

DSG

Newsletter Term 3 # 32 | 1 November 2018



**THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS**

Dear Parents and Friends of DSG

The last two days have been very sad ones and it has taken its toll on our girls and staff.

Many of you will have heard by now of the tragic passing of Aubrey Chauke, a Grade 9 boy at St Andrew's College. Aubrey collapsed after a water polo match and all efforts to revive him were unsuccessful. At DSG we extend our love and prayers to Aubrey's family and to Mr Alan Thompson and the staff and boys of our beloved brother school. We are closer than any other brother-sister school known to me and we experience this tragedy and loss as one of our own.

Yesterday we also heard of the sudden death of one of our fathers. He has sent three of his daughters to DSG and two are still with us. Their mother is a DSG Old Girl and so many members of our community, including girls, knew and loved him. On behalf of DSG, I send my condolences and love to Josie, Cate and Georgie Gerber, as well as to their mother Robyn.

Losses such as these leave us reeling. There are those immediately affected; there are girls who have experienced the loss of a beloved family member previously and are once again reminded of their personal grief; and there are others who feel vulnerable and too far from home. Our Wellness Team and staff are on full alert but I implore you to contact us immediately should you become concerned about your daughter.



EN AVANT

This week, we have also had to deal with some difficult disciplinary issues, one of which has led to a pupil being withdrawn from the school. At this time, my emphasis to the school body is that while the behaviour might have been unacceptable, the person is not, and she needs our love and support most now. Sadly, there are times when the consequences are dire. At DSG, our primary responsibility is to keep your daughters safe and when they deliberately put themselves at risk, they threaten not only their own safety, but the sustainability of our school. This I will not permit.

Times such as these remind me that we cannot prepare the path for the child, but rather that we have to focus on the preparation of each individual for the journey on which life may take them. We continue to explore ways to do this as best as we can.

Shelley Frayne

Headmistress



PJ Fun Run

The theme for this year's 5km fun run was 'Funky'. The girls tied themselves together with their girdles and all walked together in true DSG style, playing music, laughing and generally having a lot of fun, whilst enjoying the great views. All proceeds to the SPCA.



Academic

‘Exit, pursued by a bear’**A Level Literature Play Reading with the Shakespeare Society of South Africa**

When Shakespeare penned ‘The Winter’s Tale’ around 1610, most of his audience would have been illiterate. They would have engaged with the jealous king, hopeful lovers, fierce female friendships and magical transformations through hearing the play, usually as groundlings in the pit of The Globe. Rather than beginning an analysis with pen in hand, they would have been berating Leontes, cheering Paulina, gasping as Antigonus is chased by a bear to a grizzly end, and swooning before the happy Perdita and Florizel. Thus, for their first experience of the play, the A2 A Level Literature class joined forces with the Shakespeare Society of South Africa (SSoSA) to present a dramatic reading of an edited version of the play. SSoSA chair, Lynette Patterson edited the script to a ninety-minute performance time, and led members and A Level pupils in a rehearsal in the morning in preparation for the dramatic performance in the evening.

As a school in Makhanda, we are immensely privileged to have the opportunity to work with the talents and experience of the SSoSA. Members guided pupils through considerations of how a character might express a line or sentiment, how the characters might relate to each other on stage and how to build tension and humour in the narrative arc of the play. Taking part in the evening’s performance quickly engaged pupils in the concerns of the play, forced them to consider the roles of the different characters and to consider different possibilities of interpretation and performance. They are now more than ready to begin a more cerebral analysis of the text.

The evening ended with a pizza supper and congratulations all around.

Jayne Euvrard



A Level Play Reading Alex and Toni



Toni, Nia, Sophie and members of SSoSA

Grade 11 Site-specific Performance

Performance can occur anywhere, not just in a theatre, it can be staged outside under a tree, in a school fountain, or in an abandoned prison. The most exciting thing about performing in an unconventional space is that you cannot escape the politics or history of that space. It was this thinking that inspired the Grade 11s when creating their own original performances in our unconventional space: the Grahamstown old jail.

For this class exercise we asked our Grade 11 learners to think about prisons not as a physical space, but as a metaphorical or psychological space and encouraged them to consider what imprisons them in our contemporary society.

