



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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Rector's Message

“Good readers almost always achieve better across the curriculum than those who are not good readers.” Whilst the source of this particular statement is not known, it is, in my experience, invariably true that this is the case. And the question which emanates from it is exactly why we should encourage reading in teenagers. People read, at different stages of their lives, for different reasons, some of which are practical and some of which are for pleasure.

Here are some reasons why people may wish to read:

- You may wish to expand your knowledge on a particular topic; for example, you may wish to find out more about the presidential elections in the United States or about the political situation in any particular country. Essentially this is a practical reason for reading.
- You may wish to follow instructions, for example, as to how to construct a table. This is another practical reason for reading.
- You may wish to develop, through fiction, an understanding of human interaction. In reading you experience other people's thoughts, attitudes and ideas in a way which builds on your understanding of the interaction between people. In doing so you expand your empathy with people.
- You may wish to read for pleasure and enjoyment in a non-threatening environment. This fosters a sense of mental equilibrium; you relax and are transported into another world and this aids your mental health.

Good readers are generally mentally alert to new issues and developments, to human interaction and a range of interests and they learn quickly to apply new thoughts and ideas to situations which they have not yet encountered.



There is relatively little time for reading, regrettably, in the very demanding school term at any school but, during the holidays, boys and girls have a lot of time at their disposal for reading and can benefit hugely from it. Sometimes their interest just needs to be sparked by something which you, as parents, have read yourselves.

Fundraising Project 2021 - Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust (CPT)

Our thanks go to those parents and Old Boys who have begun to assist Simon Williams (A Block, Founders) in his efforts, under a Rector's Leadership Portfolio, to raise an additional R100 000 this year to support the work of our Community Partnership Trust (CPT) in the 16 schools which are supported by Michaelhouse. Since last week's Newsletter we have had 27 families join this project. We are extremely grateful to those families and we want to build further our base of parents, Old Boys and friends who are helping us.

As you will know from last week, we have utilized the **MySchool** card to raise about R60 000 p.a. in the past. Our aim is to increase the number of active supporters through **MySchool** and to continue with our new initiative called **School-Days**. The two initiatives do not compete with one another as the retailers are completely different, but we can raise much more in 2021, for a very good cause.

As a **School-Days** member, you earn 40 ETPs (R40) added to your School-Days account when you renew your car licence with **School-Days**, powered by CarLicence. That means a R40 donation for each licence that is renewed online in this way will go towards the Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust projects.

With CarLicence's easy and convenient service, all you need to do is supply your vehicle's details online from the comfort of your home or office, pay via your chosen electronic payment method, then sit back and wait for your new licence to be delivered directly to you - all this for only R200 (plus the cost of your actual licence disc). Once you've used the service once, you'll also get an annual reminder when your car licence is due for renewal, giving you one less thing to think about. You could set up a free reminder right now!

No queues, no hassle, no remembering, no wasted time! AND you'll be adding to your family's **School-Days** account at the same time.

Where to start

1. Click the [Renew Now](#) button to start the process
2. Log into your School-Days account
3. Not ready to renew? [Remind Me](#)



Please note, School-Days car licence renewal is currently only available in the following regions: Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and Limpopo.

School-Days allows you to raise funds for Michaelhouse CPT through Dis-Chem, Net Florist, SnapnSave, rental cars etc. **School-Days** operates either off an app via your cellphone or through the Dis-Chem Shoppers' card.

The steps to download are as follows:

1. Download the app off your cellular device '**School-Days mobile app**'.
2. Once downloaded, you will need to sign up using your details.
3. After logging in, you will need to select Michaelhouse-Balgowan as your beneficiary.

You may use the app at the specified stores to gain points.

MySchool allows you to help us raise funds through Woolworths, loot.co.za, Engen (walk-in store), Builders, Bidvest (Waltons) and many more. **MySchool** operates on the **MySchool** card or off your cellular device on the **MySchool** app.

The steps to download are as follows:

1. You will have to download the app '**MySchool**' on your phone.
2. After downloading the app, please would you create an online account. (If you already have a physical card, please would you sign in with your card number and password)
3. Once you have created the account, please select Michaelhouse to be your beneficiary. (For those of you with the physical card, please would you either add or change it so that Michaelhouse is your beneficiary)

We would love to invite all the Michaelhouse parents, grandparents, staff and Old Boys to join our initiative and contribute to our programme. As you all know, the need for financial support is greater than ever and will be hugely appreciated with every cent earned distributed to Michaelhouse Community Partnerships ventures.

Simon's target is to raise a further R30 000 – R100 000 to add to the R68 000 we earned last year through the points accumulated by parents, Old Boys and staff. We are fully supportive of this venture and Simon will update you periodically through the Rector's eNews as to our progress. Thank you!



Michaelhouse 125 – Canoeing



Michaelhouse is celebrating a significant milestone this year! As part of these festivities, we plan on having a special Michaelhouse 125th Dusi batch. This promises to be a festive batch with great banter and lots of fun! This gesture is extended to any member of our immediate community, which includes Old Boys, parents (past and present) and any other directly associated family members. If you would like to enter the Dusi in this Michaelhouse 125th batch, please contact Gerhard Erasmus via email (gerera@michaelhouse.org).

