



## Message from the Headmaster

Dear Andean Community

Over the August holidays a number of activities occurred. In this letter staff and boys report back on the rich variety of academic, cultural, community service and sports activities available at College. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

Kind regards,  
*Paul Edey*  
*Headmaster*



## Brains in Bali

Grahamstown recently received an invitation to attend the Indonesian International Mathematics competition. This is a cities based competition and so St Andrew's College undertook a talent search through all the schools in Grahamstown for the top Grade 7 Mathematicians. A rather stiff test was written and the team selected. They were: Nicholas Kroon from St Andrew's Prep, Christopher Matthews and Paula Duxbury from Kingswood College and Jessica Ferreira from DSG. Ms Eunice Timm very ably assisted me as the deputy team leader. We had a number of afternoon training sessions in preparation for what we knew would be a tough competition. Cities from 28 countries were represented from as far afield as Vietnam, Mexico, Russia and Mongolia. The Mathematics was really difficult and we have a long way to go before we will be able to compete against countries like China and Bulgaria. It was a good wake up call for our pupils to see what it takes to be world class. Apart from having to compete against the brightest kids in the world, the trip to Bali was an amazing cultural experience. Meeting kids from other countries and being immersed in a



**Grahamstown's top Grade 7 Mathematicians: Christopher Matthews, Nicholas Kroon, Paula Duxbury and Jessica Ferreira with the Director of Mathematics, Mr Tom Hagsphil (back) and Mrs Eunice Timm (far right).**

## Brains in Bali

completely different culture to our own, is invaluable in our global village and broadens the horizons beyond the Ecce Pass and Kenton.

For me as a Mathematics teacher it was again a great experience to be able to debate topical concerns like the use of calculators in the classroom as well as various curriculum issues with teachers from all over the world. I certainly gained some interesting insights, particularly when we visited a school in Denpasar, the capital of Bali. We quickly say that Eastern kids have no life outside of school and that they are stuck behind their books for most of the day. Well, in Indonesia, schools start at 07h30 in the morning and by 13h30 they are done and the kids have the afternoon to themselves. Chatting to some of the kids at that school, I certainly didn't get the feeling that they were overworked and under intense pressure to perform. Perhaps there is something that we, in Sunny South Africa, are missing in the world of Mathematics Education. One thing I saw clearly again was that it doesn't take fancy computer equipment, interactive white boards and all kinds of other gizmos to be a school that produces good Mathematics results. Pencil and paper – and perhaps a good teacher is all that is necessary. Next year this competition will be held in Taiwan and we will be taking a Grade 7 as well as a Grade 9 team.

A pleasant, albeit a slightly unexpected, spinoff has been the excitement this trip has caused in the Prep schools because the children have seen that we mean what we say when we pronounce that rugby isn't everything at St Andrew's College and that international recognition can be gained through academic endeavor and not only through sport. We have already started the training for 2015 in Grade 3 and I'm hoping that we will show the world that Africa can also produce top class Mathematicians.

**Thomas Hagspohl — Director of Mathematics**



## History Tour to China and Vietnam

**By Christopher de Blocq: Grade 11 (Armstrong)**

The tour to China and Vietnam was truly unforgettable. Where we went, what we saw, what we did and in some cases how we got there may have been unforgettable, but the actual experience of merely being there and the fully-rounded experience as a whole is what will remain with those of us fortunate enough to have had the privilege of traversing the Orient. The sights, the smells of Beijing's main roads (and in a few more unfortunate cases the toilets on the overnight train), the tastes of Vietnamese 'Snot soup' and the traditional and delicious Chinese Peking duck, the sounds of the millions of scooters which surround you as you cross the road in Hanoi contrasted with the gentle reed pipe players in Southern Vietnam, the feeling of the roughened clay on your back as you try to squeeze through the Cu Chi tunnels near Saigon compared to the texture of the finest silk flowing over your skin as you try on a kimono at the silk factory, were overwhelming in their intensity. It is truly a different world entirely.

We went on this tour to learn more about the history and culture of China and Vietnam and from a historian's perspective, it was fully successful. Everywhere we went, no matter how much prior knowledge of the subject we possessed, we walked away further enriched. The most interesting aspect was the difference between 'The West's' account of historical events in the East, and the East's perspective. These differing perspectives forced us as historians to both question what we already knew and what we learned at the various sites. The incredible nationalism of both countries, coupled with the Semi-communist regimes in the area allow for a perfectly tuned sense of order and scarily efficient propaganda. It is not my place to argue about bias or correctness, but instances where the public had no knowledge of major events, such as the Tiananmen protests, seemed surreal. And learning about the American War, as it's known in Vietnam, from a Vietnamese perspective and from a tour guide who had a vested interest in the subject since his father was part of an active resistance during the war, was, to me, more valuable than a full term's work in a classroom. This form of active history, actually visiting the various places of historical importance and then being allowed to form one's own opinion of what happened was what made the difference. No textbooks dictating who was right or wrong, just facts and the ability to analyse them for yourself after hearing both sides of the story made this tour a most successful venture. It taught us to think for ourselves and actually form our own opinion, which is the main aim of College's academics.

