College Chatter

Issue #70

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DURBAN GIRLS' COLLEGE

From the Helm

The Chatter quote for this week, "Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world", (Gustav Flaubert), is insightful in terms of providing one with perspective; not only with regard to the discovery of new places, cultures, customs, cuisine, landscapes and adventure, but also relating to self-discovery and self-growth. At Durban Girls' College, the girls are fortunate to have access to diverse exchange opportunities; and we are able to see how this contributes towards shaping their views of the world, and of themselves. It is an incredible opportunity and often fosters lifelong friendships owing to the reciprocal nature of the programme, which sees girls not only travelling, but also hosting.

On Thursday evening and on Friday last week, exchanges of a slightly different nature took place amongst our excited Old Girls, who returned to school for Reunion Day. They exchanged news, views and memories and the College House courtyard and school buzzed with this energy and reconnection. With *The Durban Girls' College Foundation* now formalised, we hope that the Old Girls will feel more connected to their alma mater and that they will embrace the myriad opportunities to support girls' education within this special space.

It is an interesting fact that men continue to support their alma maters long after completing their schooling, and they do so out of pride, (and often, a determination to remain competitive in certain sporting codes perhaps!). Women, on the other hand, seem not to involve themselves to the same extent. One could enter a historical socio-economic debate, theories around the gender gap and pervasive political legacies in an effort to unpack this anomaly, and this is neither the time nor the place! Suffice to say that with girl.talk@dgc2019 on the horizon and *The Durban Girls' College Foundation* recently established, Durban Girls' College is defining itself clearly as a space that takes the education of girls very seriously.

We should never take for granted, a good education. Activist, Malala Yousafzai's words ring true: *"In some parts of the world, students are going to school every day. It's their normal life. But in other parts of the world, we are starving for education … it's like a precious gift. It's like a diamond."*

Mrs Heather Goedeke
Head of High School

College Moment

Our current and past exchange girls enjoying the Exchange 25th Birthday Celebration on Thursday. Thank you Mrs Sue Meehan!

Junior Primary

Grade R took an adventure *'Under the Sea'* and created colourful jellyfish. The girls used a flow map to understand the life cycle of a fish. They also learnt about littering and used recycled materials to decorate a seahorse.

COUNT ON ME PROJECT

The JP girls have been collecting margarine tubs, yoghurt containers and plastic lids for our *'Count on Me'* project for the Nursery Schools. We have collected over 100 tubs! The Grade 3 girls have been volunteering to write numbers on the lids during their break time. This is a real team effort - thank you girls. Please continue to collect margarine tubs, yoghurt tubs and plastic lids.

Well done to Scarlett Voss, who achieved an A+ in Piano, U10, Modern 2 at the Queensburgh Festival of Arts 2019.

What a wonderful out of the classroom experience our Grade 3 girls had at Spirit of Adventure this week. Building a raft and being attacked by pirates was certainly one of the favourite activities.

Senior Primary and High School

Well done to all the girls who participated in the Queensburgh Festival of Arts for 2019. We are so proud of your achievements!

Queensburgh Festival of Arts Trophies Winners, from left to right: Lily Corbett, Kelly Corbett, Nilashri Naidoo, Sonali Naidoo, Niwedita Bhatta.

Queensburgh Festival of Arts Certificates, from left to right: Alexandra Francois, Rebecca Darby-Wade, Lara-Leigh Jones, Cassidy Coombes, Mila Fouche, Alice Saulez, Sarah Andrew.

Congratulations on your fantastic results for the External Music Examinations, girls!

Row 1:
Anika Naidoo, Nandini Gangaram, Jia Patel, Niwedita Bhatta.

Row 2
Tahlia Kesaru-Anthony, Keren Curtis, Kelly Corbett, Zara Jackson.

Row 3
Jingqi Lin, Anjali Ramdhani, Alaya Singh, Sarah-Anne Pender Smith, Xintong Chen.

