



ST CHARLES COLLEGE
S O U T H A F R I C A

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Friends of the College

The first term will be known for several landmark first occasions. Maritzburg day at St Charles College and reaching the national final of the T20 tournament are just two of the historic events, but quietly, the landscape is being transformed to conform to who we want to be next year. In our research with technology we are stabilising the wifi environment and moving to the cloud to establish ease of access required to go digital.

I will also be emphasising environmental solutions this term and hope you will join me in changing our collective habits in this regard. With two years and eight months, exactly, until day zero (when we will cease to contribute to the dump entirely) there is a lot we can each do immediately.

St Charles College is changing positively on a daily basis. From planting indigenous trees, rehabilitation of high traffic grass areas, formalisation of the oval steps and chapel frontage, to the completion of the hockey project — we are encouraged to see more and more of the amazing potential of the College emerging. Mathematically, if we improve each year by 10%, we will be twice as good as it is now in just over 7 years — an exciting prospect as we head toward 2025.

We are excited to hear that a number of our boys have achieved the top result in the country for one or more subjects and remember our main purpose in preparing the boys for the future and the opportunities that will be theirs if they work hard.

The winter term is often charged with emotion and a focus on results, but it is the personal growth that each boy experiences through these challenges that makes the long term difference. We look forward to an excellent second term and wish all the A Level boys the very best for their AS Level examinations.



PRINCIPAL

2019

EASTER EDITION TERM 2

“For the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

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FIDELI CERTA MERCES

To the faithful one, a certain reward



EASTER MESSAGE

*...you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.
He is not here, for He is risen, just as He said.*



Martin Luther said: “ When I look at myself I don’t see how I can be saved. But when I look at Christ, I don’t see how I can be lost.”

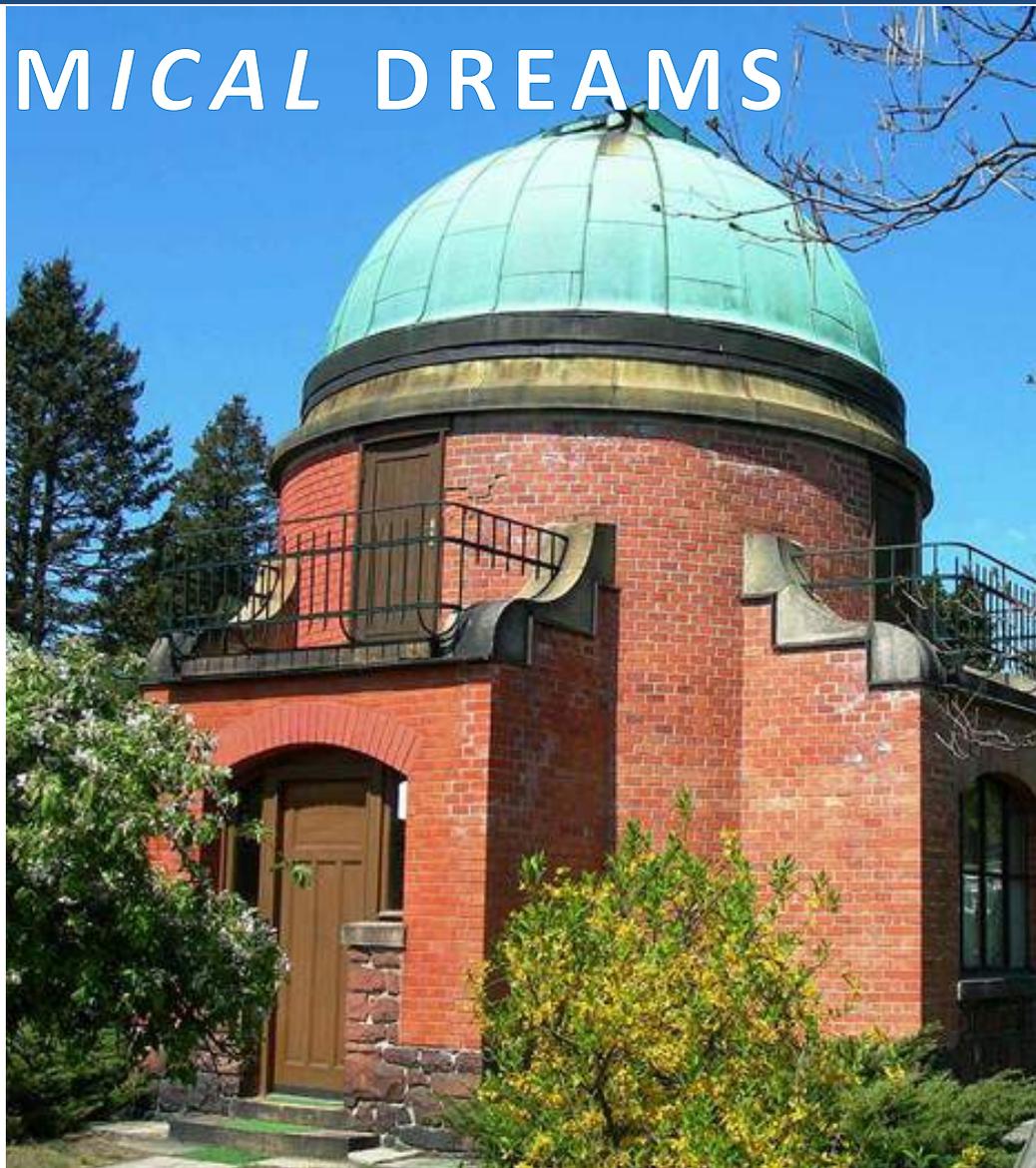
The world over, men and women struggle for reconciliation. This Easter we are reminded that Christ has won for us victory over death and sin. The empty tomb signals that the Father is satisfied with what Christ did in our place and calls us to be reconciled to Himself — *and to one another.*

