

# DSG

Newsletter Term 3 #31 | 31 October 2019



THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL  
FOR GIRLS



## Dear Parents and Friends of DSG

This week in assembly I spoke to the girls about taking control of their own destinies; about realising that they have the power to shape their own futures. As adults, our instinct is to step in and try to make the path easier at every turn; we do this because we love them, but in the process our actions have long-lasting consequences. Our girls do not learn to advocate for themselves and they feel powerless to contribute to their personal successes; we unwittingly mould a sense of helplessness.

We are in the exam 'zone' and I have a Grade 10 daughter whom my husband and I are constantly cajoling and begging to study and prepare. When she commented recently that she did not know what was going on in one of

EN AVANT

her subjects, our instincts as teachers were to step in and work through it with her. Instead, I asked her whether she had read the notes, referred to the textbook, and actually engaged and grappled with the content. I reflected that I needed to use this approach more often.

I asked the girls in assembly who blame their maths teacher when they fare poorly, how many hours they spent trying to figure the work out and engaging with the problem. The under 14 and first water polo teams went to Johannesburg to compete in tournaments this past weekend and they returned with mixed and erratic results. I queried how much of this 'blame' should be placed at the coach's door. How seriously did they take practices? Did any of them train over and above practices organised for them? When the chips were down in a match and morale was flagging, did they contribute to the negativity or work to turn it around? Similarly, when girls are in trouble, do they reflect on where they got it wrong or do they channel their anger towards the school and those in charge?

I do not mean this letter to be a moan; as a parent and an educator, I often fall into the trap of stepping in too soon and rescuing young people. But when I do this, I know that I subtly teach them that they are powerless and cannot do it as well on their own. Louise Beattie in *Working a Better Life* writes that we have two choices in how we live our lives. We can be reactive and live constantly at the mercy of others and at the circumstances around us, or we can be focused and resilient and choose to control our own destinies. I am firmly of the belief that our young people are increasingly being made to feel helpless and that they are not in control. It is incumbent on us as adults to give them back their futures by helping them to take responsibility for their failures and successes.

Warm regards

*Shelley Frayne*

Headmistress

## SACEE Creative Writing Competition

The South African Council for English Education is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of the English Language and aims to improve the standards of written and spoken English in South Africa. As one of the eight active branches around the country, the Eastern Cape branch of SACEE held a creative writing competition earlier in 2019 and DSG has done particularly well in the results. Our congratulations go to:

Junior Poem: Sage Thomassen-Holmes (Bronze)

Junior Flash Fiction: Tyler Wratten (Bronze)

Junior Monologue: Tyler Wratten (Gold), Estelle Minas (Silver)

Senior Poem: Nosiphino Nabo (Bronze)

*Bridget Webster*

## Techno Challenge

This week in assembly, Ms Frayne played the following clip to the girls, inspiring them to consider how much we allow our phones and social media to mould our lives and if it is what we really want, or if there are perhaps other options that we could contemplate.

<https://www.letitriple.org/character-day/student/>

After watching the clip for students, I came across the video aimed at parents and thought that some of you might find it of interest, as it is not just our children who are 'guilty' of spending lots of time on-screen. As a parent myself, it made me wonder if I am brave enough to take on the weekend challenge.

<https://www.letitriple.org/character-day/parent/>

*Faye Hardisty – Ed*

## Introducing Mr Jannie De Villiers

2019 Headgirl, Julia Basson, took some time out to chat to DSG's incoming Head, Mr Jannie De Villiers, to try and find out a little bit more about him and his family. Share her insights by clicking on the links below:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pjPFbswXQw&t=2s>

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/4ZxTyRbPWuw>



## Ballroom Dancers Grade

On Saturday 26 October, three more of our ballroom dancers underwent their International Social Ballroom Dance grading, held at Kingswood College, Grahamstown. The grading was arranged by dance instructor, Francois van Eck. Students were examined by Peter Mann from Port Elizabeth. Peter is a member and Treasurer of the South African Dance Teachers Association (SADTA).

Angela Volschenk and Carma-Marie Müller performed their Level 1 dances and were awarded with Highly Commended for both their Ballroom and Latin dances. Dominique Erasmus danced her beginner level dances and was awarded four Highly Commended and an Honours for her Slow Waltz. Well done girls!

Pupils learn Ballroom dances such as the Slow Waltz, Slow Rhythm Foxtrot, Argentine Tango and the Rumba and Latin dances such as the Mambo, Cha Cha, Boogie, Rock 'n Roll and Swing.

The Ballroom club is run on Tuesday afternoons and newcomers are welcome.