Each learner or group of learners approached this question in a unique way, drawing influence from their lives and their experiences. Some learners created works about racism and how they feel that imprisons us, while other learners focused on mass media and consumerism being a trap for youth. One learner created a piece in which she shared how she often feels shackled to South Africa's past and struggles to escape the legacy that her parents and grandparents left her. Another group of brave girls confronted taboos around Xhosa culture and used image and music to show us the weight culture sometimes places on us. In an energised performance,

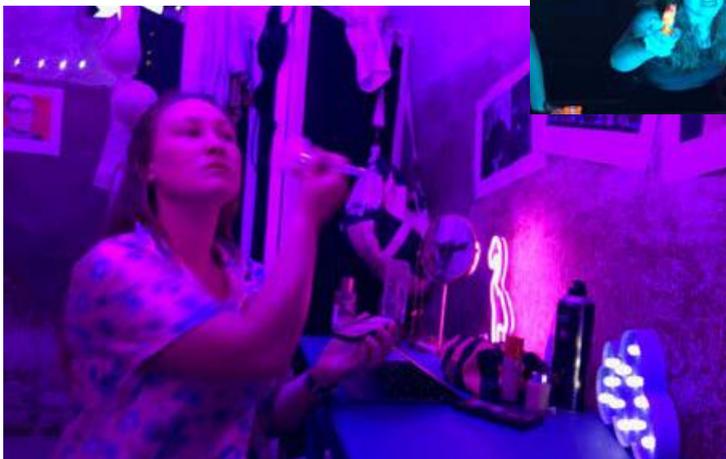
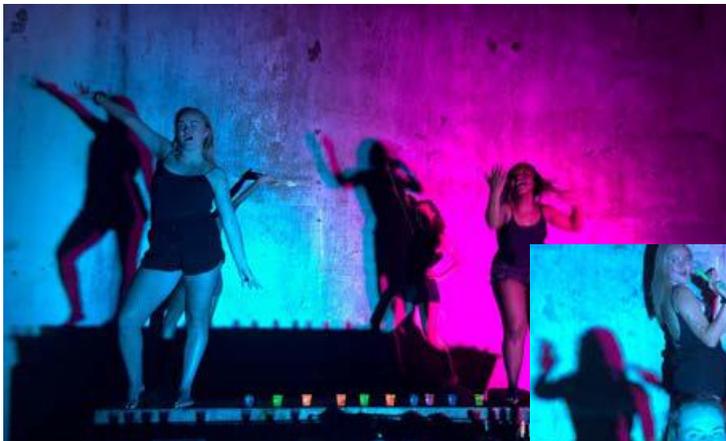
another team reflected on their own social environment and explored notions that women are often trapped by violent, misogynistic attitudes associated with hip hop culture.

Each learner was encouraged to approach the work in a unique way, using image, dance, music, physicality or text to explore their idea of imprisonment. Most importantly, they were encouraged to create a unique experience for the audience, one where the audience were not simply passive observers, but participants in the performance. Audience members were invited to sit down and drink *irhewu* with a Xhosa queen, sing along to 'Girls just want to have fun', cheer on their friends in a boxing match and dance along to music while taking selfies.

Although fun and entertaining, the performance asked the audience to think deeply about their own lives and question, in this age of democracy, if we are as free as we believe ourselves to be.

Well done to all Grade 11 Dramatic Arts students on a brave and exciting performance.

Wesley Deintje



Ballroom Grading Day

Saturday 20 October was a busy and successful day for our 24 ballroom dancers from DSG and St Andrew's College. Held at Kingswood College, the grading was arranged by dance instructor, Francois van Eck, and examined by Peter Mann from Port Elizabeth. Peter is a member and Treasurer of the South African Dance Teachers Association (SADTA), as well as the Ballroom Instructor for the Rhodes University Ballroom Society.

Our dancers were examined at various levels, from Beginner to Level 3 and we were delighted with all the results. Peter commented that he was very pleased with the quality of dancing produced from the young people, as they performed Foxtrots, Boogies, Mambos and Cha Chas.

Congratulations go to all our dancers for their hard work and commitment throughout the year, with a special mention to Zanda Nkosiyané, who received honours for all six of her dances. She truly danced on the clouds, the examiner was thrilled and Zanda was beaming.

The number of ballroom dancers has tripled in the last year. Ballroom dancing teaches discipline, etiquette and social skills, as well as being a great form of exercise and stress release. Ballroom dancing is a life skill and although taught at a social level, receiving an internationally recognised certificate is an additional achievement. Well done dancers!

Louise van der Merwe



Esona Dyantyi and Olwethu Pule



Back row: Francois van Eck (Instructor); **Standing:** Peter Mann (Examiner), Gabriel Walsh, Olwethu Pule, Sanele Mboto, Zanda Nkosiyané, Philisa Masito, Mila Masito, Timothy Nasasira, Louise van der Merwe (assistant); **Front row:** Esona Dyantyi, Sage Thomassen-Holmes, Michael Boynton, Megan Joubert, Bradley Barrow, Amy Thompson, John Marshall, Amilisile Mpambaniso.

Gauteng Branch Function

We had a very successful alumni dinner in Gauteng last week. The venue was 5th on Fergusons, a rooftop restaurant in Illovo, with a breath-taking view of the Johannesburg skyline. Over eighty guests and alumni enjoyed an evening of memories and reconnecting with old friends, creating an atmosphere of humour and warmth.

