

DSG

Newsletter Term 1 #7 | 6 March 2020



**THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS**



Dear DSG Parents and Friends

I trust that you enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with your daughters over the half-term. I know it went by swiftly, especially for long-distance families. I can't help but wonder whether one extra day could have made a meaningful difference in providing enough resting time and taking the sting out of the travel rush. Please feel free to provide me with your feedback.

One of my Christmas presents, together with a great pair of socks, was a book by Simon Sinek, titled 'The Infinite Game'. The core concept of his thinking rang true with me, especially with our school in mind.

EN AVANT

He uses the analogy that the business of organizations, is similar to playing a game: There are numerous influencing factors and variables such as players, rules, objectives, rivals and challenges.

Sinek suggests that there are two types of games, 'finite' and 'infinite'. The finite game has an agreed moment when the game stops and whoever has the most points at that stage, is declared the winner. The infinite game has all the usual elements of a game but with a fundamental difference, you don't play to win the game; you play to stay in the game. This infinite game does not have a final whistle and is not driven by the ambition to beat the opposition. Instead, in the infinite game, players are inspired by the ambition of serving a 'just cause'.

In the infinite game, there are rivals who are respected as worthy for benchmarking and although we compete with them, we also learn from them to improve our game. At any given time, we might find that we are better or worse than our worthy rivals, but with the understanding that there is never a fixed status quo. This keeps us humble in victory and dignified in defeat, it encourages us to risk breaking new ground and also to learn from our mistakes.

**“When we fall short, we do not say, ‘I am a failure’;
we say, ‘I am not there yet’.”**

When we understand that we are playing an infinite game, we approach everything we do with a growth mindset. We describe our work in the continuous tense – with an '-ing' suffix to our verbs. We are working, playing, learning, training, competing, growing, developing... We understand the power of 'yet'. We aim for our best. When we fall short, we do not say, 'I am a failure'; we say, 'I am not there yet'. When we reach our best, we say, 'tomorrow, this will be my second best'.

It is only possible to stay in the game if the players form a well-functioning team, bonded by trust and inspired by the just cause. I am immensely proud and grateful to know that The DSG is most certainly in the infinite game with an inspired team. We have been in the game for a very long time and we are planning to stay in the game, with the grand children of our current pupils in mind.

At DSG, we go on our knees every day to declare God as our most valued team member and captain. We do this because we know that no one understands the concept of the infinite game better than Him, and in the end our ultimate just cause is to glorify Him.

En Avant!

Jannie de Villiers

Head of School



Important notice re: Coronavirus

You will no doubt be following the global coverage of this outbreak with interest. We are monitoring developments closely and taking continual advice. As things stand there appears to be no cause for alarm, but we are taking every precaution to ensure that all preventative measures are known and observed across campus. In the event of a worst-case scenario large-scale local outbreak we are confident that we have plans to manage such an outbreak and in the unlikely event of any school closure being ordered we are confident that we have the facilities to repatriate, house, and/or quarantine girls as required.

St Andrew's College & Prep / Diocesan School for Girls



Information Evening

A family of three boarding schools highly regarded for excellence in all spheres of education

See you in
Namibia
Tuesday
17 March 2020
18:00 for 18:30
The Lemontree
Restaurant
18 Liliencron Street,
The Village,
Windhoek, Namibia
www.sacschool.com

Prospective parents are warmly invited to attend an Information Evening on our family of leading independent boarding schools
St Andrew's College
The Diocesan School for Girls
St Andrew's Preparatory
School situated in Grahamstown (Makhanda), Eastern Cape. Children are encouraged to accompany their parents. Pupils to dress in school uniform.
www.dsgschool.com

Please RSVP to
Vanessa Holmes
v.holmes@dsgschool.com
082 331 1152

 Cambridge Assessment
International Education
Cambridge International School



www.saprepschool.com

Winter sports begin!