*Louise van der Merwe*



**Angela Volschenk dancing her Cha Cha with Instructor Francois van Eck**



**Carma-Marie Müller dancing her Waltz**



**Dominique Erasmus dancing her Mambo**



**BR - Peter Mann (examiner), Louise van der Merwe (assistant), Francois van Eck (instructor), FR - Dominique Erasmus, Angela Volschenk, Carma-Marie Müller**

## Cultural

## Open Mic Night

The final Open Mic of the year was held on Saturday 26 October. Due to the gloomy weather, it was decided that the event be held inside the DR Wynne Music Auditorium. Regardless of the weather, the attendance was spectacular and the chairs within the auditorium had to be stacked to the side in order to accommodate the audience. The night was opened by Noa Pitcher who performed a superb rendition of "Misty" by Erroll Garner on the alto saxophone. Other performances of the night, exhibiting outstanding music, included Janice Ruwodo and Jocelyn Compton, Megan Rogan, Lukhanyiso Bomela, Stuart Christie and Jonathan Moremi, as well as an original composition by Abigail Dixon-Warren and Nicole Long.

It is fair to say that the Grade 8 and 9's stole the show and astonished the audience with brilliant performances.

Thanks go to the MC's of the night, Yonelani Tini and Mbali Boozi, who also helped run the sound, and to Mr Brown who came up from Port Elizabeth specially to help set up sound.

A special thanks goes to Tyreece Burger and Tlanyi Bomela, the 2020 cultural prefects who helped to organise their first Open Mic event and did an incredible job. It is reassuring to know that this event is in good hands and will continue to grow in 2020.

*Jayson Flanagan*

Master in Charge of Open Mic



## The Music School says "We're not done for 2019 just yet!"

The two Senior Open Concerts which took place after half-term had some excellent music on offer. As the music students and teachers are preparing for this year's second session of the Trinity College of London external examinations, the concerts are ideal platforms to try and soothe the nerves. On Wednesday 23 October the audience was treated to a short programme which included works by Jose Ferrer for classic guitar played by Christopher Pretorius, Amy Thompson on piano with "Sarah" by Peter-Horas and a beautiful Mascagni "Intermezzo" on the violin, played by Tyreece Burger. Lubos Slukas' "Rhythmical", with Megan Searle at the piano set the driving atmosphere for the rest of the concert.



Amy Thompson



Angela Volschenk



Asemahle Vandala



Megan Joubert



Megan Searle



Tyreece Burger

The concert on Monday 28 October started with Handel's "But thou did'st not leave", superbly sung by John Marshall. The well-attended concert continued with an array of instrumentalists, offering works covering all the style periods from Baroque to Contemporary. The popular 1954 song by Errol Garner, "Misty", was well played by Jonathan Moremi on guitar and was followed by Johann Sebastian Bach's 1st Movement of the Concerto for Viola, played by Cornelia Rocher. Later in the programme Angela Volschenk again treated everyone to the beautiful song "Blow Blow", by R. Quilter. One of the very few solo works written for the trumpet during the Classical Period was offered by Justin Stoddart, who played the Andante from Joseph Haydn's Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra. Cally Still concluded the programme of thirteen items with a lively "El Choclo" on her violin.

*Johan Pretorius*

HOD Music



Cally Still



Cornelia Rocher



Megan Barrow



Morgan Herring



Jocelyn Compton & Khanyi Khumalo



Sbonga Nduli



Sbonga Nduli



Grace Rushmere

# Annual Gauteng OA / DSG Old Girl Dinner

The annual Gauteng Old Andean and DSG Old Girls' Dinner took place at Fergusons on 5th, in Johannesburg on Tuesday 22 October.

With over 130 OA and DSG Old Girls in attendance, the most beautiful view of the Johannesburg skyline and a delicious meal, it all came together as a truly fantastic evening displaying the real magic of being part of the OA and Guild communities. It was especially wonderful to see so many DSG Old Girls, spanning the year groups, as part of the guest list at the dinner. A big thank you for your support!

DSG's Head, Shelley Frayne, delivered an address highlighting the prominent developments of The DSG over the last decade and her tenure at our school. Whilst this was Ms Frayne's last address as Head at such an event, we hope to see her in an 'Honorary Old Girl' capacity at our functions in Cape Town going forward. Our Guest Speaker for the evening, Mr David Murray (Upper, 1982) gave us all a little reminder of the importance of being open to change in an increasingly unpredictable world. He further challenged us as individuals, educators, leaders and parents to go about our daily lives with an adaptable and flexible outlook, a courageous and optimistic spirit and a healthy dose of resilience and commitment.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who attended the evening and really made it such a memorable occasion.

