



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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## Rector's Message

I wrote recently about **Sibongakonke Buthelezi** preparing to be discharged from hospital; this took a little longer than expected, but some good news is that, after 74 days in hospital, he has been able to return home to convalesce. It has, doubtless, been a harrowing experience for him and his family, but we look forward to his return to East and to Michaelhouse when he is ready to rejoin us.

A number of parents and Old Boys have spontaneously assisted the Buthelezi family in a number of ways and the family is immensely grateful for this at this difficult time for them. This is Michaelhouse "at its very best".



Siyabonga and his team of doctors and nurses bidding farewell – note the blazer!

After my letter to you on Monday, I am resisting saying too much about the **pandemic**, right now, other than to comment that the situation remains fluid with some 18 boys returning from isolation and others having tested positive and having to go into isolation. At this stage, it seems clear that the "third wave" has arrived across South Africa and that we will certainly be asking all boys to be tested prior to their return in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, but I will make further comment on this in later emails.

I am now about halfway through an overview of *The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Teens* and commenting on aspects of these. The fourth Habit relates to *thinking in a win-win fashion*. The essence of this revolves around establishing an integrity in one's association with others: boys in their early teens tend



to jostle with others for being “top dog”, whilst older boys perhaps see that they can co-exist happily with a range of people and respond in a more mature way to “triumphs and disasters” by establishing and investing in relationships, whilst still being competitive with each other.

There is no doubt that people are competitive and that society has created competitive institutions – at school, in sport, at university, in business and in every walk of life we are encouraged to be better than the next person or team or company. The *dux* gets the prize. Whilst competition is generally very healthy because people are challenged to improve and stretch themselves, it becomes unhealthy when individuals feel that they can only gain any respect from others and a feeling of self-worth by winning or being the best. Every single day teenagers world-wide are confronted by social media and other sources which have made them unwittingly, perhaps, compare themselves constantly with others who are more talented, wealthier or better-looking or more intelligent than they are. This has led to a whole generation of teenagers being counselled for depression when the only really valid comparison is for young people to compare themselves against their *own* potential.

We are told that there are four ways of thinking:

1. Win-Lose: a person may like to get his own way without considering others and such a person may become envious of others when something good happens to someone else. This person may well get to the top, but he will be lonely and have few friends. People will be waiting to topple such an individual from his perch.
2. Lose-Win: this is another dangerous attitude; it is not frequent in teenage boys, but entails giving in to the wishes of others and being a doormat.
3. Lose-Lose: sometimes when two win-lose people get together, the outcome is that they both lose. Sometimes, boy-girl relationships which begin as win-win situations deteriorate into lose-lose as each makes derogatory comments about the other in a break-up while their contemporaries look on.
4. Win-Win: you care about yourself; you strive to be the best that you can be, but if you don't win this time round, you congratulate your opposition, knowing that you are setting the example for your opposition to do the same to you when you, inevitably, have your moment of victory.

It is in this last paradigm that we are all encouraged to operate.

## Cultural & Sports News

### *Hockey*

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected for the KZN Inland Hockey Teams:

U18A: **Kamo Rathepe**

U18B: **Jason Williams, Hilton Giles, and Ano Nzimande**

U16A: **James Gilson**

U16B: **Piko Nkompela, John Yeadon and Jason Lawrence** (Non-Travelling Reserve)

U14: **Luke Camerer** (Non-Travelling Reserve)



## *Canoeing*

In the King of the Bay Surfski race, which is an iconic race around Durban harbour and the shipping docks, the following boys competed and were placed: U18 S1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> **Matthew Millward**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Jack Shooter** and U18 S2 – 1<sup>st</sup> **Murray Behn** and **Jack Edmonds**. Well done to all our canoeists!



Canoeing in the Durban Harbour

## *Squash*

This weekend the KZN closed squash tournament was held. This is the principal tournament for KZN selection and congratulations go to the following boys who were selected: U16 – 1<sup>st</sup> **Joshua Hoatson** and 2<sup>nd</sup> **Nathan Hoatson**; U14 – 3<sup>rd</sup> **Justin Higginson** and 7<sup>th</sup> **Nicholas Baker**.



Joshua Hoatson (Left) and Nathan Hoatson (Right)

## *Music*

Congratulations to **Ben Cheales** who passed his Grade 8 Piano Practical Examination with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) with an impressive mark of 81% (Merit). What makes this achievement even more impressive is the fact that Ben was the youngest pianist in South Africa in this session to offer this advanced programme. An achievement like this is



the result of years of commitment. Ben started playing the piano when he was six years old and when he came to Michaelhouse, practising the piano soon became part of his evening routine. Ben is also an organ student working towards his Grade 7 Organ Examination later this year. We commend him on his outstanding results.



Ben Cheales

## Community Partnership

The Community Partnership team has enrolled six additional Eduhelpers in partnership schools. We now have 16 Eduhelpers engaged in the schools. On Monday, 31 May we held an information morning including presentations and collaboration methods led by Bernice Borain, one of our English teachers who also oversees the Michaelhouse interns.

We welcome the new Eduhelpers to the following schools: Asithuthuke Combined School, Crystal Spring Primary School, Jabula Combined School, Lions River Primary School, Nottingham Road Primary School and Sibonokuhle Primary School.



Bernice Borain presenting to the EduHelpers



## Old Boys' News

### *Clinton Panther*

Clinton (Founders, 2009) has been selected as a member of the South African Men's Hockey to compete in the Tokyo Olympics later this year. Clinton is a veteran of the 2012 London Olympics and the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games, as well as the 2014 Gauteng Sportsman of the Year. Well done, Clinton!



Clinton in action

### *Zola Sokhela*

Zola (Farfield, 2020) participated in a National Track Meet in Alabama where 138 colleges competed and won the 1500m and 50 minutes later ran the 800m. Zola took the lead at the end of the straight and held off a strong attack to win in 1m49sec. In addition he volunteered to run in the 4 x 800 relay which involved 2 races and, taking the baton in last place, finished second. This was purely sacrificial as this clearly jeopardized his other events but it speaks volumes as to who he is. We could not be more proud of him!



Zola competing in the National Track Meet for Westmont University



Zola with his many medals.



## Bus Bookings / School Transport

A reminder that school closes for the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Term on Friday 18 June 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 14 June.**

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

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With my best wishes

**ANTONY CLARK**  
RECTOR