College Chatter

Issue #185

NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA

DURBAN GIRLS' COLLEGE

From the Helm

In remembrance of Vikash Raghunandan (Rags)

If there was ever a way to personify the feelings of warmth, joy, and wholesomeness as a human being, the name Rags comes to mind. Now imagine all those feelings in one beautiful and unique package. Mr Rags was that very gift. Even though one must face the bitterness of mortality and the emotions associated with it, there is no doubt that Mr Rags' legacy and laughter will forever remain in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him. The very physical spaces at DGC will forever echo with his distinctive, merry laughter which had this amazing property of drawing people to him like moths to a flame. One knew that his light would provide warmth and guidance wherever he was, no matter what personal matters he was going through at the time.

His role as a teacher was to be a nurturer, a paternal figure to those who needed one, a guide, a role model, a comedian (who laughed at his own jokes harder than anyone else). One of his past pupils commented that 'Mr Rags physically taught me for one year, but he remained my teacher for life. Only someone who was not from this world could dislike Mr Rags'. This stands testament to his whole-hearted passion for teaching young humans.

A typical day with Mr Rags at DGC involved some subtle, but wonderful experiences. With each day, he brought not only knowledge and wisdom, but also an infectious enthusiasm that breathed life into every room. Debating about Maths problems, often turned into a hilarious discussion about something completely irrelevant to the situation. Any occasion with Rags, was turned into a wholesome and memorable experience: Matric dances as part of the bouncer squad, Friday afternoon socials to catch up on some much-needed banter, table tennis games, or balcony hangouts to embrace the ending of a long week. Every experience was cherished.

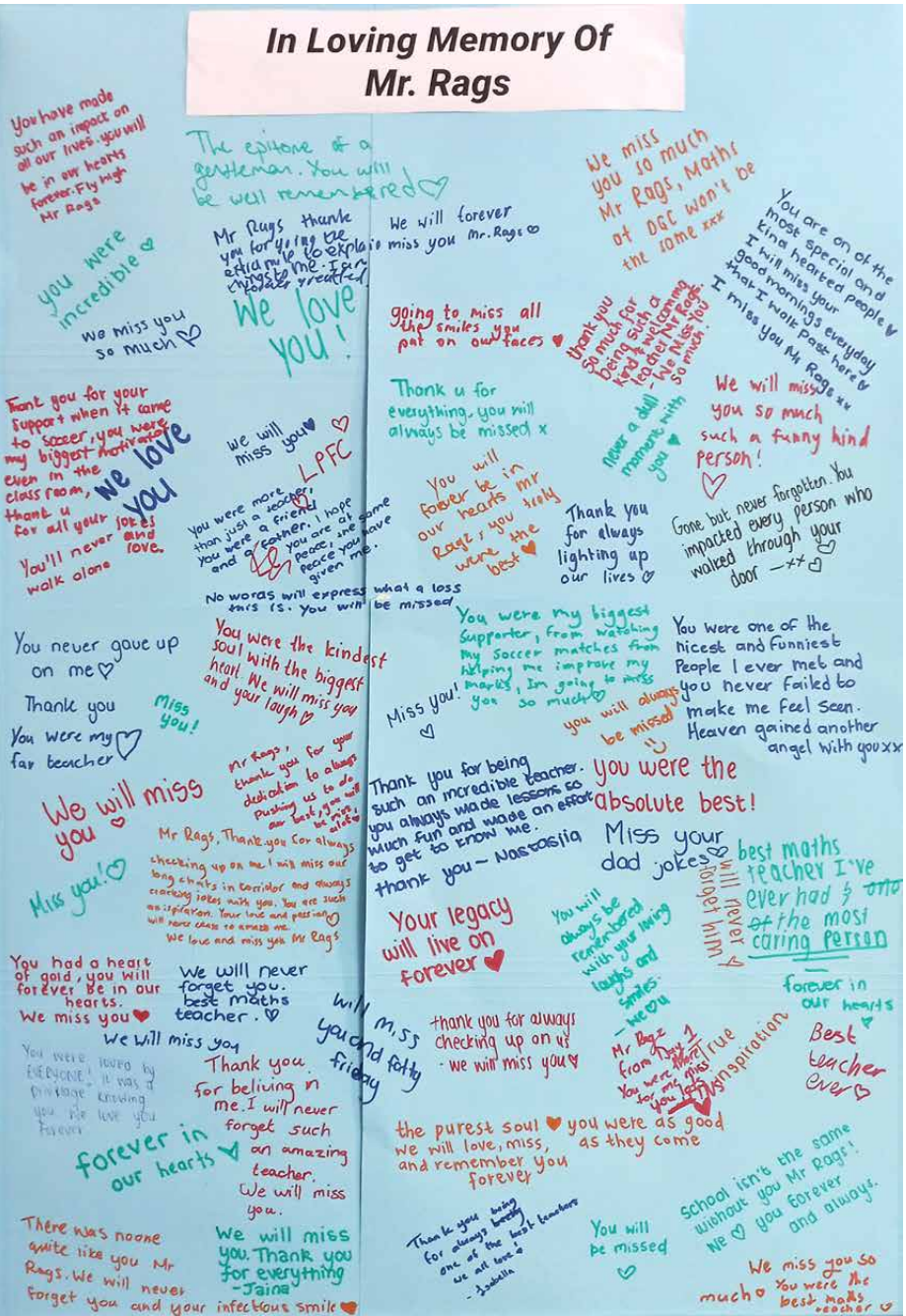
When meeting Rags' immediate family, you end up feeling like you are already intimately connected with them (Prenisha, Kivash and Suvaan). His devotion, pride and unwavering love for his family was made evident every single day through his interactions with his students, his colleagues, and his Maths family. His paternal instincts and nurturing demeanour extended from his immediate family to everyone that he held dear, and he made sure that the joys he found in being a husband and a father were expressed to everyone. His family was his sacred sanctuary, his everything. For Rags, the concept of family was not just those bound by blood, but those bound by love; kindred spirits who stood by one another through the trials of life, lending strength in times of weakness and joy in times of celebration.

