

Dear St. Nicholas Mums, Dads and Staff,



I hope this message finds you and your families well. It gives me great pleasure to share with you the outstanding achievements of our boys and girls this past week - both on and off the field. Our children have again shown the spirit, dedication and talent that make our school community proud.

On the netball courts and soccer fields, our teams played with heart, skill and teamwork achieving commendable results and showing incredible sportsmanship against Etham. The chess team continue to work hard and is making significant progress. We look forward to our match-up with Riverwood this afternoon. Our girls and boys participated in the TWC cross-country meeting held at the scenic World's View. Our children ran with pride and all participants completed the tough course, bettering their personal times. Our Grade 1 & 2 boys play in a soccer festival at Epworth on Tuesday and are very excited to play with their teammates and show their ball skills. Thank you to all our sports coaches and staff who assist and coach our children daily.

Adding to this wonderful week, our marimba band shone brightly at the Manic Marimba Festival at Ashton College on Saturday. Not only did they captivate audiences with their rhythm and energy, but they also brought home two category prizes, affirming their dedication, excellence, and hard work. What a joyous sound they make—not just with music but with unity and spirit! We are very grateful to Mr. Jumah, our music teacher extraordinaire and Ms. Hyland (our music intern) who work tirelessly to help our children prepare for these festivals.

As part of our commitment to providing a holistic and balanced education, Friday afternoon saw an inspiring and vibrant event that celebrated creativity, sustainability and confidence. Our girls took to the stage in a recycling fashion show, wearing stunning outfits made entirely from recycled materials. With great flair, imagination and a great sense of fun, they modelled their way across our indoor centre, showcasing designs that were nothing short of superb. It was a wonderful example of how learning goes beyond the classroom - teaching innovation, environmental awareness and self-expression in a joyful and empowering way. Thank you to our mums, dads and staff for assisting our girls to prepare their magnificent outfits. Thank you to Mr Thulo for his time and effort in preparing the girls and organising this event.

These achievements are not just celebrations of victory and recognition - they are affirmations of the well-rounded education we offer at St. Nicholas. We believe in developing the whole child: academically, physically, emotionally, artistically, and socially. The lessons our girls and boys learn on the sports field, during choir and marimba practices, on the chessboard or while creating fashion from recycled materials cannot be taught from a textbook or in a classroom. They are life lessons in resilience, creativity, teamwork, humility and perseverance.

Research consistently shows that children who actively participate in sport and the co-curricular programme perform better academically and are more confident, responsible and well-rounded individuals. These activities complement classroom learning and contribute meaningfully to character development. Here are some of the key benefits of participating in sport and the co-curricular programme: (from the internet)

- Improved academic performance through better concentration, time management and motivation
- Enhanced physical health and mental well-being
- Development of social skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership
- Building resilience and learning to cope with failure and success
- Increased self-confidence and a sense of belonging

- Improved discipline and responsibility
- Discovery of passions and talents outside the classroom
- Fostering a healthy competitive spirit and goal setting
- Greater engagement with school life and community

As we head into the second half of the term, let us continue to encourage our children to step onto the field, stage, ramp, classrooms and into the world with courage and joy. These experiences will shape them into the remarkable adults we know they are becoming.

Join Us for Our Annual Open Day – This Saturday, 24 May!

We are delighted to invite you to our much-anticipated Annual Open Day taking place this Saturday, 24 May on our beautiful school campus. Our girls, boys and teachers are hard at work preparing for what promises to be a truly special morning - one where we proudly showcase the talents, skills and achievements of our children. Our theme "Learn, Grow and Flourish" will shine through every display and performance, reflecting the heart of what we do at St. Nicholas. The balanced and holistic education (referred to above) we value so deeply will be on full display, and we cannot wait to share it with you. This is a compulsory school day for all children and staff, and we warmly encourage all parents and guardians to attend and be part of this celebration of learning, growth and St. Nicholas community spirit. We look forward to welcoming you as we come together to celebrate our children and our school.

The programme for the day is as follows:

07h20 – All children must be dropped off at school

07h30 – Parents' Educational talk by Mrs Hyland in the school hall.

08h00 – All parents to join their children in their classes for a fun lesson

09h00 – Tea for parents + entertainment by our highly acclaimed marimba band

09h25 – All parents are to be seated in the school hall

09h30 – Class presentations to parents

10h30 – Morning ends (parents and children depart)

10h45 – Staff depart

I look forward to welcoming our parents and guardians to our school campus on Saturday morning.

Kind regards



Kamal Rugbar (Headmaster – Junior School)

Assembly – Miss S. Buchanan

So many of us wear or have seen the bracelets with **WWJD** on them. As youngsters, they were very popular in the past, but did we really stop to think of the significance? Ms Buchanan's assembly revisited the topic of Stop - And - Think, and added the concept of **What Would Jesus Do** before I act. In a very rushed and impulsive world, we find it so hard to stop long enough to really validate our actions and choices. However, as we all know this is a vital life skill which we as adults must teach our children to ensure they grow and flourish to succeed in a happy future.



teach



Kindness Badge Winners



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday, 19 May	Chess at Riverwood U13A & U13B Boys Soccer vs. Merchiston (A)
Tuesday, 20 May	Grade 1 & 2 Boys Soccer at Epworth U9A, U10A & U11A Boys Soccer vs. Merchiston (A)
Friday, 23 May	Cross-country at Athlone Primary School
Friday, 24 May	Open Day – compulsory school day for all learners and staff



Stunning outfits crafted from RECYCLED materials!



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Our Marimba Champions!



CROSS



COUNTRY