



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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

Rector's Message .....	1
Sports & Cultural Achievements .....	2
Michaelhouse Community Partnership: Partners for Possibility .....	6
Holiday Ahead.....	8

## Rector's Message

Top of my mind at present is the fact that Sibongakonke Buthelezi has been transferred to the Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg where he remains in a very serious condition. We prayed in Chapel on Sunday evening for God to watch over him and to heal him at a very moving Easter Service led by our Chaplain, Reverend Chris Meyer. Chris Meyer also spoke convincingly of the death of Jesus, how the cross was 'empty' on Good Friday and, subsequently, the tomb was empty two days later. It was a tomb guarded by Roman soldiers with a substantial rock in front of it. The tomb was empty on the Sunday morning. Chris posed a question as to whether conversations around the empty tomb were created by an enormous "conspiracy theory"; but he then refuted this by saying that it is most unlikely that the disciples had not been truthful because all of them, bar one, were cruelly put to death for their beliefs and how unlikely it would have been that they would have endured this degree of suffering had they not believed in the resurrection. The empty tomb and the notion of a person who was human and then spiritual still perplexes and mystifies many of us.

As we come to the end of this term, we reflect on the many wonderful opportunities which the boys have had and the spirit which they have shown in their activities. There have certainly been disappointments in that we have not been able to participate in most matches and activities against other schools to the extent that we would have liked, but conversely our boys have had much more freedom to engage in sporting activities than their counterparts in many other countries. Over the past couple of days our winter sports sessions have begun (even though we are still hoping for some summer sport matches) coinciding with the temperature dropping and there has been great excitement and hopefulness of a return to some sort of normality on Meadows, the astroturf and elsewhere.

Moving on to next term, our medical advice is to ask you please to ensure that your son has, at a minimum, a rapid Antigen Test prior to his return to school, again for the obvious purpose of diminishing the risk of Covid to others. (A PCR test would, naturally, be the gold standard, but a rapid Antigen test is now available widely within the country and our request is, once again, that you play your role in helping us in this way). This is particularly important as we want to prevent Michaelhouse from being part of any putative "Third Wave".



Another request is please to ensure that your son's Number 1s- the uniform in which he would have travelled home – are all in order for his return to school. Some boys may have buttons missing, charcoal trousers out of which they have grown and are, thus, too short, shoes which are not polishable school shoes and shirts which are too small around the neck. Again, I would ask you kindly, as parents, to attend to these matters and also to ensure that your son has a school-compliant haircut prior to his return as there will be a school-wide inspection in the first week of next term which I am sure you would like him to pass.

When House Prefects were appointed in November, we indicated that other boys could be made up to prefectship by the end of the first quarter should they continue to demonstrate the qualities pertaining to this office. I must emphasise that these are House appointments; the following boys have been congratulated in their Houses on their promotion: **Simon Williams** (Founders); **Cameron McLean-Banks** (Pascoe), **Oyama Ntshona** (Mackenzie); **Joshua Banfield** (Baines). Well done to them.

## Sports & Cultural Achievements

### *Canoeing*

The Dusi Canoe Marathon is an epic annual three-day, 128km adventure race through the rugged Valley of a Thousand Hills, from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. Here is a brief overview of the boys' performance:

#### **Day 1**

The top Michaelhouse paddlers did well with an ideal water level and overcast conditions which made for good racing. **Jack Edmonds** led the charge to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> with **Murray Behn** 7<sup>th</sup> in the U18 category. The U16 category was hotly contested with **Rob Butcher** in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, only 40 seconds ahead of **Dom Furby**.

#### **Day 2**

Day 2 is definitely the toughest day for most paddlers but, for those who have done the training, this is the day when it pays off. Conditions were hot and **Jack Edmonds** managed to make 5½ minutes on the U18 age category leader. Jack had the eleventh fastest time of the day, an incredible achievement. **Chase Leisegang** also had an excellent day and caught up 39 places to finish 63<sup>rd</sup> overall and 18<sup>th</sup> in the U23 category. **Murray Behn** and **Jack Shooter** were both placed comfortably in the top 10 of the U18 category. In the U16 category, **Dom Furby** caught up with **Rob Butcher** to claim 2<sup>nd</sup> place before the last stage.

