

# DSG

Newsletter Term 1 #2 | 1 February 2019



THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL  
FOR GIRLS



## Dear Parents and Friends of DSG

I am writing this from the airport en route to Grahamstown after a very successful few days of marketing and interviewing in Johannesburg. Grade 11 pupil, Babette Swart, Marketing Manager, Ms Vanessa Bowes, my Deputy, Ms Dionne Redfern, and I have in the past week visited four schools, hosted a table at the Grayston Expo, interviewed a number of prospective pupils and held two very well-attended information evenings. Our grateful thanks to the Rogan and Ferguson families who have once again generously opened their homes for these evenings and to the Gauteng Parents' Committee for the hard work they so cheerfully do on our behalf.

It is during weeks such as these that I am reminded that DSG is so much more than a school. There is a sense of family, togetherness and extended care within the DSG/St Andrew's College network that is quite extraordinary. It speaks of loyalty, pride, passion and inclusivity. I watched in the evenings as current parents warmly welcomed newcomers and sang the praises of our schools. After the presentation, they were again on hand to answer questions and allay anxieties.

For the past eight years, I have been provided with a meeting room at the offices of O'Neil's in the Rentworks building of Turnberry office park. I spend a minimum of five days a year interviewing girls and parents in this space. My guests are put

EN AVANT

at ease and settled by Riana, with coffee and ice cold water served with wonderful friendliness. When I arrive, signs are already up directing interviewees to the venue and Riana leaves her desk readily to act as my PA and front person. I raise this because these are the offices of Kelsey Barwick's parents and she finished at DSG four years ago. This is another example of the remarkable support we receive from current and past Gauteng families.

Once we have drawn the girls and parents to the presentations, DSG is easy to market. We are the only all-girls' school in South Africa that has resisted the pressure to offer weekly boarding. Not only does this mean that the Houses are full and buzzing with activity over the weekend; but it is this model that creates the ethos that is DSG. It is this that allows lifelong friendships to develop; that teaches tolerance, respect, resilience and problem-solving; and that creates an unparalleled passion and spirit for one's school (I know of no other girls' school that cheers and sings for their teams quite like DSG).

In addition to this, DSG has an exceptionally broad subject offering, high academic standards, an incredibly well-developed pastoral care network and a diverse range of club, cultural, and sporting activities. Our unique relationship with St Andrew's College attracts parents with daughters and sons, as it provides all the opportunities of single-sex schools, while at the same time creating important synergies through shared activities and resources. As you may gather, I have enjoyed my week and reflecting on our many strengths.

Sadly, at the end of this week, we bid farewell to Deputy Housemistress of Crewe, Ms Lesego Libisi. Ms Libisi has been offered a wonderful opportunity to work for Standard Bank in Johannesburg. I thank her for her service to DSG, particularly as a strong role model to our girls, and I wish her every success in her new career.

Warm regards

*Shelley Frayne*

Headmistress



## Information Evening

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 in the Eastern Cape.

**Monday 11 February 2019**  
**18h00**

**AVANI Gaborone Resort,**  
**4727 Chuma Drive,**  
**Gaborone, Botswana**

Children are encouraged to accompany their parents.



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**Tuesday**  
**12 February 2019**  
**18h00**

**Western Province**  
**Prep School (Pavilion),**  
**49 Newlands Road**  
**Claremont, Cape Town**

Children are encouraged to accompany their parents.

For more information and to **RSVP** contact **Vanessa Bowes**  
**+27 82 331 1152 | v.bowes@dsgschool.com**

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

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## Academic

## Elevate Workshops

On Monday, the Grade 10s and 11s attended workshops offered by three young, dynamic presenters from Elevate. Elevate is a company that does research around the world on what sets top performing students apart from their peers and they use this information to design workshops to share tips to enhance students' study skills.



The Grade 10s attended the Study Sensei workshop, where they were taught that there are three important steps in the learning process, namely Learn, Master and Create, and that to achieve their personal best, they needed to incorporate all three steps into their study methods. They were given practical measures on how to do this and were encouraged to start preparing for exams at least three weeks in advance. They were also taught what they needed to be doing in each of these weeks leading up to the exam day. An important point included that the focus needs to move away from writing and memorising notes (this needs to be done throughout the term by using trigger words and colour), to doing more practice questions and past papers.

The Grade 11s attended the Study Sensei workshop last year and so have been exposed to the above information. They attended the Time Management workshop this time around, where they were taught the four elements of time management. This included having weekly planners to help manage their busy work and extramural activities, including some important leisure time and then learning how to prioritise what work they should be doing and when they should be doing it. They were also shown how they could reduce the amount of work that they needed to do by creating efficient study groups and they were taught how to beat procrastination.

Both workshops included very practical and easily do-able ideas. The girls left the workshops with comprehensive manuals detailing the important points they needed to remember.

*Jane Jarvis*

## World Challenge Trip to Borneo 2019

DSG is running a trip to Borneo in the August holidays from 9th to 25th August, where the girls will be hiking, snorkeling and doing community service for some of the most interesting animal species on the planet. We have a few spaces left, so if your daughter is interested in applying, then please follow this link to the World Challenge page to apply.

