

# #RED BLACK WHITE

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7 June 2019

19-2019

## From the Headmaster's Desk

Dear Parents and Guardians

This week, we are continuing the focus on single sex schools. The literature on educating boys is still relatively new, but it is affirming what most parents with boys have known intuitively for many years; boys are different. How many of you have both daughters and sons? Have you noticed differences in their learning styles? In the way they relate to their peers? In how they approach life? In an all-boys' school, we celebrate boys' strengths. We can tailor our programs and activities to the way boys grow and learn. With thanks to Michael Thompson, a celebrated author on boys' social and emotional development and resident psychologist at a boys' school in Boston — and with apologies to David Letterman — here are my top 10 reasons for boys' education.

**1. Boys learn at their own developmental pace in primary school** - In an all-boy environment, boys are able to develop at their own pace and are not judged in comparison to girls or have a sense that they are behind.

**2. Boys mature later than girls – physically and socially**

**3. Boys have boundless physical energy** - In an all-boy environment, we can use and direct that male energy, and help boys learn to manage their bodies and physical strength.

**4. Boys are essentially disorganised** - This seems to be a male trait that doesn't change with age. However, boys need organisational skills to succeed at school and in life.

**5. Boys are creative** - In an all-boy setting, boys can explore their creative side without fear, take risks and develop a broader, more inclusive sense of what it means to be male.

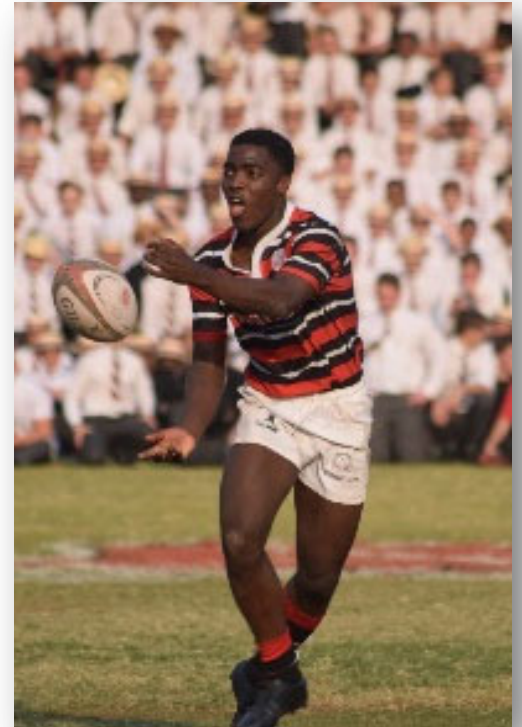
**6. Boys are great leaders** - Given the chance, boys take charge, lead others and accomplish great things, and in an all-boy environment, they have to play all the roles, learning skills they will use for the rest of their lives.

**7. Boys are risk takers** - Boys tend to act first and think later. They often take risks and we need to direct this and help them learn the judgment they need to avoid hurting themselves or others.

**8. Boys make great friends** - "Being loyal; standing up for someone else; being encouraging; trusting; caring and helping; being someone you can depend on."

**9. Boys are funny** - In an all-boy setting, the sense of humour is everywhere and should be encouraged to equip them to develop relationships with other people and to thrive in the real world.

**10. Boys need male role models** - To help them grow and develop. At a boys' school, they will have a number of male role models with different strengths. These men will make a huge difference in the boys' lives.



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Chris Luman  
Headmaster

# Academic Achievements

## Focus on...Counselling

The Counselling Department has been extremely busy during this exam season with many boys experiencing anxiety, exam stress and a few battling with focus.

This has perhaps highlighted for them that it is a good idea to be well prepared academically and not to procrastinate during the term. However, for some, it is not a question of having avoided work but more a mental health issue they are struggling with.

There are a number of excellent coping strategies available which can be introduced to deal with stress and advanced levels of anxiety. It is also important to realise that when under pressure during an intense period of time (such as exam time), other minor issues - relationship issues; family issues on the home front or even struggles in the sporting arena – can have a combined impact on adolescents. It is always the intelligent choice to seek professional help sooner rather than later and the Counselling Department at College remains committed to offering such assistance throughout exam time.

## Focus on...Choosing the Right Subjects



Form 3 is an important year in the academic journey of your sons. The choice of subject he makes at the end of this year may determine the field of study that he can follow once he has finished school. There are certain subjects which are required at a school level in order to follow a particular field of study at a tertiary level. When making subject choices, it is wise to consider what subjects your son enjoys as well as his particular level of academic achievement. Subjects that he enjoys are most likely to be those subjects that he does well in. This also provides an idea of the kind of career fields that he may be interested in following. When he chooses his subjects, remind him that he should NOT choose a subject:

- Because his friends are doing it.
- Because it is easy or less work
- Based on the teacher

We ask that as parents of our Form 3 boys, you talk to you sons about what subjects they enjoy and possibly what they may be interested in studying after school. Try to listen to your son, and be realistic about his academic ability. Don't live your hopes through your boys and force your choices on them. Not all boys are cut out to be engineers or doctors, and there is a very wide array of career choices and tertiary study options out there, particularly considering that these boys will only matriculate in 2022 and the working world is changing at a rapid rate.

