



ST DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE
Preparing hearts and minds for service

COLLEGE

newsletter

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Message from the Rector -Alan Thompson

Dear Parents, pupils and friends

"Examinations are formidable even to the best prepared, for the greatest fool may ask more than the wisest man can answer."

(Charles Caleb Colton)

It is exam time, and as the school goes into exam mode there is a wide variety of ways in which pupils approach their exams. These approaches can be divided into three main categories:

Apathy - Helen Keller described apathy as the "worst of all evils". In a society where quality education is a scarce commodity, and where opportunity is determined through education there can be no place for apathy. Affluence breeds apathy, though, and it takes continual effort to remain focused and 'hungry'.

A balanced approach - Examinations are viewed as a healthy challenge and good old fashioned hard work yields results. The focus is not on mere results though, by paying ongoing attention to detail and giving of one's best, the moment when the exam is placed on the table holds no surprises. Results follow as a natural and logical consequence according to our talents and efforts, but are just part of a much richer process.

The addiction to success - Conditional valuing means that one is loved (or feels loved), not for one's intrinsic worth, but for one's achievements and so a frantic obsession develops, chasing results, honours, positions; and one's identity becomes inexorably linked to one's achievements. The problem with this, of course, is that the view that we are only as good as our achievements denies the unique presence that we bring to the world. That presence exists quite independently of that

which we do. That which we *are* is much more important, and all children in this school should be able to celebrate their *unique* being, the limitless capacity of their mind, and love and care for their body which houses every part of their beings. As parents, recognising the unique being of our children, and loving them unconditionally, allows our children to take ownership of their mistakes and failures, realising that these do not in any way take away from their wonderful capacity. Mistakes and failures are opportunities for further learning and, as such, are more important than the successes.

It is my prayer that the exams reward the effort afforded them, and that our approach to exams remains balanced and healthy.

God Bless

Alan Thompson

Marimba Festival

The Marimba festival will be taking place on the 7, 8 and 9 August 2010 at St Dominic's in Boksburg. The St Dunstan's College Band will be participating. Please come and support our College band. For more information, go to the school website.

Squash

Well done to the first team squash girls who represented Easterns and St Dunstan's at the National Top Schools Tournament in Pietermaritzburg from 15th - 18th July.

Team:

Nikki Lachenicht
Melissa Symsons
Mikaila Westmorland
Kerryn Lachenicht
Olivia Rogers
Alecia Dyason

Website

website (www.stdunstans.co.za)

Prayer Chain

Anyone interested in joining the prayer chain, please contact Colleen Becker on 083 278 8784

Conservancy

What can I do?

- Act locally
- Begin in your own immediate surroundings – at your home, at school, at church, in your community, in your town.
- Communicate with people – adults, young people, teachers and decision makers.
- Before you talk to people about a topic, know what you're saying.
- Read about the environment and find out about conservation.
- The more you know about something the better you will convince somebody of threats to the environment.
- You do not have to know everything.
- It is often best to try and specialise in one specific item or area.
- Share your knowledge with people.
- Before you point a finger at others about bad habits, begin by changing your own life patterns.
- Join local environmental organisations, groups or clubs, get involved in their activities.
- It is the little things that help the environment, picking up a single can, not switching a light on if it is not necessary, use both sides of paper, recycle.
- The world can be changed by changing the attitude of two people next to you.
- When people understand, they can help to conserve the environment.

You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi

Triathlon Clinic

The season is about to begin, so let's get into the swing of swimming, cycling and running. The Triathlon Clinic will be 26 August - 29 August. The clinic will be divided into 4 days.

Day 1	Swim Focus	12:30 - 16:30
Day 2	Cycle Focus	09:15 - 13:00
Day 3	Run Focus	09:15 - 13:00
Day 4	Mock Race Day	09:15 - 11:30

The clinic will be run by Mrs Cornes and a guest triathlete, Cameron Billson, at the College pool and athletic fields. The clinic is open to all athletes in Grade 8 - 12, wanting to try out triathlon or who want to improve their triathlon skills. Athletes must be able to swim 50m on their own and have their own bicycle and helmet. All interested athletes to please send Mrs Cornes an email: yvonne@dunstan.co.za

Triathlon

BSG Energade Triathlon Series

You can enter individually, you can enter as a team, if you are 14 years of age or under you can enter the Kids Series - just make sure you are part of the fun.

Date: 10 October 2010

Where: Roodeplaat Dam

How to enter: Online (entries will open during August) or enter on the day at Roodeplaat Dam.