It has been a busy start to the second half of Term 1, with the netball and hockey season officially starting and the girls having to refocus and get ready for the winter season. The trial process is well underway and rest assured, no teams are picked without a thorough and extensive process which ensures that teams are selected with the due care they deserve, especially given the inevitable emotion which goes with team selection.

If your daughter is disappointed with the outcome at the end of the selection process, please can I ask you, the parents, to be a sounding board so they can voice and air their frustration. Our selection is an accurate reflection of strength, ability and performance during the trials and therefore, it is important to note that the door is never closed on team selection and nothing is set in stone. We encourage our coaches to continuously evaluate performance and commitment and suitably reward those who do put the work, improve and develop as players. I urge you to encourage your daughters to put in the hours and commitment if they wish to see positive results. The girls are invited to engage with coaches for advice on areas they can improve on and better their game, it is just a question as to whether they are keen and motivated.

We do not wish to cause upset and advise parents not to fight their daughter's battles for them in such cases, however if there is an issue which needs addressing, please get in touch with either myself or Ms Marques.

Looking ahead to this weekend

The **1st hockey team** are in PE this weekend for the EP Hockey Opening Weekend Festival, while the **U14A hockey team** are at Collegiate on Saturday for a similar event.

On the **netball** front, we have our **1st and 2nd** squads in PE this weekend, taking part in the NMU tournament, while our **16A, 15A, 14A netball teams** head off to East London to attend the Grens Festival.

The balance of the girls will continue with trials on Friday and Saturday and into next week.

The 1st derby of the season is against Kingswood on 20 and 21 March.

Warm regards

Chris Hibbert

Thank you to our student contributors:
Sabine Renaud (photography) and Leigh Saywood (content)

Sports round up



Above: Jess Coxwell

Water polo

The DSG U15A water polo team played in the Shaun Fuchs Water Polo Tournament in Johannesburg over half term. They put in some wonderful performances and ended in 14th position.

The DSG 1st water polo team also travelled to Johannesburg over half term to compete in the Old Petrian's Water Polo Tournament, an event that marks the end of season for all the top teams in the country. DSG had a good run in the pool matches with wins over Crawford, Fourways High School and Rustenburg Girls' High School and drew with Collegiate. Unfortunately, we lost to Herschel in the playoff for a place in the quarterfinals however, we did bounce back to beat Stirling and finish in 11th place at the tournament.

Big congratulations are in order to Franki Behr, Courtney Repinz and Jess Coxwell who have been selected to represent EP U18 in the national water polo championships at the end of March.

Swimming

Congratulations to Emily Huxtable who won gold in the 50m breaststroke in the Top 8 Gala held in PE over the weekend.

Right: Emily Huxtable



Squash

Erin Powers played in the SA Junior Squash Open in Bloemfontein over half term. The competition is for all the top players from around the country and in her U16 age group, there were 63 competitors. Erin did very well to finish in 10th place, which places her as one of the top players in her age group in South Africa.

Soccer

Soccer is an exciting new addition to the DSG sports programme. On the Sunday before half term, our 1st team soccer played a match against African Connection, who are currently the Regional League Champions. It was a tall order for our team as this was our 1st official match of any significance and we still have so much to learn. However, in the face of tough competition, we showed fantastic determination and resilience. Although we lost the game, we fought hard to the very end. Our girls should be proud of their efforts and we hope to see this level determination and enthusiasm continue as we develop the sport at DSG.

Tennis

Over half-term, The DSG 1st team tennis took part in the Independent Schools Tennis Tournament which was hosted by St Mary's DSG in Pretoria. The girls played consistently well in the group stages, with comfortable wins over Epworth, Springfield and Roedean. Their solid performance secured them a place in the final, a feat that DSG has not managed to achieve for 13 years! Each player stepped onto the court with a positive attitude, determination and a fighting spirit however, the St Anne's team were the stronger team on the day and earned themselves the well-deserved title.

