



# ST NICHOLAS DIOCESAN SCHOOL

34 Jabu Ndlovu Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201. Tel: 033-345-1566

**OUR VALUES: Faith, Respect, Compassion, Integrity, Humility,  
Passion, Wisdom, Truth, Discipline and Courage**

*Newsletter 6: 17 March 2016*

## From the Principal

Dear Parents Guardians and Learners

Our value for this week is "Truth" and I would like to make a few comments on some truths that we all know but that some seem to forget very easily. Our first set of reports will be going out to parents at the end of term and I'm sure there will be many smiles but also many excuses for the results achieved. We all know that good results come from hard work, dedication and concentration in the classroom. All of these cannot be done by someone else for you; you have to do them yourself.

Some learners will say that certain people are naturally gifted and don't have to work very hard to get good marks and no matter how hard they study they still get poor marks. Dr. Carol Dweck of Stanford University has identified two types of people: Those with a fixed mind-set and those with a growth mind-set. The fixed mind-set believes that intelligence (the brain) is fixed and not changing. But, it is a mind-set that HINDERS brain growth AND the growth of one's intelligence. A person with a fixed mind-set avoids challenges.

A person with a growth mind-set, on the other hand, sees difficult tasks as OPPORTUNITIES for growth. They believe that with effort, they can LEARN. And when they struggle to learn and grasp the problem, their brain ACTUALLY grows - it grows new neurons and new connections between them (synapses). Obviously that is what we want to strive for in our children

For example, if you say, "I'm not a math person" then that belief acts as an easy excuse to avoid practicing math. The fixed mind-set prevents you from failing in the short-run, but in the long-run it hinders your ability to learn, grow, and develop new skills. Meanwhile, someone with a growth mind-set would be willing to try math problems even if they failed at first. They see failure and setbacks as an indication that they should continue developing their skills rather than a signal that indicates, "This is something I'm not good at."

The lesson from the above example is that we need to encourage our children to take chances and allow them to make mistakes. Praise them for hard work and dedication rather than natural ability. In doing this we will start to create learners who are able to be creative problem solvers and active students.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all in the St Nicholas community a very merry Easter. It is a time when we remember the incredible resurrection of our saviour Jesus Christ. It is a time to remember that no matter how difficult our current circumstances are, there is always salvation because of the sacrifice of Christ. Let us be thankful over the Easter Period and come back from the Holiday's refreshed and ready to work.

Yours sincerely

Leon Grové

## From the Headmaster: Junior School

Dear Parents, Guardians and Learners

I would like to begin by wishing you and your families a blessed Easter break with your children. The children and staff deserve a well-earned break after this first term which seemed to have flown by. I would also like to thank all learners, parents and staff for their support over the past term. St Nicholas is a truly special community which I am privileged to lead as Headmaster of the Junior School.

It is with much pleasure that we can reflect on an exceptional start to the year. It is always so encouraging to see how young boys and girls engage themselves in the academic, sporting and cultural life of the school and the steady and meaningful progress that is made in these areas. During this time, we have also emphasised the importance of some of our Values: FAITH, INTEGRITY, RESPECT and TRUTH. Credit must go to those learners who have embraced these values and, in so doing, made the school environment a far more comfortable one for all concerned.

The support shown by our St Nicholas community was very evident during last Friday's Big Walk Fundraiser. An amount of approximately R25 000-00 was raised. I extend my gratitude to all parents, learners and staff for supporting this event. It was reported to me that an amazing day of fun was had by all. The money raised from this event will be used to pay for the lighting of our indoor centre.

Your children will be coming home on Friday (tomorrow) with a school report. This creates an ideal opportunity for you and your child to engage in a discussion regarding his/her academics at school. Of concern to me is the lack of reading taking place at home and the poor skills displayed by most children when it comes to basic bonds and tables. I will be inserting a "tables" and a "read a book a day" sheet to your child's report envelope. Please encourage them to read a book a day during the holidays and to learn their "time tables" every day. The reading will assist greatly in developing their vocabulary skills and the "tables" will grow their confidence in Mathematics.

We have had a very busy term on the basketball courts and the swimming pool. All our basketball teams played with real passion and commitment and the children and staff should be commended for all their efforts.

We have had some fantastic victories, some close losses and one or two heavy defeats. All these results have a lesson which the children learn from – that is the beauty of sport. Our swimmers have participated in a few galas. Swimming has never been a strong sport at St Nicholas. However, it is a life skill and I am excited to see more and more children participating in swimming at the school.

The Chess league commences next term and matches will be played on Monday afternoons. Chess is a fantastic sport which exercises the brain rather than being physical. Please encourage your children to play chess next term as an extra activity.

During this first term, we continued to embrace our Christian ethos at St Nicholas. We started the year off with a Eucharist at St Georges Church on 22 January 2016. We also held our ASH Wednesday service on 10 February 2016. On Wednesday we had a mini Easter Assembly. Our line ups in the mornings begin with a daily prayer and our staff have a weekly devotion on Thursday mornings. During this term, we also met The Right Reverend Dino Gabriel – the new Bishop of Natal. Bishop Dino led Mr Grové's and my induction service on 5 February 2016.

Our Junior School Marimba Band continues to grow in popularity. There is a growing demand for them to play at functions in and around Pietermaritzburg. Our senior choir is preparing well for the Annual Cordwalles Choir Evening which takes place next term.

Mrs Calder will be leaving our St Nicholas community on Friday after spending seven years with us. I would like to thank Mrs Calder for her dedication and commitment to our school and learners during this time. On behalf of all the learners and staff at St Nicholas, I wish Mrs Calder well at her new school and in all her future endeavours.

I trust that you will spend some quality time with your children during this Easter break. One cannot underestimate the value of quality time between a parent a child. Talk with one another, play with one another, exercise with one another, read with one another, learn with one another and most importantly, grow with one another.

Take care during this holiday and be safe.

Kamal Rugbar



## ECO CLUB:

*Well done to Mrs R Townsend and the Eco Club who conducted a fantastic assembly this week. Their presentation on Water Conservation Awareness was well organised & delivered.*

Learners don't forget that from next term, every Thursday will be Recycle Day. Let's help save the environment.

Our Grade 5 Learners made us very proud at the Cowan House Fun Maths Evening this week. Congratulations to Mpumelelo Dube and his partner who were placed first.



## RESULTS:



**Well Done to all our swimmers that participated in the recently held galas. We are extremely proud of you. You have shown great passion and enthusiasm. Keep it up!!!**



**commitment.**

*Congratulations to all our basketball teams that played last week. Great effort was shown. Keep up your good spirit and*



Thank you to all our learners, parents and staff for the funds that were raised during our Big Walk Fundraiser. Great Fun was had by all and we have raised enough funds to light up our Indoor Centre

Follow us on Twitter:



*Well done to all our blood donors. Your act of bravery and kindness will make a difference. Thank you to everyone that participated and offered assistance.*

*To those that were unsuccessful donors due to low iron levels, we salute you for your bravery and great attempt.*



Celebrate the  
resurrection of  
our Lord!

*Happy*  
EASTER



Hoping this Easter holiday  
brings  
health,  
happiness  
and lots of love !

**FAITH**

**INTEGRITY**

**RESPECT**

**PASSION**

**DISCIPLINE**

**HUMILITY**

**COMPASSION**

**WISDOM**

**COURAGE**

**AND TRUTH**