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28 September 2018

26-2018

From the Head's Desk

Dear Parents and Guardians

Thank you for your continued support of your sons in what has been an extremely busy term, fortunately with some respite in sight as we break for a brief but much needed holiday. Your boys continue to excel in so many areas and we are collectively very proud of their endeavours as they strive to be the best that they can be. Thank you also to all the parents who took the time to complete the IQAA survey, the results of which will be released by our Board Chairman, Mr Craig MacKenzie early next term. What is very pleasing to see was the much improved performance of our Matric group in their Trial Examinations which augurs well for the NSC Final Examinations, which start on 23 October. However, those boys who fared poorly will be required to attend school during Week 2 as part of the remediation programme instituted over the past two years to get them up to speed for the finals. We trust that we will have your full support in this regard.

This week on campus we celebrated the official opening of our new Shepstone House, by family member Mr Geoffrey Shepstone and the SGB Chair, Mr Rob Evans. This beautiful facility will now be home to 90 boarders and staff, thanks to significant financial contributions by parents, old boys, donors and other benefactors. We indeed grateful to so many people for their vision, passion, commitment and drive. The final leg in Project Madevu, is the expansion of Elliott House in 2019 which will see our capacity for boarding at 500 for 2020.

Some of the important dates in our Fourth Term include the following:

- Mon 8 Oct All boarders to return by 17h00
Boarders' Formal Dinner @ 18h00 [6th Form Farewell]
- Tues 9 Oct 4th term starts, Dedication Assembly
Address to the 6th Form by the President MCOBA
Speakers' Circle Dinner [Sixth Form Farewell]
- Wed 10 Oct 2018 Prefects' Dinner
- Thurs 11 Oct Form 6 Old Boys' Leavers' Induction Ceremony
- Fri 12 Oct Speech Day and Valedictory Service;
Guest of Honour; Mr Neil Hinrichsen, CEO, KoiStrategy
- Tues 23 Oct National Senior Certificate Examinations begin
- Fri 26 Oct Passing of the Drum – special assembly,
Parents' AGM [Ratification - 2019 Tuition & Boarding Fee]

Our 2018 Final Examinations dates are as follows: NSC Exams: Tues 23 Oct - Tues 27 Nov; Exams for Form 2 – 5: Mon 29 Oct - Mon 19 Nov.

As College is again a National Senior Certificate Marking Centre for 2018, Term 4 ends for boys at the conclusion of the Prize Giving Ceremony on Fri 23 Nov and not Wed 12 Dec as per the calendar published by the Department of Education.

I wish you and your boys a restful and enjoyable September holiday and all our boys who are at provincial, national and other tournaments every success.

Chris Luman
Headmaster



In this Issue...

From the Deputy Head's Desk	1
Academic Achievements	2
College Culture	3
Sporting Spotlights	4
MCOBA & MCF	5
Campus Roundup	6

Academic Achievements

Focus on...Visual Art

Visual Arts at College is focussed on encouraging individual expression and thinking from the boys. The boys must combine their intellect and imagination in conceptualising and in creating artworks. We teach the boys sound observational and drawing skills as well as giving them a chance to use a variety of media.

Maritzburg College is privileged to have very well-equipped art facilities as well as highly qualified staff, who often find ways of introducing new and exciting techniques and ideas into the classroom. Recently our 5th form boys explored and enacted action painting in the style of Jackson Pollock. Action painting is a style of painting in which paint is spontaneously dribbled, splashed or smeared onto the canvas, rather than being carefully applied (Wikipedia). Jackson Pollock, an influential American painter, is famous for his 'action painting', where his canvases were either set on the floor, or laid out against a wall, and paint was dripped from the paint can. Instead of using the traditional paint brush, he would add depth to his images using knives, trowels, or sticks. This form of painting, had a direct relation to the artist's emotions, expression, and mood, and showcased their feeling behind the pieces they designed.

"The painting has a life of its own. I try to let it come through" Jackson Pollock



5th Form action painting

Learning outside the classroom

The past week has seen our Form 3, 4 and 5 boys spending most of their week outside the classroom on various tours. Our Form 3's stayed in the Umkomaas valley where one of their activities



included working at Linwood School on a community outreach project building bookcases, jungle gyms and reading to grade 1 and 2 pupils.

140 Form 4 boys and staff have been hiking in the beautiful are of Cobham near Underberg.

Our Form 5 boys took part in an Economics excursion to Johannesburg, and a number of boys together with staff and parents enjoyed an historic tour of the midlands battlefields.



Celebrating Our Heritage & South Africanism

Heritage is a deceptively simple idea. It can be considered to be made up of the practices and traditions that are passed on from parents to children, family, community and place where people have been raised. Your family heritage can include a family's history; religion, cultural traditions, the people, clan or cast, forefathers, stories, special times together. College's heritage is in its war cry, brotherhood, our buildings, the many narratives, basher ridge ...

But how well do we celebrate and understand our South African Heritage?

