kingswood, Marlow and Union, and are now on course for the final of this competition.



Damon Weeks on the sweep vs. Northern Cape X1 (1st XI Cricket)

We also congratulate **Ian Herold** (Grade 12 2011) on his selection as Captain of the SA Colts XI at the conclusion of the annual Khaya Majola Cricket Week, and **Sintu Manjezi** is also to be congratulated on his fine debut for the Eastern Province U19 side where he took 9 wickets for 57 runs in a match vs South Western Districts.

The Water Polo team have excelled and they won the Port Rex Knockout Tournament in their first serious competition of the season beating Grey PE in a penalty shoot out after the final scores were locked at 4 all. The second team also did exceptionally well in the same tournament. They won the Plate Final and beat several schools' first teams en route to the final. Last week the 1st team took part in the prestigious Grey College Tournament where they lost 8-4 to Pretoria High in the quarter finals. After the play offs College finished the tournament in a creditable 7th position out of 20 schools.

In Rowing, the 1st Eights won the premier event at the ZRC/Grey Regatta held at Redhouse on the Zwartkops River on Saturday. They held their own in challenging crosswinds and the junior crews also fared well.

The Prefects Camp held at Assegai Trails took on a different format this year. There was an emphasis amongst the Housemasters and the Prefects on getting back to basics with regard to daily routine, house and school discipline, participation and pride. I have every confidence in the top schoolboy leadership and know that they are determined to do their best and to lead the school with distinction.

In conclusion I would like to thank you all for your support. I look forward to meeting you on the sidelines, at parents' meetings and at Old Boy and College Reunions. May you all have a busy and fulfilling 2012.

Kind regards

Paul Edey

HEADMASTER



James Myburgh scoring a goal for the 1st team against Graeme en route to winning the Port Rex Tournament.