

# Junior School Newsletter

24 January 2017

THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL  
FOR GIRLS

**Assembly Theme:** A new start with goals  
**Value of the Week:** Tolerance

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another busy and exciting year at DSG Junior! It is exhilarating to see the school filled with the happy hustle and bustle of girls settling into their new classrooms, building new friendships and getting to know their teachers.

I have been overwhelmed and am so appreciative of the warm welcome and support the Grade 4s, new girls, new staff and I have received this week.

As well as me, the new faces on our staff – are Ms Bronwyn Herring who is our new Afrikaans and IT teacher, and Ms René Barnardt who joins us as an intern. I look forward to the positive and creative impact they will make in their respective areas of the school.

Orientation Day served as a good opportunity for new families to socialise with one another as well as to help the new boarders settle down into The Grange. All the girls enjoyed becoming familiar with their new school environment and meeting the staff. I welcome you all to our Junior School family and look forward to getting to know you over the course of the year. I thank our marketing team, caterers, the grounds team and the staff for their efforts in making the day such a success.

Our Assembly Theme this week is 'A new start with goals'. When faced with new challenges and striving for goals, our girls are encouraged to adopt a 'growth mindset' over a 'fixed mindset'.

We watched a short video to illustrate this concept. It showed a young boy named Jay struggling to tackle problems in class and often resisting positive feedback from his teachers. He feared failure, lacked grit under pressure, gave up before trying and expected to be given the answers straight away. This led to Jay being a frustrated learner.

In stark contrast was young Anne. She would tackle tasks with optimism and self-confidence. She didn't fear new concepts and took time to figure out trickier problems. She also praised her friends when they succeeded and reflected on her mistakes – seeing them as a learning tool. And so our girls are encouraged to dream big. En route to this dream, they should set a number of small goals and adopt a growth mindset to achieve these.

It was also encouraging to have so many families join us for our first Family Service of the year: it is always special for the girls to worship together with their parents and siblings. Thank you to Father Rob for a beautiful message, inspiring us to equip ourselves with faith in God ahead of the new academic year.

An iPad Information Evening was held for Grade 6 and 7 parents. Online safety, management and responsibility of iPads, integration of IT into the classrooms and the monitoring of productivity and activity by teachers during lessons were all topics on the agenda. Thank you to Mr Roy Hobson for co-hosting the evening with me.

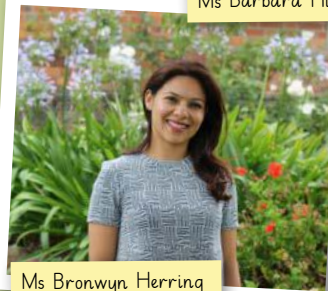
The sports and clubs programmes commence this week and our girls are spoilt for choice with a wide variety of activities. I look forward to seeing them achieve well this term, whether it be in the classroom, sports field or playground.

Wishing you all a happy and successful 2017.

Barbara Hibbert  
Junior School Head



Ms Barbara Hibbert



Ms Bronwyn Herring



Ms René Barnardt

## The Week ahead

Wednesday 25 January  
Clubs Begin  
14:00 -15:00

26 January  
Grade 7 Social with Prep

30 January - 31 January

First Aid training

Grade 5 and 6s will undergo training in basic first aid skills on Monday and the Grade 7s will have their training on Tuesday. The girls need to wear their sports uniform to school on the day of their training.

1 February  
AGM and Welcome Picnic  
18:00

I would like to remind all parents of the AGM to be held on Wednesday in our Junior Art room at 18:00. While the AGM is taking place, your daughters will be supervised on the hockey field below the Junior School. We envisage it finishing at no later than 18:30 after which we will all have a picnic on The Grange lawn. Bring your picnic baskets and blankets and enjoy the wonderful opportunity to meet new school families and the staff. Should anyone like to be part of the Parents' Committee, please contact Gina Meldrum at 072 407 0811

3 February  
Grade 7 Social with Kingswood

## FROM THE SPORTSDESK

Welcome to our families who have joined this vibrant DSG family and I wish you all the very best for a great 2017. I was sorry not to be with you during the Orientation Day but had unavoidable family business that demanded my presence; however, I look forward to meeting new parents during the course of this year.

In terms of communication regarding your daughter's sport:

- All information regarding sport will be communicated by me in the weekly newsletter.
- Sport fixtures can be found on the term calendar as well as on the DSG website.
- Teams will be available on Fixtures Pro and/or the sport notice board in the Junior School.

Should you have any queries regarding sport, please feel free to drop me an email: [p.tooley@dsgschool.com](mailto:p.tooley@dsgschool.com)

### Swimming

Thank you to Mrs Price for accompanying our swimmers when they had fixtures during the holidays and for keeping us up to date with all the swimming news. She reports:

The swimmers had their Nelson Mandela Bay Aquatics Championship gala over the first week-end of the school holidays with five DSG girls participating – Cara Meldrum, Catherine Williamson, Wendy-Mae Turner, Jenna Foster and Jodi Hobson, who all swim for Aquabear swimming club.

The girls all swam qualifying times for the upcoming levels galas to be held in March.