President Ramaphosa in a previous speech on Heritage day got straight to the point when he said "Although we may speak different languages, practice different beliefs, engage in different cultural practices and tell different stories we are bound together by a common African Heritage".

Traditionally, in KwaZulu Natal, the day is observed as Shaka Day, after the legendary founding father of the Zulu nation. King Shaka. People gather at King Shaka's grave on this day to honour him. Heritage Day was not originally intended to be an official South African public holiday, but when the Public Holiday Bill presented in 1995, did not have 24 September included as a proposed public holiday, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) objected to the bill. After negotiations, a compromise was reached and the day was given its present title and recognised as an official public holiday.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu celebrated his appointment as patron of SA Braai day saying it is a unifying force in a divided country.

This name changed further to Braai4 Heritage and was endorsed by SA's National Heritage council

In celebration of their heritage we encouraged our boys to celebrate with their families in many ways; lighting and uniting around fires and Chisa Nyama, Braai and Ukosa, enjoying Naan bread, kebab, wors, curry, chops, chicken, wearing a Madiba shirt, African shirt, rich and colourful beads and bangles and beautiful skirts /dresses, and waving our flag. This noble cause will contribute to strengthening South Africa as a nation through this act of nation building and social cohesion.

But there is more...show gratitude for the fact that you were born free, live in a democracy with a modern constitution, have food and a supportive family, a privileged education and special friendships, while others in this country are less fortunate without food, parents, home, a victim of crime or fighting a dreaded disease.

Our boys gave a rousing rendition of the National Anthem in our 6th Form quad, after listening to this extract of the preamble to the National Development Plan:

***"Once, we uttered the dream of a rainbow.
Now we see it, living it.***

It does not curve over the sky.

It is refracted in each one of us at home, in the community, in the city, and across the land, in an abundance of colour.

***When we see it in the faces of our children, we know:
there will always be, for us, a worthy future."***



What's with all the different names? Shaka Day, Heritage Day, and the less formal, Braai Day was an initiative started by Jan Scannell (otherwise known as "Jan Braai"). He wanted this day to be about focusing on our shared culture rather than focusing on cultural division and thus proposed that South Africans celebrate their common roots by having a braai on Heritage Day.

Sporting Spotlight

Focus on...

Cricket

College fielded 18 cricket teams over the weekend, most matches being played against Kearsney. Due to the weather, only one game had a result and saw College's U14E lose to Alex by 2 wickets.

Water polo

Six College teams played water polo against Kearsney this weekend, with 3 of these reaching a result before the dangerous weather forced all matches to be halted. College's U15B beat Kearsney 10-5 while our U14A and U14B teams both lost. Our U15A side enjoyed a great tournament at Wynberg, in the 2018 Ian Melliar Cup. In Pool D, College beat Affies 4-2, but lost to Rondebosch 0-6 on Saturday. They went on to lose to Hilton College (1-7) before securing a great win against Grey High (7-5) on Sunday with C Thunder receiving two Man of the Match awards. The team eventually ended up in 10th place out of 20 teams and were awarded the Keith Richardson Award for Exceptional Sportsmanship.

Basketball

College's basketball teams played Kearsney over the weekend. Some of outdoor matches had to be stopped due to the bad weather. College secured good results particularly the U14 teams who won all their matches, except the U14F game which was stopped early. Overall results showed College winning 11 of their 16 games, and losing 5 while 3 had no result.

Shooting

Congratulations to a number of our boys who were awarded KZN Academy colours and made the KZN shooting team. Special mention is made of Joshua Cooke and Conner Vahey who were awarded KZN senior and junior shottist for 2018.

59th Oppenheimer Michaelmas Week starts 28 Sept

This week College plays host to the oldest and one of the most prestigious schoolboy cricket weeks in South Africa, Michaelmas Week. Considered as a true test of cricketing skill and excellence, the 2018 event will see 22 cricketing power-house teams from some of South Africa's greatest schools taking part, as well as Westlake Boys College from New Zealand. The Week is sponsored by Mr Jonathan Oppenheimer, a proud and staunch supporter of cricket and cricket development in South Africa. The Week plays out over the next 4 days at ground around Pmb and the midlands.

For more on the programme, fixtures and teams, visit our website or scan the QR code



Local actor and College OC making his mark on the nation's screens



Congratulations to OC and Pietermaritzburg actor Zenzeli-sphesihle "Sparky" Xulu who currently stars in one of Mzansi's biggest shows, *The Herd*.

The Maritzburg College old boy, from Imbali Unit 18, said he discovered his acting gift when he was in high school.

Xulu (28) said he started getting involved in school plays and after matric he went to Rhodes University to study theatre. He finished his qualification at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg.

