

# DSG

Newsletter Term 1 #4 | 14 February 2019



THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL  
FOR GIRLS



## Dear Parents and Friends of DSG

Two quotes on diversity by powerful, industrious and resilient women leaders best illustrate my theme for this week:

*In diversity is beauty and strength.* – Maya Angelou

*I can do things you cannot; you can do things, I cannot. Together we can do great things.* – Mother Theresa

I have had much cause to reflect on a certain type of diversity at the start of this year as I have interviewed prospective DSG girls and their parents and spoken to some Heads of our prep feeder schools. It is no secret that there has been extensive emigration over the past few months that together with an economic recession, has hit the independent schools' sector quite hard. Schools previously with long waiting lists have found that this is no longer the case and many schools are down on budget as projected pupil numbers have not materialised. DSG remains in a strong position in this regard, but we are wary of being complacent and have our eyes wide open to the challenges we may face.

EN AVANT

The above scenario seems to have played out in an unfortunate manner in the bigger cities where schools have become quite aggressive in their marketing and admissions processes. Approaches are openly being made to girls regarded as the 'cream' on the basis of their prowess, usually as sportswomen, academics or sometimes musicians. These approaches are not necessarily only happening at common entry levels such as Grades 1, 4 or 8, but at any stage before Grade 10 when girls may be enticed by the promise of a scholarship.

I believe that a school with an academic entrance examination and one that only looks to take the so-called 'cream', misses out on a richness within its community that can only be created by differing abilities in all spheres. There is much truth in Mother Theresa's assertion that, *'I can do things you cannot; you can do things, I cannot. Together we can do great things.'* Many of the skills and attributes that a prospective pupil brings are not evident at age thirteen and there are also the immeasurables that one will never accurately garner from a school report, entrance examination or even an interview. These are the 'soft skills' that truly make a school great – the girls who are quick to laugh; those with immense compassion; the loyal friends and supporters; the skilled negotiators and mediators; the creative and critical thinkers; and the many other well-rounded young people who come to the fore and make up the pupil body, or in our case, the DSG sisterhood.

There is such pressure on young people to perform and the possibilities of burnout for many of the young stars of the prep schools is too high. I know that DSG is a place that can nurture these girls and also bring out the best in those still finding their niche or passion. We have devoted much time to developing an extensive pastoral care system to ensure this. It is my hope that DSG will always resist the pressure to scout for talent at the expense of acknowledging the uniqueness of every individual because... *'In diversity is beauty and strength.'*

Warm regards

*Shelley Frayne*

**Headmistress**

## Blood Donation

The first **blood donor's clinic** for 2019 will take place in the **Design and Technology Centre** on Tuesday, **19 February** between **14h00 and 18h00**. Anyone involved in the 4 schools is welcome, provided you fulfil the following requirements:

- are 16 years old
- weigh more than 50 kg
- are in good health on the day you donate
- have eaten a good meal prior to donating
- consider your blood safe for transfusion to another person

## Parent-Teacher Meetings

The Term One Parent-Teachers meetings will be held on Thursday 28 February from 8:00 – 10:00 at DSG, Worcester Street.

Online bookings will open at 08:00 on Wednesday 20 February and close at 16:00 on Tuesday 26 February.