25 Years of Global Exchange

In 2019, Durban Girls' College celebrates 25 years of International Exchange with partner schools across the globe. Each year, we welcome more than 25 international visitors from 16 partner schools in 10 countries. Our Grade 10 girls selected for exchange, embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey that opens their eyes to the world and encourages them to see it with a new perspective. Exchange is about 'experience' and so every exchange is different. Host countries, families and schools are all unique, as is the adventure that each girl undertakes.

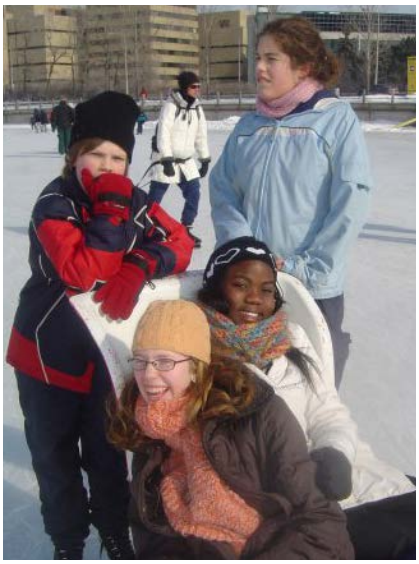
Girls grow in confidence, explore independence and embrace every opportunity. Social skills develop and girls mature as they navigate very unfamiliar territory, including host family dynamics. It is not always an easy path!
There is much more to the programme than just the excitement of a flight and attending an overseas school for a month or more. Benefits of exchange are measured sometimes long after the trip and in many cases, the friendships that develop, last a lifetime. A different way of learning promotes an understanding of different cultural and community perspectives and problem solving skills are heightened. Communication and compromise are two elements which go hand in hand with this international opportunity and are acknowledged as the foundation for a successful exchange experience.

One of the biggest positive growths achieved through exchange is a greater knowledge of and awareness of global issues – this is a valuable attribute for young girls who are the future bright stars of our country. Durban Girls' College is proud to celebrate 25 years of global schools exchange and will continue to offer this unique personal growth opportunity to girls who are not afraid to 'go the distance'. - ***Mrs Sue Meehan***

Exchange Stories

Lindelwa Bolani - 2009

My exchange to Canada at Branksome Hall is one I will truly always remember. It was my first trip overseas and a moment where I realised I wanted to live and have a global career one day because of the opportunities I experienced. I am now living and working in Hong Kong for an international consultancy firm. I am still in contact with my exchange partners too. I was lucky to have two fabulous families through Kathryn Chadwick and Annie Donolo who welcomed me with warm arms in a very cold winter in Canada.



Julia Denissen - 2014

In 2014 I visited Ballarat Grammar school in Ballarat, Australia, for 7 weeks. I had the amazing opportunity of living on a sheep farm, as well as attending a co-ed school. Over my exchange period, I experienced the thrill of quadbiking around the farm whilst herding sheep, visiting Sydney and, of course, the infamous Bondi Beach, spending a weekend down the coast in Anglesea, as well as experiencing an Australian football game in Melbourne. Among these highlights were many other incredible experiences. Exchange truly was a lifechanging experience. It allows you the opportunity to make friends (and new sisters) from around the world, and pushes you out of your comfort zone. I would highly recommend it to any upcoming Grade 10 student.

Erin Besnard - 2016

I was privileged enough to go to Sydney, Australia in 2016 and I was hosted by the most amazing family. My exchange sister, Ruby and I, although complete opposites, hit it off right from the start. Exchange was one of the best experiences of my life so far and I will always be grateful that this opportunity was given to me. I made lifelong friends from all over the world and I have memories that will remain with me forever. Thank you, DGC, for providing a chance of a lifetime to so many girls over the past 25 years. I can only hope that this experience continues for another

CELEBRATING

YEARS OF GLOBAL EXCHANGE

Meet our Staff

Mrs Sue Meehan - Head of Exchange and Global Initiatives

My family and I hosted an exchange student when I was seven years old and I spent a year in Germany on exchange after I finished school. I studied Political Science at University and really wanted to become a Diplomat, but now I am an ambassador...for DGC and South Africa.