Sports & Cultural Achievements

Canoeing

A few of our Michaelhouse canoeists paddled the Ozzie Gladwin, which is a 28km race from Albert Falls dam down the Umgeni River and the results are as follows: U18 – 1st **Matthew Millward** and 10th overall, 4th **Murray Behn** and in the U16 group – 2nd **Dominic Furby**. Well done, once again, to our canoeists.

Athletics

Ruben Visagie ran in a 1500m race in Durban on Saturday. He had to run in the U17 event even though he is only U15. Ruben came 3rd and recorded a new PB of 4min10secs. Congratulations, Ruben.

Debating

The first round of the Grade 8 and Junior Pietermaritzburg Debating League took place on Wednesday, 4 March.

The E Block teams went up against each other in a live debate. The motion was: *This House would reinstate Capital Punishment*, with MHS1: **Roelof Rossouw, Tumi Motsepe, Jonathan Boesak, and Theo Dias** and MHS2: **Daniel French, Thabo Mashego, Jacques le Vieux, Reily Elliot, and David Hepburn**.

As proposers of the motion MHS1 won the debate with **Tumi Motsepe** being awarded the Best Speaker in his first debate. Well done, Tumi.



The Junior team's motion was: *This House would not tax Goods and Services produced by Women.* As opposers of the motion MHS1: **Lucien Baldry, Seth Segal, Damian Watson, and Nathan Strachan** won against St Charles1 with **Lucien Baldry** being awarded Best Speaker.

MHS2: **Muako Maepa, Andrew Woodland, Luke Kaufmann, Carlyle Hawkins, and Ayden McDavid** opposed the motion, and won, against Maritzburg Christian School with **Luke Kaufmann** being awarded Best Speaker.

Quarters Inter-House Ladder Relay

The inaugural Inter-House Quarters Ladder Relay took place on Friday 5 March. The afternoon was a huge success with **Farfield** leading the way in a winning time of 15:16 mins. This equates to just over 03:03 mins/km per runner which is phenomenal. Founders just pipped Tatham to take second place.



The Rector with the winning Farfield team holding the floating trophy

B Block Open Day

The B Block Open Day will take place online this term. Your sons' teachers will be in touch with you to set up online meetings which will take place at a mutually convenient time between Tuesday 16 March and Tuesday 23 March 2021.

If your son would like to change subjects, please note that the deadline for subject changes next term is **Friday 30 April**.



D Block Discussion Series

This year it was not possible to run our D Block camp at the start of term. The camp is designed to help the boys think through the year ahead, consider issues of relevance to their Grade 9 year and think about how they can make their D Block time significant. In particular, there is a focus on how to create and maintain good relationships.

In place of the camp for 2021 the D Block had a series of discussions with their Assistant Housemaster. These took place on Monday mornings and involved some input from a guest speaker followed by about 45 minutes of conversation in House groups regarding the content of the talk.

The first speaker was Derek Redfern, a lawyer based in Pietermaritzburg. Derek's talk was '**Actions Bring Consequences**' and looked at the consequences, legal and otherwise, of poor decisions or poor relationships.

This was followed by a presentation by psychologist, Tim Barry, who spoke to the boys about the teenage brain, how to maintain good mental health and developing their '*preferred self*'. Tim stressed the importance of the teenage years in laying down strong neural pathways that lead to lifelong reflection and empathy.

Finally, for this term Rob Pluke, also a psychologist, examined how to make **meaning at Michaelhouse** and how to make sense of 2020. He introduced the boys to the 5 lessons that we all must learn if we are to make sense of our lives. The discussion that followed considered what each House group could use, lose, and improve from their E Block year.

Over the next three quarters we hope to include some further sessions on relevant topics, including social media and subject choice.

Bus Bookings / School Transport

A reminder that school closes for the end of 1st Term on Friday 26 March and school transport will depart from school at 08h30. Please ensure that all bus bookings for Johannesburg, Pavilion and King Shaka are made **before midday on Monday 22 March.**

For any queries please contact **Mrs Nirvana Naicker**, School Transport Co-ordinator:

Cell: 060 562 3954

Office: (033) 234 1170

E-mail: opsadmin@michaelhouse.org



Term Dates - 2022

LENT QUARTER : Tuesday 18 January – Friday 25 March
(New Boys arrive on Sunday 16 January)

Half-Term : Thursday 17 – Monday 21 February

PENTECOST QUARTER : Tuesday 19 April – Friday 24 June

Half-Term : Thursday 19 – Monday 23 May

MICHAELMAS QUARTER : Monday 18 July – Friday 23 September

Half-Term : Thursday 18 – Monday 22 August

CHRISTMAS QUARTER : Monday 10 October – Friday 02 December

Half-Term : Nil

(The first date of each term reflected above is the day all boys are expected back for Evening Service.)

Please note the following:

- 1 Should there be changes to dates of the State schools we may reassess our dates.
- 2 We await the dates of ISASA Three Term schools i.r.o. half-terms and sports festivals. This may also necessitate appropriate changes to the dates.

Thought for the day

“Do your little bit of good where you are. It is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

(Bishop Desmond Tutu)

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR