College Chatter

Issue #139

NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA
DURBAN GIRLS' COLLEGE

From the Helm

At Durban Girls' College, we strive to meet the educational needs of girls in a greater South African and global context. This year, the Junior Primary received International Accreditation as a Thinking School from Exeter University in the United Kingdom.

Dr Judith Kleine Staarman, Senior Lecturer in Education and Director of Thinking Schools at Exeter, said: "Careful thought has been put into the structure and visual presentation of thinking and learning skills, and as such, DGC conveys a highly positive, caring, and creative (and fun!) atmosphere. An important and continuing focus for the school is developing and maintaining a culture of caring, based around the values of courage, attitude, respect, empathy, and self-control. Thinking skills approaches and associated language are used throughout to encourage mindful learning and behaviour. For instance, through the Care Circle approach, in which girls are encouraged to listen to one another, to be open to differences and to build on each other's points of view. A 'Growth Mindset' is used to anchor and bring together the school's values, strategies and learning aims, and an effective visual representation of a tree is used and referred to throughout the school, helping children and staff to use the shared language of thinking. Reflection is built into lesson planning, and teachers noted that, while reflection takes time, it is always interesting and useful. There is evidence of children having excellent awareness of their learning and goals, and they also demonstrate a good meta-awareness of thinking in the videos presented as part of the portfolio of evidence".

Our journey of growth started in 2017. Today, a culture of thinking and learning permeates all areas of our school, ensuring that our cognitive programme is richer, more relevant and meaningful. Our girls make better connections between their learning and real-world issues. They are spontaneous and curious and their imaginations are stretched as they explore their world, finding solutions to problems. Their confidence is boosted and they are more courageous and prepared to take the risks necessary for growth.

Feedback from a parent: *"My wish is that every parent could have listened to this talk; it just took our girls' schooling to the next level. I think most of us parents have no idea the extent to which DGC is truly a leader and how forward-thinking our girls' education is. I also wish I could send my son to DGC for such an education. I wish other schools would follow suit! I hope this is followed through completely into the SP so our girls can continue on this path".*

We have noticed that our girls have become more confident in expressing their thoughts, opinions and beliefs. They use a common thinking language effectively at school.

Our teachers ensure that their girls are more mindful of their thinking and the thinking of others. They confidently use the correct tools and strategies to deepen their thinking. Our staff are passionate and committed to educating young girls. They have embraced this process of change with dignity, pride and professionalism. The Thinking School approach allows the teachers to build on its strengths and infuse deeper thinking into the curriculum. The quality of our thinking influences lives and has an impact on the school community. Everyone is more insightful and takes ownership of their thinking and learning and the choices they make.

Carol-Anne Conradie – Head of Primary School

College Moment

Congratulations to our Thinking School Drive Team: Mrs Kate Collins, Mrs Les Coull, Mrs Tamryn Price, Mrs Kayley Bernhardt, Mrs Carol-Anne Conradie, Mrs Jamie Dunbar, and Mrs Catherine Bielovich!

Thinking School Journey

Click the play buttons to learn more

THINKING SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

Durban Girls' College strives to meet the developmental needs of girls in a greater South African and global context.

This year, we are proud to announce that our Junior Primary received international accreditation as a Thinking School from Exeter University in the United Kingdom.

Our journey of growth started in 2017. Today, a culture of thinking and learning permeates all areas of our Junior Primary school, ensuring that our cognitive programme is richer, more relevant, and meaningful.

A DAY IN OUR THINKING SCHOOL

Our girls are nurtured and supported and given the skills, tools and strategies needed to thrive in an ever-changing world whilst having fun and enjoying each day.

They make better connections between their learning and real-life issues while being curious, exploring their world, and in the process finding solutions to their problems.

We are inspired by our JP girls' confidence, curiosity and empathy.

THINKING SCHOOL JOURNEY FROM OUR PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE

Being a Thinking School has encouraged our girls to be more independent and able to cope with change.

Here's what some of our JP parents have proudly witnessed in their daughters' Thinking School journey.

Thank you to our parents for their continued support and dedication.

OUR JP TEACHERS' THINKING SCHOOL JOURNEY

Our Thinking School Drive Team shares their experience and journey, thus far, giving us insight into the positive change and growth in our girls' learning and social skills.

Encompassing the College values of courage, attitude, respect, empathy and self-control, good habits required for learning are instilled.

A common set of attitudes that build character and self-efficacy are shared by both girls and teachers.

