



St Andrew's Prep School Newsletter 15 March 2016



ST ANDREW'S PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

To the Prep Community

Following an Independent Examinations Board workshop, held last year, that discussed ways in which the IEB could add greater value and support to primary schools, we decided to proceed with one of their product offerings. This was a set of International Benchmarking tests in Mathematics and English, that is overseen by the Australian Council for Educational Research, ACER.

The educational management team and I were excited about the prospect of participating in these instruments for two reasons. Firstly, they afford us with an opportunity to benchmark ourselves against some of the best primary schools across the globe. (The current instruments, although useful, are all solely at a national level). The second reason was that because ACER offers these tests in each of the Grades 3 to 7, on an annual basis, it affords us the opportunity to track our pupils' benchmarking performance on a longitudinal basis.

Our first year of participation saw us enter the Gr 3 and 4 pupils into the Mathematics and English tests. I have received the results of our pupils' efforts and I am delighted with them!

In Gr 3 Mathematics, we scored better than the national average by 60 points and better than the international average by 80 points. In Gr 3 English, our results were better than national and international averages by about 30 and 60 points respectively.

In Grade 4 Mathematics the Preppies performed better than their national and international counterparts by about 30 and 60 points respectively. Comparisons in English, from both a national and international results perspective showed us higher, albeit not significantly, than the 20 000 pupils from across the globe.

These results are incredibly pleasing and reflect the tremendous amount of work invested into our curriculum development strategies. It is important to appreciate that great academic results stem from a solid pre-primary and junior primary foundation and so I wish to commend all professionals in those arenas at Prep. Kudos also go to the teachers in charge of our literacy and numeracy programmes and the Academic Heads of Department.

Mrs Carmen O'Donoghue has tendered her letter of retirement with effect the end of 2016 as she and her husband Rob seek to exit their full time careers. Carmen has spent 12 years at Prep and has left indelible impressions on hundreds of pupils and parents with her investment into the schools performing arts programmes. She has been a wonderful colleague, expert Head of Department and a wise member of the school management team and will be sorely missed. Her retirement does not come as a surprise and in fact has been on the cards for quite some time. So much so that when we established the second full-time music post two years ago, it was done with succession planning in mind. To this effect, we are blessed to have Mrs Fiona van der Merwe move into the HoD Performing Arts position which offers a seamless transition in this management sphere. We have thus advertised to fill the additional music teaching post, and have done so nationally, as we strive to appoint a teacher of the highest calibre.

From academic matters to golf; I wish to extend my appreciation to Des Bailey, Liz Bowker and Fiona Tessoroff for their efforts around the wet but most successful Golf Day held last Friday. Their level of event organisation and the calibre of the hosting and the day itself was superb and will no doubt draw an over-subscribed field of golfers to next year's event!

I shall be travelling to Johannesburg to support our lads at the St Stithian's Rugby Night Festival. We wish these boys safe travels and a constructive and enjoyable festival. Mr Paul will serve as acting head during this time.

Gareth Allman

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

Easter Term

Week 10: Academic Week B

Wednesday 16 March

08:00 Gr 3 Outdoor Ed departs
SP Book Check (Grade Heads)

Thursday 17 March

St Stithians Night Rugby Festival
11:00 SP Music Concert

Friday 18 March

09:00 Gr 1 and 2 attend the DSG Production
13:00 Gr 3 return from Outdoor Ed
St Stithians Night Rugby Festival

Saturday 19 March

Duty Master: Rev. Peter (0834298653)
St Stithians Night Rugby Festival

Sunday 20 March

18:00 Easter Service (Compulsory attendance for all SP boys)

Week 11: Academic Week A

Monday 21 March

Human Rights Day
11:00 Inter-house General Knowledge
14:00 Strat Planning Session 2
DSG Production

Tuesday 22 March

07:30 JP Music Concert
11:00 SP attend the DSG Production
Rugby Coaches' Forum

Wednesday 23 March

JP PAT Chats
10:00 PP & JP terms conclude
11:00 SP Final Assembly
17:00 SAC Final Assembly

Thursday 24 March

Travel Day
08:00 Final SP report editing session (SP class teachers)

Friday 25 March

JP PAT Chats
SP Report 1 issued electronically

Pre-Primary



Big ones, small ones, and even tiny Wallies! There were Wallies in all shapes and sizes, as well as story book characters. A Wally hunt kept everyone busy for a while, and then they whizzed around the track on bicycles, tricycles and scooters. Isn't it wonderful when school is the most exciting place to be!

To extend our learning experiences about growing and life cycles, we are visiting Sunnyside Nursery this Thursday. We are planting seeds this week and will watch them growing during the holidays.

It has come to our attention that some of our parents do not have the D6 communication tool on their phones/computers. Please let us know if you are having problems receiving communication from the school.