When I joined DGC more than three years ago, I knew that if I really wanted to make a difference, I would need to commit to expanding the programme but not lose the personal touch that the programme required. By maintaining the existing good international relations with partner schools, I connected with prospective partners, keen to reach every corner of the globe to offer 'once in a lifetime' opportunities to the Grade 10 girls of DGC.

The exchange programme now has 17 partner schools in 11 countries and we send up to 30 girls on exchange each year. Reciprocally hosting 30 girls from all over the world may have its challenges, but one thing is certain...the lives of those who are involved with the exchange programme at DGC are changed forever. I am so glad to be part of this unique educational journey that is Exchange!

Meet our Alumna

Erin Besnard - Class of 2018

I matriculated from Durban Girls' College in 2018 and was privileged enough to have had two key head positions during my Matric year - Head of SP Mentors and Head of Inbound Exchange, both of which I thoroughly enjoyed. I am currently in my first year of studying a BEd Foundation Phase at Stellenbosch University and I am loving every minute of it.

I went on a 2 month exchange to Sydney, Australia in 2016 which prepared me for moving out of home in ways I couldn't have imagined. As a day girl at DGC I had no knowledge of what it would be like to live without my parents until I went to Australia. Exchange taught me so many life skills and lessons, and it prepared me so well for University.

From our Chaplain

Michelle Edgcumbe

Suppose you let the Most High God be like a home to you. Psalm 91:9b

I recently travelled with some colleagues to Mpumalanga for a conference and along the way we met some interesting characters. One of these was James, our conference bus driver. James grew up in Harare and after school he managed to get to the UK on a study exchange. He studied hospitality and management and then worked in London for a few years as a hotel manager. He went on to manage hotels and lodges in Canada, Australia and all over South Africa before making a career shift when he qualified as a game ranger. After working in the Kruger Park for four years, he intentionally left to take up a position in a school as their head driver. The reason for this surprising change? In order to be more present at home with his family. The hotel industry has crazy hours, he says, and he decided that long shifts weren't good for his family. What an interesting and inspiring man! We hung on his every word as he told us about his adventures all over the world, and we were reminded that one of the most valuable lessons that comes from exploring other places is the realisation of how precious home is.

Results

SP RESULTS

Irish Dance
Lia Primich, Grade 4G, participated in the South Coast Irish Dance Championships held at Victory Christian Academy on Saturday 20 July 2019. It was the biggest competition of the year with 104 competitors from four different provinces. Lia achieved a bronze medal and was also placed 5th in Round 2 of her Pre-Championship section. Lia competed as well in a three-hand (trio) team and was placed 2nd overall. Well done Lia.

Gymnastics
Mila Fouché, Grade 4G, competed at the Provincial Club Gymnastics Competition held in Pietermaritzburg and won a silver medal in Level 4, age 9 category. Well done, Mila!

Tennis
Monday 22 July was the start of the SP Singles league. Our team played against four boys from Chelsea, and although we lost 8 games to nil, there were many good rallies and deuce games. Well played, girls!

Cross Country League
On Friday 26 July, our team participated in the league hosted at Crawford North Coast. Well done to all girls who ran, and in particular Nikita Scruby, who finished an incredible 4th place in the U10 age group.

Hockey
On Friday 26 July, our hockey teams played against Glenwood Prep. It was a good start, despite some losses. Special mention goes to the U10A team, this is an exciting team to watch, they displayed impressive defensive and attacking skills but just couldn't finish. Well played to all our teams.