There is considerable subject choice information available on the d6 as well as our website, and we encourage you to make contact with Mrs dos Santos in (santosl@mcollege.co.za) for a more personal input. The annual Subject Choice Evening will be held on Thursday 18 July, and at this function parents will have an opportunity to engage with Subject Heads and teachers should they have any queries.

## You've got to Be In It To Win It!



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## Focus on... Lamond House



It has been an extremely busy term and as always, Lamond House boys were fully involved in all activities offered at College. Some of our boys even learned how to knit and are busy knitting squares to make blankets for the 67 minutes for Mandela Day.

Mrs Ailsa Greyling, Housemaster of Lamond House, thanks all the grans,

moms, sisters and aunts who have assisted with knitting squares and reminds everyone that you can still knit throughout the holidays as the final due date is the first day of next term!



On the leadership front we are proud that we have Lamond boys in the following leadership positions:

R Bennett - Captain: Media Centre

N Lushozi - Chairman: RCL

S Gounder - Captain: Chess

K Naidoo - Captain: Table tennis

In the Inter-House competition we were placed 5<sup>th</sup> in shooting and 4<sup>th</sup> in chess.

We are looking forward to the Inter-House rugby, hockey, soccer and table tennis competitions which will take place on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June.



## Focus on...Choir



Recently, the choir took part in the ATKV Applous Choir Competition and achieved a Gold in the Streekfees (regional) competition.

Seven members of the Jazz band as well as Mr Kisbey-Green and Mr Stickells will be heading off to the Standard Bank National Youth Jazz Festival in Makhanda (Grahamstown) from 26 June to 2 July.

In the third term, the choir has the following concerts coming up:

12 July: Affies Music Exchange at Affies

14 July: Choral Celebration Network Concert at the Playhouse in Durban 15:00

19 July: PBHS Music Exchange at Maritzburg College (OCC)

6 August: Gospel Choir Evening hosted by Maritzburg College

29 July to 8 August: 29 music students playing 66 pieces of music are taking part in the SASMT Eisteddfod in PMB

30 August: Music Department Prestige Concert



# Sporting Spotlight

This weekend saw Maritzburg College play Hilton College at Hilton in hockey and rugby fixtures. Our boys also had some very good soccer results earlier in the week and continue to excel in the cross country junior and senior leagues.

## Rugby

This weekend saw College field 18 rugby teams against Hilton College. Our teams had good results winning 14 of the 18 games played, losing just 3 and drawing 1. Our 1<sup>st</sup> XV lost their match 17-21.

## Hockey

Our 16 hockey teams played most of their games against Hilton College up at Hilton, with the balance being played against Grace College. Of the 14 played against Hilton, College won 10 and lost just 4. Overall we played 16 games, winning 12 and losing 4. The 1st XI lost their game 0-3.

## Soccer

College fielded a number of soccer teams against Linpark this week. We also played Eastwood and St Nicholas with good wins for the A teams.

## Cycling

College's cyclists took part in the 20, 40 and 60m km races at the Karkloof Sappi MTB event on the weekend, with our riders placing in the Sub-Junior, Youth and Junior categories. D van der Watt was 1<sup>st</sup> Youth in the 60km and N Burczak 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth home.

## Cross Country

In the senior cross country, College secured a record number of seven boys in the top 10 positions and 13 places in the top 20. We are currently leading the senior league. The junior runners also did very well over the 4.5km route, with two boys placing in the top 10 and 8 boys in the top 20 positions.



*Full details of our Sporting Results and Fixtures are available on D6 and on the school website [www.maritzburgcollege.co.za/sport](http://www.maritzburgcollege.co.za/sport)*



## Focus on...MCOBA



Congratulations to Mr Russell Untiedt (1982) who has been appointed as Principal at Westville Girls' High School. The announcement was made by Mr Mngoma, Circuit Manager from the Department of Education and Mr Tait, Chairperson of the Governing Body to the staff last week. Mr Untiedt was officially introduced to the school body on the 3 June at a special assembly.

Here are a few words from the introduction by Mr Tait.

*"Mr Untiedt is no stranger to Westville Girls', having served as Deputy Principal from 1998 - 2005 under Ms Johnstone, before moving to St John's College in Johannesburg, where he spent 11 years. We were delighted to have him rejoin us at the beginning of last year and many of you would have had the pleasure of interacting with him. Mr Untiedt brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the school, from both State and private education, particularly in the fields of Drama and English. His role as Deputy Principal enabled him to develop the skills required to manage a large school and I have every confidence that he will use those skills to guide the school to greater heights."*



Maritzburg College Old Boys turned out in numbers in support of the inaugural Pondo Trail run organized by Matt Botha from Wild Child Africa & KZN Trail Running.