ASTRONOMICAL DREAMS

We have been given a large telescope and are planning to make another. Of course we need to build an observatory and something like the one alongside would be perfect.

The proposed building will bring to life some of the incredible physics we study.

If you’d like to be part of realizing this dream, just let us know.



TOP MARKS IN SOUTH AFRICA



St Charles College is proud to congratulate the following boys and their teachers for achieving the top mark in the country in their 2018 Cambridge examinations:

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS LEVELS

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH Keya Barkhuizen

HISTORY Scott Anderson

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

MATHEMATICS Sebastian Kambouris

ENGLISH LITERATURE Sebastian Kambouris

BUSINESS STUDIES Michael Cook

ISIZULU Nqobani Dlamini



FOCUS GROUP FEBRUARY 2019

THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW

LIGHTS, WATER, ACTION ...



WINTER SPORT FIXTURES 2019

16/03 SCC vs Michaelhouse (H)

23/03 SCC vs Kearsney (A)

27/04 SCC vs Maritzburg College (H)

04/05 SCC vs Hilton College (A)

11/05 SCC vs Glenwood (H)

18/05 SCC vs Clifton College (A)

01/06 SCC vs Northwood (H)

08/06 SCC vs Voortrekker (A)

15/06 SCC vs St Albans College (H)



Maritzburg Day 2019

'Building a new Pietermaritzburg one day at a time.'

That's the goal of this positive initiative. Hosting the second Maritzburg Day was a test of our logistical capacity and we are pleased to report that the day was a massive success.

This was the first time that St Charles College faced Maritzburg College at home and the second time playing a full winter fixture since 1982. The tensions were, for the most part, displaced by a sense of community and a greater desire to establish a new passion for our city.

We hosted Linpark, Voortrekker, Maritzburg College, Cordwalles, Merchiston, Pelham, DPHS, Clifton NR, Laddsworth and Howick Primary. We hope the day will grow to become a feature of the Pietermaritzburg annual event calendar. Next year will alternate back to Maritzburg College and after three years the event will take up tradition status.



1650 players

77 matches

145 coaches

+/- 5000 happy people

24 km = distance walked

by our Tuckshop

Manager





Stage 2



A connected campus

The train of our research is in its second phase where we establish the electronic platforms and environment to support our learning and teaching aspirations. It is essential that every teacher and boy feels completely at ease as we transition.

The key component will be seamless wifi across the campus. We are well down this track and several classes are participating in trials to monitor the ease of connectivity and to determine the software and setting requirements to support and enhance optimal learning in the different subjects.

The boys have handled the experience maturely and with great excitement. The idea of coming to school with a tablet and a lunchbox is quite appealing. Our key goal is safe, easy, simple solutions and that takes a lot of work. At this stage we believe we will be ready by 2020 to launch.