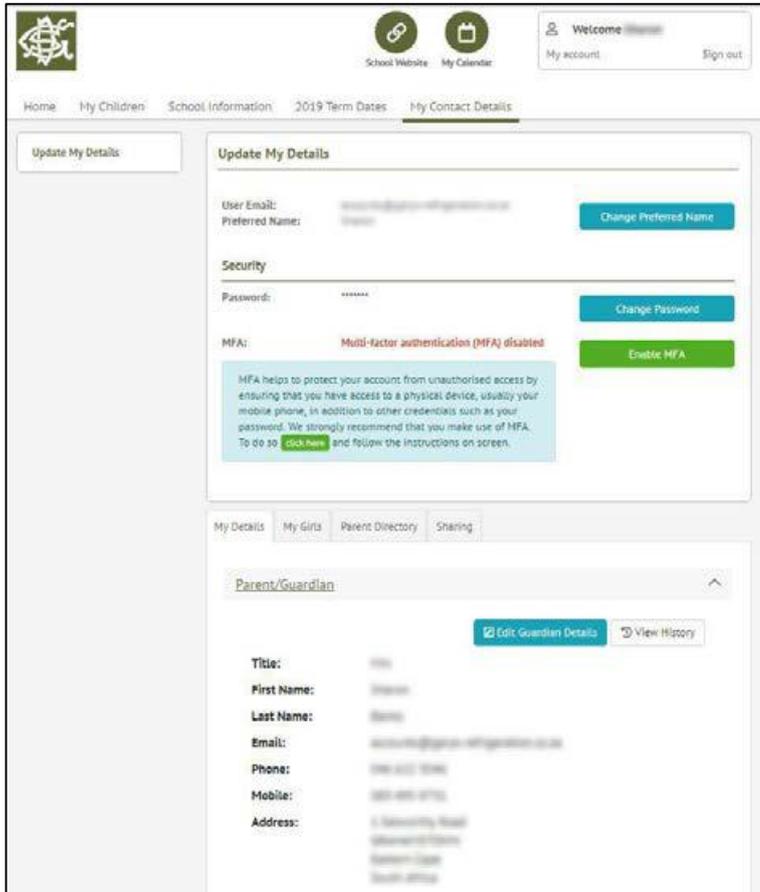
An email will be sent out shortly with instructions on how to book meetings with your daughter's teachers.

*Margie McLeod*

**myDSG Parent Portal**

A reminder to those parents who have not yet signed in to the myDSG parent portal, to do so by navigating to <https://my.dsgschool.com/request-password> with your email address on record with the school.

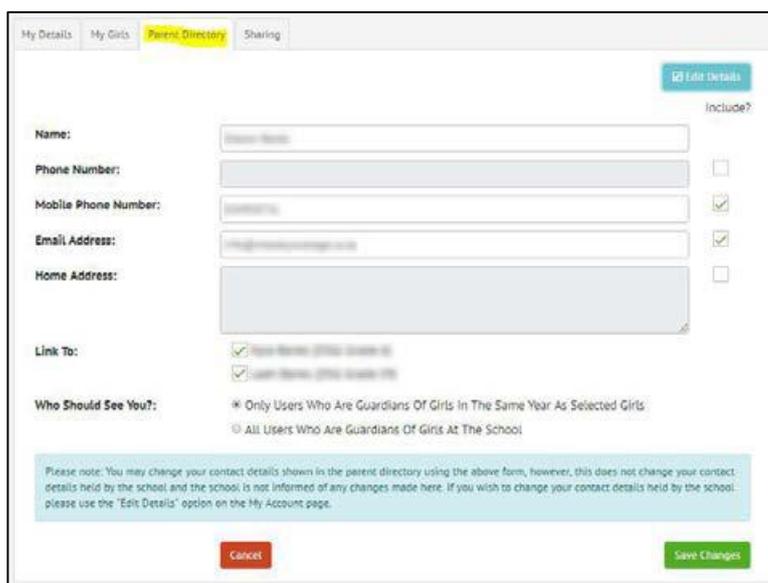
For those who have already registered, please read further on how to use the two useful functions to update your details and to opt-in to the parent directory, under the 'My Contact Details' menu.



