

**TWENTY
TWENTY
THRIVE 20
25**



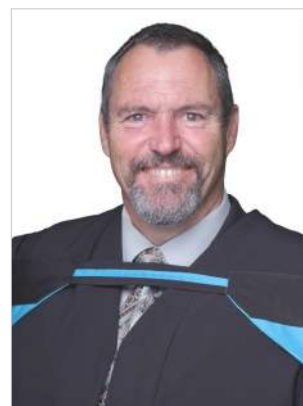
THE ST DUNSTAN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | EASTER TERM | ISSUE 5 | 28.03.2025

From the Headmaster's Desk

“

**WE AT ST DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE EXPECT OUR YOUNG CHARGES
TO DISPLAY FINE SPORTSMANSHIP.**

”



Dear Parents, Girls and Boys,

As we prepare to send out your children's end of term report and as we are in the midst of our 4th annual 3-IN-1 Sports Festival, I would like to talk about “backbone, guts, determination and perseverance” - some of the traits that forge character in an individual.

Our children don't just want our praise for doing something right, or scoring a goal in football, or achieving 80% for a test. They want us, as parents, to see deeper into their lives. They want (and need) their character to be admired more than their latest performance.

In her book “Boys should be Boys”, Meg Meeker talks about this building of character. She states that if we as parents only focus on outcomes, results and achievements, then we have failed our children.

Children certainly develop character through competition; however, a 55% earned honestly is worth more than an 80% gained through cheating. Meg goes on to say that a great performance that comes from a child's dogged perseverance is often worth more than one that comes after years of expensive lessons. She mentions that the most important question a parent can ask is; “what will my child's character be like when he/she is twenty five years old?” If that becomes the focus, we will have young men and woman who are honest, courageous, considerate and respectful, of both him/herself and others.

Sport is certainly a great way to build and observe character in children. How does a child (and parent) react when they have been “subbed”, red-carded, left out or put in a position on the field that they don't want to play in? It is often, during these times that children learn that life is not always fair, and that life can be tough. The real lesson here will be what he/she takes out of this experience in terms of attitude. Will he/she be defeated or will he/she persevere and “bounce back?” It is moments like these that will forge and develop character.

We know that praise and positive encouragement reinforce good play; however, encouragement which builds confidence and promotes a sense of enjoyment will encourage our children to play longer, work harder, and hopefully, be more positive on their outlook on life. The reality is that defeat, poor performance and disappointment are all part of the learning experience of life. It is often in these difficult and challenging times that good character is forged. Let us, as parents and teachers, continuously strive to develop, enhance and grow our children's character.

From the Headmaster's Desk Continued....

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I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Mr Tucker, our Director of Sports, for organising and co-ordinating our 3-IN-1 Festival. A big thank you is also extended to our Estate Manager, Mr Ihlenfeldt and his ground staff for preparing our playing surfaces. Many thanks to all volunteers, umpires, referees and staff members who worked tirelessly to make this event possible. Their commitment and hard work is noticed and is truly appreciated.

In terms of staffing, a big congratulations to Mr and Mrs Patel on the exciting news of their pregnancy. We wish them all the best during the next few months. The selection committee is well into the process of finding a suitable replacement as Head of the Preparatory. A big congratulations is extended to Miss Dansie who has been appointed as the next Visual Arts Teacher in the Preparatory to continue the good work already done by Mrs McIlrath. We are currently interviewing for a suitable replacement for a Grade 2 teacher to start at the beginning of our Michaelmas Term (Term 3). We also wish Mr Lay all the very best in his new ventures at St Benedict's College.

May I wish all a most well deserved break and a Blessed Easter to our Christian families.

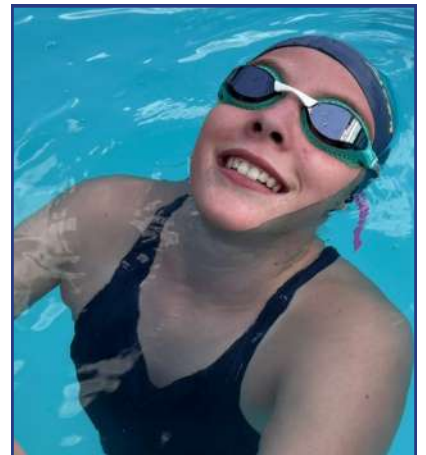
- Mr Craig McIlrath -

Grade 7 Art with Mr McIlrath



'A' Team Gala at Reddam House

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Girls U13 Water Polo Action

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Headmaster's Tea with the swimmers

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'A' Team Inter-Primary Gala

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Netball

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3-IN-1 Winter Sports Festival

