

The Saint



EDUCATION for LIFE

UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
Local Examinations Syndicate
CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ST CHARLES COLLEGE FAMILY

St Charles College Harwin Road Pietermaritzburg • Private Bag X7 Scottsville 3209 South Africa • Tel: +27 (0)33 386 8235 Fax: +27 (0)33 386 1702 • eMail: scc@scc.co.za • Website: www.scc.co.za



ST CHARLES COLLEGE
PIETERMARITZBURG

Electronic Thrift Shop

In response to requests and suggestions, St Charles College launched an on-line, electronic Thrift Shop for used, high-priced, School-uniform items. This electronic shop is entirely self-run by the people selling their used items of uniform. Judging by the reactions we have had to the concept so far, it is a hit, and possibly one of the first such shops on a South African schools' web site. The on-line shop is designed to be user-friendly. Use it to make your hard-earned rands go a lot further.



Woolworths, Scottsville, is running a competition in conjunction with the MySchool Programme. The competition runs from 1 July 2008 for a period of three months to 30 September 2008.

Prizes are as follows:

- 1st Prize R1000.00**
- 2nd Prize R500.00**
- 3rd Prize R250.00**

The competition is based on the number of times purchases are made at Woolworths, Scottsville using your MySchool card.

SCC INTERNAL EXTENSION NUMBERS FOR 033 386 8235

Creditors	-	210
Debtors	-	213
Blazer Cupboard	-	208
Sickbay	-	209
Prep Sports Office	-	211
Senior Sports Office	-	229

Top: The "I" of Saint: Taylor Cox

SCC on the move



Talent Show hopefuls Ian Bredenkamp, Murray Burn and Seamus Mingay

Enviro Quiz

The Environment Quiz team members once again represented the School on 12 May with superb results, and yet again qualified for the National Inter-Schools' Environment Quiz which will be held in August of this year. Good luck to Scott Day, Matthew Keyser, Richard Taylor and Thomas Gibbs on this St Charles-dominated Quiz.

Chess

Our chess teams have participated regularly this year, firstly in the opening tournament of the season; the Individual Chess Challenge, and secondly, the Inter-Schools' League Tournament. Varsity College hosted the first event, for which we were grateful, with Martin Meusel, Mpho Kuzwayo and Jason Hide doing very well to get into the top ten. St Charles hosted the second-term Tournament and will, without doubt, host the third term Tournament: the Midlands Championships.

Talent Show

Our first Talent Show in more than ten years took place this year, with huge support from the boys and parents alike. The two rounds of auditions were full, and well attended by the boys, much to the nervousness of the competitors. There was a juggler, magicians, dancers, singers, bands and comedy acts, with parents, staff and family members all taking part. The semi-finals were also surprisingly well supported,

and the finals of this event were further boosted by the famous Barry Hilton who ended the Talent Show off with an hour of comedy. Special thanks go to the boys of St Charles College for having the guts to take part in this talent contest, and the staff and parents for supporting and making the evening a huge success.

Guest Speaker

Barry Hilton spent time at St Charles College on 15 May and spoke to the Grade 10, 11 and Matric students about a career in the theatre. Once again, Mr Hilton's hilarious sense of humour had the boys in fits of laughter, but also gave them something to think about when it came to choosing the right career.

Senior Debating

We had a very turbulent season in Debating this year. Our Debating teams were well supported with enthusiastic members who fought long and hard for the coveted privilege of getting through to the finals of this year's Inter-Schools' Debating League tournament. It was through an unfortunate technical default, that we had a re-match for the semi-finals against Epworth. Regrettably our first team did not win the re-match, but well done to Craig Anderson, Jason Brunner and Matthew Kassier, nonetheless, for their determination.

Ms Sue Rabie • Head of Culture

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Teenagers and alcohol consumption

A friend and ex-colleague recently returned from the UK after having taught at one of that country's top independent schools. I asked him to share some of his experiences with me and was surprised at how negative he was about the future of the UK because of the rapid decline that is currently taking place in the discipline and behaviour of the UK's school-going teenagers. What was most worrying, according to my friend, was the extent of alcohol abuse by teenagers. He was of the opinion that parents had lost control of their teenage children and had abdicated their responsibilities in this regard to the state.

During the course of last week the British Government decided to pass legislation that in effect would ban the drinking of alcohol on the London Underground. Furthermore, parents of teenagers found guilty of alcohol consumption, would be prosecuted by the state. What followed was a real eye-opener. On the evening following the announcement of this intended legislation thousands of teenagers in London decided to have their "last" drunken party on the Central Line of the London Underground. Sky News filmed this party. What a disgrace and what a shocking advertisement this was for the whole of Britain.

Drunken teenagers are also now attacking senior citizens and quite recently have murdered a number of older people. Strangely, despite this escalating problem, alcohol can be legally acquired by teenagers who are eighteen and older. In the USA no one is permitted to consume alcohol until they reach the age of twenty-one.