Electronic textbooks will not cost less but they can never be lost, left in the rain or eaten by the dog. The tablet can (be eaten by the dog) but backup to the cloud means no boy can ever lose his bag or all his notes again. I know some parents might be relieved about that.

Dr Denise Bjorkman, guest speaker and researcher of neuroscience and mental health, commended our approach of preserving the memory demands and writing expectations (we will use a stylus to write with not our fingers). She shared data which indicates the effects of technology on the young brain when the learning essentials are unwittingly eliminated.

We will be opening up wifi to parents (and boys) on Saturdays for limited periods. The boarders will also benefit soon from limited wifi so they can contact their parents and the roll-out of the wifi APs is close to completion.



Fresh air

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION FOR ALL OF US

Our research continues and this term we have focused on two practical ways that everyone from 3 years and older can participate in.

1

We want to generate and plant 16000 spek plants. We are going to need your help. Break pieces off the plants we have, take them home and grow them. When we are planting, we would like you to bring your spek plants to school and we will cover banks and waste spaces with living plants that clean the air and become the lungs of the College.

Plants use and produce both Oxygen and Carbon dioxide. The best plants produce a lot more oxygen than CO₂. Oxygen 'oxidises' Carbon *Monoxide* fumes and turns it into Carbon *Dioxide* which is useable by plants which use the carbon to photosynthesize. *Spek* plants or *Pig's Ear* are superior when it comes to cleaning air and we should think of planting them in road islands in our suburbs—but we will start at St Charles College.

2

We challenge every one to start an ecobrick per family member. I have one at work and one at home. It is a great way to stop plastic going into the ocean, blocking drains and monitoring your own plastic footprint.

To see why — perhaps you could start by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaJrkzQ43m4>



Thank you to all who responded to the *blog or article in the first term newsletter*

If you are in the business of recycling (including electronic waste and disposal) please send us details and we will publish your services to the city. Email : principal@scc.co.za

12/03/2019 - Tom Hart

I saw your Blog on the city dump and St Charles' new vision for a zero waste to landfill school. I am keen to assist in anyway and give a talk at the school if needed.

I am a director of a research and development at a green Economy consulting firm called green Archeol. Our core focuses and expertise are in the fields of communities, recycling, energy, waste management and sustainability (CREWS). But our speciality of expertise is Waste Beneficiation.

According to WWF and CSIR, the average South African consumes 30kg to 60kg of plastic waste according to their economic class. A school of 500 kids has a footprint of 25000kg of plastic per year. Add each student's parents and you are looking at a school community plastic footprint of 75000 kg. the waste beneficiation potential of that footprint would be about R187000 to R337000 per year."

09/03/2019 - Hamish Muir

"2 basic solutions:

Firstly plastics can get melted down and made into outdoor furniture, fence posts or other items of use.

Organic waste could be processes through a bio digester. The yield from the digester is in 2 main parts: methane and compost. The methane could be used for heating water, compost can be used on fields."

08/03/2019 - Karen Choice

"Could you have recycling bins like St John's has? We used to have a service come to our farm & collect but since closed down."

12/02/2019 - Jon and Sharon Mackenzie

"Billy Joel so aptly belts out his 'we didn't start the fire' but perhaps St Charles College could leave a legacy of 'but we helped put it out.'

I cannot agree more with your point on recycling, however while recycling is definitely a drive we should all be on, it is most definitely not a solution to the dump issue of today. We need to rethink – new think – and future think our way to a solution for a dump that ignites at random."

06/02/2019 - Usha Maharaj

"We should have a detailed matrix calculating the carbon footprint of the school, set targets for where the school wants to be and measure and report on those."

What if the starting point for all South Africa is to *love your city*.

We can start a *lovePietermaritzburg* movement, following the Howick example, finding solutions that make life better for the people who live here. We'll need people who can take the complicated out of it and help people to learn new and easy ways to change the way we use the space we live in. Influencing such a shift is an outrageously difficult challenge, but accepting the alternative is not really a version of the future I would like to live in.

As suggested by those who sent in comments, we need to harness the school network to influence families to think in new ways and redesign the way we use and care for our city.