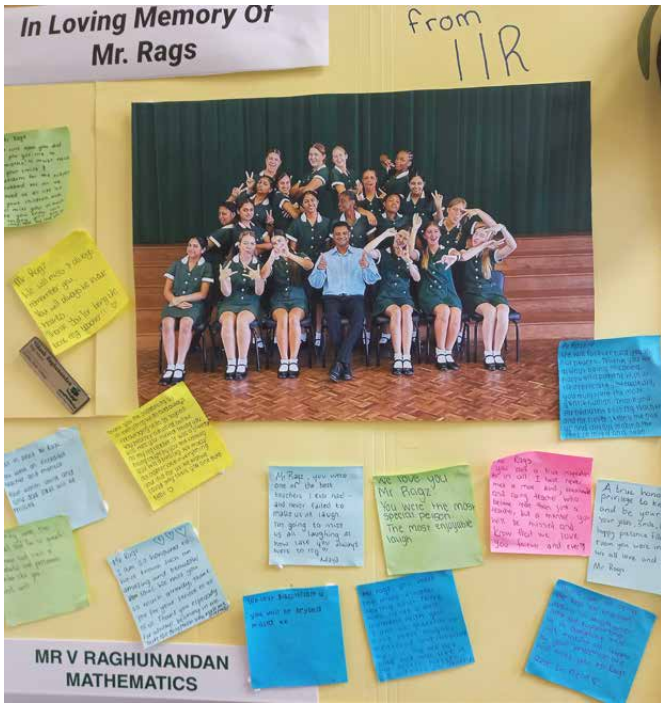
Although Rags has left this earthly realm, his spirit lives on in the laughter from shared memories, in the fine gentleman that his sons are growing up to be, in the heart of his beloved wife, and all those who were captured by his loving embrace. You will forever be etched into the tapestry of our lives, and a constant reminder of the beauty that lies in kindness, laughter, and love.

Rags, your memory reminds us that anything in life is bearable with love. Your Maths family at DGC will sorely miss your presence and warmth. Forever in our hearts.

Love Jean, Dorinda, Yasmin, Tiffany and Phumeza

Mr Rags. Forever Remembered.





Junior Primary

Our Junior Primary girls were delighted to start school on Tuesday 9 April. We were welcomed by many big smiles and happy faces.

