



Reach for the Stars

The St. Matthew's Newsletter



Issue: 4

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Coming your way is the fourth edition of the now famous, St. Matthew's Newsletter. The newsletter has been circulated all over the Eastern Cape from Stutterheim to Keiskammahoek to Grahamstown. We have updated the paper to include more information about what is happening at St. Matthew's. This past quarter has brought many exciting things to St. Matthew's and we are very eager to share them.

Lead Article

ENVIRONMENTAL DAY

By: Dumokazi Makeleni

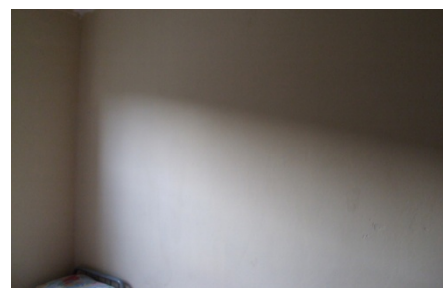
On September 12th, St. Matthew's hosted an Environmental day here at school. The number of teachers and learners who participated was outstanding! We cleaned the environment and also planted trees around the school with the intentions of having a clean and beautiful place to attend school. Even some parents were involved by graciously donating trees and helping to show us how to plant them. The Department of Agriculture also donated food for the workers. After the day's activities we had a bash and I believe that everyone enjoyed themselves judging by their behaviour. As a newsletter club member, I would like to thank all those who participated on that day. Great job guys!!! On September 5th Cullen Hostel was painted, and on the 12th work was finished and all dormitories were painted. The learners were painting together with the help of Mr. Ukekwe, Mr. Adabla and Ms. Kobese. The St. Andrew's team who came for the science camp generously pitched in and helped. The learners from St. Andrew's did very impressive work at our school and we wish to thank them for their continued support. Our grade 10 learners did an especially nice job and we want to thank them. The school is improving everyday and this event was evidence of that. A special thanks to all the teachers who did such a wonderful job.



St. Andrew's Help



Before Environmental Day



After Environmental Day

**St. Matthew's wishes all students a safe and fun school break. Enjoy the time at home, come back safely and ready to work.

Life in South Africa

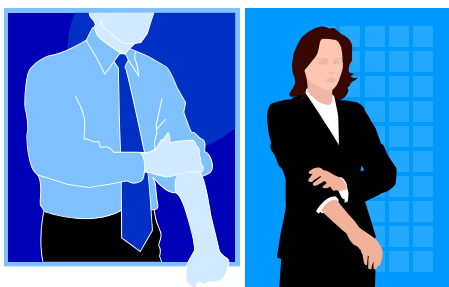
Initiative at St. Matthew's

By: Ben Pauluhn

The dictionary defines *initiative* as “a leading act or step: taking action”. During the year that I have spent at St. Matthew's, I have seen learners take more and more positive action and this has been leading to success for the whole school. From the grade 8 to grade 12 pupils, there is a noticeable difference in how the school looks and the extra, exciting activities taking place. It is wonderful to see how much the computer lab is used and how many learners are involved in basketball, sewing, and running. Even this newsletter did not exist a year ago.

Today, I would encourage all students to continue taking the initiative. The number one complaint I hear from girls in the hostels is “I'm bored”. I also lived in hostels when I was in high school so I know what they are experiencing. Instead of sitting and being bored, I would encourage the boarders to get out and start activities. If you are interested in something, try and pursue it. If the school does not offer a certain activity, speak with the teachers or me and we will try our best to help.

Lastly, I would like to share an African Proverb with you. “The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The next best time is today.” This saying applies to all the things we do, not just planting trees. While St. Matthew's has not been perfect in the past, nor will it be in the future, we can work together to build the best public school in the Eastern Cape.



Leadership from Within

By: Colani Zenande

As a person you need to have visions, goals, dreams and ambitions in order to reach your full potential. A person is like a house: either your foundation is strong and your house is stable or the foundation is weak and your house will quickly fall down.

Your foundation is what I personally call R.I.C.H. This stands for Respect, Integrity, Courage and Honesty.

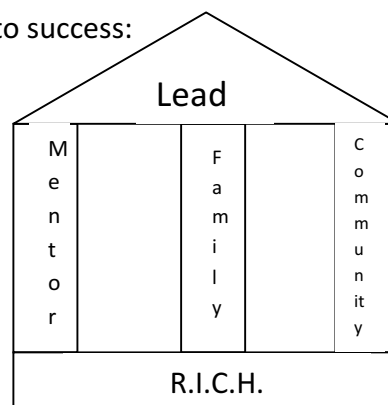
Your first pillar will be your Mentors (The people that are well experienced and help by giving you good advice).

The second pillar is your Family. They teach and guide you. It is where you learn leadership skills by being given responsibilities to do around the house.

Your third pillar is your Community. You need them to give you support because you see and interact with them every day. Leadership is about leading people in the right direction.