After graduating, Xulu worked as a performer for a theatre company in Grahamstown for three years, travelling across the country and neighbouring countries mastering the craft of acting. In a leap of faith, Xulu moved to Johannesburg to pursue his acting career. In three weeks he found an agent and landed a lead role on the SABC 1 show called *Mfolozi Street*. From there, Xulu has been featured on several other shows from *Isibaya*, *It's Complicated*, *Zibondwiwe*, and *Ambitions* currently being aired on e.tv as well as other shows. Xulu recently finished shooting *The Herd*, where he plays the role of Muzi. The show airs every Sunday on Mzansi Magic channel 161.

The local star is currently back home doing some work for his non-profit organisation, the Pietermaritzburg Arts Kollektive, which seeks to create platforms for local, upcoming and aspiring actors. He said they were trying to put together a Pietermaritzburg Arts Festival for December. "My involvement in such initiatives comes from the frustration of not having platforms here at home and having to travel out of the city to get exposure and opportunities. Not everyone can afford the luxury of going to Johannesburg or Cape Town to look for opportunities. There might not be many big opportunities here in our city but we can at least create platforms for youngsters to be able to master their crafts for when they decide to go searching for better opportunities at bigger cities," said Xulu.

Xulu said his biggest support structure was his parents and he went on to thank them for their support and for always having faith in his dreams.

(<https://m.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/local-actor-making-his-mark-on-the-nations-screens-20180924>)

Exciting Partnership with TMJ Attorneys

The College Foundation is extremely excited to announce its scholarship partnership with TMJ Attorneys. As part of their BEE Skills development spend TMJ have made two scholarships available to two Grade 11 learners at College. For more on this story please visit <http://collegefoundation.co.za/2018/09/28/exciting-partnership-with-tmj-attorneys/>



L-R: Ian Patterson-Roberts (Director: TMJ); Sibusiso Pinkiney; Michael Browning (Managing Director: TMJ) and Philani Simamane

Reminder: Midlands/ Foundation Corporate Golf Day bookings open!

The Midlands Corporate Golf Day in association with the College Foundation takes place on Friday 19 October at the Victoria Country Club in PMB. Bookings are now open and places are limited. Enquiries and Bookings: Andrew Soden andrew@collegefoundation.co.za



Maritzburg College Irish Rugby Tour 2019

The 2019 Irish Rugby Tour is running a '150 Club' to raise funds towards the costs. Operating from Sept 2018 to July 2019, with a final Gala Draw taking place at the end of July 2019, the Club will consist of 150 Members who contribute R150 per month to be eligible for the draws. Contributions can be made either monthly at R150 or as a once off R1650 at the onset. An initial contribution of R1650 will ensure entry in to all 11 monthly draws. Attendance is not required at the draws in order to qualify for the prize, however attendance at the Gala Draw in July is encouraged. At the July event, a bonus attendance draw of R5 000 will take place, and only those present will be eligible. Please contact Linda Webster on 0834655018 or email linda@towerevents.co.za for membership forms or more information.

Shepstone House Opening



This week, Maritzburg College officially opened its newest boarding house, Shepstone House. Guests attending this event included the circuit manager from the KZNED, Mrs Dlamini, Mr Geoff Shepstone, past headmasters, Mr Keith Olivier and Dr Dudley Forde, donors, members of the school's Governing Body, Trust, parent community, Old Boys Association, along with staff and boys. The opening address was given by College 6th former and inaugural Head of House, Nkondlo Radebe, who welcomed everyone to the new "home" on campus, highlighting the close and long standing association of the Shepstone family to the College.

The old original Shepstone home which stands next to the new boarding house was built for Henrique Shepstone, Sir Theophilus' youngest son, and later bought by College from Henrique's heirs in 1919.

MC for the event and head of Boarding, Mr Matthew Marwick, acknowledged the many members of the College community who have in some way contributed towards the successful completion of Shepstone House; these included the Payn family, the Rodseth family, the Kennedys, the Stewarts, Mr Gary Withey and Mr John Grice as well as the Classes of '77 and '97. Very appropriately, one of the great schoolmasters of College was honoured by the Class of 1977, who through donating funds, have dedicated the Shepstone House Common Room to the late Max Castle. Mr Castle was both an Old Collegian and a member of staff, who gave loyally and passionately to this school, including a long spell as the Senior Resident Master, based in this very building.

Important Dates

29-2 Oct Michaelmas Cricket Week
Cricket U14 & U15 Festivals
Waterpolo: Clifton Tournament

OCTOBER

- 8 Boarders return
Formal Dinner & 6th Form Farewell
- 9 4th term starts
Speakers' Circle Dinner [6th Form Farewell]
- 10 2018 Prefects' Dinner
- 11 Leavers' Induction Ceremony
- 12 Speech Day & Valedictory Service;
- 23 NSC Exams begin
- 26 Passing of the Drum

Mr Geoff Shepstone unveiled the plaque outside the doors to the new Boarding House, after which the current Chairman of the SGB, Mr Rob Evans, opened the doors and cut the ribbon, symbolically opening Shepstone House. The event ended with guests enjoying tours of the beautiful and modern new boarding house with stunning view across Pietermaritzburg.



Guests included past headmasters and donors of the Shepstone House building project

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