Senior Primary

Grade 4 girls loved designing and creating their own natural animal habitats.

High School

A wonderful movie night was held at the end of Term 1. It was a magical atmosphere watching the movie under the stars on the field. Thanks to Clifton for supporting this social event.

From Our Chaplain

Michelle Edgcumbe

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.
Psalm 46:1-3

This has been a difficult week for the DGC community. In the wake of the shock of losing our beloved Mr Rags, comes the grief that his absence pushes into our daily walks down the corridor. The world is a place that contains such beauty and wonder, but also such brokenness. These close and painful reminders of the fragility of life are nonetheless reminders of the reasons why God stepped into humanity in the person of Jesus. He didn't do so in order to be a popular figure, but to deal with the brokenness that we cannot solve. The hope that this provides means that we travel the valleys knowing that the Shepherd walked through them first. We hold onto him knowing that because of the resurrection, he has conquered our most powerful enemies. In the present, we struggle with the fears and sadness's that come along, but we 'grieve with hope' because this is not where it ends. This is what God offers us. Let's turn to him in faith for refuge, and of course, in gratitude for giving us the wonderful gift of time spent with Mr Rags over many years.

Results

DEBATING

- The senior motion was This House Would prioritise a country's financial resources on education. The senior team was supposed to debate against Overport, however Overport forfeited so we won automatically, and did not need to debate.
- The junior motion was This House Opposes the rise of ChatGPT in South African schools. Both DGC junior teams were in opposition (opposing the motion). The DGC junior team 1 debated and won against DGHS 1 and Junior team 2 debated and won against DGHS 2.

ACTION NETBALL

- **U11A:** lost 5-9 to Ashton
- **U11B:** lost 2-13 to Northlands
- **U12B:** drew 5-5 with Maris Stella
- **U12A:** lost 3-14 to Westville
  lost 3-17 to Virginia Prep
- **U12B:** won 10-8 against Crawford La Lucia
- **U13A:** lost 8-22 to Ashton
- **U14A:** won 10-12 against Maris Stella
  won 41-6 against Curro Salt Rock
- **U14B:** won 16-7 against Fatima
  won 14-12 against Reddam Umhlanga
- **U15A:** won 33-7 against Maris Stella
  won 39-4 against Crawford
- **U15B:** won 32-2 against Reddam Umhlanga
  won 20-6 against Curro Salt Rock Salt
- **U16A:** won 16-15 against Fatima
- **U16B:** lost 13-20 to Inanda
  lost 21-22 to Crawford La Lucia
- **2nd Team:**
  lost 20-25 to Reddam Umhlanga 1st team
  won 20-19 against Inanda
- **1st Team:** lost 18-23 to Fatima
  won 20-7 against Maris Stella

TENNIS

- **2nd Team:** won 17 games to 15 against Fatima

OUTDOOR HOCKEY

- **1st Team:** won 2-1 against Thomas More
  won 5-0 against Fatima
  won 1-0 against Maris Stella
- **U16A:** won 3-0 against Ashton
- **U16B:** lost 5-2 to Maris Stella A
  won 7-0 against St Henry's
  won 1-0 against Westville
  won 6-0 against Crawford La Lucia
- **U14A won:** 7-0 against Maris Stella

St Mary's Waverley Tournament

- **1st Team:**
  Won against St Anne's 2-1
  Won against TWC 2-0
  Drew to Paarl Girls High 2-2
  Won against St Mary's Pretoria 9-0
  Won against Windhoek 5-0
  Won against Menlopark 2-0
  Lost to St Mary's Waverly 1-0
  Won against Bloemhof 2-0
  Drew to Affies 0-0
  Won against Eunice 4-0
  Placing 1st overall

Fairtree Tournament

- **U16:**
  Lost to Bloemhof 0-1
  Drew to HS Punt 0-0
  Won against Hermanus 1-0
  Lost to Pearson 0-2
  Drew to Paarl Girls' High 0-0
  Won against Springfield 1-0
  Won against Hugenote 3-0
  Drew to Fairmont 0-0
  Lost to Affies 0-1
  Lost to Collegiate 0-2

