



Newsletter

Dear Parents

The winter term seems to have flown by. However, when we look back at the events' list, we can see just how busy the girls and staff have been. Everyone is a little weary and thoroughly deserves the August holiday. We wish for the time to be filled with meaningful rest as well as for there to be time for reading and reflection. Thank you to the PTA and to all the parents, family members and friends of the school for the support you have shared with us.

St Katharine's School
www.stkatharines.co.za
4 August 2017

Events

The Neon Night Run was an enormous success on a chilly night. The girls' outfits were creative, their running endurance was outstanding and the best dressed winners were very pleased with their prizes. Thank you to the Grade 7 moms and dads, the PTA and to each class who contributed to the successful event.

Further endurance was displayed at the Maths Evening during which the Grade 7 girls and their dads or 'stand in dads' faced 13 tough mathematical challenges. Once again, the effort to dress up to a theme was enormous and these included Mathemagicians, Cheerleaders, Victory Birds, Purple Minions and the Elephants.

Mandela Day

Mandela Day saw 225 young girls making sandwiches for people in need in our area. Mary Salmon and Alpheus Senyatsi kindly delivered our 67-minute contribution to St George's Anglican Church. The Rev Dr Jeremy J Jacobs wrote to us the next day to say:

Re: With gratitude for the sandwiches

Thank you so much for the generous donation of sandwiches which St Katharine's delivered on Mandela Day. This means a great deal to us, and to the hungry and homeless in our area. It might alarm you to hear that as little as three years ago, your annual donation kept our sandwich scheme going for two to three weeks, now it scarcely covers us for a week – not because you are giving less, but because of the exponential increase in the number of poor and homeless people. Our government must answer for this – the shame is on them. It is the generous spirit of regular South Africans like you who take care of the poor – thank you!

Please thank the St Katharine's family for their generosity



We believe that there are as many people who are suffering from the chilly weather as there are hungry people, and our blanket numbers are growing. We encourage everyone to please keep knitting!

Music

The music programme has been a source of entertainment for us in the last while as we have listened to the girls play the cello, violin, clarinet, flute, pbone (plastic trombone), saxophone, trumpet, ukulele, guitar, bass guitar, drums and marimbas.

The girls have played at the Grades 2–3 Programme Music Assemblies, the Grades 4–7 Class Music Concerts and the Soirée, which culminated in the music teachers playing for the girls and parents. The teachers were in awe of the girls and the girls were in awe of the teachers!

Hockey

After Half-Term, the sports fixtures included hockey matches and Saturday tournaments for the Grades 3–7s during which where the girls improved their skills and concepts. The Inter-House hockey was a wonderful contest between the Houses.

Science Fair

Our Science Fair day began with inspirational messages from Dr Adam and her daughter, Imaan Hasssan. Dr Adam encouraged the girls to set goals, to work consistently (by doing a little a lot of the time), to be strong and agile. Imaan, who is doing a pre-med degree and playing the college tennis circuit in the USA, spoke about balance and managing one's time effectively.

The Science Fair was a wonderful display of thoughtful and practical experiments and presentations. The girls had the opportunity during the day to describe the intricacies of the facts and concepts that they found fascinating. We had fascinating displays of ferrofluid liquid and magnets, air flow balancing, geodesic homes and many more very interesting projects. Well done to the girls and to the staff!

Book Week

The busy term culminated in the St Katharine's Book week! The girls were treated to talks by authors, calligraphy lessons, paper folding and origami, visits to The Johannesburg Public Library, Mandela House, WAM, and many other special activities. Thank you to all the staff members who put so much effort into this educational and fun week.

Farewell

We say farewell to Eliza-Jane Queally (Grade 5), who leaves with her family at the end of the term to emigrate to Ireland. We wish Eliza-Jane all the best as she begins a new chapter of her schooling with an Irish blessing:

*May joy and peace surround you,
contentment latch your door,
and happiness be with you now
and bless you evermore!*

Welcome

We welcomed Aviwe Sekhu (Grade 4), who joined us from Lebone II School. Aviwe has settled into St Katharine's and she is already an effective team member!



Reminder

Reminder to consider attending the PTA Quiz night on Friday 15 September. This promises to be a fun-filled evening! Just buy a ticket and show up to enjoy a bit of teamwork.

Correction

In the letter about staff yesterday, I mentioned that Mrs Salmon would be retiring at the end of 2018. Mrs Salmon is in fact retiring at the end of 2017!

Schools in the news

These school activities have taken place amidst political, economic and social turmoil in our country, and troubling times at neighbouring schools. At the last SAHISA meeting that was held at St John's College, we were reminded of the fragmented world in which we and our pupils find ourselves, which includes anger at past atrocities, confusion at understanding the current climate in our country and fear of what the future holds.

One very important factor that we must all take into consideration is the need to value each other, to ensure that we build each other up, to add positive energy into our school, to have important conversations and to treat each other with respect. There is no other way.

Thank you to the whole St Katharine's community for a wonderfully busy and exciting term, and well done to all the girls for keeping the St Katharine's flag flying high.



Karen Symons