Junior Phase

Our Grade 1 girls were delighted with the notes that their mums and dads left them after Parents' Evening. Parents were asked to write "2 Stars and a Wish" for their daughter for her Grade 1 year.

Well done to the following girls who were selected as Swimming House Captains: Bottom row: Churchill House Captains: Zaina Abram & Aleena Karodia; Greenacre House Captains: Annabel van Reenen & Sisipho Yumba Middle row: Hunter House Captains: Amelia Hall & Hannah Pandor; Rutherford House Captains: Lily Coleman & Maryam Moola Top row: Cottam House Captains: Sarah Schofield & Luthando Xulu; Palmer House Captains: Chloe Venter & Asma Soosiwala

Our new JP girls enjoyed a relaxing tea with Mrs Conradie as they chatted about their College experience thus far.

Our JP girls supported the Grade 3 Cake Sale - all money raised will be used for our Outreach initiatives.

Grade 1 is the year for losing teeth! Scarlett lost her tooth in the grass at the Valentine's Picnic. The next morning, her class went on a search to help her find it and Dintle found it!

Junior Phase

Love surrounds and grows at College every day, especially on Valentine's Day.

Senior Phase

It was yet another busy day in the Music Department. Our girls from the Senior Primary Orchestra had their first workshop. It was a fantastic opportunity for all of us to learn, play and have fun together!

Grade 6s doing starch experiments in NS.

Milla Ramkissoon (Grade 7) was awarded a gold certificate for passing her Cecchetti Grade 4 Classical Ballet 2021 Exam with Distinction. Anya Ramkissoon (Grade 4) was awarded a silver certificate for passing her Grade 1 Cecchetti Classical Ballet Exam with Merit. Well done, girls!

Mrs Britz hosted the Grade 4 Parents' iPad Information Evening.

Our Grade 6s held their Cake Sale which the SP supported. The money raised will be for Outreach initiatives.

Well done to Oyama Baqwa (Grade 4) for participating in and completing the Midmar Mile. We are so proud of you!

Well done to Aarya Maharaj (Grade 4) for passing her Trinity Piano Initial Examination.

Our Grade 4s enjoy working on their water colour blending techniques.

Senior Phase

Sugar Bay is always a full-filled and exciting excursion for our Grade 7s.

Grade 4 girls attended and participated in the Educate and Fascinate show on Saving Our Planet.

Love abounds and flourishes every day at DGC, especially on Valentine's Day.

High School

Exciting New Grade 10 Subject for Ocean Lovers

By Zaara Francis (Grade 10)

Calling all Grade 10 learners! Want to learn more about the ocean? Help preserve the planet for future generations? Become a Marine Biologist? If you ticked any of those boxes, Marine Sciences is the subject for you!

It is a trans-disciplinary (made up of many interconnected content branches) subject which teaches you how the ocean works, how it influences your life and vice versa, and how to pave the way to a sustainable future for it. Not only is all of this enjoyable and interesting, it also gives you a treasure chest of general knowledge and skills that benefit you in other subjects, such as Physics.

Marine Sciences consists of four key areas:

1. **Oceanography** explores the sea floor and sediments, coastlines and their evolution, how pollution affects ocean life, the waves, tides, and currents, the properties of seawater, and how the ocean controls our climate. Its goal is for you to build connections between all of these and understand how humans affect them.
2. **Marine Biology** takes a dive into evolutionary processes, marine biodiversity, and how organisms adapt to their environment. This all aims to give you an awareness of the complex relationships that impact the ocean.
3. **Ecology** teaches you about intriguing ecosystems such as rocky shores, kelp forests, and sandy beaches, as well as ecological concepts like food chains and nutrient cycles. This strand explains ocean ecosystems and the impact of human activity on them.
4. **Humans and the Ocean** investigates marine careers, Marine Protected Areas, renewable and non-renewable resources, and how humans affect the ocean. It teaches you how you can help to manage the ocean's resources sustainably.

Taking Mathematics and Physics at school is required if you would like to study Marine Sciences at a tertiary level (i.e. at university).

If there are any eager Grade 10 learners reading this – good news; you can still take Marine Sciences this year!

To apply, email education@aquariumfoundation.org.za

Opportunity comes and goes like shells washing up on the shore. My advice? Grab a priceless gem before the tide snatches it away.

"At the beginning of this year, I enrolled in an extra, external subject - Marine Sciences. Currently, it's a subject done completely online, but the teachers are hoping to arrange practicals at uShaka in the future. It's also a relatively new subject - it's been registered for just one or two years."