Roedean Tournament

- **U14:**
  Won against St Dunstans 10-0
  Won against Helpmekaar 1-0
  Won against Eunice 2-1
  Won against Linden 2-0
  Won against St Mary's DSG 6-0
  Won against Eldoraigne 4-0
  Won against Pretoria Girls High 9-0
  Won against Roedean II 9-0
  Won against Northcliff 7-0
  Won against Eunice 4-2
  Placing 1st overall

Results

NETBALL

St Andrew's Tournament

- **1st Team:**
  Won against Collegiate 13-11
  Won against Assumption 17-14
  Drew to St Andrew's 21-21
  Won against Southdown 27-5
  Won against St Mary's PTA 26-8
  Won against St Doms 20-18
  Won against Uplands 32-3
  Won against St Stithians 22-13
  Won against Edenvale 23-21
  Lost to Redhill 18-23
  Lost to Reddam 10-25
  Lost to Holy Rosary 12-22
  Won against Krugersdorp 23-14
  Placing 4th overall

Epworth Tournament

- **2nd Team:**
  Lost to PMB Girls 9-11
  Won against Grace College 13-10
  Lost to Maris Stella 10-27
  Lost to Ashton 9-36
  Lost to Epworth 1 10-32
  Lost to St Mary's Waverley 7-33
  Won against Fatima 17-16

St Mary's Kloof Tournament

- **U16:**
  Won against Curro 18-11
  Won against St Mary's 13-3
  Won against Epworth 18-4
  Won against Fatima 12-11
  Lost to Danville 15-18
  Won against Hillcrest 16-2
  Lost to Ashton 11-21
  Won against DGHS 18-4
  Won against PMB Girls 21-5
  Won against Maris Stella 17-5
  Won against St Mary's 14-5
  Lost to Ashton 10-14
  Won against Curro 23-13
  Placing 3rd overall

Roedean Festival

- **U14:**
  Won against Roedean B 12-2
  Lost to St Anne's 2-4
  Won against St Dominics 11-4
  Won against St Mary's DSG 13-5
  Lost to St Marys Waverley 6-14
  Won against Assumption 14-5
  Won against Kings School 16-5
  Lost to St Stithians 10-14
  Lost to St Peters 8-12
  Lost to Redhill 11-13
  Won against Roedean A 8-2
  Won against St Teresas 12-7
  Draw to Herschel 10-10
  Won against Kingsmead 16-2
  Won against Pretoria Girls 12-8
  Lost to Brainwashers 10-15
  Won against St Andrews 8-6
  Lost to Fatima 11-20
  Won against Crawford 11-2

Results

Sarah Soosiwala

Oyama Baqwa

Leah Parry

ACADEMICS

Well done to Sarah Soosiwala (Grade 7). Sarah achieved the highest Maths mark in the country for the 2023 IEB International Benchmark Maths tests. We are very proud of you, Sarah.

ACTION NETBALL

Ané Van Jaaarsveld (Grade 6) recently took part in the Action Netball IPT. The U12A KZN team played in the gold finals against Western Gauteng and came 2nd winning a Silver medal. Keep up the hard work Ané.

ATHLETICS

Leah Parry (Grade 12) successfully represented KZN at the Athletics SA National Champs held in Pretoria recently. Leah walked a new personal best time in the 10km race walk, sub 60 minutes at altitude which is a great achievement for her! Leah has earned KZN Colours for Athletics which will be awarded to her in the near future.

TABLE TENNIS

Mahi Gokal (Grade 5) played in the Gauteng North National Open Table Tennis Tournament in Pretoria recently. Mahi won the Girls under 11 tournament, taking the Gold Medal!

In the under 13 tournament Mahi played exceptionally well to beat seeded players on her path to win the third place, Bronze Medal!

Mahi reached the Quarter finals, with her partner, in the Girls under 19 Open Junior Doubles competition.

SWIMMING

Oyama Baqwa (Grade 6) qualified and competed in the SA Level 3 National Championships in Bloemfontein recently.