One needs to ask why this difference in permissible age exists between the "leaders" of Western Civilisation. In South Africa the age of eighteen is the "magic" age for legally consuming alcohol, no doubt a hangover from colonial times.

There is sufficient evidence to prove that there is a direct relationship between alcohol consumption and a large variety of crimes.

In articles contained in various Time Magazines the following statements are made:

- "27% of British 15-year-olds had been drunk 20 times or more".
- "Kids may think binge drinking is cool, but the hangover – in terms of health problems, crime and accidents causing death or disability is huge. An alcohol researcher at the University of the West of England says that 'people in their 20s are now dying of alcohol-related liver disease, and even teenagers are developing it.'"
- In Europe "the age people start drinking is getting lower – 11.8 years"
- "Across the European Union, 13% of 15 to 16 year-olds have been drunk more than 20 times in their lives, and 18% have "binged" – drunk the equivalent of a bottle of wine in one sitting."

What is significant is that there has been a significant increase in alcohol consumption by teenagers in virtually all countries and the statistics are frightening regardless of the country that is being examined. Also girls are catching-up to boys and in some countries they now equal their male counterparts in terms of the quantities of alcohol consumed.

In essence no country is in a position to hold the moral high ground including countries like Italy that used to have very low teenage alcohol consumption. "People used to drink for enjoyment, but now many young people are drinking to get plastered."

Many questions need to be asked and include the following:

What role should parents and teachers have in addressing this escalating problem? The facts clearly indicate that whatever is being done is failing. No amount of counselling is working.

What can we do to combat the drinking culture that seems to be escalating in South

Africa and the rest of the world?

Is 18 years old an acceptable age for the commencement of legal alcohol consumption? Should the citizens of South Africa lobby the government to increase this age limit to say 25? Why is the age limit 18?

What action should be taken against "teenage predators" who defy the law by selling alcohol to underage teenagers? The facts indicate that drinking commences at the age of about 14 and 15.

Can society at large enjoy itself without consuming alcohol? And, if not, why not? Why is it necessary for spectators at rugby, hockey, and cricket and at other events to consume alcohol?

To what extent is the media responsible for promoting the consumption of alcohol by teenagers? Surely when a product is the most abused drug in the world more attention should be given by the media to the negative side of alcohol abuse. "The alcohol industry in the USA spends more than \$3 billion a year on advertising and promotion to make sure drinkers keep spending money on alcoholic beverages. Problem drinkers and young people are its primary targets."

Are there any "success stories" regarding the consumption of alcohol, other than the massive profits made by the brewing companies and advertisers?

I think that the time has arrived for all of us to give serious thought to the most abused drug in existence otherwise many of our teenagers are destined to have their lives ruined.

Mr Ronnie Kuhn
St Charles College Headmaster

Sources:

1. *Time Magazines from 2003 to 2008. (Various Articles).*
2. "Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility (2003)" by Bonnie and O'Connell. Institute of Medicine National Research Council of the National Academies. Washington, D.C.
3. "Under the Influence? The Impact of Alcohol Advertising on Youth (2000)" by D. McKenzie. Association to Reduce Alcohol Promotion in Ontario.

SCC through to Nationals again



Matthew Keyser, Thomas Gibbs, Scott Day and Richard Taylor with Mr Peter Keyworth

The Inter-Schools' Enviro Quiz was hosted by Maritzburg College on Monday 12 May 2008. This is an annual event with the two top teams qualifying to meet opposition teams at a National event held in August this year.

Ten teams participated with Mr Peter Keyworth as quiz master. The Maritzburg College A team finished second with the St Charles College A team winning by a small margin. These two teams will now participate in the National competition.

Environment Council



The Albizia on the Matric Lawn

The Environment Council has regular meetings on Friday afternoons during which we discuss and propose solutions to any environmental issues at the College. Litter pollution was one of the issues that was brought up at the beginning of this year. We then designed litter-parade routes, which the Prefects monitor in order to keep the School clean.

We have successfully performed a tree mapping exercise where we mapped all the indigenous trees on the campus and labelled them.

This project was to help educate the boys of St Charles. They are now able to learn both the common name as well as the Latin names of the many trees.

The Council attended an outing to the Raptor Rehabilitation Centre which proved to be educational and an enjoyable outing.

A number of the members participated in the regional Environmental Quiz. The A team won the event and are now preparing for the National Environmental Quiz later this year.

We submitted a proposal for paths to lead to various areas of the campus such as the tuck shop in an attempt to protect the grass in certain areas.

Discussions are in progress for the eradication of the invasive plants on the campus, re-cycling of waste paper, building of a nursery and active involvement for Arbour Day in September.

*Vincent Botha
Head of Environmental Council*

Food for thought?