**Updating your Contact and Address Details**

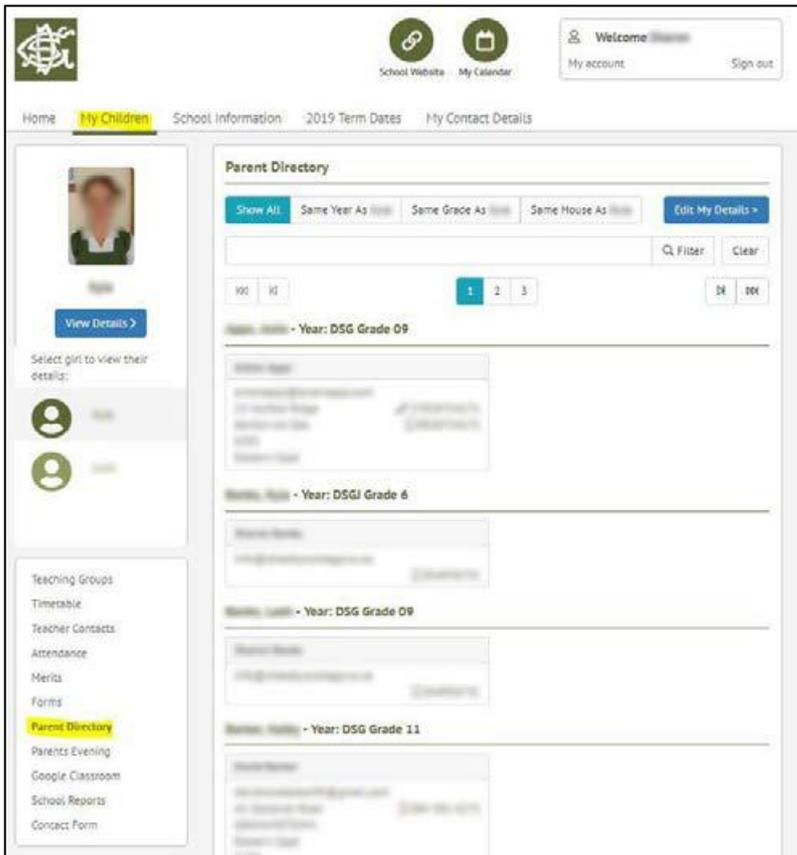
The top section of the 'Update My Details' page allows you to change your preferred name and to change your myDSG password.

Further down the page are several tabs where you can view and edit the contact and address details the school has on record for you and your daughter. Please check these details and send us any updates or changes via the portal by clicking on 'Edit Guardian Details' and then the 'Request Changes' button.



**Opt-in to the Parent Directory**

The Parent Directory built in to myDSG allows you to specifically opt-in to share contact details of your choosing with other parents. You can share as much or as little information as you wish, and further, whether you want to share only within the same year group as your daughter, or with the whole parent body. Click on the 'Parent Directory' tab at the bottom of the 'Update My Details' page to opt-in and set your choices.



**Viewing the Parent Directory**

To see other parents’ information that may have been shared, navigate to the ‘My Children’ menu to open your child’s profile. The menu options on the left below the timetable include a link to ‘Parent Directory’ where you can then find contact information of other parents who have opted-in to sharing their details in the Directory.

## Grade 8 Induction

In a special ceremony, the Grade 8s were inducted into the DSG during the Chapel service on Thursday last week. This was an initiative that the Matrics of 2014 created, in which the new Grade 8 pupils, once they have completed their orientation process are assimilated into the heart of the school, making the transition from junior school into senior school.

Led by the Head Girl, Julia Basson, the Grade 8s affirmed the principles contained in our Mission Statement, after which they each received a lighted candle as a symbol of their new life in high school. They then signed in the School register confirming they are now fully-fledged DSG Senior girls.

The Head, Ms Shelley Frayne and the whole community of the DSG, welcome all the 2019 Grade 8s and wish them a happy, fruitful and memorable time while here.

*Revd Rachel Ssekimpi*



## Cultural

## Year of the Pig

Our Mandarin students celebrated Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival, on 8 February. The New Year started on 5 February, initiating the Year of the Pig and ends on 19 February with the Lantern Festival according to the lunar calendar. It has more than 4,000 years of history and is the longest and most important holiday of the year.

The participants learned about Chinese New Year traditions and customs by watching a video and engaging in some lively discussion. Each pupil was given a token of red packet that forms part of the Chinese New Year tradition. Typical Chinese New Year food, including dumplings, fish, chicken and pork, was made available for the pupils, who had to learn to use chopsticks in order to eat.

Thanks to Professor Zhang, the Director of Confucius Institute at Rhodes University (CIRU), for providing such a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to experience a different culture. It was a lovely evening thoroughly enjoyed by our girls and boys.



## Water Conservation

The last week of light rain may have dulled the sense of urgency about water saving.