Her top results are as follows:

- 50x4, 200m Mixed Medley Relay, 1st
- 400m Freestyle, 3rd
- 200m Freestyle, 4th

Mahi Gokal

Ané Van Jaaarsveld

Calendar

Monday 15 April - Sunday 28 April 2024

Monday 15	**Day 6** HS: Grade 9 away uHambo PS: 07h35-08h05: Chapel: Centenary Hall SP: 09h00-10h00: Grade 4 History Tour of College HS: 09h35-10h05: SRC Student Engagement: Centenary Hall
Tuesday 16	**Day 7** HS: Grade 9 away uHambo HS: 07h35-08h05: Awards Assembly: Centenary Hall SP: 08h30: Grade 7 departs for excursion: Sugar Bay SP: 14h00-17h00: Netball vs Penzance
Wednesday 17	**Day 8** HS: Grade 9 away uHambo SP: Grade 7 away: Sugar Bay HS: 17h30-20h00: Grade 11 Toastmasters: Miller Grove Building HS: 18h00-17h45: Clifton History Quiz: Ken McKenzie Hall, Clifton HS: 1st Team Squash vs Westville Girls High: WGHS HS: 2nd Team Squash vs Westville Girls High: DGC HS: Cross Country League: Virginia United Football Club
Thursday 18	**Day 9** HS: Grade 9 away uHambo SP: Grade 7 away: Sugar Bay WS: 07h15h-07h45: DGC Moms' Who Pray: College House JP: 14h00-15h30: Grades 2 & 3 Mini Netball Festival HS: 15h00-17h30: Netball vs Ashton: Ashton HS: 17h00-18h30: Glenwood Prep Marketing event
Friday 19	**Day 10** HS: Grade 9 away uHambo JP: 08h05-08h35: Assembly: PS Hall JP: 08h30-10h30: Grades 00 & R Clifton Interactive Day: DGC SP: 09h35-10h00: Assembly: PS Hall SP: 12h00: Grade 7 return from Sugar Bay HS: 13h00-17h00: U14 KZN Netball Trials: Hoy Park SP: 14h00-16h00: Netball U10A & U11A: Fatima SP: 14h00-16h00: U12A & U13 KZN Netball Trials HS: 13h00 -16h00 Grade 12 History Alternate Task HS: HS St Marys Netball Derby: St Marys Kloof
Saturday 20	HS: Grade 9 away uHambo HS: 08h00-17h00: U15-U18 KZN Netball Trials: Hoy Park SP: 08h00-13h00: Netball U12A Fatima Tournament: Lady of Fatima HS: HS St Mary's Hockey Derby: St Marys Kloof
Sunday 21	HS: Grade 9 away uHambo
Monday 22	**Day 1** HS: Grade 9 away uHambo JP: 07h35-08h05: Singing Practice: Primary School Hall SP: 07h35-08h05: Singing Practice: Lecture Theatre

Calendar

Monday 15 April - Sunday 28 April 2024

Tuesday 23	**Day 2** HS: Grade 9 away uHambo WS: 07h35-08h05: Assembly: Centenary Hall SP: 14h00-16h00: Netball vs Chelsea
Wednesday 24	**Day 3** HS: Grade 9 away uHambo PS: 07h30-08h05: Mentors Picnic: Main Field SP: 14h00-16h00: Netball vs Virginia WS: 17h30-18h30: DGC PA Meeting: Trust House Boardroom HS: 17h30-19h30: Toastmasters: Grade 11 Graduation: Miller Grove
Thursday 25	**Day 4** HS: Grade 9 away uHambo WS: 07h15h-07h45: DGC Moms' Who Pray: College House JP: 14h00-15h30: Grades 2 & 3 Netball Mini Festival HS: 15h00-17h00: Netball vs Kuswag
Friday 26	**Day 5** PS: 07h30-08h30: Muffin Morning: 'Building Relationships': Lecture Theatre JP: 08h05-08h35: Assembly: PS Hall SP: 09h35-10h00: I-Care Assembly: PS Hall HS: 11h30: Grade 9 return from uHambo HS: 15h00-17h00: 1st & U16 Durban Central Netball Tournament PS: 16h00-18h00: U12 & U13 Durban Central School Champs: Glenwood Prep School
Saturday 27	**FREEDOM DAY** SP: 10h30-14h00: Choir & Orchestra: Music in the Mountains Concert: Drakensberg Boys Choir School
Sunday 28	