Leadership from within is about being a leader in your own mind. Leaders are not born but made. You make yourself a leader. It depends on you whether you will be a leader or a follower.

This is the house you build in order to lead yourself to success:



You have the power to be whatever you want, set your expectations for yourself and know that you can be whatever you think about. Lead yourself so you can lead others.

Interview with the Principal and Deputy Principal

By: N.O. Ntanjana

On Monday September 14th, newsletter members went to the principal and deputy principal, Mr Gquma and Mr. Adekponya, to ask them about the improvement they have seen at the school since Ben came to join the St. Matthews's family. The school principal didn't even hesitate. He attacked the question before it was fully asked. He commented that when he looks out the window, the school is something that he never could have imagined. He went on to list all of the physical improvements such as the pathway, renovated houses, new study room for hostels, etc. He said more importantly though, was the obvious change in attitude of the learners. There is more care for the surroundings, better use of time and even after school activities. The deputy principal was thankful for Ben's presence because he has been able to help with many projects that the school had always wanted to do such as a proper media centre and campus improvements. They both hope that the improvements will translate into better marks for the students and more opportunities for the graduates of St. Matthew's.

BOOK CLUB/TUTORING

By: Tonono Busisiwe



The St. Matthew's Book Club continued on September 5th with wonderful results. As always, it was held at St. Matthew's Primary School in Mthwaku. There were about 20 members of the President's Award reading and interacting with the kids. The programme started at 10:00. We taught children how to read and write, how to calculate mathematics and how books can be fun. The children have also asked to bring their school notebooks so we can help them with their work. The young ones are very eager to learn and we hope this attitude can be seen at St. Matthew's High School as well. At half past eleven we had a break, played games with them and passed out snacks. The session ended around 13:30 and another successful day of helping children was complete.

I'd like to thank all the President's Award members for a great job. Thanks guys.



ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL BUS



Dumokazi Makeleni

A school bus for St. Matthew's was purchased and delivered on September 3rd. It was donated by the Calabar Foundation and will be used to allow learners access to more opportunities. As Newsletter club members we thought it was a good idea to publish this so the school knows why we have such a nice addition to St. Matthew's. The aim of this school bus is to:

1. Transport learners to sport and academic competitions
2. Assist the school when transport is needed for academic purposes
3. Help with emergencies in the hostel buildings

We are very grateful and thankful for this donation and know it will benefit our learners in the future.

Fun Times at St. Matthew's

Miss & Mr St. Matthew's 2009

By: Athi Nyangwa

"WOW!!! WOW!!! WOW!!!" These are the words that were left on everybody's mouth after all the contestants left the stage during St. Matthew's High School's annual event. Not a single person wanted to be distracted from the contestants when they were up on stage because they all did such a great job. The stage was opened by the junior girls (princesses) with confidence and good looks in their school uniforms. Up next it was the junior boys with serious and charming looks. Everyone was still impressed by the juniors when the senior girls hit the stage. Because they were all beautiful, they were given names of some of the young American R&B artists such as Mariah, Ciara, Beyonce, Rihanna. Still with the girls rocking Teberer Hall, the boys came on the stage with their suits walking like they owned the place. They looked like real businessmen. After awhile the boys left the stage and girls came back in their formal dresses as if they were going to attend a wedding. They were all beautiful. In those dresses they looked mature and their funky hairstyles also suited them. Everybody was listening attentively when the names and positions were announced. Many people were shocked when Bamanye Kwa, the young man who has taken the 1st position for 4 years, was called on in second place. Shock continued when the name of the person who denied Mr. Kwa from being Mr Saints 2009 was called. In the ladies everybody was satisfied with the winner because she was really outstanding among other girls on stage. The Newsletter team felt like they needed to hear from these competition winners. Interviews with the winners were held shortly after the competition. We started with Miss Saints and this is what she had to say "I felt very excited to be announced as Miss Saints 2009, because I have always wanted to be Miss for a long time ever since I came to St. Matthew's." Then it was the time for our Mr Saints and he told us this, "I was shocked when they called my name because I was on stage with guys like Bamanye that took the 1st position for about 4 years in a row". Some people may ask what are the names of these two, it is Oyama Tyesi (Miss Saints) doing grade 10a and Luyolo Feni (Mr. Saints) doing grade 8c.

Campfire

By: N.O. Ntanjana



On Sunday Septmeber 6th and Sunday September 13th, the hostel residents were treated to two campfires. Colin and Joe put together the events and Ben got a large donation of wood from a local sawmill. We had a wonderful time because the residents have never had a campfire before. Joe and Colin taught us how to roast marshmallows and we now have a new favourite treat. The newsletter members and the hostel dwellers appreciate what you have done. Thanks to Colin and Joe who organised the campfire.

The Newsletter also interviewed Dr. Cassidy who was present at the second campfire. He commented that he has seen tremendous improvement at the school since his last visit and was excited to see the girls so involved in extra activities. When asked why he chose Mr. Colin to come to St. Matthew's, he answered that Mr. Colin is a hard worker who has a passion for assisting in the education of young people. We wish to thank Dr. Cassidy for his interest in St. Matthew's and we hope that his goals for St. Matthew's and St. Chad's will benefit both his students and ours.