– Zaara Francis

High School

The First Aid Committee consists of girls of all ages and grades who come together in their shared love of helping others. It is a multifaceted committee that aims to improve the lives of College Girls on two levels: on the surface, the committee supervises sports games and are on-hand to provide assistance if need be, and on a deeper level as it aims to educate the school community on their health and wellness.

This February, the First Aid and Art committees joined forces and undertook the task of creating both educational and creative posters under the theme of "The Heart". These posters can be seen around the school and will be changed each month to match the general theme for that month.

In 2022, after two years of relative inactivity, the First Aid Committee is ready and excited to jump right back into work! This year, the committee is aiming to hold Level 1 and Level 2 training courses, as well as participate more actively in all areas of school life.

We are all looking forward to an amazing year!

Firdows Vally and Tazkia Abram (First Aid Heads 2022)

On Saturday, 5 February 2022, College was literary swinging with the beat. The Senior High School Marimba Bands were having a blast rehearsing for the upcoming concerts and competitions.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in SA, The President's Award for Youth Empowerment, is an internationally recognised programme which exists to equip youth to succeed in life and work. It offers young people (aged 14-24) the opportunity to develop their character, discover their purpose and determine their future to contribute to building a better South Africa for all. Congratulations to the following girls for their achievements:
Clea Turner – Silver
Hannah Loots – Bronze & Silver
Sarah Sparks – Silver
Madison Grobbelaar – Silver
Leah Parry – Bronze

Our Grade 10 Consumers Studies class prepared Argentinian food under the guidance of their Argentinian exchange sisters. During this lesson, they cooked delicious empanadas.

Meet Our Staff

Karen Lee Pitamber

Primary School HOD: Operations and SP Mathematics Teacher

It has been an incredible start to 2022, being part of the College family. I have enjoyed every moment that I have been here, and the staff, students and parents have been so welcoming.

I strongly believe that there is no limitation to personal development and what a person can achieve in life. I currently have five degrees that encompass the fields of education and psychology, with my most recent being a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology. And yes, the next stop is a PhD!

I have spent considerable time during my teaching career in upscaling my skills in the areas of science and technology. I am deeply passionate about education and being a teacher. But, above all else, what I value the most about what I do is helping children and I personally strive to ensure that learning is relevant and engaging to each child in the classroom. It is imperative that every child is nurtured to be an agent of social change in our fast-paced world.

My faith is central to who I am as a person and plays an important role in my outlook on life, which is always to help others and essentially do good and be kind to all.

When I don't have my teaching cap on, I love spending time with my family and friends. My other hobbies include reading, hiking, photography, and astronomy.

I look forward to my journey at DGC and meeting everyone.

From Our Chaplain

Michelle Edgcumbe

Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Be good friends who love deeply, and take delight in honouring each other. Romans 12:9,10 (MSG)

Last week, we anticipated Valentine's Day in our various school assemblies by looking briefly at Romans 12:9. I love what Ellie Holcomb has to say in her Devotional 'Fighting Words', referring to this paraphrase of this particular passage:

These are all mantras I want to live into, and I'm so grateful for the way Jesus lived this out in front of us. At your centre, you are dearly loved and held, even through your worst moments, so we can love from a place that is fully accepted. What would that look like?! What would it look like if we operated from a place where we knew that we already belonged, we didn't have to hustle for our worth? I want to live like that… nothing to prove and all the love to give away. God, help me love from the centre, and thank You for being a safe place for me to fall apart and be held together.

Results

INTERNATIONAL MATHS AND SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The International Maths and Science Olympiad was hosted virtually by Indonesia in December 2021. Congratulations to the following girls for their outstanding achievements:

- **Lydia Pearson** (Grade 7) received a bronze medal in the Maths team.
- **Shreya Subramoney** (Grade 8) received a bronze medal in the Science team.

EQUESTRIAN

Sienna Setzkorn (Grade 8) competed in the first SANESA core qualifier of the year at Shongweni this past weekend. She placed as follows:

- 90cm Equitation – 2nd place
- 90cm Working Hunter – 2nd place
- Open Working Riding – 1st place
- Open Performance Riding – 1st place

Well done, Sienna!

Isobella Baitz (Grade 9) represented DGC in the first SANESA qualifying event at Shongweni and placed as follows:

- 1m Working Hunter – 1st place
- 1m Competition Show Jumping – 1st place

Well done, Isobella!

DEBATING

Our Senior Debating Team, consisting of **Sarah Sparks**, **Kathleen Jarvis** and **Zora Merkofer**, beat Danville Park Girls' High. Congratulations to the Senior Team and their coach, Ms Thembz Shange.