Left to right: Mike Woodburn (1985), Andrew Pooler (2003), Mark Willment (2003), Terry Drummond (1988), Kevin Swart (1998), Dean Oelschig (1999), Matt Botha (1997), Rhys Foster (1998) Sam Edwards (1996). Spurgeon Flemington (1992) and Rob Levinson (1998) also took part but didn't make the photo

## Dads & Lads @ College vs Michaelhouse 8 June

### Celebrating #RedBlackWhite Dads & Lads...

After our very successful celebration of Mother's Day on campus this year, we are calling on dads, granddads, brothers, uncles and guardians to celebrate Father's Day on 8 June for our special "Dads & Lads" occasion. This is a chance to come and watch your boy play his match against Michaelhouse and enjoy some special "Dads & Lads" bonding. You are invited to form a tunnel to welcome your sons onto the field at the start of his game, and join him for a team photo afterwards. Come and build a treasured memory and share the #RedBlackWhite moment.



## Focus on...Nancy

It was recently announced that a group of Old Collegians, mainly from the Class of 1977 have sponsored a golf cart for use as a first aid vehicle on Goldstone's during the rugby season which has been christened, "Nancy". The obvious question is, "Why Nancy? Who was she?"



The story of Skonk's mythical girlfriend, Nancy, goes back to the 1949 rugby season – memorably, his first unbeaten season (of 10, in all) as coach of the College 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Old Boys'

stalwart and great friend of the Skonkwaan, Mr Les Howard-Browne, confirmed that while he and his colleagues in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV of that year were at a midweek practice with Skonk down on Goldstone's, a shapely young teacher from Girls' High came strolling down College Road. Soon, Les and a few of his sweaty friends from the 1<sup>st</sup> XV were (in Skonk's own words) "hanging over the fence", chatting to her. "Howard-Browne", the gravelly-voiced coach said (no doubt with a twinkle in his eye), "women and rugby don't mix. Get onto the field and warm-up. I'll look after her." It transpired she was the gym mistress at GHS. (One must of course bear in mind that Skonk, an abstemious man and an ever-faithful husband, was an incorrigible flirt, until the very end of his days.) At about the same time, the fullback of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV was having some trouble under the high ball. In his typically wily way, Skonk wrote the name "Nancy" in chalk on the rugby ball itself: "Cherish the ball – it has your girlfriend's name on it", he told the butter-fingered young man. The trick worked, and the fullback didn't drop the ball again all season.

Over time, the two stories – of the young teacher from GHS and the scribbled name on the rugby ball – became intertwined, and "Nancy" evolved into the beautiful (if fictitious) Girls' High schoolgirl, who motivated and was used to cajole every College rugby player and watched his every game. The captain of the 1950 1<sup>st</sup> XV, Max Prozesky, later wrote a poem about her, and in 1963, when College produced a then record of 10 players for the Natal Schools' rugby team, there appeared a congratulatory letter to Skonk in The Natal Witness from "Nancy".

Skonk loved telling how a friend of his accosted him while he was walking through town and asked him, rather awkwardly, "Skonk, who's this Nancy? What's going on?!" As the years passed, Old Collegians of a certain vintage often referred back to "Nancy", and at the dinner held in Skonk's honour in 1972 to celebrate his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the 1<sup>st</sup> XV coach, a mannequin dressed up in a Girls' High uniform was produced and the beloved 1<sup>st</sup> XV coach was of course once again remorselessly chaffed by his former players about his "love interest".

## Important Dates

### JUNE

- 08 Hockey & Rugby vs MHS (home)  
Compulsory attendance
- 10 Mid-year exams continue
- 11 Soccer: Pmb 2<sup>nd</sup> term League final  
Formal dinner: Junior Boarders
- 12 Cross Country League @St Annes  
Formal Dinner: Senior Boarders
- 13 End of Term assembly  
Tech Squad Arcade evening
- 14 Interhouse hockey, rugby, soccer &  
table tennis  
End of Term 2

When a special dinner was held in 2005 in honour of College's "Mr Rugby", a number of items of memorabilia were auctioned off to raise money for Skonk. The current Head of Boarding at College recalls shelling out a fair amount for Nancy's bra, upon which it was autographed by the old master himself. It remains a much-cherished possession – albeit one that was at the time a little tricky to explain to a scowling girlfriend.

So there we have the tale of Skonk and his love affair for the svelte "Nancy" – who lives on today, albeit via her less elegant reincarnation. Long may her four wheels purr across Goldstone's.

### From Medic team

**Nancy has proven to be invaluable as a medic support vehicle on Saturdays during home fixtures. On behalf of the First Aid staff, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who have made the transport of injured boys so much safer.**

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