The Heads of both schools gave updates about the year's progress, followed by Guest Speaker, Andrew Russell (OA 2011), who recently completed an adventurous journey from Cape to Cairo. Grateful thanks to Andy Bassingthwaighte and Pieter Greyling, chairpersons of the Gauteng Branch for arranging such an outstanding evening.

Bridget Rippon



Chris and Colleen Gouws

DSG Golf Day

The DSG Golf Day took place on Friday, 19 October at Parkview Golf Club in Johannesburg. The annual golf day is a fundraiser organised by the Johannesburg Old Girls Guild to raise money for bursaries for DSG. The event has been running for more than twenty years, with strong support from the DSG, Old Andreans and the wider Johannesburg community.

It was a shotgun start, which is always fun, and with a full field and the sun out to play, there was lots of excitement. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with the players seeming to be particularly enthusiastic about the 19th hole after a long day in the sun!

There was lots of great golf played, but ultimately the day was won by Doc Watson, Roddy Watson, Grant Hamilton and Gavin Bernstein.

The day was a fantastic celebration of the DSG/OA community and the Golf Day organising team was appreciative of the generosity of all, managing to raise in excess of R200 000 for the DSG Guild bursary fund.

Please save the date for the 2019 Golf Day, which will take place on Friday, 13th September.

Andy Bassingthwaighte
Chairperson: Gauteng Branch

(A huge thank you to Andy and her team for organising such a successful event, and to all the participants for their overwhelming generosity. It is deeply appreciated. – Ed.)



Jane Marshall, Colleen Anderson, Sandy Hird, Jenny Watson



Caitlin Hird, Jane Walton, Sandy Maree and Lu Dowell

Sport

Dear Parents

Firstly, I would like to say thanks for the warm and positive feedback I have received from last week's newsletter. Nothing as profound this week I'm afraid, as there is much to report on and it has been another manic week at the coalface. I am, however, pleased to tell you that the majority of sports dates for Terms 1 and 2 2019 have now been finalised and we have loaded them onto our website for parents and friends of the school to access. You can find it under the latest news section of our website <https://www.dsgschool.com/2018/10/29/dsg-sports-dates-for-2019/>. Please note that this is a working document and changes may be made.

May I also remind you of the sports camps we are running before school starts in January 2019. Please don't hesitate to ask either myself or Sandra Marques for more information if you need it.

Last weekend was a very busy time, both on our campus and on those around Grahamstown. It was great to have so much on the go, especially as we near the end of the school year. The reports are below and again make for some wonderful reading.

Swimming

Twelve swimmers from DSG competed in the B League Gala in Port Elizabeth on Saturday morning. The girls all competed remarkably well, with some wonderful results.



2 Joey Taylor 3 Annabelle Reunert 4 Danielle De Sarigny 5 Megan Thackwell 6 Amy Hamilton and Tayla Barrett

Cally Still picked up three 2nd places in the U14 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke, and 50m breaststroke and she placed 3rd in the 50m butterfly. Kristen Foster picked up a 3rd place in the 50m breaststroke race. In the U16 division, Megan Willemse placed 3rd in both the 100m backstroke and 100m freestyle events, while Joey Taylor finished 3rd in the 50m breaststroke.

Shaelyn Walker has been very busy over the past few weeks with Open Water swimming events. She was in PE on 21 October, where she won the 2km Ocean Racing Event at Hobie Beach. Then this past weekend, she competed in the 2nd NMBA Open Water Event, finishing 2nd in her age group in the 3km race and 6th overall in the 5km race. Shaelyn swam South African Qualifying times in both races, which is another outstanding achievement from this outstanding swimmer.

Water Polo

DSG played both Alex Road and Pearson on Saturday in the DSG Aquatic Centre. In the fixture against Alex Road the DSG 1st team secured a hard fought 8-3 victory while the 2nd team and U15A's also put in good performances to win their matches. Against Pearson our U14B team had the result of the day with their 16-0 win over Pearson. The 2nd team also impressed with their 4-2 win, while both the 14A and 15A tams lost by narrow margins. The DSG 1st team had a great game against Pearson and going into the 4th quarter, were only 4-2 down against the top school girl water polo team in the country. Pearson however closed out the game convincingly in the final chukka and we lost 9-2, but overall it was a great performance from DSG.



Tyla Rose, Katarina Behr, Courtney Repinz, Shaylen Ackermann and Jess Coxwell

We also congratulated Josie Hickey, Phoebe Elliott and Shaylen Ackermann on Saturday for their remarkable achievement in having played over 100 matches for the DSG 1st water polo team. Their dedication and commitment to their sport is to be admired and appreciated.