In debating, the adjudicators determine a winning side and then select a 'Best Speaker Award' for the debate.

Traditionally, 'Third Speaker' is always the most difficult role because it is not possible to prepare in advance as it is a summary of the teams' argument and a rebuttal of what the opposition has argued in the debate. It requires excellent listening and critical thinking skills. Well done to **Zora Merkofer** – the adjudicator said that she was the best Third Speaker he had heard in 12 years!

MUSIC RESULTS

Yan Ni Li (Grade 11) passed her Grade 5 ABRSM Music Theory with Distinction.

Calendar

Monday 21 February 2022 – Sunday 6 March 2022

Monday 21	**Day 6** *SAHISA Conference: Port Elizabeth* PS: 08h00: Assembly: Centenary Hall WS: 16h00-18h00: Champs Gala
Tuesday 22	**Day 7** *SAHISA Conference: Port Elizabeth* HS: 10h00: Island Time/Grade Period HS: 17h30-19h00: Grade 8 Meet & Greet Girls & Parents HS: Tennis 1st Team vs Crawford LL (home) HS: Tennis 2nd Team vs Hillcrest (away) HS: Tennis 3rd Team vs St Mary's Kloof D (away)
Wednesday 23	**Day 8** *SAHISA Conference: Port Elizabeth* PA: 07h00-09h00: Second-Hand Uniform Pop-Up Shop: Shop Venue SP: Friendly Gala: DGC PS: 13h00-17h00: Kids Lit Quiz: Centenary Hall HS: 15h00-16h30: Independent Schools Gala: Maris Stella

Calendar

Monday 21 February 2022 – Sunday 6 March 2022

Thursday 24	**Day 9** *SAHISA Conference: Port Elizabeth* HS: 10h00: Assembly PS: 08h00-10h00: Grade 2 Interactive Day with Clifton PS: 09h00: Departing from College - Kusa Kusa School Shoes Drop Off HS: 1st Team Water Polo Tour Departs: St Peter's College HS: U15 Lonehill Water Polo Tour Departs: Lonehill HS: A-Team Indoor Hockey Matches
Friday 25	**Day 10** ***HALF-TERM BREAK*** *SAHISA Conference: Port Elizabeth* HS: 1st Team Water Polo Tour Away: St Peter's College HS: U15 Lonehill Water Polo Tour Away: Lonehill
Saturday 26	HS: 1st Team Water Polo Tour Away: St Peter's College HS: U15 Lonehill Water Polo Tour Away: Lonehill
Sunday 27	HS: 1st Team Water Polo Tour Return HS: U15 Lonehill Water Polo Tour Return
Monday 28	**Day 1** ***HALF-TERM BREAK***
Tuesday 1	**Day 2** HS: 10h00: Island Time/Grade Period HS: Tennis 1st Team vs Curro (home) HS: Tennis 2nd Team vs Westville (away) HS: Tennis 3rd Team vs Reddam Umhlanga (away)
Wednesday 2	**Day 3** *Ash Wednesday & Start of Lent* HS: 08h00: Grade 8 Depart for Spirit of Adventure HS: Friendly Gala: DGC
Thursday 3	**Day 4** PS: Grade RB to Return Love Language Books SP: 08h00-14h00: Staff Project-Based Learning Workshop: Classrooms HS: Grade 8 Away: Spirit of Adventure HS: 10h00: Assembly HS: A-Team Indoor Hockey Matches HS: 17h30: DGC High School Open Evening: Centenary Hall

Calendar

Monday 21 February 2022 – Sunday 6 March 2022

Friday 4	**Day 5** JP: 08h00: Assembly: PS Hall SP: 08h00-13h00: Staff Project-Based Learning Workshop: Classrooms SP: 09h30: Assembly: PS Hall HS: Grade 8 Return from Spirit of Adventure HS: 13h00-17h00: Action Netball Matches (U14A&B, U16A, 1st & 2nd) HS: 14h00-17h00: Physical Science Portfolio Practical PS: 13h30-16h30: SP Choir (Grade 4-7) Workshop: SP Drama Room/Music Hall HS: U15 & U19 eThekwini Tennis Trials
Saturday 5	HS: B&C Team Indoor Hockey Matches PS: 09h00-12h00: Grade 4-7 Choir Workshop: SP Drama Room/Music Hall HS: U15 & U19 eThekwini Tennis Trials
Sunday 6	

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”

- Margaret Mead

MySchool

Thank you to the Staff and Parents for swiping their MySchool card and making a difference.

We look forward to raising more funds together in 2022.