



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

Please click on the headings below to navigate around the eNews.

Rector's Message.....	1
School Prefect Induction Chapel Service: Alan Smedley, Chaplain .....	2
Congratulations and Individual Achievements.....	3
Weekend @ Michaelhouse.....	4
MySchool Card.....	5
Anglican church honours Don MacRobert - Michaelhouse Old Boy.....	5
Thought for the day.....	6

## Rector's Message

It was a great pleasure over the past weekend to see the boys in the pool and on the basketball courts as well as out on the fields in the sunshine as various training sessions and matches took place. Whilst we still cannot play any inter-school matches, we can play internally and, in cricket, this gave the staff the opportunity to play the boys at various levels, including a 20/20 match against the First XI. The staff team looked strong and the boys were concerned about recording a loss, but muscle memory was not as good as expected amongst the older cricketers and the boys were able to win reasonably comfortably.

These sorts of occasions highlight something wonderful about Michaelhouse and similar schools. This relates to the spirit in which such occasions take place. Prior to such a match, there is plenty of banter between the teams, then a determined effort by both and, afterwards, a friendly acceptance (usually by the staff) of an almost inevitable defeat. Underlying all of this is the fact that boys and staff are at play together in a respectful and semi-competitive way, appreciating and even delighting in the talents of the other. Such occasions demonstrate that Michaelhouse is a school where staff and boys work in confluence with each other, principally so that the boys can flourish and the staff take special pride in that. This may seem an obvious statement, but that special ambience does not exist in every school. There are many situations such as on fly fishing trips, on the C Block Journey, on canoeing outings and elsewhere where the friendly inter-change between staff and boys that takes place enriches the lives of both. It is a phenomenon that should never be taken for granted, even though the ethos of schools such as Michaelhouse is partially defined by relationships of this nature.

I want to mention this week, too, the impeccable manners of our paddlers who have been fortunate to have been able to compete in national events. They have been very successful and news of their particular success this week is recorded below. At last week's event, their polite interaction with officials was very much appreciated. Later in the week, one of those officials sat before me as a prospective parent here at Michaelhouse partly because of the courtesy and engaging manner of our boys. Well done to our paddlers; you have made us proud for many reasons!



## School Prefect Induction Chapel Service: Alan Smedley, Chaplain

Last Sunday on a slightly damp, misty Balgowan evening we held our 2021 School Prefect Induction Chapel Service in the outdoor amphitheatre. It was the first time that we have been able to have a “live” chapel service since March! The whole school and academic staff were present, appropriately socially distanced. The 10 new Heads of Houses, and the Senior Prefect, for 2021 affirmed their commitment to their new roles by responding positively to the Rector’s questions regarding their responsibilities. They then came forward one by one, signed the School Prefects’ pledge in front of the gathering, and then were congratulated by him.

This was followed by a music item from our Music Department and then the Rector addressed us. He gave a wonderful talk about leadership drawing on the examples of various historical figures. He then spoke about the supreme leader, Jesus Christ, and referred to the Biblical account of him washing his disciples’ feet. As a gesture and to exemplify how important servant leadership is, the Rector then called forward three of the new School Prefects, asked them to sit in front of him, take off their shoes and socks, and he then knelt down and washed their feet. It was a very powerful and moving visual aid.

This important service in the school’s annual calendar was then concluded with some prayers.



The Rector, Antony Clark, with Senior Prefect, Kwande Dhlomo (Right) and Second Prefect, Jason Makhele (left).



## **Congratulations and Individual Achievements**

### *Canoeing*

This past weekend our canoeists paddled at the Dam2Dam which takes place over two days on the Umgeni River, where they paddle from Albert Falls Dam to Nagle Dam. On Saturday, Day 1, the following results were recorded: U18 K2 – 1<sup>st</sup> **Jack Edmonds** and **Matthew Millward** and 1<sup>st</sup> overall, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Ross Leslie** and **Chase Leisegang**.

On Sunday, Day 2, the following results were recorded: U18 K2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> **Ross Leslie** and **Chase Leisegang**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Jack Edmonds** and **Matthew Millward**, 4<sup>th</sup> **Sam Butcher** and **Jack Shooter** and 10<sup>th</sup> **Robert Butcher** and **Huntley Earle**.

U18 K1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> **Murray Behn**

U16 K1 – 10<sup>th</sup> **Chase Leisegang**

Congratulations to **Jack Edmonds** and **Chase Leisegang** who will be the Captain and Vice-Captain of Canoeing respectively for 2021.

### *Basketball*

The basketball teams had their annual dinner (restricted of course) and the following boys received awards:

Captain's Award for the Most Improved Player: **Richard Esipisu**

Witherspoon Trophy for Defensive Player of the Year: **Simi Femi-Kayode** and **Banele Sithole**

Most Valuable Player: **JC Oelofse**

### *Cricket*

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI played the Staff A team and won by 8 wickets with a first wicket partnership of 89 between **Jared Meiring** and **Callum Porrill** (51). The U14A played the Staff B team and also won.

