



MICHAELHOUSE
Old Boys' Club

10 December 2013

NEWSLETTER

It is with great pleasure that I write my end of year Newsletter as President of the Old Boys' Club.

Without doubt my most rewarding privilege has been attending the many branch Old Boy functions that tend to take place in the latter part of each year. All were "sell outs" in their own capacities which is evidence of the efficient and enthusiastic branch networks as well as the strong "sense of belonging" that prevails amongst OM's.

Last week I also attended the 2013 A Block leaver's ceremonies. These ceremonies are a most meaningful event for boys and parents, an event that brings closure to the young men's time as school boys. The leavers are formally welcomed as members of the Old Boys' Club and after being presented their ties, they walk down Warriors Walk with their peers. We trust that these 113 young men become proud, effective and supportive Old Boys of our school!

It is hard to believe that another successful year has passed by in the history of our school. On behalf of all Old Boys I would like to congratulate our new Rector, Greg Theron, on a successful first year of office. Greg is acutely aware of the importance of Old Boys, the role we play and has been extremely supportive of our Club.

I am sure you would like to share in some of the schools success in the latter part of this year:

- The school play this year was Phantom of the Opera. It was quite possibly one of the finest productions that has ever graced a school stage.
- Gianluca Truda won the National Schools Debating Championship.
- Aidan Quin won the Light Heavyweight Title of the South African Boxing Championship!
- Mat Saulez was selected for the South African Schools Golf side.
- The squash team remain KZN Champs with Luke Stevens and Kenyon Smith both selected for SA Schools.
- The 1st XI Cricket enjoyed a phenomenal 4th quarter finishing 2nd in an unofficial SA Schools ranking system. 8 boys were selected to represent the KZN Midlands U17 or U19 sides and Greg Oldfield was again selected to represent SA U19.
- The Michaelhouse Nature Reserve was finally proclaimed and gazetted in the Government Gazette. An educational facility is busy being constructed with completion expected in 2014.
- The school remains in huge demand with a record number of kids starting in 2014.

It would be remiss of me not to comment on some recent Old Boys' achievements:

We had as many as 8 Old Boys on show this Currie Cup Season. They were:

- Pat Lambie- Sharks.
- Patric Cilliers, Michael Rhodes and Patrick Howard – Western Province.
- Guy Cronje, Ross Cronje, Robert de Bruin and Ruan Combrink – Lions.

Our Guest Speaker at Speech Day this year was Andrew Zaloumis ('76 - '80). He provided us with insight into the challenges of operating the IsiMangaliso St Lucia Wetland Park as well as educating and challenging the boys on environmental issues.

It is pleasing to note that the Head and Deputy Prefect for 2014 are both sons of Old Boys! Robert Lee (Anton Lee '83 - '86) and Cameron Chaplin (Anthony Chaplin '73 - '76) are to be congratulated. We are busy investigating this rare feat as it may be the first time in the school's history that this has been achieved.

The Old Boys' Club is busy with or has bedded down a number of exciting projects in the past month.

EdAdmin – This is the schools new software programme of which the Old Boys data is very much part of. The respective branch chairman's have been sent their data bases to update. Thereafter we should be able to communicate far more effectively and efficiently with all of you.

Digitisation – The digitisation capture and scanning process is complete with 11,500 items scanned and captured. We are in the process of conducting a final sort after which these will be made available online.

Living Museum – A comprehensive strategy document, under the guidance of Richard Waller, is close to finalisation. We hope to obtain schools management approval early in the New Year, thereafter this most exciting project will become a reality. As part of this process we were blessed to be able to professionally interview 2 ageing Michaelhouse icons this past month, namely Rex Pennington and Roy Gathorne. The results are quite spectacular and should be made available on You Tube in the New Year.

Please all diarise Old Boys' Day next year as Saturday 7th June 2014. The sporting fixture is against our longstanding rivals College. The following Gaudies will take place on Friday 6th June namely 1964/1974/1984/1989/1994 and 2004. Those that are eligible are encouraged to please contact Michelle Huntley (michun@michaelhouse.org) alternatively you should be hearing from the respective champions early next year.

Lastly it leaves me, along with Fred Pitout – Secretary, Michelle Huntley – PA and Robyn Grujters – Archivist, to wish you and your entire families a Blessed Festive Season and a Prosperous 2014.

Warm Regards,

JOHN CHESHIRE
PRESIDENT OLD BOYS' CLUB