In practical terms, what has happened is the threat of running out of water on the west side is still about 2 weeks out – the extra rain has pushed that out, but if we have 2 weeks without rain, Settlers will still be too empty to use.

So we need to be serious about water saving **NOW** because that could stretch that very tight 2-week cushion to 3–4 weeks. The longer we can hold out, the more chance there is that there will be enough rain to saturate the Settlers catchment before we have to switch to the emergency plan.

Why is this important? Because over most of last week the east side has had **NO WATER** and this is supposed to be our backup water resource when Settlers empties.

*P. Machanick*

Rhodes University

## Sport

### Dear Parents

The year is still in its infancy and the girls have been fantastic in their enthusiasm and commitment, creating a wonderful atmosphere around the campus. The fact that academic exams are still a long way off probably plays its part in the current 'vibe'. We are well aware that as the year progresses the pressure on the girls' time and their focus will shift, but for now, the school is revelling in some wonderful energy and it has been a good start to the year.

This was highlighted for me in no better way than by popping past the courts and astro on Friday and catching some summer league netball and hockey, which although optional for girls, was very well attended. Then Sunday at the River Mile, which again was very well supported by the DSG girls, proved to be a wonderful day out for our family of schools. It was great to see so many parents down at the coast as well, supporting and even taking part!

As you will see from the sports reports about the past week which are below, the term is actually getting busier on the sports front, if that is possible, as we gather pace towards the half term break. However, what we do across all these sports codes would not be possible without the hard work of the staff involved and I thank them for their efforts. Realising that there is no letting up over the coming weeks either, I hope that both the staff and the girls can keep up the high spirits and energy with which they have started the year.

Reports from the week past are as follows...

The basketball club put out three teams to play in a triangular at Kingswood on Saturday morning and our U14A's, U15A's



**Basketball**

and 1st team each played matches against Nombulelo and Kingswood. The basketballers, who have been enjoying a successful time of late, again put in some sterling performances and all our teams returned unbeaten from the triangular, securing a clean sweep of wins over both Nombulelo and Kingswood.

On the athletics front, we competed in the Makana Athletics Trials last week at PJ Olivier High School. In the field events, Natalie Morris, Morgan Du Plessis and Duki Sonuga won the U14, U15 and U17 Long Jump events respectively, while Fifi Mambinja, Jamie Campbell and Emma Gouws were runners up. Sarah De La Harpe won the U17 Javelin, while Erin Powers won the U15 Discus, Javelin and Shotput. In the U14 High Jump, Tino Masora won the event with Corneli Rocher placing 2nd. Emma Davidson won the U17 High Jump.

Moving onto the track there was more success as Emma Kruse won both the U14 800m and 1500m races, while Laura Campbell won the 400m and finished 2nd in the 800m. In the U15 division, Jamie Campbell won the 100m, 200m and 400m. Erin Lowe finished 2nd in the 200m and 400m, and Morgan du Plessis was runner up in the 100m. In the U17 section, Duki Sonuga won the 100m, while Emily McLean won both the 800m and 1500m races.

We congratulate equestrian Kei Repapis, who was awarded her Eastern Province Provincial Colours in Equitation and Show Jumping after she competed for the EP Open Team in these events. Then at the East London SANESA show this weekend, Hannah Jones picked up a 3rd place, three 2nd places, as well as 1st places in 60cm Stadium Eventing and the Level 3 Working Rider. Sienna Evans picked up a 3rd place and two 1st places in the 1m Welcome Stakes and in the 1m A2.

As mentioned earlier with the River Mile, the DSG swimmers had a busy weekend, but it was not just the Mile. Toni Rafferty swam in the Eden Aquatics Gala in Oudtshoorn, picking up three 1st places as she won the 50m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 200m individual medley. In the A League Gala held in PE on Saturday, Emma Podesta won four races, the 50m and 100m butterfly as well as the 50m and 100m backstroke, and she swam a South African Youth Qualifying time in the 100m backstroke. Nikki Du Toit picked up two 2nd places and a 1st place in the 200m freestyle. Sage Cawse also picked up two 2nd places, and she won both the 50m breaststroke and 200m individual medley. Shaelyn Walker won the 100m and 200m backstroke and also picked up a further three 3rd places. Riley Cawse picked up a full house with a 3rd place, 2nd place and then a 1st place in the 400m individual medley.