As your sons rest at the end of break in the playground, have you ever given thought to the problems which can arise from the wrong kinds of additives they may be eating?

The Mark Shuttleworth Foundation produces a fantastic publication called Hip2Bsquare which it delivers free of charge to our School. Our boys love reading it.

One of the articles in the June edition that caught my eye was entitled, "Match the RDA (Really Disgusting Allowance)"

The article gave a brief description of some commonly used food additives (preservatives, colourants and flavourants).

Azorubine is a synthetic red food colourant that is banned in the USA, Austria, Sweden and Norway. Azorubine is permitted as a colourant in South Africa. Tartrazine is a yellow food colourant that is used in some countries (including South Africa) but banned in Norway and Austria.

Food packaging most often does not list these additives using the above names. Azorubine would be included as a permitted food colouring, E122. Tartrazine would be referred to as E102.

What does this have to do with education?

We would find it strange to learn that our car-enthusiast colleague insists on quality

servicing by reputable mechanics, insists on quality air filters, fuel filters and spark plugs but is happy to fill their vehicle with dodgy diesel or with petrol that may contain water.

I believe that this is what frequently happens with many children. They are provided with quality tuition, love and care, but some of their nutrition (which includes vitamin supplements) is laced with dodgy additives. There is a worldwide increase in the prevalence of allergic conditions and hyperactivity disorders in children. Although there may be a number of possible explanations for these trends, food additives cannot be ruled out as contributing to the problem. All children do not react to these chemicals in the same way (just as adults respond differently to caffeine, for example).

I am convinced that the good that is done for children at home and in school is, in many instances, undermined or negated by some of the things that our children eat.

*Mr Graham Stewart-Burger
Prep Headmaster*

Boarding Establishment Council

The BE has undergone massive changes in 2008. We have reached capacity and this has brought huge benefits. BE camp outs are now more frequent due to more boys staying in on weekends. This has given termly boarders the opportunity of sharing their time with local friends and family with weekend outings with their boarder mates.

The relationships the boys have built with each other have been testimony to what we call our St Charles family. The Grade 8s have quickly become part of this family and are maturing rapidly. Their communication skills and confidence in front of people has improved greatly.

Mr Monty has taken over enthusiastically and has already made some drastic changes. The Boardermasters have been divided amongst every single member of the BE and have as such, served as so called mentors to the boys. This has made it easier for the

boarders to adapt to the BE system. It has also allowed boys to get some academic help.

The prefects have done a good job so far by maintaining strong discipline and by managing the day to day running of the BE effectively. They have also set goals and have so far achieved them in an excellent manner.

The BE Council consists of numerous boys through all the grades and they have dealt with problems which have arisen from time to time. These boys talk to the rest of the BE and bring forward any suggestions/complaints/issues/ideas to meetings held.

Its been a pleasure to be part of the St Charles boarding establishment this year and I look forward to what remains this year.

*Matthew Biggs
Head of Boarding Establishment Council
with the help of Justin Wittig*

OUT AND ABOUT

Pastoral Care Council

The Pastoral Care council seems to have really pulled together well this term. After a rather disruptive first term, the Council has worked well together and has set up some fantastic Students Christian Association (SCA) meetings.

For our SCA teachings this term, we decided to change the usual drill of only a few speakers a term, to a new speaker almost every week. This has given the guys someone different to listen to each week and it has really paid off. There is a new atmosphere in our SCA meetings. We believed that by getting a variety of different speakers to come and talk to the council, this would give God the chance to speak through the different guest speakers.

Various boys inside the Council have put together some rather impressive teachings themselves this term. Matthew Harrison, Tim Freese, Tremaine James and even the occasional Grade 11, Daniel Hart, to name but a few. This shows how the body of Christ is made up of different members and that we all need to work together and carry out the function of serving him. There were other speakers to visit us, the likes of Mr Naidoo, Aubrey Bouwer and Andrew Londal; I thank all those who gave up time to spend with us.

So as the successful second term comes to a close, we give God glory for the growth of our Council and we know that he will keep growing our SCA group and bless us yet again with another exciting term.

*Travis Clark
Head of Pastoral Care Council*



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Media Council

The Media Council has yet again been very busy in 2008, particularly in the second term, with the making of sports programmes for all the weekend home fixtures and other general typing tasks.

The Media Council has grown quite substantially during the course of the year, which makes the seemingly unending task of making programmes a great deal easier and enjoyable. Processes have been put in place to ensure that deadlines are met. Under the guidance of Mr Karlson, the leadership of the Matrics in the council, the computer expertise of Peter Allen and the dedication of the younger boys, it all seems relatively easy and has made my life much more bearable.

The Council members very rarely reject the opportunity to have fun in the Media Centre, so it is on a Friday afternoons, while printing and stapling the programmes that harmless comments are shared between members and inevitably healthy debate is shared.