Some of the historical highlights include the following: The Great wall of China, The Cu Chi Viet-Cong tunnels, the Shanghai museum, The American War Memorial Museum in Ho Chi Minh city (still know by locals as Saigon), The Hanoi Hilton, The Ho Chi Minh memorial and mausoleum, Tiananmen Square and the famous Forbidden City.

The second objective of the trip was to investigate the culture of these countries. To be completely honest, there was not much investigating to do. As soon as we arrived in Beijing there was a major culture shock. If anything the 'culture' investigated us. It would not be the slightest exaggeration to say that almost everywhere we went we had more pictures taken of us than we took of the sights. One example of this is when my group, Group 1, was having their group photo in front of the Forbidden City and there were more people taking photographs of our group than there were people in our group. We were used as backgrounds and models wherever we went, especially the blonde girls and students of colour who went on the trip. We attempted charging for our pictures, but only a handful was successful.

Everywhere you go you see examples of gargantuan constructions and ancient grandeur, where one successful dynasty has tried to prove its prowess by out-performing the not-as-successful reigns before it and building more beautiful and ornate architecture and creating the most brilliant masterpieces of artwork. This ancient way of life, with every person trying to out-do and out-perform the previous generation seems to be instilled in every household, where nothing less than the utmost best is acceptable. And although they have such high standards of academics and extra-mural activities, there are many examples of where we, as foreigners, were baffled by how little regard for hygiene there was in these areas. Litter lined the Great Wall's ancient edge. What was worse than the phlegmy spit which covered the greater part of the traversable pavements was the noise which was made by their fabricators before they began their trajectory towards their final destination. The stench of rotting vegetables and human excretion which permeated the townships, and the shocking sights of mothers holding babies out of car windows to allow them to excrete on the pavements were not nearly as shocking as the public toilets, especially those on the trains. For such an "advanced" people, we were stunned into speechlessness by the squatting long drops on the train. And coupled with the horizontal movement we were then shocked to a teary-eyed silence once we smelled the occasional wafts of stagnant ablutions which had missed their mark drifting from the general area.

However, those minor negatives aside, we were granted many a generous opportunity to view first hand just what Chinese and Vietnamese culture truly is. Our rickshaw rides through the Hutongs of Beijing allowed for many a confusing picture. Outside shacks, which I would liken to those in a South African township, were parked BMWs. Even though the area was not the cleanest, nor by a long way the fanciest, it was the most sought after. We were allowed to go walk through a typical local's home and he explained to us that the driving factors for a property's price are how close to the city centre they are and how old the area is. So long as they get by in a 'good' area they are happy. They are willing to sacrifice luxury for efficiency, something which our country would do well to incorporate. This over-efficiency is part of the Chinese and Vietnamese way of life.

On the subject of the way of life of the peoples of these countries, we went to many a famous temple. The general lifestyle is based on Confucianism, the following of the great Chinese philosopher, Confucius. We went to the first university in Vietnam and discovered that the only subject they offered was Confucianism. The main religion in both countries is Buddhism. There were massive structures representing Buddha and the other Buddhist deities, one statue of Buddha being over twenty metres tall. People from all over the world flocked to these beautifully decorated centres of worship. Ornate metalwork, woodwork, calligraphy, artworks and architecture lines the walls; at the end of every roof was a figurine of a beast, protecting the building from evil spirits.

One day the Asians may indeed eat my breakfast, but I say let them. Provided, of course, that I was allowed to eat theirs. I think our taste-buds may have gained a greater education than we did through the variety of the Chinese and Vietnamese cuisine. The citrusy flavours of the Vietnamese seafood, and the spice and savoury qualities of the Chinese dishes were outstanding. Naturally not everyone was able to stomach such delicacies, and not one of us was able to eat the infamous Vietnamese 'Snot Soup'. We were also fortunate enough to be allowed to try some tapioca 'ta-fi-oh-ka' (spelled phonetically), the staple food of the Viet Cong during the war. We all agreed that we could not imagine having to eat this bland sweet potato every day for three meals a day. These types of traditional dishes allowed us brief glimpses of what it would really be like to be a part of the culture.



