



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse
Please click on the headings below to navigate around the eNews.

Rector's Message	1
Distance Parenting Online Course - Mr Tim Jarvis	3
Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements	4
Careers Guidance.....	9
University Applications.....	9
Community Partnership Trust	10
Conclusion	10

Rector's Message

Several parents have asked if they could have an overall view of the Deputy Housemasters and Tutors attached to the various Houses. In each House, the tutor groups from D-B Block are vertical inasmuch as they encompass boys from all of those years.

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Rector's eNews

16 February 2022

Newsletter 5/2022



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Distance Parenting Online Course – Mr Tim Jarvis

Michaelhouse offers an online course for all parents of teenage boys who are new to boarding. The course is run by psychologist **Megan de Beyer** and **Tim Jarvis** (our school counsellor) and consists of three (1 hour) Zoom sessions including a Q&A session. The workshop covers the basics of adolescence as well as the stressors and complications of boarding for you, your family and for your son. It offers information and support while creating space to talk about concerns and challenges. The programme is primarily aimed at parents of E Block boys. Dads, mums, and guardians are all welcome.

A flyer with more information and a booking link has been e-mailed out to all E Block parents. However, if you are a parent of an older new boy and would like to find out more, please e-mail Caryl Balance carbal@michaelhouse.org to request the flyer.

Information about our in person '*Strong Mothers, Strong Sons*' course to be held on campus at the end of term (22 to 24 March), will be sent out shortly.



Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

Debating League

Round 1 of the Junior and Grade 8 Pietermaritzburg Debating League took place last Thursday. Michaelhouse entered four teams into this round and the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our debaters is appreciated and commended.

The Junior teams had a challenging topic – the motion suggested that only teenage actors should be cast in roles involving teenage characters. It was fairly obscure, but our boys came up with some interesting arguments. Unfortunately, due to increasingly frustrating issues with the online platform, Team Michaelhouse 2 did not have a chance to debate, as their opposition were forced to forfeit. The other Junior team, Michaelhouse 1, lost out to Epworth, although by all accounts the debate was tightly contested!

Our Grade 8 teams, competing for the very first time in the league, had an interesting topic to start their careers – “This House believes that home schooling is better than traditional schooling.” This was a particular challenge for the Proposition team, who naturally struggled to find the topic relatable! Both teams can be very proud of their commitment to preparing for the debate, as well as their performances on the day, despite their losses. They had so much to contend with. They had to learn the intricacies of this form of debate and prepare four-minute speeches. They had to anticipate against what criteria the adjudicators might judge their performance, with very little training and no experience. And they had to learn how to debate remotely, via the Discord platform, without being able to see, or sometimes hear, their opposition. They coped very well with the challenge and are fired up for their next opportunity!

Cricket

We had a number of cricket matches over the past week, some of our teams playing mid-week T20 matches against Hilton, Treverton, Howick and Wembley and below there is a summary of matches played:

U14A vs Hilton lost by 7 runs (**Cameron Jones** 41); U14B vs Hilton won by 9 runs (**Matthew Hunter** 3/20); U14C vs Treverton U15A won by 3 wickets and U14D vs Hilton won by 111 runs (**Imani Nkilankila** 50).

U15A vs Hilton lost by 18 runs; U15B vs Hilton lost by 4 wickets and U15C vs Wembley U15A won by 6 wickets.

U16A vs Hilton lost by 4 wickets and U16C vs Howick 2nds lost by 9 wickets.

Our 1st XI vs Hilton lost by 4 runs (**Thomas McCall** 87*, **Murray Baker** 38 and **Joshua Heath** 36*); 2nd XI vs Hilton lost by 9 wickets (**John Yeadon** 38); 3rd XI vs Hilton won by 7 wickets (**Jack Walters** 45*); 4th XI vs Howick 1st won by 8 runs and 5th XI vs Wembley won by 9 wickets (**Caleb Vermaak** 5/7 and 29* and **Noah Bedingham** 30)

Over the weekend some of our games against Glenwood were cancelled due to the N3 being blocked but many games still went ahead, and the results are as follows:

U14A won by 94 runs (**Cameron Jones** 71 and **Samuel Heath** 3/24); U14B won by 91 runs (**Henry Love** 41, **Reece Cole** 39, **Connor Coutts** 4/17 and **Heath Turner** 3/9) and U14C won by 4 wickets.

