



ST DUNSTAN'S PREPARATORY NEWSLETTER

EASTER TERM | ISSUE 6 | 10.04.2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Dear Parents and Guardians,

C.S. Lewis, one of the intellectual giants of the 20th century and arguably the most influential writer of his day, describes the first school he attended in his autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*. The chapter is entitled "Concentration Camp." An excerpt reads: "*the only stimulating part in the teaching consisted of a few well-used canes which hung on the green iron chimney.*" His headmaster, nicknamed "Oldie," is described as follows: "Oldie lived in a solitude of power, like a sea-captain in the days of sail. No-one except Wee Wee (the nickname for Oldie's grown-up son) initiated conversation with him at all." How sad to have one of the greatest literary minds of our age describe his school as a concentration camp.

As I consider the amazing opportunities the St Dunstan's Preparatory children have enjoyed over the final weeks of the Easter term - two festivals on consecutive weekends in the annual 3-IN-1 and the College Easter Festival, as well as the annual SDC's Got Talent and Swimathon, it is a stark contrast to the schooling C.S. Lewis experienced.

When posed with the question, "What is the point of school?" I would propose three purposes. There are exponentially more, I believe, but these are significant:

1. **St Dunstan's provides community** - Children make friends and learn to interact with others; parents get to know each other on the side of the sports field; and teachers build relationships with their classes and teams, mentoring and guiding them to become the best versions of themselves. The last few weeks of festivals, fundraisers and cultural evenings have fostered just that - community.

Thank you in particular to the Preparatory School PA for successfully raising R75 000 to date at the 2026 Swimathon. The event was worth the wait. Pupils enjoyed a day of fun and excitement.

2. **St Dunstan's build skills** - School teaches us the necessary skill set that ensures success and a positive contribution to society as adults. We are fortunate to have excellent teachers who provide a solid foundation for the children in their care. This sets them up for success throughout their schooling and later in life. Sport and cultural activities ensure children learn lessons that the classroom might not teach.

A brief look at the results from the festivals points to the effort and effectiveness of the co-curricular programme:

- **Girls Netball** - Fielded two teams in both U12 and U13. With the U13A team winning all six of their games and the U12A winning four out of six. An excellent set of results.
- **Girls Hockey** - St Dunstan's fielded two teams, with team one winning six out of seven games and scoring a total of fifty goals at the festival. The 'A' team narrowly lost to the Quagga's district team.

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

- **Boys Hockey** - Won all six of their games including a hard fought victory against Farrarmere Primary. They scored a mammoth 63 goals, only conceding 8.
- **Boys 7s Rugby** - The Preparatory School was, for the first time, able to field three teams at the festival. The first team fared very well, winning five out of eight fixtures, including an excellent win against Pridwin's second team.

Thank you to all coaches, teachers, interns, parents, and guardians for your efforts and support over the course of the festival weekends.

At the Easter Festival, our cricket teams finished in first and fourth place respectively, an outstanding result against strong competition. Congratulations to Mr Masheshemane and his teams for an excellent finish to the cricket season.

SDC's Got Talent provided the platform for children to showcase their abilities with amazing performances. The record number of competitors is an indication of both the talent in our midst and the support of the music, drama, and art departments. Thank you to all involved, in particular Mr Morobi, Mrs Van Straten and Ms Dansie.

3. **St Dunstan's stands on truth** - Without a moral code, we would be awash in a constantly changing sea of opinions. Our lives need to be anchored to something. We are fortunate as a Christian school that we are anchored to Christ, the Rock of Ages. Over Easter, we can focus on the significance of the sacrifice Jesus made for us, with gratitude that our salvation is a free gift.

By remaining steadfast in fostering community and building skills, all underpinned by an ethos based on truth, we are able to provide, as we have for the last 108 years, an excellent holistic education.

At the end of term, we bid a fond farewell to Ms Brukwe and Mrs Symons. Both ladies have made a significant impact in their own unique way. To Ms Brukwe, we thank you for your passion both as an educator and Head of Deans House. We wish you well as you pursue your passion for academia at UNISA. To Mrs Symons, we thank you for 35 years of dedicated service to the Preparatory School. We are all richer for knowing you and have benefited from your support and guidance.

As we close school at the end of the 2026 Easter term, I wish the St Dunstan's Preparatory School community a well-deserved rest. Please note that pre-season training, in preparation for the winter season, will take place in the final week of the holidays. These dates and times will be communicated in due course. School reopens on Tuesday, 5 May.

Matthew Woolben



GRADE 2 MINI-FOOTBALL



3-IN-1 WINTER SPORTS FESTIVAL



**EVERY
THING
MATTERS**



3-IN-1 WINTER SPORTS FESTIVAL



Enhancing our standing as a leading independent, co-educational Christian school.

CHESS

The Chess Team played their first tournament, placing 3rd out of 14 schools.



CRICKET

Well done to the 1st Team for a fantastic win at the Easter Sports Festival's 'Cricket Under Lights' Tournament!



**EVERY
THING
MATTERS**



JP INFORMAL MUSIC EVENING



Enhancing our standing as a leading independent, co-educational Christian school.