Over 80 DSG Senior school girls made the trip to Bushman's River on Sunday to take part in the annual River Mile, and it was another wonderful event held between our family of schools. The half mile was won by Sofia Goedhart (Crewe) with Ciara Frances (Espin) in 2nd place, and in the senior mile, Courtney Repinz (Knowing) was out the water and across the line 1st while Emma Podesta (Merriman) finished 2nd.

On the tennis front the DSG 1st and U15A tennis teams played VG last week in the Knight Shield. The 1st team won 11-1 while the 15A's won 5-1. If the 1st and U15A teams can beat Kingswood this week Wednesday, they will retain the Knight Shield. The DSG 2nd tennis team played doubles against Kingswood on Friday last week and the match was drawn.

The DSG U14A water polo team travelled to East London on Friday to take part in the Jason Murray Tournament. In the pool matches DSG secured wins over Pearson and Merrifield, but went down to Clarendon. In the playoff games we beat Stirling before losing to Kingswood in the semi-final.

DSG ended the tournament strongly with a good 5-1 win over Pearson in the 3/4 playoff to secure the bronze medal. The DSG 1st and U16A water polo teams travelled to Port Elizabeth to participate in the Alex Road Festival. Both teams had a very successful time with the 1st team winning 10 of their 11 matches and the U16A's winning 9 out of their 10 matches.

And as we now look ahead to this week, there is again, much on the go. As mentioned above there is tennis on Wednesday as the 1st and U15A teams wrap up their defence of the Knight Shield with a final match against Kingswood. The 2nd water polo team is off to Knysna to play in the Oakhill Waterfront Chukka, a unique event, in that the matches are actually played in the lagoon. Almost all our other water polo teams are travelling to Port Elizabeth on Saturday with a derby day of matches against Alex Road and Pearson. The originally scheduled derby with Kingswood for this week Friday, has been moved to Monday due to factors beyond our control. I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this late change of date.

Our junior basketball teams are playing Kingswood again this weekend, while there is also tennis on Sunday with the Albany doubles tennis tournament underway.

On Monday next week our swimmers are at Pearson for a gala, while our 1st team tennis play Pearson in PE as well.

Finally, our squash girls don't get in the spotlight much, but this weekend we are hosting our annual Dave Hodgson Squash Festival with matches from Friday 12h00 to Saturday 13h00. Our 1st team will play matches against Collegiate,



**Lucy Pringle, Summer Barratt, Ciara Frances**



**Nikki du Toit, Shaelyn Walker, Courtney Repinz, Emma Podesta, Shaylen Ackermann**



**Winners - Courtney Repinz and Emma Podesta**



**Winners - Ciara Frances and Sofia Goedhart**

Queenstown GHS, Clarendon and Kingswood, and it promises to be another wonderful event. If you are in town, please pop into the DSG squash courts during the Festival, especially as both Queenstown and Clarendon are amongst the top squash playing schools in the country, so those games will be a real test for our girls.

Warm regards

*Chris Hibbert*

Director of Sport



**Snr Summer League Netball**



**Vile Diko**



**Emma Kruse, front, and Laura Campbell**



**Duki Sonuga**



**Emily McLean**



**Jamie Campbell**



**Duki Sonuga**



**Emma Gouws**



**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.



**Information  
Evenings**

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.

**Tuesday 19 February 2019**  
Lord Selborne Guest House  
4 Salisbury Road, Selborne  
**Wednesday 20 February 2019**  
Garden Court Mthatha  
Nelson Mandela Drive, Mthatha  
**Thursday 21 February 2019**  
Heritage Guest House  
Fletcher Street, Queenstown  
**18h00**

For more information and to RSVP (by 15 February) contact  
**Cherié Wille 084 549 7710 | [c.wille@sacschool.com](mailto:c.wille@sacschool.com)**

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