<https://weareworldchallenge.com/international/dsg/>



## Clubs

## Journey Prep



### Grade 10s rest at the Toposcope in the middle of a beautiful walk

Preparation for Journey has begun!

Twice a week some Grade 10 girls are heading out on beautiful walks. This is as much an opportunity to get out, as a preparation for the much-anticipated Journey at the end of the year. There has already been a sighting of a bunny thanks to Megan's great instructions, "Go directly below the tower and a teeeeeny bit to the right!"

*Benji Euvrard*

## Community

## Prefect Camp Report

The prefects had a lovely start to the new year with workshops and activities devoted to bettering our leadership skills. Besides spending our afternoons catching fish and diving into waves, as a group we tackled challenging scenarios related to the school.

The camp was an opportunity for us to bond and share our goals for the year. We all look forward to leading the school as a collaborative prefect body and matric grade.



**Camp Cookout**

## The New DSG Foundation Office

Up until the end of 2018, the Foundation Office as we know it, operated out of St Andrew's College, looking after the whole school family, namely; DSG, St Andrew's College and St Andrew's Prep.

January 2019 has seen a new and exciting model roll-out. For strategic reasons, the Foundation Office will now run autonomously at the DSG and St Andrew's College. This change allows the staff members of each office to focus on specific activities, projects and campaigns and to become more involved in the particular operations of their school. Collegiality between our schools and within our unique community, however, remains important to us. We are pleased to say that while the majority of services offered to our stakeholders will be split, all Old Andean / DSG Old Girl reunions and branch functions will continue to be hosted as combined functions.

Alison Wienekus and Cindy Fumbata will run the DSG Foundation Office. Our objectives are to bring the DSG community together; to connect Old Girls with each other; to continually update Old Girls with current school and alumnae news; and to encourage Old Girls to support the continued development of the school's academic, sporting, cultural and residential facilities.

Two easy ways of getting involved in the fundraising of the school are as follows:

- The **DSG 500 Club** is an innovative fundraising initiative to raise funds for DSG's Bursaries and Scholarships Fund. As a member, you are generously supporting DSG's commitment to offering a life-changing education to many well-deserving young women. Membership also provides the opportunity for members to win cash prizes by way of monthly lucky draws. Parents, staff, and the DSG Old Girls are welcome to join. Membership costs R520 per annum.
- Parents, staff, the DSG Old Girls, and friends of our school are also encouraged to make use of the **MySchool Card**, thereby raising funds for our school. Funds raised are allocated to the [Guild Bursary Fund](#). Simply swipe your MySchool card at any one of the [partner retail stores](#) and a percentage of your spend will be allocated to the DSG without costing you a cent.

For more information on the 500 Club Membership, MySchool Programme or the Foundation Office, please contact us on:

Tel: 046 603 4343

Email: [foundation@dsgschool.com](mailto:foundation@dsgschool.com)

Web: [www.dsgfoundation.com](http://www.dsgfoundation.com)

*Alison Wienekus*



## Sport

## Dear Parents

We have had some much needed and welcome rain this week with more predicted, and although not breaking the drought, it is a start. While it does wreak havoc with sports fixtures and practices in what is a chaotic season already, we are very happy to manage our way through the pandemonium in return for the rain. A busy week has passed and some wonderful success for the basketballers who picked up their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> wins (in recent memory) over Kingswood in the space of a couple of days last week. However, more impressive was the letter we received from Grey High School on Monday, complimenting our girls on their behaviour and the empathy they displayed at the basketball tournament in PE over the weekend. It is always wonderful to receive such positive feedback on the girls and we are truly proud of them for being such wonderful ambassadors of DSG.



1st Team Basketball



Tlanyi Bomela

We also played water polo this past weekend against Collegiate and Kingswood, with the 1<sup>st</sup> team and U15A matches being held at Kingswood, we hosted the majority of the derby day in our pool. 15 matches were played in the DSG Aquatic Centre over the course of the morning and it made for a busy, noisy, but very enjoyable start to the water polo fixtures for 2019. In an age where school sport can often be too result-focused, placing unbelievable pressure on the participants, Saturday provided a wonderful example of sport being played where the results were a by-product of the enjoyment being had by the girls. A big thank you to the staff involved for putting the day together and the coaches as well.

We are about to head into the water polo touring season and over the coming weekends we will be sending the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, U16A, U15A and U14A teams away on tours. This weekend the 1<sup>st</sup> team are competing in the Brian Baker Tournament which is being hosted by Kingswood College, so thankfully not too far to travel, and some of the games are being played at DSG. Our fixtures are included at the end of the newsletter for those in Grahamstown and interested in watching some quality polo. Other events on the go this week include tennis fixtures against Port Alfred High School on Wednesday, which forms part of the Knight Shield, a competition between ourselves, Port Alfred HS, Kingswood and Victoria Girls, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> tennis team takes on Kingswood on Friday at DSG. The basketballers are in action on Thursday in a round of friendly fixtures with St Andrew's College, while our 2<sup>nd</sup>, U15B and U14B water polo teams are off to Woodridge on Saturday for a series of water polo matches.