Cycling

If you would like to join the cycling group collect the necessary forms from Mrs Burger or Mrs Campbell. Parents are welcome to join or offer their assistance.

Eco Talk

Conservancy Recognised

The St Dunstan's conservancy was recently asked by Gauteng Conservancy Association to submit a written summary report on what has been conducted at the conservancy since its inception as well as photographs of these activities. This report and photographs were used as a display at the Gardenex exhibition.

During a visit to the expo we were informed that there had been quite a bit of interest from other schools in the Gauteng area. Our committee contact details had been taken in order for us to assist the schools if necessary.

Due to the display we have been once again approached to present the conservancy at the annual Gauteng Conservancy Symposium.

The main reason for this recognition is that Gauteng only has two recognized school conservancies, Kathstan and St Dunstan's, of these St Dunstan's is the only active and developing conservancy.

This recognition is a sign of the commitment shown by all the committee members and the staff members associated with the extramural Enviro club activities.

Development of Vegetable Garden

The Enviro Club started the year by preparing a stretch of ground near the Prep school cricket nets for the development of a vegetable garden. The children eagerly got stuck into removing the grass in order to make the area look like a garden.

Once the ground had been developed the children were taken to Heckers Nursery to be informed on the preparation of the soil prior to planting, nurturing the seedlings and the planting of the plants. After the visit each child was presented a seed tray in which to use to get the garden started. Heckers also sponsored fertilizers required for the garden.

During the Gardenex Expo discussions were held with Starke Ayres about the beginner seed packs they have. Due to the discussions 5 seed packs were sponsored to the school, which produce crops for the current size of the vegetable garden.

Due to both sponsors, a well developed vegetable garden can be developed and maintained. One of the parents has offered to cement around the vegetable garden for easier maintenance. Once this has been completed the seeds will be planted.

The proceeds from the garden will be handed over to an underprivileged school or home.

This is a remarkable project for the children to learn the basic concepts of gardening as well as adhering to the school motto of "I Serve".

Recycle Centre

The original recycle centre that was adjacent to the swimming pool had to be closed down towards the end of last year due to poor service from the recycler as well as mismanagement by the users of the centre. The centre would also require relocation due to the upcoming building of additional classrooms at the College.

EnviroServ were approached to see if they can assist with management of the recycle centre. They have come on board to recycle the waste as well as provide the facilities to the school.

The recycling has commenced by the placement of paper and general recyclable bins around the school grounds. This service will be expanded once the new locations have been built and only if the present recycle areas can be well managed.

The recycling requires that all materials such as plastic and cans be rinsed out prior to placing in the bins. If one item of unwashed material is placed in a bin the entire bin requires disposal to landfill and this defeats the purpose of the recycle centre. If this practice continues then EnviroServ will be required to withdraw from the project and we will no longer be able to sustain a recycle centre.

The committee kindly request that the amount of effort and cost put into the recycle area by EnviroServ be recognized and respect the principals required so that a long and healthy relationship can be maintained.

Junior Rangers Programme

At a recent committee meeting, Mr Clive Webber from the Parks Board was asked to come and present the Junior Rangers Programme that takes place for children from age 12 to Matric.

The programme consists of one meeting a month on a Saturday morning. At these meetings the children will learn about nature, fauna and flora. The meetings also take the form of excursions to nature conservation areas or to conduct clean campaigns. After each meeting the children will be required to do "homework" prior to the next meeting. At the end of each year the children that have successfully completed the programme will be issued a Parks Board certificate of recognition.

The committee is presently developing the finer details of how this will interact with the school activities, recognition as well as the possibility of overlapping with community service. This will be finalized this year so that the programme can be rolled out next year to all those that are interested. Closer to the end of the year Mr Clive Webber will be asked again to give a presentation to interested individuals.

Amazing Race

The Amazing Race day will be upon us before we realize. During this day the conservancy will be holding certain activities in order to raise awareness. These activities will include the following:

- Possible recycle centre and/or sorting table for education of the visitors.
- A special recycling award will be issued to the class that has generated the most bread tags during the year.
- Environmentally friendly "Green" items will be available for purchase.
- Membership drive in order to generate funds for the conservancy. Membership of the conservancy does not require you to attend meetings if you do not want to. Participation in the conservancy meeting is totally voluntary. All members will be issued the monthly meeting minutes in order for you to see the development and how monies are being spent.

During the day, please feel free to approach the conservancy stall and find out how you can help.