Our DSG girls must be commended on their excellent demeanour and wonderful spirit on and off the court. They made a great effort to interact with the other teams, making connections and special memories that are



Squash super star: Erin Powers



The 1st team soccer play their first game



Playing their hearts out: Lucy McAdam and Lucy Pringle sure to be remembered for many years to come.

Being placed as runners up in this prestigious tournament was a fitting send off for Lucy McAdam and Mikayla Eksteen who both played their last matches for the DSG 1st team. Lucy and Mikayla have made invaluable contributions to the team, with Mikayla having accumulated over 70 caps for the team since 2016.

The end of an incredible season



Left to right and down: Amy Fowlds, Katarina Behr, Tayla Brown, Katarina Behr



CONGRATULATIONS to Courtney Repinz, Franki Behr and Jess Coxwell for making the **EP U18 Water Polo team!**

The Captain's Report

Captaining the water polo first team this season has been a privilege. I am so honored to have watched each of the girls grow both in and out of the pool. Our daily practices in the pool and weekly sessions at the Grahamstown CrossFit box definitely paid off.

We were invited to attend many tournaments along with some of the best teams in the country and we proudly held the DSG flag high. The girls poured their hearts out this season for which I am so grateful. Our derby days were always full of fun and thank you to all who supported us. To all the parents, a massive thank you. The biggest thanks must go to Ms Julia Braatvedt, our coach. Thank you for believing in us and making us feel like family. We are so grateful. Kat Behr and Tayla Brown have been incredible seniors to work with and a huge well done and thank you to them. To all my girls, keep growing and shining!

By Leigh Saywood



Making a difference, one scrunchie at a time.

Amongst the many wonderful community engagement initiatives The DSG is part of, the Child Welfare "Children helping Children" project, is one that really tugs at your heart strings and stands out as impactful and far reaching.

Under the leadership of Kelby Barker, members of The DSG Interact Club put their heads together to come up with a fundraising idea, with the end goal to support three young girls at Child Welfare with their school fees, uniforms and transport for the year. The Interact Club decided on having scrunchies made and sold them to the DSG community, which was a resounding success. Monies were raised, targets were achieved and as a result, Ongama (7) and twins Onela and Onelisiwe (6) have an exciting year ahead of them. Not only have these young girls been given a financial life line, but also emotional support. Members of the interact club, have taken the time to get to know these girls, they take them on two outings a year and ensure they have very special birthday celebrations, full of love and lots of spoiling.

Thanks to our very passionate champion for community engagement, Lara Kruiskamp, the story does not end there. Lara's uncanny ability to identify social investment opportunities and connect the dots, ensures that there are many layers to each project, a skill that she is passing on to her enthusiastic interact girls.

The Interact Club commissioned Patricia, who is part of the Arts and Crafts team at LIV to sew the 328 scrunchies. Patricia is a widowed matriarch who is currently supporting her two children, two grandchildren and one great grandchild. Through projects such as these, Patricia and many women like her, are able to provide for their families.

Well done to Kelby and her team on a fantastic achievement and for the great work you are doing for our Makhanda community.



“the girls find such joy in helping others, for many this is their place in the sun.”

L.Kruiskamp

Wonder Women Wednesdays

Knowing shares their uplifting house tradition

Every Wednesday during the Knowing House roll call, five girls are nominated and chosen as the Wonder Women of the week. The girls are nominated by their peers or the house staff and the purpose is to celebrate character traits beyond the sporting and academic fields. This honour is reserved for attributes they may not necessarily receive an official award for, but are important attributes to celebrate nonetheless. These characteristics and descriptions range from staying behind after a long hockey practice to help the coach pick up the balls without being requested to do so, being the most encouraging and positive member of the dorm or going out of their way to be considerate towards the people around them. This is a way to intentionally foster a culture of normalizing women celebrating each other. Below are this week's Wonder Women who are celebrated for their kindness, thoughtfulness, leadership beyond titles and positions, quiet strength, maturity and bubblyness. We celebrate these young women and many more not only for the tangible ways they contribute to the school and beyond (this is particularly apt because of International Women's Day this week) but for the light they bring in each of their unique ways that make our world a better place.