Traditionalism was also a major part of the culture, doing things as your ancestors did. Keeping obsolete customs and traditions alive is of utmost importance to the Chinese and Vietnamese people. One of these customs is the drinking of tea. We were fortunate enough to attend a tea drinking ceremony where we were taught the appropriate manner in which to drink, pour and smell the tea, each different tea being a brand new experience with different homeopathic qualities. These traditions form the basis of their culture. From the traditional water puppets of Vietnam to the smells of inner-city Beijing, from the effects of Agent Orange, which are evident in the public, to the intricacies of the perfectionistic Dynasties who built such things as the Forbidden City, with each rafter being painted in the most astounding reds, blues, yellows and greens imaginable, the culture is alive with traditionalism, making it so unique.

Finally this tour gave us an excuse to include visits to some tourist sites, one of the most memorable being the serene Hulong Bay just east of Hanoi in Northern Vietnam. The view of the massive limestone islands rising out of the sea like the spines on a dragon's back is one that is unlike any other. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was for all of us one of the main highlights. To view the Cango Cave-like caverns, within these rocky outcrops jutting out from the deep blue South China Sea and the traditional junks sailing from harbour to harbour, is an unforgettable experience. We all had many 'wow' moments, as my group leaders so eloquently put it.

This tour was a huge success and could not have happened without the logistical help of the Travel Office and those teachers who travelled with us on our journey. Personally I must also thank all the students who shared my experience with me; it is not often that a tour goes so smoothly without one incidence of friction and that both groups were able to bond as we did.

So after travelling through the smog-filled cities one by one, Beijing, Shanghai, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) we returned to South Africa feeling worn out, but enriched. This tour has taught us all many lessons, both historical and personal, and we are all the better because of it. We have had an experience like none other and I must stress that such a trip needs to be written down on everyone's bucket list.

## Music Tour to Cape Town

By Xan Atkins, Orchestra Leader

On the 8th of August, the music tour set off with an air of anticipation mixed with excitement. After a long trip and a comfortable night in Harkerville, we arrived in Cape Town and were immediately thrown into the pace of the tour as the orchestra set off for a rehearsal with Pinelands High School Orchestra while the Pipe Band rushed to a Piping exhibition.

The next day began with a tour of the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre. We were all so amazed at this iconic monument to music where every single part had been designed specifically for the purpose of music, each of us taking down ideas to improve our own music school back in Grahamstown.

After a midday concert at Vista Nova School the following day, we began our second performance at Pinelands High School where a variety of ensembles both from DSG and College and from Pinelands participated, finishing with a piece played by a combined orchestra.

The following day we found ourselves travelling to Seal Island for an enjoyable outdoor excursion. This was followed by an afternoon concert at Western Province Prep School for the boys, and in the evening another concert at the same venue for Old Andreans and Old DSG pupils. This proved to be a most enjoyable evening.

The final day arrived and after a morning of shopping, we set off for Darling, the home of the famous Pieter-Dirk Uys, alias "Evita Bezuidenhout". The room was completely packed and the show was greeted with wild applause, a perfect end to a great tour. Special thanks must go to Mrs. Carver, Mr. Pretorius and the other teachers for their part in making this tour happen.



## St Matthew's Mission

By Michael Bennett: Grade 10 (Espin)

I was one of the College boys fortunate to take part in the mission to St Matthew's School in Keiskammahok during the first week of the holidays. The mission was six days long, and consisted of doing community service, attending school at St Matthew's, and finally helping to assist some learners from St Matthew's to climb the Amatola trail for the last three days.

At first I admit I was a bit nervous as I did not quite know what to expect and wasn't really going with any of my friends. The mission helped me grow in more ways than I could have hoped for. It made me realize just how fortunate I am to receive the education I do by showing me how the rest of the country's youth are educated. The optimism for the future that the learners shared, despite having so little, was truly inspiring. On top of this I got to make some great friends in older grades that I wouldn't usually socialize with. I believe the mission was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed it. I will definitely be doing something like this again as soon as I can get a chance.



Michael Bennett, Andrew Gooden and Sam Easter working at St Matthew's Children's Home at SS Gida hospital

# Sleeping on Church Square

The stay awake by Jonothan Amm: Grade 11 (Upper)

*The aim ...*

*to empower and unite St Andrew's boys to have the confidence and the authority to believe they can make a difference in our nation.....*

"In our Shoes" exists to raise funds for organisations that support street children. This initiative also allowed the boys of St Andrew's to feel what it is like to live like a street child, and to experience their hardship!