Science camp with St. Andrew's and Geju

By: N.O.Ntanjana

A weekend of fun and learning took place at St. Matthew's during the weekend of September 4th-6th. Mr. Adekponya, Mr. Ukekwe, Mrs. Tapera and Mrs. Kakono led the camp for St. Matthew's. From St. Andrew's, we had Mr. Barnard and Ms. Cobbing. On Friday, St. Andrew's teachers and Mr. Adekponya taught the students electrostatics and different properties of outer space. Then on Saturday Mr. Ukekwe taught electric fields and electric potential. Ms. Cobbing and Mr. Barnard taught capacitance. There were also extra activities with Mr. Barnard, Mr. Ukekwe and all the learners helping to clean and paint the hostel. Sunday was the last day and we believe that they had a wonderful time because they were taught chemical bond, electrostatics between electrons and chemical bonding using Lewis notation. The main purpose of this science camp was to give the grade 10s a foundation of physical science before heading into grade 11. Thanks to Mr. Ukekwe, Mrs. Kakono, Mr. Adekponya and Mrs. Tapera who organised the science camp and made it a success. We as Newsletter members appreciate what they have done for the school and for our community.

The following picture was drawn by a grade 9 learner named Sinazo Maneli. She saw this picture in Jane Austen's book *Pride and Prejudice* and drew it for the Newsletter. We would like to commend her on her wonderful talent and encourage her to keep pursuing her dreams.



New mural in the library. Painted by members of the President's Award with the help of Ali Pauluhn.



The chapel next to Cullen hostel is now available for study halls and chapel services. Please speak with one of the supervisors to find out hours of operation.

New Activities at St. Matthew's

BASKETBALL TEAM

By: Newsletter Staff

On the 26th of August Joe started Basketball teams here at school. He divided the teams into girls and boys classes. Practices are held at least twice a week. Joe is making a great contribution to the school because many of us have never played basketball before. He is teaching various ways of playing Basketball, how to pass the ball, how to shoot and how to dribble. He is also introducing us to the rules of the game.

We thank Joe for the great job that you are doing for helping us to become "future basketball players". Your assistance means a lot to us.

If you are not part of this you're missing out a lot.
COME AND JOIN US!!!!

SEWING CLASSES

By: Dumokazi Makeleni

Did you guys know that on the 10th August the President's Award started sewing classes here at school? Apparently Ben asked the lady who was sewing curtains for the Chapel to teach the President's Award members how to sew. This was to help them develop new skills and also to maintain a culture of learning at the school. The classes are still continuing and Ben found a new teacher to continue the instruction. According to one of the members the classes are pretty good and the work is still manageable in such a way that no one is complaining about anything. We are very proud of you guys, keep up the good work, we hope that you will help us sew our uniforms as well. These classes are a success. Your work is highly appreciated.



St .Matthews's hiking trail

By: Nambitha Ngobe

On the 13th September 2009 Colin, Joe and President's Award members hiked the mountain behind Waddell hostel. We walked for 3 hours. It was fun but also it was difficult. We got to see the rural area called Nxalawa, and then we took pictures to remember the day. It must be difficult to live in Nxalawa because if you need to go somewhere, you must walk a long way. Most of the houses are homesteads on farms and there is forest in between them. We all needed a long break after about 2 hours. After that we walked a long distance talking with Joe and he told us a few words of French, words like **bonjour** that means good morning. We tried to teach him Xhosa words as well. They were only 2 rules there that were said you had no right to walked in front of Joe and also behind Colin. This was a practice hike for the large hike with St. Andrew's on September 19th and 20th. We were all tired but glad we went as it prepared us for the following weekend.

President's Award Hike with St. Andrew's (highlight of the semester)

Thirty-one St. Matthew's learners went on a two-day adventure hike with St. Andrew's this past weekend. All the St. Matthew's participants have been working hard to obtain their President's Award certification and this event was part of their requirement.

The group used transport from St. Andrew's and the new St. Matthew's bus to travel to a drop off point. The groups then hiked through Ngobozana and into the forest. After a 13 kilometre, six-hour hike, we reached our destination. Here, we set up our tents and cooked dinner over personal gas stoves. What a treat to be out in nature.

The scariest part for some of us was the night hike. We were not allowed to use torches or talk to each other. Although some were frightened, we got to see the stars, the Milky Way, satellites and even a rare shooting star. It was amazing!!!

We all got to do something we never thought possible at St. Matthew's. It will benefit us in the future and we cannot wait to have the opportunity to do it again. Special thanks are in order for Ms. Scott and Mr. Barnard from St. Andrew's. Without their support and camping supplies, the trip would not have been possible.

(Unfortunately, pictures are not yet available but we will include these in next month's edition.)