**EVERY
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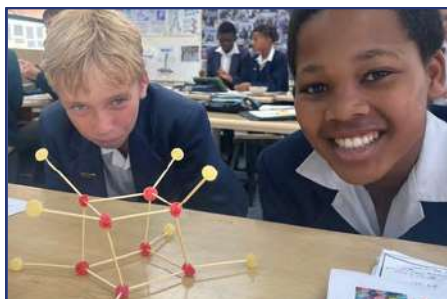


GRADE 7 JACKETS



Enhancing our standing as a leading independent, co-educational Christian school.

GRADE 7 SCIENCE



MRS SYMON'S FAREWELL ASSEMBLY



FAREWELL FOR MRS SYMONS



RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Cricket

Jordan Ovideo, Kiano Gonçalves and Jordan Whittington were a part of the U8 Benoni Northerns Cricket Team who had an undefeated season, winning the Easterns Impala League.



Dancing

Tayla Tucker, Gisele Merifield, Rachel Williams, Adiana Bhana and Sarah Williams competed in the SADTA Easter FDD Freestyle Championship with results as follows:

Tayla: 2nd 12/13 Prem Champ Slowdance, 2nd 12/13 Prem Champ Freestyle, 1st U16 Premier Championship 2027 World Freestyle Qualifier.

Gisele: 1st Disco Solo, 2nd Freestyle Couples.

Rachel: 1st U8/9 Premier Championship Slowdance, 2nd U8/9 Premier Championship Freestyle, 1st U12 Premier Championship 2027 World Freestyle Qualifier.

Adiana: 1st U8/9 Champ Slowdance, 3rd U12 Champ 2027 World Freestyle qualifier.

Sarah: 1st 4-years-old Tiny Tots Freestyle Dancing, 1st 4-years-old Tiny Tots Slowdance.



Football

Colby Barnard, Josiah Momoh, and Shoki Ndwalane participated in the Benoni Northerns pre-season tournament and their academy team, Juzz Sports, were crowned U7 Champions.

Kgosi Kekana and his team, U9 Prem (Juzz Sports), also performed exceptionally well and finished as Runners-up in the Benoni Northerns tournament final.



Golf

Nathan and Joshua Mc Donald achieved 1st place at The Builders Series at Kyalami Golf Course over the weekend.

Colby Barnard won the US Kids Golf Under 7 Tour Championship at Ebotse.



Equestrian

Hannah McAlpine and Hannah Tuniz participated in the Tshwane SANESA Q2 and achieved the following: **Hannah McAlpine** (2x 1st place in Level 1 Dressage) and **Hannah Tuniz** (2x 1st place in Level 0 Showjumping).



DATES TO DIARISE...

Tuesday, 5 May	School opens for Trinity Term
Wednesday, 6 May	Grade 4-7 pupils leave for camp
Friday, 8 May	Grade 4-7 pupils return from camp
	Pridwin 7s Rugby Festival

PLEASE NOTE:



SECOND HAND SHOP

Our second hand shop is located at **51 Baines Street**, and is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 13:00 to 14:30.



Please remember that St Dunstan's College has implemented a cashless system since the beginning of the year. If you would like your child to make purchases from the Tuck Shop please provide them with either a Karri card or a bank card. Thank you for your support and understanding.



ST DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE IS CASHLESS
(Bank cards accepted)

BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to the following staff and pupils who celebrate their birthdays from 21st March to 30th April 2026.

Mrs Hlongwane, Mrs de Bruin, Mrs Lachenicht, Miss Turner

Luca Condes, Emma Sands, Hannah Sands, Bahumi Rakgokong, Alexia Turck, Maya Chikuni, Blake Cronk, Mahlatshe Marule, Tori Geral, Evelyn Kapp, Daniel Kotze, Akwandokuhle Malinga, Diego De Abreu, Lethubuhle Hele, Scarlett Schwartz, Dale Kartsounis, Talen Hewitt, Zak Khan, Swazi Tshabalala, Courtney Pearson, Christopher Rotsides, Simphiwe Batyi, Tau Motsei, Hannah van der Merwe, Connor De Klerk, Declan Ludick, Molly-Mae Amooore, Davina Chetty, Tayla Tucker, Kendall Khwela, Amantle Tsoka, Ava de Beer, Vhugala Nengwenda, Reegan Bellingham, Matthew De Bruin, Mieke De Bruin, Bokang Mamorare, Junior Wadawareya, Montle Kgadima, Kaylee Turton, Iyla-Skye Brameld, Thoriso Rakoma, Zara Bayisayi, Emily Chaplin, Brooke Vos, Penelope Risi, Nolitha Luhabe, Luthando Mbotheni, Daniela Erasmus, Kungawo Maneli, Levi Michailov, Entle Morolo, Kuhlekonke Hadebe, Khumo Buthelezi, Josiah Momoh, Awande Hadebe, Zenande Khulu, Kaone Mooketse, Ndalwenhle Msimango, Tai-Neema Sindane, Rylan Thompson.