*Alison Wienekus*



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## 500 Club

### October Winners

- 1st Prize: Michael Benjamin**
- 2nd Prize: Susie Houghton**
- 3rd Prize: Renato Gambale**
- 4th Prize: Chubekile Bomela**

For more information on the 500 Club, please follow this link: <https://www.dsgfoundation.com/index.php?pid=12>

## Sport

**Dear Parents**

Strange as it might be, I will start this week's newsletter talking about a sport we do not play, but with the country coming to a standstill on Saturday at 11:00 with the Rugby World Cup Final, I thought I might as well jump on the bandwagon. Quite amusingly, it was a Kingswood parent who was the first to private message me last Sunday to ask if the water polo fixtures this weekend between DSG and Kingswood would be moved to ensure no clash with the match in Japan. I assured them we would start early and be finished well before kick-off.

But before we get into what lies ahead, a quick look back at the week which has passed.

The DSG 1st and U14A water polo teams travelled to Johannesburg last weekend. The 1st team played in the Saints Stayers tournament, where we had good wins over Fourways and Pretoria Girls in the pool games, and also pushed St Doms. and Reddam, who were amongst the pre-tournament favourites, close. DSG received lots of positive comments on the way we played and our behaviour, as well as the positive attitude we displayed throughout the tournament. While we were on the wrong end of a few close results at the back end of the event, it does not take the shine off of what was a successful tour. The U14A's were at the Roedeane U14 tournament where they got off to a great start with wins over St Mary's Kloof, Rand Park and Roedeane in the pool stages. We finished 2nd in the pool and lost to Clarendon in the cross pool play-off matches which meant we missed out on a place in the top 8. We showed grit and determination to come from 6-2 down in our final match against St Anne's to win 7-6 and secure 9th place. A wonderful tour and the girls were great ambassadors for DSG.



In the DSG Aquatic Centre on Saturday we played eight matches against Woodridge College of which we won five, drew one and lost two. The pick of the results was the 3rd team who won 13-0, the 4th team who won 10-1 and the U15B's with their 8-2 victory. We must also mention the DSG 2nd team, who secured an impressive 4-4 draw against Woodridge 1sts.

A number of DSG girls competed in the EP Athletics meeting held at the Port Elizabeth Oval on Saturday. Corneli Rocher placed 3rd in the U15 high jump, while Jamie Campbell was 2nd in the U15 400m. Emma-Jane Gouws won the U17 long jump, Emma Kruse won the U15 800m and was runner up in the 1500m, while Elli Counsel won both the U17 3000m and 5000m races.

The Grahamstown and Port Alfred (GAP) Tennis Championships were held this past weekend where Carrey Wiblin and Lucy Pringle made it through to the quarter finals of the U16 division. A special mention goes to Lucy who finished in 3rd place. The final of the DSG U15 school tennis championships was held last Wednesday and was played between Cody Laubscher and Carrey Wiblin. Carrey won the final, 6-3, 6-3, and so was crowned the DSG Junior Tennis Champion for 2019. On the fixture front, the DSG 3rd team played and beat Kingswood last week 4-0.

Ipswich High School from the UK were in town last week and stayed at the Monastery. We played an U15 hockey fixture against them on Thursday, which the DSG girls won comfortably (6-1). We also competed against them in a swimming gala which they won. The highlight however, was the tourists joining in our netball summer league played on Friday afternoon. They were very keen to join in and played for an hour with us, with mixed teams and lots of laughter and enjoyment for all, so much so, that they named it as the sporting highlight of their tour.

A number of DSG girls, as well as all the prefects, took part in and supported the PJ 5km Fun Run on Thursday last week, which takes place at PJ Olivier High School. As always it follows a route which travels 2.5 km downhill, followed by a 2.5 km climb back to the finish, which always leaves those participating wondering why they call it a 'fun run'. It was wonderful to support the local community by getting involved in this event again.

And finally Shaelyn Walker took part in the first open water swimming competition of the season on 13 October in Jeffries Bay, where she finished in an impressive 6th place in the women's 5km race in very challenging conditions.

Looking ahead now to this week and there is a mixed doubles tennis fixture against Port Alfred on Friday, our 1st water polo team plays Kingswood on Friday evening at Kingswood (start time is 19:45), and we then host the rest of the Kingswood water polo club for a round of fixtures in the DSG Aquatic centre on Saturday morning, to be finished by 10:00 – well in time for the rugby in Japan. We also have athletes in Port Elizabeth again on Saturday, this time competing in the EP Athletics Championships at NMU.

The sports programme for 2019 then draws to a close for the grade 10's and 11's as they are into exams. However, as always, there remain plenty of options for girls to remain engaged in exercise with a number of Pilates, step and spinning classes available, as well as road and trail running groups going out daily. The grade 8's and 9's will continue with their normal sports training sessions for another two weeks.

Finally, as mentioned last week, most of the dates for next year, especially for Term 1 and 2 have now been confirmed. They will be available on the school website in the next day or so.

Warm regards

*Chris Hibbert*

Director of Sport



Carrey Wiblin



Lucy Pringle



Ipswich and DSG Netball



Prefects at PJ Fun Run