Junior Primary

During SciFest all our Junior Preppies went to watch one of the most popular events on offer at the Monument, the Laser Show. We were taken on a journey through TIME – and what a splendid and colourful journey it was! After a short lesson about lasers and the many occupations to pursue using lasers, breath-taking beams flashed across the auditorium to the beat of popular well-known music. Science had come alive and our Junior Preppies got moving to the beat of this funky music right there in their seats! Next week Tuesday at 07:30, our music maestros will have an opportunity to show case their developing talents at the Music Concert in our Assembly Room. If your child is participating in the concert, please come along and enjoy the entertainment. Congratulations to Jonathan Pretorius, Nicholas Smailes and Joey Whittington-Jones for earning so many rosettes at a horse-riding show in Grahamstown during the weekend. We are so proud of them!

Grade 3 Classwork

The Grade 3s wrote their own stories and this one is particularly dear to Mrs Van's heart.



JP Horse Riding

Here are the results from the SANESA Qualifier 3 that was held in Grahamstown this weekend. Prep fielded a team of 3 little Preppies who each entered various classes at Level 0.

Jonathon Pretorius (Gr.3): 1st places - Performance riding and Precision & Speed 40cm jumping; 2nd places – Dressage Test 2, Dressage Test 3 and Equitation; 4th places – Ideal Time 40cm jumping and Working Riding.

Nicholas Smailes (Gr.2): 2nd places – Precision & Speed 40cm jumping and Working Riding; 3rd place – Ideal Time 40cm jumping.

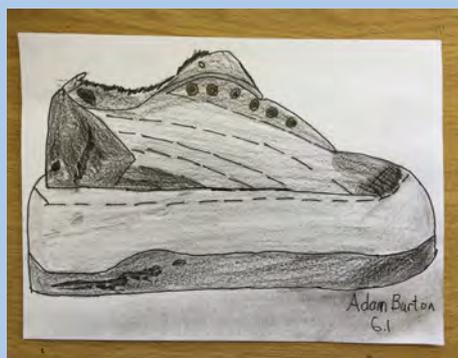
Josephine Whittington-Jones (Gr.3): 1st places – Dressage Test 2, Equitation and Ideal Time 40cm jumping. 3rd place – Precision and Speed 40 cm jumping.



Art



The Grade 7s used photography and various art Apps to create their own images of special aspects of Top Prep.



In wonderful interdisciplinary lessons the Grade 6 boys wrote a creative writing story called 'The lost shoe', based on real shoes found on the beach by Mrs Scholtz, the Art teacher. These were written and illustrated using Book Creator on their iPads. Once in the art class the boys had the opportunity to read their stories out loud to the class while the rest of the boys got on with drawing the shoe which they had written about, using the observation drawing rules taught earlier in the term!

Swimming

Congratulations to our swimmers who swam so well in the Independent Schools' Gala on Tuesday, 8 March. The results were as follows:

First: St Georges with 541 points

Second: SAP/DSG with 519 points

Third: Woodridge with 418 points

Fourth: Kingswood College with 346 points

This was the final gala of the season and many thanks go to our coaches, Mrs van Rensburg, Miss Breero, Mrs Rosslee and Mr Dawson. A thank you to Mrs Jackson who quietly assisted in the background while on maternity leave.



Progress Report of the Centre for Creative Learning

Brickwork almost up to window height.

Democracy in Grade 6



The Grade 6s went through a voting process last week and today the 38 boys in Grade 6 voted for their Grade President. The winner was Lamlani Yawa. He will now, with his Vice-President, John Marshall, approach Mr. Allman to see whether he is able to meet their requests.

Rugby

Dear Parents,

As we enter a busy Winter Season that involves a lot of travel, please can I remind you about our travel policy.

All boys are encouraged to travel on the team bus to fixtures, however folk living in outlying areas as well as parents who would prefer to transport their own child may do so.

Boys wishing to return home after fixtures with their parents are welcome to do so, however no parent may transport another child without consent being given to either myself (MIC Rugby) or Mr Paul (MIC Hockey), via email or SMS, by both parties. Please always inform the coach involved when you do opt for your child to use private transport.

Regards

Richard Jackson

Pre-Season Rugby Results:

U13A

Vs Setlaarspark U13A drew 10 – 10
Vs Volkskool U13A won 10 – 5
Vs Cambridge U13A won 17 -10

U13B

Vs PJ Olivier U13A lost 25 – 5
Vs Coastal VX lost 10 – 0
Vs Oakhill U13A lost 22 – 15

Week ahead Rugby Fixtures:

Wednesday 16th March U13B vs PAHS U13A @15:00 on Fairlawn A
Thursday 17th March U11A vs PAHS U11A @ 15:00 on Fairlawn A

Saints Night Festival

Thursday 17th – Sunday 20th March

Thursday 17th U13A vs St Johns @ 16:00 on Saint Stithian's Higher Ground
Friday 18th TBC
Saturday 19th TBC

Hockey

Dear Parents,

Due to my partnership with GRAYS Hockey South Africa I will be able to supply any hockey equipment – sticks, boots, bags, grips – to your children. If you are interested in equipment or private hockey lessons please feel free to message me at: w.vanderwalt@saprepschool.com or 0726740215.