#### **Day 3**

The cool, clear, clean water released from Inanda Dam on Day 3 is something most paddlers look forward to and there was a generous release from the water bailiff. The Michaelhouse paddlers had a



very good final day. Six U18 and two U16 boys claimed positions in the Top 200 overall. Their results are as follows:

- **Jack Edmonds** 16<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> U18
- **Chase Leisegang** 66<sup>th</sup> overall and 18<sup>th</sup> U23
- **Murray Behn** 67<sup>th</sup> overall and 5<sup>th</sup> U18
- **Jack Shooter** 80<sup>th</sup> overall and 7<sup>th</sup> U18
- **Matthew Millward** and his dad 96<sup>th</sup> overall
- **Dom Furby** 140<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> U16
- **Huntley Earle** 162<sup>nd</sup> overall and 21<sup>st</sup> U18
- **Rob Butcher** 195<sup>th</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> U16

In total, 18 Michaelhouse boys took part in the 70<sup>th</sup> Dusi Canoe Marathon and everyone completed the race. Well done to the boys on their resilience and courage, and our thanks go to staff members, Gerhard Erasmus and Paul Snyman, for assisting the boys as they did.



## *Squash*

The Bloemfontein Squash Open was held this last weekend, 18 – 22 March. This tournament is one of the biggest tournaments in the country. It is a compulsory tournament for SA selection and, as such, all the top players in the country participate. It is considered one of the most popular and important



tournaments in the SA Schools calendar and is the first major tournament of the year. Well done to these boys who were placed:

U14 – 9th **Justin Higginson**

U19 – 18th **Richard Upfold** and 19th **Kameran Jinnah**

### *Waterpolo*

The First Team were lucky enough to be able to tour to Grahamstown to participate in the St Andrew's Shield Waterpolo Tournament, accompanied by coach Matt Stringer and assistant coach Nathan Holm. The tour was hosted as an U19 club tournament which exposed the First Team to the very best teams from around the country. The boys were placed a credible 9th overall after playing a total of 8 games, winning 4 and losing 4. A highlight of the tournament was a narrow loss to Rondebosch Waterpolo Club, 6-7, who eventually went on to achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the tournament. The boys must be congratulated on taking their waterpolo to the next level and flying the Michaelhouse flag high.



### *Debating*

The PMB Debating League held the second round of Grade 8 and Junior debates on Thursday 18 March via the online platform, Discord.

The Junior Debate motion was *This House believes that Climate Change should be prioritised by News and Media outlets*



Michaelhouse 1 vs. Maritzburg Christian School 1 debate was postponed while Michaelhouse 2 narrowly lost their debate to Hilton 2.

The Grade 8 motion was *This House believes that South Africa's Lockdown has done more Harm than Good*.

Michaelhouse 1 opposed the motion and lost the debate to Maritzburg Christian School 2, and Michaelhouse 2 proposed the motion and won the debate against The Wykeham Collegiate 1; **Daniel French** was awarded his first Best Speaker accolade in this debate.

- *World Speech Day*

Towards the end of 2020, **Jadin Jordaan** entered a social justice writing competition run by the South African Schools' Debating Board and the Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender (CSA&G) at the University of Pretoria. His poem was chosen for publication and, although he is still in the process of the final editing, he was contacted and asked to record a reading of his poem for a selection of speeches that were broadcast on World Speech Day, 15 March 2021. We are very proud of his accomplishments.

Here is the link of his recording.

<https://youtu.be/gblsaBqh2HI>

- *WIDPSC 2021*

The World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship will be hosted online by South Korea this year. WIDPSC is a unique, and very challenging, global opportunity (see more information at <https://www.widpsc.org/>). Top schools, from over 25 countries, compete at the highest level. Each competitor had to compete in all four categories. The two prepared and recorded categories (Interpretive Reading and Persuasive Speaking/After-Dinner Speaking) and the non-prepared events (Impromptu Speaking and Debating) took place live online (synchronously) in groups involving participants from different countries.