As the second term comes to a close, the work my Council has to do reduces quite substantially as less programmes are needed in the latter half of the year. As the days of the second term slowly but surely tick past, I reflect on all the good times I have experienced with my Media Council, and it always brings a wry smile to my face.

Rohn Barron • Head of Media Council

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1. Andrew Rowley, Michael Strydom, Mark Wittig and Sterling Miller 2. Prep School Scholarship winners to the SCC Senior School: From left: Pavishkar Indrajith, Christopher Jones, Jonah Hines, Andrew Darroch (Major Scholarship), Bradley Hyslop, Justin Harrison, Paul Berridge, Devon Hesse. Absent: Luke Stanger. Grade 8s greet the end of Term 2. 4. Talent Show: Saints 8. 5. Prep Science Week: Pavi Indrajith. 6. Benjamin Weiss

Sports thoughts: The essence of a good coach

Thinking back to the pro-twenty game against the Black Caps and then the overwhelming victory of the Springboks the next day my mind wandered to the predicament of the two men in the Hot Seat.

What makes a good and successful coach? What makes him special and sets him apart from the others? How do they get results that mere mortals under the same pressures would surely cause them to crack, disappear and never to be thought of again?

A good mate of mine once made a statement that has guided me for the past 20 years or so as I have endeavored to get the best out of hundreds of school boys and teams.

Essentially what he said was the following: 'Imagine the incredible vision Bjorn Borg's first coach must have had when he saw this young boy basically mis-hitting every ball hit at him on the tennis court.'

Most mortals would have immediately corrected this "fault" and we would probably never have heard of one of the greatest tennis players to have ever played the game, we may never have seen "top spin" become the norm and, Lord forbid, the double-handed back hand.

McEnroe vs Borg, Connors vs Borg, all those incredible five-set Wimbledon finals and five-hour tennis matches all erased from the history of the game – gone!

Organisation, passion, focus, ambition, vision, they all have in abundance but then most reasonable coaches do.

Humbly I might suggest that they have total faith in their players' ability, and allow them to play the way in which they are most successful.

Great coaches allow a freedom to perform that transcends their own mediocre abilities as a player and encourages the great players to become great and the genius to develop

unfettered by the inner demons of the person steering the ship.

I have seen coaches over the years drag teams down to the lowest common denominator where they perish because they have failed to grasp the real fact that real talent will always prevail if allowed to flourish.

Great coaches take joy in the success of their charges and understand the essential ingredient that makes each individual flourish. Great coaches know how to get the maximum out of every one of their players.

Great coaches understand when and how their charges perform at their best and ensure that they are alert to the situation that will bring success.

Great coaches, besides being able to spot talent know precisely how to exploit that talent properly all the time.

Great coaches are great people people!

Dave Karlson • Head of Sport



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1. Matthew Boote 2. Justin Wittig and Taylor Cox 3. Warrick McIntosh and Sean Brownlee 4. David Andrew 5. Zamilé Khumalo

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Result-less Prep rugby review

The rugby season has run its course and upon reflection, all Prep contributors can rightly feel positive about what has transpired. The boom the Prep has enjoyed in pupil numbers has certainly increased our depth and subsequently our overall quality of rugby. Our fixture list was packed with challenges, with some "softer" opposition teams being replaced with Merchiston and Clifton Durban. The former was a welcome addition to the calendar and, while the most of the games went Merchiston's way, our U9As had a very closely fought game, while our U11As won and the First XV drew. Clifton Durban hosted us on a balmy Friday afternoon and evening and while results at face value could seem less than impressive, the rugby on display was magnificent. I could go on.

There were great Saturdays of rugby against Clifton – Nottingham Road, and Cowan House. I suppose the normal manner in which to assess a season is to analyse results; can I suggest we cast results aside? They do not tell the story that should define our season. Rugby is all about pride and courage. Our Prep rugby is played with both

of these qualities – and that is all that counts around here. Respect goes to all the boys and their coaches. Thanks to the parents and spectators for all the positive support. We look forward to another top term of athletics, hockey and tennis.

More Prep sport snippets...

Our Prep School continues to contribute significantly to various representative teams.

Well done to the following boys:

Andrew Darroch and Chris Jones – selected for Midlands rugby.

Khanyiso Boozi and Marc Knobel – Midlands

U12A hockey.

Justin Harrison, Brad Hyslop, Chris Jones and Jason Spencer – Midlands U13B hockey.

Andrew Darroch and Pavishkar Indrajith – KwaZulu-Natal Tennis and Midlands U13A hockey.

Mr Rowan Irons • Prep Sports Director

PHOTOS: 1. Jordan da Costa 2. Siyabonga Mjwara 3. Bradley Hyslop 4. Kelvin Caruth, Cameron Chubb and Robey Beswick 5. Smart Khumalo and Christopher Jones



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