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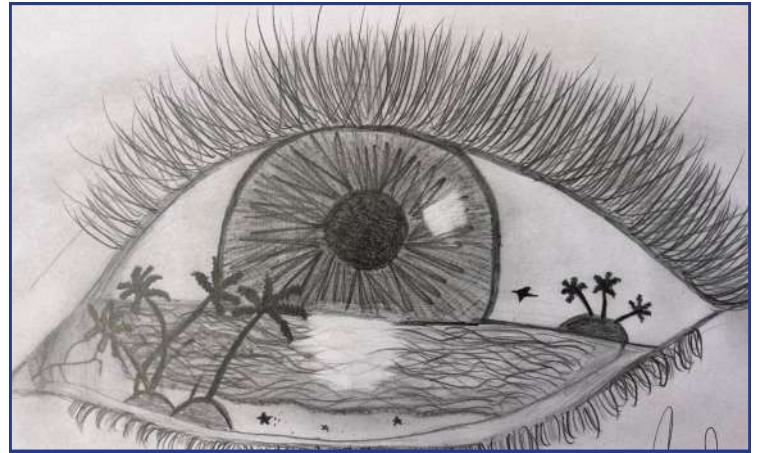
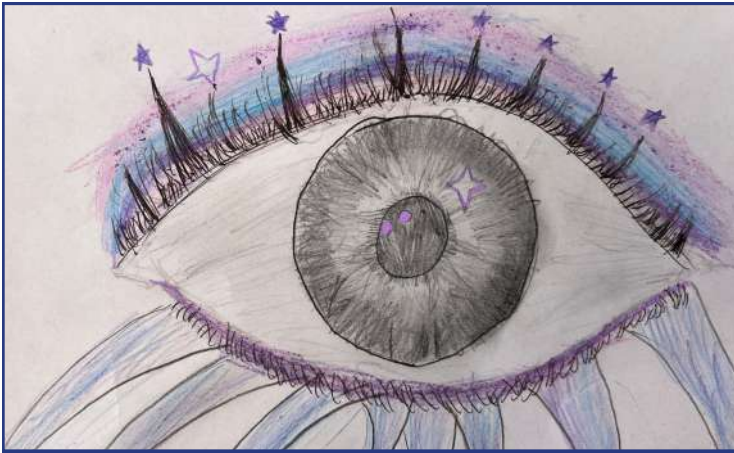
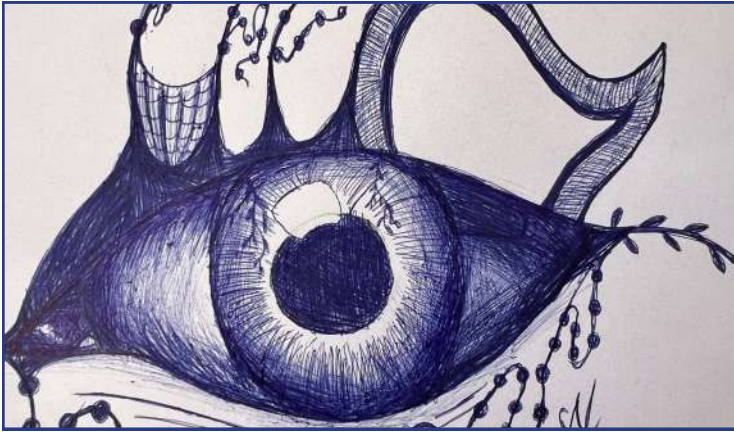
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Equestrian - SANESA

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Social Responsibility

A heartfelt thank you to all our families who donated Easter eggs. The Preparatory School collected 240 boxes and these have been delivered to the following organisations: *Meals on Wheels, The Salvation Army, HABSR at St Dunstan's Cathedral, the soup kitchen at St Dunstan's Cathedral, Benoni Child Welfare, Fairleads Retirement Centre, Palliative Care East Rand (formerly named Hospice), St Francis Care Centre, Kids Haven, John Wesley Care Centre, Feeducare, Families in Need, Project Feed the Children.*



Winter Warmth Collection: This will take place in Week 2 of Trinity Term to coincide with our Patronal Festival (St Dunstan's Day). If you are sorting out cupboards or replacing winter clothes, please consider donating your pre-loved winter items (in good condition) to our collection. The items will be valued by those the less fortunate.

Junior Primary Music Evening

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Senior Primary Music Evening

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SDC's Got Talent Awards

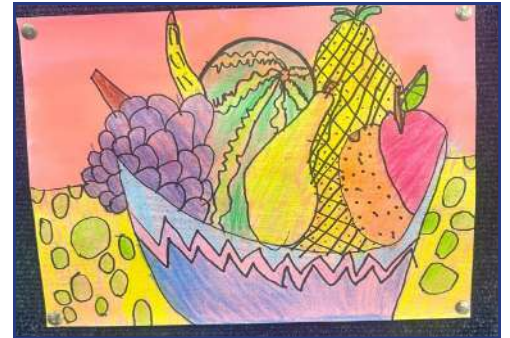
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Grade 2 Art

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Dancing

Rachel Williams, Adiyana Bhana and Tayla Tucker competed in the SADTA Freestyle Easter Championship with results as follows: *Rachel* (2nd place 8/9 Champs Freestyle, 2nd place 8/9 Champs Slow Dance, 2nd place World Qualifier and 1st place Couples), *Adiyana* (3rd place 8/9 Rising Stars Slow Dance and 1st place 8/9 Rising Stars Freestyle) and *Tayla* (1st place 10/11 Premier Championship Slow Dance, 1st place 10/11 Premier Championship Freestyle, 1st place U11 Championship Freestyle Couples and 1st place U14 Premier Championship 2026 Word Freestyle Qualifier).