Michaelhouse has four boys representing us on the international stage:

- **Jadin Jordaan** (A Block), Pascoe
- **Kwande Dhlomo** (A Block), West
- **Reuben Baldry** (B Block), West
- **Ross Keep** (A Block), Pascoe



The bulk of this competition will take place over this holiday period. Asynchronous events will be judged from recordings and the scheduled synchronous events will take place over 21-22 April.

### *Toastmasters*

The **matric Toastmasters** met on Friday 19 March for their first meeting of the year under the chairmanship of **Simon le Vieux** who was ably supported by **Sello Stone-Mboweni** (vice) and **Matthew Marx** (secretary), and the results are as follows:

Best Prepared - a tie between **Jason Makhele** and **Simon le Vieux**

Best Impromptu - **Kwande Dhlomo**

Best Evaluator - **Sello Stone-Mboweni**

The new B Block members have been selected and will join the society officially at their first meeting early next term. There will be three meetings in the 2nd quarter to make up for having missed one this term.

### *Choir*

Congratulations to **Jesse Breytenbach** for being appointed the Deputy Head Chorister of the KZN Midlands Youth Choir for 2021.



### **Michaelhouse Community Partnership: Partners for Possibility**

We are extremely excited to announce that PfP (Partners for Possibility) intends to launch its third leadership circle in the KZN Midlands! Over the past 2 years the Michaelhouse community has generously shared its expertise, along with CSI (Corporate Social Investment) and private funds, in



their deep commitment to our broader community. At least nine past and present parents, Michaelhouse boys and staff have said YES to this leadership journey and got into the “messiness” of being contributors to equality in education.

This is a leadership development programme that enhances our consciousness of supporting each other in this richly diverse nation, establishing how we energise and equip principals as well as, most importantly, mobilising a community to create spaces of belonging. Are you looking at investing in education and leadership in our country? Do you have time to volunteer and are you willing to walk a yearlong path with a principal from a neighbouring rural school, whilst being supported by a professional coach and a team of at least 15 other like-minded individuals? Then this is a space we would want to invite you into.

“I wish my mother could see this, an old white man pouring my coffee”, said the young black teacher colleague at my school as I poured a cupful for each of us. I wish I could pour coffee for all the wonderfully dedicated principals and teachers who are true examples of servant leadership and who battle massive odds to educate our young people. PFP has been a journey of learning, reflecting and relationship building. Imagine where we would be if we had started 20 years ago”. (Paul Fleischack, Midlands2 PFP circle.)

“I wish every South African could visit the schools we work with and meet the incredible school principals and teachers who work at these schools. All the school principals and teachers I have met on my PFP journey show such commitment, dedication and humility – in spite of working in unbelievably difficult conditions, conditions that most of us would find difficult to comprehend. My PFP journey has been immensely inspirational, insightful and life-changing. We have received world-class leadership training, become part of a powerful movement of like-minded individuals and met so many incredible South Africans. I would encourage anyone with the time and/or resources who wants a better future for our children to support / join PFP”. Current Michaelhouse parent, Louise Jones.

Below is a link to a corporate PFP video, outlining the journey. In the KZN Midlands, surrounding the centre of educational excellence that Michaelhouse represents, we “country-fy” the programme and would value a conversation with you. **All contributions to PFP are Section 18A deductible and carry significant B-BBEE scorecard ratings.**

Please email [Amy@michaelhouse.org](mailto:Amy@michaelhouse.org) or [karen@symphonia.net](mailto:karen@symphonia.net) for further details on how to get involved. We would love to hear your voice...

To learn more about this initiative, please view: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qn8UXC4QFQ>

# Rector's eNews

24 March 2021

Newsletter 10/2021



MICHAELHOUSE

## Holiday Ahead

I trust that you will have a happy period over the holidays with your sons and enjoy their vigour and spirit, and we look forward to their return in mid-April. May I close by wishing you a blessed Easter.

With my best wishes

**ANTONY CLARK**  
RECTOR