

Dear St. Nicholas Mums, Dads and Staff,



What a wonderful first week back it has been! The children and teachers have quickly settled into their classroom and co-curricular routines and I am truly grateful for the positive spirit that fills our corridors once again. There is a renewed sense of energy, purpose and joy that reminds me why St. Nicholas is such a special place.

This week, our focus is on The Arts – a vital and vibrant part of how our children *learn, grow and flourish* at St. Nicholas. Tomorrow evening, we host our Annual Music and Art Evening, a celebration of creativity, colour, dance and movement. It is always one of the highlights on our school calendar and we hope that all our parents will join us as we showcase the incredible talent and passion of our young artists and performers.

Our children continue to make us exceptionally proud in the arts. Earlier this year, our Marimba Band excelled at the Annual Marimba Competition held at Ashton College in Ballito, earning two third-place awards in their categories. Our St. Nicholas Marimba Band has become a very sought-after band in the Midlands and is frequently invited to perform at events in and around Pietermaritzburg.

Equally inspiring are our talented choirs, who perform with great distinction each year at the Cordwalles Choir Evening and at our very own Gospel Evening. They also play a central role in all our school functions, filling our halls with their beautiful voices. Our children are naturally gifted when it comes to marimbas, singing and dancing. They perform with such heart and joy that it is impossible not to feel uplifted. I love Friday mornings because it is hymn practice. Those beautiful voices make me feel so uplifted and joyful.

Our children also love art, and Visual Art is an important part of our curriculum. They love expressing themselves through colour, shape and texture and every opportunity is used for them to be creative. When you attend our Music and Art Evening, you will see their creativity proudly displayed - their artwork in classrooms and along our corridors is both beautiful and bursting with life and colour.

Engagement in the arts helps our children *learn, grow and flourish* in meaningful ways. Here are five key benefits of music and art in our school (from the internet):

1. Creativity and Self-Expression: The arts allow children to express themselves freely and confidently, fostering imagination and innovation.
2. Emotional Development: Music and art help children process emotions, build empathy, and develop resilience through reflection and expression.
3. Improved Academic Skills: Research shows that participation in the arts enhances memory, concentration, and problem-solving – skills that benefit all areas of learning.
4. Confidence and Collaboration: Performing and creating together encourages teamwork, courage, and a sense of belonging.
5. Cultural Appreciation: The arts connect children to different cultures, traditions, and perspectives, nurturing understanding and respect.

We look forward to seeing our families tomorrow evening as we celebrate the creative heartbeat of our school, our children, who continue to *learn, grow and flourish* in every way.

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

Pablo Picasso

Kamal Rugbar (Headmaster)

Mrs Hyland led assembly today and the topic was about learning, growing and flourishing with the help and by helping others. When we focus our time and energy on working with other people to ensure that all humans can get the best out of life, we all benefit.

Philippians 2 : 2 - 4

- ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Use your gifts or talents that God has given you to serve others.

Place the needs of others above your own.

See others through God's eyes.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday, 13 October	Squash vs. Epworth (A)
Tuesday, 14 October	Music & Art Evening at school at 17h30
	Grade 1 Orientation morning
Wednesday, 15 October	U13A/B/C/D Girls basketball vs TWC (H)
Monday, 20 October	Squash vs. St. Charles (A)
Tuesday, 21 October	U10 & u11 Boys Basketball vs. Bisley
	Swimming Gala at TWC
	Grade 1 Parents Information Evening



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

16h00 – Food Collection for FP Children

16h30 – Food Collection for IP Children

17h30 – Viewing of Art

17h50 – All Parents seated in the Hall

18h30 – Vote of thanks and closure (Front office doors close at 18h45 – safety reasons)

****Parking available on Jabu Ndlovu and Burger Street – Car guards in attendance****

****Children must be fetched by 18h40 – children left behind will be left at security gate****