We anxiously waited at 7 o'clock outside the chapel for what we'd never hope to have to experience one day. David, Martin, Ethan, Jack and I all met just after supper with many layers of clothes on. We then travelled down to the Cathedral where we jumped out to the excitement of nothing... no TV's, laptops, beds, cell phones etc. We were restricted from all our luxuries and soon found we would have to rely on each other for entertainment. Once the toilets were found we tried to make our bedding which consisted of two boxes on solid concrete. We all got up and took a walk around the Cathedral, admiring the history of the building and learning that it once was the tallest building in the Eastern Cape.

We walked as far as Steers and seeing burgers and chips soon made us realise what it must be like for a homeless man to pass by every night and not be able to buy himself a meal. This first mention of gratefulness came into the conversation and was pretty much the main topic of the night. Besides some jokes and general conversation about College, the main criteria of the night was based on this theme of gratitude. We learnt that when Heads of Schools and teachers tell us you have NO IDEA how lucky you are to be in the position you are in, that was only fully understood that night. We travelled back to our sleeping arrangements and tried to set up ourselves and our boxes in such a way that we would be protected from the wind. Many of us tried to use boxes as blankets but this was soon found to be useless.

Eventually - and eventually means after a few hours - we got some sleep at about ten. But we were soon woken up, either by the uncomfortably hard floor or the temperature. Sleeping was not a success and some boys learnt that relying on each other was a much more helpful way to try and sleep. The worst part of the night was when cars or people went by. They would stop and stare for a second, then make rude comments about how "those people should be thrown in jail" or "how they make Grahamstown look so run down". Little did they know that we were pupils at one of the finest schools in the country trying to get a feel for what a homeless man or child goes through every night.

Many lessons were learnt that night, but the following Sunday I went into Pick 'n Pay with a friend who wasn't with me on the experience and bought a loaf of bread. Then on our way back to College I gave it to a beggar whom I had seen earlier. He asked me why I did that and I told him because last night I was in his shoes and desired the exact same thing. Those memories will be with me forever. I hope St Andrew's takes a group of boys again next year and that this may become a tradition or an SCA routine because I fear many boys take too much for granted.

*Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*



## 2020 Sustainability Campaign

You will have received an invitation from the SAC/DSG Foundation Office to the launch of *2020 Sustainability Campaign* during Balloon Week. Great schools are built on great foundations and this campaign will build on the generosity and success of the Jubilee 150 campaign, with the new objective of ensuring the sustainability of College for future generations. Please join us at the launch cocktail party in Centenary Hall on Wednesday 12 October, the purpose of which is to bring together as many members of the Andrean community in celebration of, and support for, our fine school.

## SPORT

### Zimbabwe Cricket Tour 2011

By Michael Rushmere: Captain of Cricket

To be honest, we as the St Andrew's College Cricket XI, did not know at all what to expect. On arrival we were hosted by various families in little groups, having our doubts but also our expectations. After the first few minutes we spent with our hosts, we soon realised that we were in good company in the country of Zimbabwe. The schools that we came up against were truly admirable, both on and off the field, and we met some of the nicest people we had ever met.

We played four one day games against St George's, St John's, Peterhouse and Falcon, in which we won three. The facilities were brilliant, along with hospitality of both the opposition schools and the parents. Then came our rest day where we were given the opportunity to experience a visit to one of the best animal sanctuaries in Zim. We enjoyed being able to stroke cheetah and gaze at majestic lions with wide eyes.

For the following three days, we took part in one of the best and most exciting



**Murray Leith on the cut in Zimbabwe**

tournaments in the whole of Zimbabwe, the St George's T20 tournament. We got off to a shaky start, losing to both St John's and Falcon, both teams that we had beaten already. But we bounced back and won our next three games in a fine spirit, bringing home as much momentum as possible.

Zimbabwe as a whole was an absolutely unbelievable experience. We learnt not only how to improve our game but also how to handle various pressures along the way. The hospitality shown by our hosts was truly exceptional and the friendships we made with each other, and with the other teams, will always be remembered. As a team we thank everyone who made the effort to make this tour possible, all the parents who supported us up in Zim, and especially our coaches, Mr Bradfield, Mr Jackson and Mr Dewey, who not only taught us so much but also put so much time and effort into each and every one of us!



**Daniel Long clears the boundary vs. Peterhouse**

### Ralph Goveia - swimming for Zambia at the Commonwealth Youth Games

Ralph Goveia recently returned from the Youth Commonwealth Games in the Isle of Man where he did himself, his country and his school proud. He swam in five events setting personal best times in all five and setting five new school records. His most remarkable achievements were knocking nearly 2 seconds off his 50m butterfly time and over 10 seconds off his 200m individual medley time. He finished 9th in the Commonwealth 200m breaststroke event and 12th in the 200m Individual medley. Well done Ralph, we are proud of you!

**Robyn Bower: M-I-C of Swimming**