### *Cultural*

Thursday evening was the perfect evening for a street theatre style performance outside the Chapel under the starry sky. Our Dramatic Arts boys joined the Music and Art Departments to collaborate in the first concert held since lockdown – the Michaelhouse Kickback Concert. **Alexander Bergin** and **Mohale Mogale** paired up as a comic duo to delight us with their humorous scene about colonisation in South Africa which was adapted from *Black Mamba*. Using their quick wit and clever comic timing they entertained us in this piece. **Senzo Zola Sokhela** and **Xhanti Gqweta** performed their energetic scene from *Woza Albert*. The dynamic duo also had the audience clapping to their singing in their engaging finale, whilst the Music Department displayed enormous talent with the following boys on their chosen



instruments: **Peter Woodland** (Trumpet), **Xihluke Marhule** (Voice), **Letlolo Sekatle** (Voice), **Tomas Szudrawski** (Piano), **Alex Brits** (Voice), **Maqhawe Hoohlo** (Cello), **Ggamile Mbuyazi** (Trumpet), **Kofi Asumaning** (Saxophone), **Sean Ramsay** (Voice), **Christopher Silk** (French Horn) and **Ben Cheales** (Piano).

## Weekend @ Michaelhouse

Covid related challenges provided the ideal opportunity for the Admissions and Marketing Team to reimagine the traditional Weekend @ Michaelhouse format. For many generations of Michaelhouse boys the opportunity to enjoy their first taste of boarding in Balgowan in late March of their Grade 7 year had become an important first step in their senior school journey. Reinvented in 2013 as Weekend @ Michaelhouse, what had previously been known as Orientation Weekend underwent something of an invigorating facelift.

The current zeitgeist of uncertainty had curtailed everything from the March 2020 event to the potential of being able to host full open day and open weekend events on campus to cater for our 2022 E Block intake. Making the sweetest lemonade of the circumstances, the call was made to replace the standalone events with a series of smaller, more focused open day and weekend events.

Weekend @ Michaelhouse 1.0, the first of three, saw 71 boys from 23 schools in three provinces braving scorching conditions for their first real taste of the opportunities which are available at Michaelhouse. Boys tested their intellect, innovation, and teamwork while getting to know the campus and our facilities during the Field of Dreams Challenge ahead of being embraced by the school in a high intensity war cry session!

Sunday morning marked the first gathering of any kind since March in our Chapel during a short but meaningful introduction to the spiritual life of our school. Following a breakfast of champions in the historic Memorial Hall, the intense heat did little to cool enthusiasm as the boys hurtled headlong into a full programme of activities on Sunday.

Seventy one sweaty, exhausted but exhilarated boys, brimming with war stories, fell into their parents' cars as the mist and cooler weather rolled into the valley.

Weekend @ Michaelhouse 2.0 – which is already fully subscribed – takes place over the last weekend of this month, with the third and final instalment taking place at the end of February 2021.



## MySchool Card

Amy Webster, from our Community Partnership Trust, would like to thank the Michaelhouse community for their continued support of the MySchool campaign, by making every swipe count. Over R50 000 has been invested in the Community Partnership Trust through the use of MySchool Card across the country this year. If you have not yet signed up, please join today. For no extra effort on your part, it makes an enormous difference to those we are supporting. More information can be found on <https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/>.

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## Anglican church honours Don MacRobert – Michaelhouse Old Boy

Some wonderful news has recently reached us in connection with an Old Boy, Don MacRobert, who has had bestowed on him by the Synod of Bishops the Order of Simon of Cyrene. This is the highest award bestowed by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa on Laity for distinguished service. Membership of the Order is limited to 120 people and it is named after Simon of Cyrene, the first African Saint, Cyrene having been located in modern day Libya.

Don MacRobert was Chairman of many organisations, such as the National Orchestra, the South African Ballet Company and the National Zoo and sat on the Boards of several companies quoted on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. His award, however, relates to his other activities such as caring for the poor in Soweto over many years where he supported Dr Nthato Motlana and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, serving at St Alban's College which initiated Outreach Programmes for students from black schools, serving as Chancellor for the Diocese of Pretoria and, more recently, assisting the Archbishop of Cape Town in piloting a unique method to feed the poor in squatter camps by the use of cell phones to deliver food to them.



Don MacRobert was an activist who, *inter alia*, represented school pupils charged with treason flowing from the 1976 Soweto uprising and who took steps in 1986 to hide 20 pupils from the security police which enabled them to write their matric examinations successfully.

Michaelhouse wishes to congratulate Don MacRobert on the immense honour bestowed upon him.



Don MacRobert with his wife,  
Marianne MacRobert

## Thought for the day

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” (Aristotle)

With my best wishes

**ANTHONY CLARK**  
RECTOR