Medal winners were;

Jenna Foster: three silver and two bronze

Catherine Williamson: one bronze.

The NMBA provincial team was announced shortly after the Championships and Jenna Foster was selected to swim in Outshoorn for the Eastern Cape Club side. Jenna excelled and had a tremendous gala, winning four gold medals. Well done Jenna!

Able swimmers are encouraged to do the Bushman's River Mile this weekend. Please do not be put off by the 'mile' part of the heading -- the younger girls only swim shorter distances! This is an annual event and a great family day. Your daughter can sign up for this on the school notice board, but I do need to be advised about transport requirements – please let me know whether she will be travelling with you or whether she requires school transport. to Kenton.

### Tennis

New girls had the opportunity to take part in the round robin over the week-end in order to get a place on the tennis ladder. From this seeding we will choose a team to represent DSG in the Albany tennis championships which take place over the next two weekends. Venues will be made known as soon as the organisers have informed us.

### Squash

We hosted a squash round robin for all new Grade 4 and 5 girls interested in playing squash this year. I hope we have inspired and encouraged them to learn how to master this wonderful sport.

### Mouth guards – hockey

If your daughter intends playing hockey this year, it is compulsory that she wear a mouth guard. No girl is allowed to play without one. The company that makes mouth guards, MAX, will be coming to Grahamstown soon to take the mouth guard impressions. This is optional and you may wish to purchase mouth guards elsewhere. Please see the information pamphlet attached, consider your options and let your daughter know if you would like to sign up to receive a MAX mouth guard.

Patti Tooley  
Sports Director



Girls playing dodgeball for the first time on the MUGA



Tennis Round Robin

## Upcoming Sports Events

SATURDAY 28 JANUARY

08:00 Tennis Albany Champs (venue TBC)

08:00 B group gala Newton Park

SUNDAY 29 JANUARY

08:00 Bushman's River Mile in Kenton

THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY

15:00 Graeme Relay Gala @ Graeme

SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY

08:00 - Tennis Albany Champs venue TBC

SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY

09:00 Albany tennis champs finals @ Kingswood

MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY

13:45 Tennis vs KC U11 @ Kingswood

TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

14:00 Short Course Gala @Kingswood

THURSDAY 9-12 FEBRUARY

12:00 Depart for Oakhill Water Polo Chukka Festival till 12 February

FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY

13:45 Tennis vs Prep mixed doubles @ DSG and Prep

18:00 A league gala @ Newton Park PE

# Grade 5s settling in



# Grade 5 Art



The Grade 5 class thoroughly enjoyed their first art lesson of the year, seen here busy working in their new Art journals. All the grades have been issued with art journals this year which they will carry through to Grade 7 with them. These will be used for planning, sketching, preparation and rough work and the introduction of new art theories and techniques!

# New Girls Orientation Day



# The Grange Games



## We are on Instagram

Follow us @thediocesanschoolforgirls

## Library Books

We are in the process of doing a stock take in the library and we need all outstanging library books from last year to be returned to school by Friday 27 January 2017.

As soon this process done and our Grade 7 monitors have been trained up to use the electronic system, all classes can enjoy the full benefits of our lovely library again.

## Highlands dancing

The Highland dancing classes will take place on Mondays 16:15 - 17:15 in the Lila Strong Hall. Girls are welcome to join in if they wish.

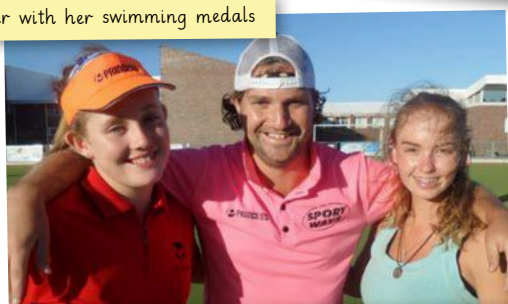
## Holiday Achievers



Jenna Foster with her swimming medals



Emily Huxtable qualified as an Open Water Scuba Diver, which entailed four sea dives.



Erin Powers enjoyed the Princess Dutch Hockey Clinic

## Medical Notice

Please be aware that there is one case of Mumps in the school.

Please look out for the following symptoms:

- Swollen, painful salivary glands on one or both sides of your face
- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Weakness and fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Pain while chewing or swallowing



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rebecca Phillips	4 January
Corneli Rocher	4 January
Donna Miranda	10 January
Jodi Hobson	11 January
Sarah Southey	12 January
Chloe Montauge	14 January
Camagu Mgwedli	14 January
Jenna Foster	16 January
Marique Stevens	23 January
Lucy Pringle	22 January
Kayleigh Clayton	24 January

## Music

We enjoyed a musical demonstration during assembly this week. Girls need to inform me of their choice of instrument as soon as possible; choices being: sax, clarinet, flute, cello, trumpet, trombone. Thereafter I can schedule a time for individual lesson, once consulting with their class teacher.

Mr Wright will lead a Grade 7 Marimba Group on Wednesdays at 4.40pm. He is encouraging those who were in the group last year to re-join and he would also like to see new members to the group. Please come and speak to me if you are interested in joining.

Ms Liz Campbell