U13A Won 1 – 0
U13B Won 2 – 1
U11A Drew 2 – 2
U11B Lost 0 – 4
U 10A Lost 0 – 1
U10B Lost 0 – 4

MUSIC

Music Exam Results
Xingtong Chen: ABRSM, Theory of Music, Grade 1 with Distinction
Jingqi Lin: ABRSM, Theory of Music, Grade 1 with Merit
Anika Naidoo: Trinity College London, Violin, Grade 3 with Distinction.
Sarah-Anne Pender-Smith: Trinity College London, Violin, Grade 3 with Merit.
Anjali Ramdhani: Trinity College London, Theory of Music, Grade 2 with Distinction.
Tahlia Kesaru-Anthony: Trinity College London, Violin Grade 3 with Merit.
Alaya Singh: Trinity College London, Theory of Music, Grade 2 with Distinction.
Dharini Pillay: Trinity College London, Violin, Grade 3 with Merit
Nandini Gangaram: Trinity College London, Theory of Music, Grade 2 with Distinction.
Keren Curtis: Trinity College London, Piano, Grade 2 with Distinction
Makayla Holmes: Trinity College London, Piano, Grade 2 with Distinction.
Leah Droyman: Trinity College London, Theory of Music, Grade 2 with Distinction.
Jia Patel: Trinity College London, Theory of Music, Grade 2 with Distinction.

Queensburgh Festival of Arts
Lily Corbett achieved A++ in Vocal U12 Solo Musical and A+ in Vocal U12 Solo Classical and won the Trophy in Vocal U12 Musical.

Mila Fouché achieved A in Piano U10 Modern 2.

Nilashri Naidoo achieved A ++ in Strings U12 Solo and Recital and won the Trophy in this section. Nilashri also came second in the Overall String Section.

Trophies were received by the SP Choir, SP Orchestra and SP Marimba Band in their respective categories.

The Week Ahead

05 - 11 August 2019

Monday 05	**Day 1** SP: 08h30: Gr 6 depart for Wagon Drift: Wagon Drift JP: 09h30: Choir to visit Mothwa Haven: Mothwa Haven SP: Hockey Matches vs Maris Stella: DGC SP: 14h30: Tennis: Westridge HS: 15h00: Tennis: U16A vs Fatima A: Fatima HS: 15h00: Tennis: U 16B vs St Mary's A: DGC HS: Leadership: Announcement of 5 Head's Positions HS: House Play Rehearsals: Centenary Hall SAHISA meeting LIV Village – for EXCO
Tuesday 06	**Day 2** SP: Gr 6 away at Wagon Drift HS: 12h00-13h30: Gr 12 R&R Workshop: Miller Grove Building JP: 14h30: Gr 1 – 3 Hockey vs Maris Stella: DGC HS: 15h00: Tennis: 1st Team vs Curro: Curro HS: 16h00: House Play Rehearsals: Centenary Hall DGC Finance Meeting: Trust House HS: 16h00: House Play Rehearsals: Centenary Hall DGC Finance Meeting: Trust House
Wednesday 07	**Day 3** SP: Gr 6 away at Wagon Drift SP: 07h15 - 08h00: Gr 5 Parents' Conversation Circle: SP Drama Room HS: 08h10 - 10h10: Gr 9 Subject Choice Breakfast: College House HS: House Play Rehearsals: Centenary Hall HS: 18h30 - 20h00: House Play Production: Centenary Hall
Thursday 08	**Day 4** 07h30: 'Moms' Who Pray: College House JP: 10h10: Gr 1 Cake Sale: JP SP: 12h00: Gr 6 return from Wagon Drift HS: 14h30: House Play: Winning House Play to perform for school during GAP time: Centenary Hall HS: 15h00 - 17h00: Soccer League Matches vs Fatima: Crusaders HS: Hockey Tournament: U16: Paarl
Friday 09	**Day 5** **WOMEN'S DAY** DGC Girl Talk Summit HS: Hockey Tournament: U16: Paarl
Saturday 10	DGC Girl Talk Summit HS: Hockey Tournament: U16: Paarl
Sunday 11	HS: Hockey Tournament: U16: Paarl

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>
> *Gustav Flaubert*