Shaylen Ackermann, Josie Hickey and Phoebe Elliott

Tennis

The Albany Tennis Championships were held over the weekend and in the U16 division, DSG dominated the top places, taking out 5 of the top 6 positions. Congratulations to Enya Kemp who won the U16 division, Lucy Pringle who placed 3rd, Lauren Van Coller who was 4th, Olivia Price (5th) and Erin Preston (6th).

There were also tennis matches this week against Kingswood. U15 mixed doubles matches (with St Andrew's College) were played in howling gales on Tuesday afternoon, which did not make tennis easy. Nonetheless the players persisted and the match was drawn 3-3, however Kingswood won on a count out of games 36-35. On Wednesday, the DSG 2nd and U15B tennis teams took on Kingswood in doubles matches and both teams won their match ups 3-0.

Basketball

The DSG 1st basketball team competed in the Kingswood Basketball Festival on Saturday morning, playing 3 matches. DSG comfortably won their games against WSSF and Nombulelo, scoring 22-8 and 36-14 respectively, with DSG showing off their skills from the many hours spent on the training ground.

The match against Kingswood was the game of the day. DSG were outstanding, as we took the hosts to extra time,

with the scores locked at 20 points apiece at full time. This is undoubtedly our best performance against Kingswood on the basketball court, as we have never drawn with or beaten them. Unfortunately, we lost the match in extra time, with the final score being 26-23. However the DSG 1st team can be exceptionally proud of their efforts.

Squash



Olivia Price and Erin Powers attended the Eastern Province Elite Squash Clinic in Port Elizabeth on Sunday. It was a wonderful opportunity to be coached and learn from some of the top coaches and players in the country and the girls left inspired and motivated.

Indoor Hockey

A number of DSG girls have been travelling to Port Elizabeth for the past few Sundays to play for the Grahamstown Rhino's in the Port Elizabeth PSI Indoor Hockey league. The DSG girls have been competing in an U14 and an U16 league. The girls from Grahamstown have been improving every week and the league has been a great opportunity for our girls to access this sport.



Some of the DSG girls gearing up for indoor hockey in Port Elizabeth

Duki Sonuga

We received a lovely letter and photo this week from the sports administrator at Abbotsleigh, which is where Duki Sonuga was on exchange earlier this year, and she obviously made a big impact on them, and it is wonderful to receive such generous feedback. The photo of Duki with her Abbotsleigh hockey team is in the newsletter and I have included an extract of the letter

“Duki was a fantastic member of the Abbotsleigh 2nd Hockey team. Both the coach of her team, Graham and our 1st team coach – Australian player Anna Flanagan commented on her skill and game IQ on numerous occasions. It was a shame that she missed out on playing for the premiership title at the end of Term 3. The girls went onto win the grand final in extra time!! It was a very intense game. They were awarded a ribbon in assembly last term (where we did mention Duki’s efforts in the team).”

This final weekend of official school competition in 2018 still has much to offer. The water polo 1st team is playing at Kingswood on Friday evening at 20h15 - this doubles as an exhibition match as part of Kingswood’s U13 Water Polo Festival this weekend. The balance of our water polo teams take on Kingswood in the DSG Aquatic Centre on Saturday morning. Our 1st and U15 basketballers are also in action on Saturday, in a day hosted by St Andrews College, where they will be playing St Andrew’s College teams. We also have an athletics team travelling to Port Elizabeth to take part in an EP



Duki Sonuga with Abbotsleigh 2nd Hockey Team

Athletics League Meeting at the Westbourne Oval on Saturday. This then brings to an end the competitive year for DSG. We will still run sport practices for another week for our Grades 8s and 9s to keep them ticking over before their exams start, and during the exams period, there will be optional sports sessions available for all girls to attend should they wish.

Warm regards

Chris Hibbert

Director of Sport

Camps in January 2019

The normal sports camps will again be taking place at the start of the new year.

East Cape Residential Hockey Camp – 11-13 January (16h00 Friday – 16h00 Sunday)

Open to all hockey players from Grades 6-12 in 2019 (U12-U18)

Accommodation is in DSG hostels, meals in the dining hall etc.

This is an open Camp to all hockey players from around South Africa. It is an extension camp aimed at introducing new skills and refining existing ones.

Please contact c.hibbert@dsgschool.com for further information

DSG Summer Sports Camp – 13-16 January (16h00 Sunday – 12h00 Wednesday)

Open to all DSG girls in Grades 9-12 in 2019.

The following sports are on offer – Basketball, Netball, Squash, Swimming, Tennis, Water polo.

This is a camp for DSG girls only in Grades 9-12, boarders will stay in their own rooms, arrangements will be made for day girls who wish to board for the camp.

Please note that if numbers for a specific sport at the Camp are too low we reserve the right to not offer that particular sport.

Please contact s.marques@dsgschool.com for further information