Motocross

Connor Tuniz came 1st in the Junior Pro Class in the Lowveld Series that was held at the Vaal Dam.

Swimming

Lacey Hodgkinson swam at the Aquatics Gauteng Regional Championships held at Steyn City. She placed 2nd in the 50m Butterfly event.

Isabella Gonçalves, Mila Hinteregger and Ava Constantinides participated in the SA Level 3 Regional Championships with results as follows: *Isabella* (1st 50m backstroke, 1st 50m freestyle, 1st 50m butterfly, 1st 50m breaststroke and 2nd in 100m backstroke (SANJ qualifying time), *Isabella* qualified and swam in 8 finals. *Mila* (2nd 100m Breaststroke, 2nd 200m breaststroke, 1st 50m Girls Freestyle Relay, 1st 50m Girls Medley Relay, 1st 50m Boys and Girls Medley Relay), *Mila* qualified and swam in 5 finals and *Ava* (3rd 200m Individual Medley). *Ava* qualified and swam in 5 finals.

Tennis

Well done to *Olivia Kartsounis* who placed 2nd in the U14 Girls Gold group at the Wilson Gauteng East Tennis Tournament.

Tayla and *Hunter Tucker* participated in a tennis tournament, with *Tayla* placing 1st overall and winning the girls section, and *Hunter* winning the boys section and placing 2nd overall.

Karate

Grayson Clifford attended the JKA Gauteng Provincial Karate Tournament and achieved a 3rd place in his section. Both *Grayson* and his brother *Conor* have qualified to compete at the SA National Championships in May.

Chehon and *Tatum Burger* have both qualified to represent Gauteng at the JKA Karate National Championships. *Chehon* was awarded a 3rd place in his section for both Kumite and Kata, and *Tatum* was awarded a 2nd place in his section for Kumite and a 3rd place for Kata.

Indoor Netball

Teagan van Gool was announced as Captain for U13B at the Gauteng East Action Netball Capping Ceremony.

Golf

Kade Hodgkinson participated in the Ebotse Club Championships this weekend and placed 2nd in the Junior B Division.

Equestrian

Well done to the riders who participated at SANESA Ekurhuleni Q2 and achieved top 3 results as follows: *Evelyn Kapp* (Dressage - 2nd place, Prix Caprilli - 1st place, Prix Caprilli - 1st place, Showjumping - 2nd place and Showjumping - 2nd place), *Hannah McAlpine* (Showjumping - 2nd place and Showjumping - 3rd place), *Kenzi Van Wyk* (Dressage - 2nd place and Dressage - 3rd place), *Ryla Terry* (Dressage - 1st place, Dressage - 1st place and Working Hunter - 1st place) and *Vivienne Kapp* (Dressage - 3rd place, Equitation - 3rd place, Prix Caprilli - 2nd place and Prix Caprilli - 1st place).

Karting

Emma and *Brodi Dowling* participated in the first Rotax National Championships in Cape Town, with *Emma* achieving 1st place and *Brodi* 3rd place.

Happy Birthday!

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Happy Birthday to the following staff and pupils who celebrate their birthdays from 8th March until the 4th April.

Mrs Dane, Mrs Van Straaten, Mrs Shorter, Mr Lay, Mrs Biermann and Mrs Holongwane

Stephen Olowoyo, Devashin Pillay, Lisandro Teixeira, Adriel Takawira, Danilo Teixeira, Luka Meduric, Mila Raath, Lesedi Sehole, Matthew Robertson, Paulina De Freitas, Katleho Seekane, Rotondwa Tshikhudo, Luca Condes, Bahumi Rakgokong, Jeff Zheng, Maya Chikuni, Blake Cronk, Mahlatse Marule, Tori Geral, Evelyn Kapp, Daniel Kotze, Akwande Malinga, Diego De Abreu, Lethubuhle Hele, Scarlett Schwartz, Dale Kartsounis, Zak Khan, Swazi Tshabalala and Christopher Rotsides.

Dates To Diarise

Wednesday, 2nd April	Junior and Senior Headmaster's Tea
Thursday, 3rd April	Inter-House Cross Country
Friday, 4th April	Inter-House Quiz
	School Closes at 11:45 for Easter Holidays
Tuesday, 6th May	School re-opens for the Trinity Term
Wednesday, 7th May	Grade 4 - 7 leave for Camp
Wednesday, 14th May	Grade 2 and 3 leave for Camp
Monday, 19th May	St Dunstan's Day
Friday, 30th May	Slipper Day