Cindy Fumbata
Deputy House Director, Knowing House | Digital Manager



This week's Wonder Women are:
Lily Bowker, Ally Jensen, Jessica Coxwell,
Zanda Nkosiyané, Lumi Tafeni

**Be a WEDNESDAY WONDER WOMAN,
you never know who you are INSPIRING**

kindness ★ thoughtfulness ★ leadership



The DSG Old Girl's gathering in Gauteng

The DSG Old Girls and Old Andean Gauteng Branch held a summer drinks evening on Wednesday the 4th March at the Inanda Club in Sandton. The evening was sponsored by Khudu Pitje (OA, 1993). Khudu founded the HM Pitje Foundation in 2012 and shared some truly inspiring stories around the work the foundation is doing to support and improve education in disadvantaged areas.

The evening was well supported by both DSG Old Girls and OAs and provided a wonderful opportunity for networking, reminiscing and friendship. I was also thrilled to see several of our alumna who attended the function, now filling the shoes of current parents. What a privilege it is for our schools to have such incredibly strong and supportive networks.

A very big thank you to Simphiwe Nghona (OA, 1995), Chairman of the OA Gauteng Branch, for organizing the event.



Nikki Jonckheer (Wiess, 1993), Vuvu Moleshe (2001), Unati Moalusi (Mbeta, 2001), Thabisa Moleshe (1998), Dinx Mackay (James, 1993), Vuyokazi Nghona (Mabona, 1996), Mlibokazi Mekgoe (Matirara, 1993), Bronwen Bennet (Pope, 1993) and Alison Wienekus (Pope, 1997)



Angie Marriner (Henderson, 1980) and Heidi Valentine-Oatway (Valentine, 1993)



Bronwen Bennet (Pope, 1993), Mlibokazi Mekgoe (Matirara, 1993), Dinx Mackay (James, 1993), Nikki Jonckheer (Wiess, 1993)



Small contribution, Big Impact

The DSG 500 Club is an initiative to raise monies for the school's Bursary and Scholarship Fund. As a member, you are generously supporting DSG's commitment to offering a life changing education to many well-deserving young women.

The membership fee for 2020 is R550, which enters you into the monthly draws, with the opportunity to win cash prizes (1st place: R2000, 2nd place: R1000 and 3rd place: R500)

The DSG 500 Club is open to all parents, staff and DSG Old Girls. To join the DSG 500 Club or find out more information, please email: foundation@dsgschool.com

We are delighted to announce the February winners:

- 1st place: Victoria Bell
- 2nd place: James Quin
- 3rd place: Glenda Williams-Wynn

SAVE THE DATE

OPEN MIC NIGHT

28TH MARCH

IN AID OF

KEISKAMMA MUSIC ACADEMY

details
to follow
next week



St Andrew's College & Prep / Diocesan School for Girls



Information Evening

A family of three boarding schools highly regarded for excellence in all spheres of education

**See you in
Port Elizabeth
Tuesday
10 March 2020
18:00 for 18:30
30 Short Road,
Walmer,
Port Elizabeth**

www.sacschool.com

Prospective parents are warmly invited to attend an **Information Evening** on our family of leading independent boarding schools
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The Diocesan School for Girls
St Andrew's Preparatory School situated in Grahamstown (Makhanda), Eastern Cape. Children are encouraged to accompany their parents. Pupils to dress in school uniform.

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Please RSVP to
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082 331 1152

 Cambridge Assessment
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Celebrating International Women's Day

The DSG campus was full of energy and excitement this morning, as dancers, musicians and school leaders took to the stage to celebrate Women's Day. The messaging and wonderful performances served as a gentle reminder that we should all do our best to inspire and encourage all the women in our lives, so that they have the support and confidence to thrive in all aspects of life.



“Behind every SUCCESSFUL WOMAN is a TRIBE of *other women* who have HER BACK.”