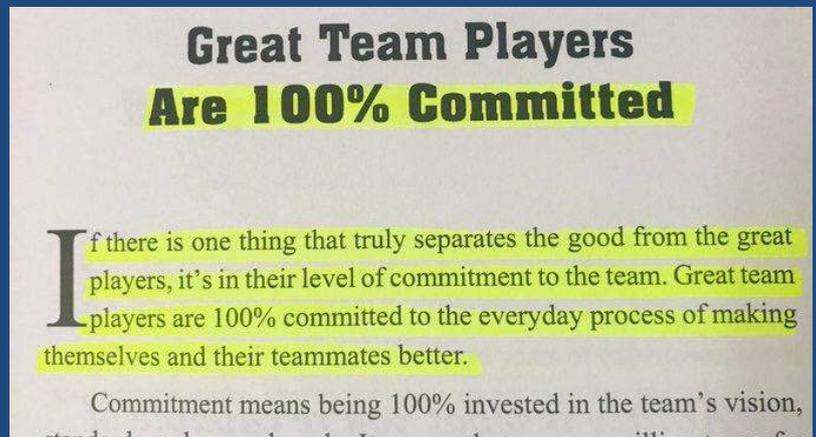
21 MATCH WINNING STREAK

This is a story worth telling. The First XI Cricket team began their journey of a 21 match winning in January this year and found themselves making new history for St Charles Cricket. They will remain famous not only for the extraordinary cricket they played but for the team they became in the process.

Coached by Mr Lucky Dladla and Mr Murray Cole-Edwardes and supported and guided by the St Charles College Head of Sport, Mr Rowan Irons, the team lived up to the philosophy of *great team players*.

It was the comment that Old Boy, Chris Bestel, posted on facebook that alerted us to just how deeply the philosophy of commitment had sunken in. Actions speak louder than words and the boys set an incredible example, winning the hearts of the tournament organisers and obviously everyone rooting for them at home.

The first stage was winning the Inland competition and to secure this meant having to beat both Hilton and Michaelhouse on the same day. And that's exactly what they did. Incredible focus and fielding won them both the matches and saw them repeat the 2017 feat when the St Charles College team beat Maritzburg College to win their place in the KZN final.



SCC ARE SA T20 CRICKET FINALISTS AND

KZN DOLPHINS CHAMPIONS



The KZN final was a clinical performance of confident cricket and the St Charles boys seemed to have no doubt in dispatching Westville at the Pietermaritzburg Oval.

With the whole St Charles College community behind them, the team went up to Pretoria and won all their matches to make it to the final on their first appearance. The toughest match was against Waterkloof where the match was tied. In the superover, Waterkloof hit 17 runs. Incredibly, the St Charles College boys also scored 17 runs. The match went to boundaries and SCC came out victorious.

The final saw St Charles College begin with an outstanding session, restricting the St Stithians team to just 120 runs. To St Stithians' credit their bowling was even more outstanding and the match went their way in the end.

A phenomenal effort and one we hope to repeat in the years to come.

The 21 match winning streak included winning matches vs:

- ◇ Grey College (Bloem)
- ◇ DHS
- ◇ Kearsney
- ◇ Northwood
- ◇ Clifton
- ◇ Maritzburg College
- ◇ Michaelhouse
- ◇ Hilton
- ◇ Westville
- ◇ St Andrews College (GT)
- ◇ St Davids
- ◇ St Albans College
- ◇ St Andrews School
- ◇ Paarl Gymnasium
- ◇ Waterkloof

BEST EVER OPEN MIC NIGHT

The Open Mic Night went indoors for the first time and an astounding level of performance entertained and drew admiration from the large family crowd.



Aladdin



This term.

BOOKINGS OPEN SOON

Charting new pathways



In case you were wondering what we do in the holidays, we have been hard at work with the following improvements to the campus:

- Cleaning the senior quad roof tiles
- Laying a pathway to connect the tuckshop to the oval stairs
- Building a viewing deck on top of the septic tanks near the hockey astro.
- The conversion of a classroom to a fully fledged Cambridge standard, physics laboratory
- Rolling out a seamless wifi network through the College
- Planting of 16, six-year-old indigenous trees around the oval and grass rehabilitation.
- Formalization of area in front of the Chapel above the oval stairs



WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY...

Mr Riley sent me this photo from my office desk when I was in Pretoria for the National T20 Cricket final.

He has kindly agreed to handle all complaints for the rest of the year.