Just a heads up to parents that there is a dentist coming to school on Tuesday 4 February from 16:00 – 17:00 to do mouth guard fittings for our hockey players. If your daughter is interested in having a fitting, please feel free to contact me, but I will be speaking directly to the girls about this too.

Reports from the week past are below...

A number of DSG swimmers took part in the Nelson Mandela Bay Open Water Swimming Championships held in Jeffrey's Bay over the weekend. In the 10km race Shaelyn Walker finished 4<sup>th</sup> in a national qualifying time and also swam a national qualifying time in the 5km race.

In the 3km race on Saturday, Toni Rafferty placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Open Women's race, while Emma Podesta and Nikki Du Toit finished 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> overall respectively. All three swam national qualification times. Nikki then returned on Sunday to swim in the 3km challenge race where she won gold in her age group.

DSG played water polo against Collegiate and Kingswood on Saturday in Grahamstown. Against Collegiate we played 11

matches, won 6, and lost 5. Stand out results were the U16B team who won 17-0 and the U15B's who played two matches, winning both 7-3 and 6-2 respectively. In the 1<sup>st</sup> team match, DSG battled to find the back of the net and eventually went down 6-3 after dominating for long phases. In the fixture against Kingswood we played 8 matches and won 4 of these, with one match drawn and we lost 3. Stand out results were the U15A's who won 11-3, and the U16A's who won 11-0. The 1<sup>st</sup> team also put in a good performance as they secured a 4-2 win over Kingswood. All the results can be found on the sports portal - [www.sport.dsgschool.com](http://www.sport.dsgschool.com).

On Wednesday last week, the DSG 1<sup>st</sup> Basketball team played Kingswood on the DSG courts, and although it was the first game of the year, DSG produced a solid performance and were too strong for our neighbours as we ran out 18-4 winners. If our records are correct, then this was also the first win over Kingswood on the basketball court for over 10 years!

The DSG 1<sup>st</sup> Basketball team then travelled to Port Elizabeth on Saturday to attend the Comets Basketball Tournament which was held in Motherwell. DSG dominated the girls' division, comfortably winning their matches against Kingswood and WSSF, and DSG won the event for the second time in four years. Umtha Sibam won the most valuable player award while Vile Diko and Mbesi Kukisi were named in the Comets Tournament All Stars team.

At the South African Horse Riding Championships held in December in Port Elizabeth, Kei Repapis had a very successful time, picking up a 1st place in the Challenge Team Showing Event, four 2<sup>nd</sup> places in the Pony Open Working Hunter, 1.20 Welcome Stakes, 1.10 Competition and in the Open Show Jumping Team Event and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Open Equitation Team Event. Tarryn Whitfield was also riding in the East Cape Team and she finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1m Team Championship, while Sienna Evans placed 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Eastern Cape Team in the Novice Equitation.

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, the DSG 1<sup>st</sup> water polo team is playing a number of fixtures in Grahamstown this weekend, and the details are below (all DSG games in the DSG Aquatic Centre).

Friday 1 Feb	08h00	DSG vs Collegiate
	11h00	DSG vs Pearson
	15h00	DSG vs Hudson Park
	19h00	DSG vs St Dominics
Saturday 2 Feb	12h30	DSG vs Stirling
	14h30	DSG vs Herschel
	17h30	Playoffs through to Sunday 15h00

Warm regards

*Chris Hibbert*

Director of Sport



**Nikki du Toit, Martin Wolmarans, Joss Hempel, Emma Podesta and Toni Rafferty - all DSG and St Andrew's College swimmers. All 3 girls swam in the 3km challenge - Toni placed 6th, Emma 8th and Nikki 9th**



**Shaelyn Walker swam 10km and placed 4th overall with a time of 2h38.13 and a 5km placed 13th in a time of 1h13.20. Both SA National qualification times.**



**Kei Repapis at SA Champs, PE**



## The Diocesan School for Girls Grahamstown-Makhanda



invites applications for our prestigious

### **2020 SCHOLARSHIPS**

**FOR CURRENT GRADE SEVEN SOUTH AFRICAN PUPILS OF EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY IN  
ACADEMICS, SPORT, CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OR AS AN ALL-ROUNDER**

An opportunity exists for **four girls** to develop and enrich their academic journey while contributing to the school's dynamic extramural programme

**THESE SCHOLARSHIPS OFFER A PARTIAL REMISSION OF BOARDING AND TUITION FEES**

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 14 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Applicants must be available to write the academic scholarship examination on  
19 February 2019  
and attend an interview if required**

**Application to include:**

- Academic scholarship application form ([www.dsgschool.com/admissions](http://www.dsgschool.com/admissions))
- Letter of motivation including details of achievements and extramural activities
- The year end 2018 school report

**Applications must reach Ms Lisa Hobson by Thursday 14 February 2019**

**E-mail: [L.hobson@dsgschool.com](mailto:L.hobson@dsgschool.com) / Tel: 046 603 4300**

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

The Diocesan School for Girls reserves the right not to proceed with an application. An application in itself does not entitle the applicant to an interview.