10 merits

Asi Mpofu
Connor Moorcroft
Nhlanhla Mngadi
Ben Evans
Ben Wright
Jonathan MacKenzie

William Brothers
Mark Were
Divan Eksteen
Michael Boynton
Sean Conroy
Liam McNaughton

St Patrick's Golf Day

Dear Prep Community,

We really did not expect to have such a traditional St. Patrick's Golf Day with all that rain. However, one must not always dwell on the negative and look at the positive. Many farmers are exceedingly overjoyed with the rain after the considerable drought of the last few months. I must confess, I did monitor the weather in the homeland for the day and ironically it was fine and dry, which many people in Ireland were overjoyed with too, given the recent floods and storms!

The day was very well supported with 17 four balls teeing off on a shot-gun start. The competition was a four-ball alliance with a yellow ball, however, on this occasion and befitting the Prep community, the ball was Blue! Eight intrepid teams completed 18 holes, with several others completing 9 and a small number succumbing to the weather and dropping off earlier. On returning to the warmth and comfort of the clubhouse we had the talented Jason Gladwin preform for the bedraggled golfers and those non-golfers who also joined the festivities. A good evening was had by all and the inclement conditions out on the course were soon forgotten.

Prize winners for the day:

Longest drive men's: 10th - Andrew Beer.

Longest drive women's: 10th - Nicole Painter.

Nearest to the pin: 8th - Joos Vos.

Nearest to the pin: 11th - Morné Bosch.

Nearest to the pin: 16th - R. Fisher.

Best dressed lady: Megan McCallum.

Best dressed men: team effort - Joos Vos, Deon Van Deventer, Morné Bosch, & Dufie Niewoudt.

Raffle winner: Sean McCallum.

1st on 86 points & Blue Ball: Ed Wilson, Drix White, Gary Philips, Warren Henry.

2nd on 84 points: John Williamson, Leon Claasen, Morné Sweeney, Fannie de Klerk.

3rd on 80 points: Hilton Haakenson, Steven van der Merwe, Rod Fisher, Robert van der Merwe.

4th on 78 points: Joos Vos, Deon Van Deventer, M. Bosch, Dufie Niewoudt.

There was also a mini competition on the 16th where the proceeds (R1100) went to the SPCA. A special "thank you" to the Rosslee family for organising this.

The fundraising committee can not thank everyone enough for your support. To the sponsors of Tee-boxes, prizes and players; your efforts are truly appreciated. The funds raised will provide 25 new blue tooth keyboards for JP, computer stools for the JP staff room and will go to increase funds for further furnishings of classrooms at SP.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Liz Bowker and Fiona Tessorndorf who organised and co-ordinated so professionally a wonderful event. Please see pictures on FB, D6 & newsletter.

Before we break up for Easter, our next event is Around the World on the 20 May. You will be contacted soon, via your class coordinator, on what to do for this wonderful annual event.

Have a peaceful Easter, travel safely and see you back here in April.

Désirée Bailey.



Autism Awareness 5 km Onesie Walk/Run



When: 16th March 2016

Where: Kingswood Dold Field

Why: Autism Awareness Campaign

Time: 5:30 pm

Dress: In a Onesie, PJ's or anything Blue

Cost/Donation: R 10 Adults
(Including entry to Lucky Draw)

All proceeds will go to Autism South Africa

Awesome prizes to be won.



Therapy S.M.A.R.T

For more information contact 046 6229318 or email info@therapysmart.co.za

Easter Service

Sunday 20 March at 18:00

A reminder that attendance at Easter Service is compulsory for all Grade 4 – 7 boys. The Service is one of our very few compulsory events and forms an integral part of our school make-up, inculcates our spiritual curriculum, supports the ethos and moral values that we instil and brings us together, as a school community, in Prep's traditional place of worship.

Understandably there may be circumstances where attendance is not possible and we appreciate this. If this be the case we request, as a matter of courtesy, that you notify your son's class teacher via an email, sms or WhatsApp, well in advance of the event, requesting that he be excused. We continually reinforce the principles of accountability, ownership, protocol and good manners with our boys. As such, boys failing to attend, without prior notice, will be placed on School Detention.

Thank you for your cooperation with the above.

Marc Paul
Deputy Headmaster

JP Music Concert: 07h30

SP Music Concert: 11h00

*Parents are welcome to attend,
especially if your child is playing.*



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NEC ASPERA TERRENT