U15A won by 148 runs (**Keketso Bopape** 103*, **Hayden Hewlett** 83 and **Jean-Luc Rey** 4/14);

U15B won by 3 wickets (**Gregor von Mayer** 40 and **Harry Vickery** 44).

U16A won by 4 wickets (**Murray Hall-Jones** 37 and **Cameron Strudwick** 29*).



1st XI lost by 104 runs (**Michael Thornton** 5/17); 2nd XI won by 7 wickets (**Michael John Pitt** 35), 3rd XI won 8 wickets, 5th XI won by 10 wickets (**Pikolomzi Nkompela** 6/4, and **Grant Leslie** 41*)



Samuel Heath bowling for U14A vs Glenwood

Chad Le Clos Foundation and the 8 Mile

Last Thursday, **Tristan Atkinson** began his swim in the 8 Mile event in the Midmar Dam. His task was to swim 8 Miles over the course of Thursday and Friday and, in doing so, he was able to raise almost R22 000 in sponsorship which he had been working on since August 2021. His foundation of choice was The Chad Le Clos Foundation which is an organization that teaches children how to swim. Altogether, the Foundation has raised almost R250 000 and is beginning its journey into the rural areas of South Africa helping children to learn how to swim.

Tristan's fastest mile was covered in 29min and he achieved 4th place in his age category of 14-30yrs. Well done, Tristan. The Michaelhouse Community is incredibly proud of your achievement and your concern for others.



Tristan with his medal after completing his 8 Mile



Midmar Mile

A large number of E Block and a few D Block water polo players participated in the 2022 Midmar Mile on Sunday. They set off early supported by **Mr Brad McManus** and **Mr Justin McDougall**, Masters-in-Charge of Swimming and Water Polo. After registration, the boys entered the water which was still and the perfect temperature before storming towards the finish line. The U14 team was no match for their coach, **Mr McDougall**, who finished ahead of the boys, ensuring that Monday's training would continue as per normal. Special mention must be made of **Tristan Atkinson** who earlier swam the 8 Mile in addition to the Mile on Sunday. Well done to all boys who participated in this event which drew in excess of 5000 participants in 2022.



The Michaelhouse boys on their way to participate in the Midmar Mile

Water Polo

Last week was a busy one for the Michaelhouse water polo players. This started with friendly matches during Monday training for the U14 and U15 squads against the St Anne's U15A team. The First Team featured next, with a match against Glenwood on Wednesday as part of their final preparations for the Vides Water Polo Tournament in East London. Here, our boys managed a number of victories and conceded one or two narrow defeats before finally playing St Andrew's for 5th and 6th place. Unfortunately, the side went down 5-6, ending 6th at Vides 150th Water Polo Tournament.

On Saturday a large number of teams departed for fixtures versus Glenwood, whilst the U14A and U15A teams headed to Hilton for a few friendly matches due to Glenwood's unavailability. The bus to Glenwood was slow-moving, after the closure of the N3, but we are grateful everyone arrived safely. However, the longer bus trip did not hinder the boys' performances, as they returned with a clean sweep in all the matches played. The U14B and U15B teams, in particular, had an impressive run of results.

The U14A side managed to beat Hilton, whilst the U15A side lost a match which was a lot closer than the scoreboard suggested at the end. Both teams enjoyed their matches against St Anne's First Team, in addition to the extra match time as the season heads towards the business end in terms of tournaments.



46th VIDES U19 WATER POLO TOURNAMENT



2022

11 - 13 February
East London



MICHAELHOUSE



A successful First Team in East London with
Mr Matt Stringer and Mr JP Olivier

Basketball

Our U16A basketball team played in the St. Stithian's College U16 basketball tournament. We played 4 group matches, beating St. David's Marist Inanda (28-22), Pretoria Boys' High (30-29) and St. Andrew's College (21-11) before losing narrowly to Jeppe (22-26). This meant we finished top of our pool. We faced St. Stithian's College U15A in the quarter-final and managed to come out victors (21-16). We lost to the eventual tournament champions, Kearsney College, in the semi-final (21-33) before also losing narrowly to the St. Stithian's College U16A team in the 3rd/4th play-off (15-22). This earned us 4th place out of 21 teams at the tournament, an achievement of which we are very proud. **Maanda Ramabulana** (C Block Mackenzie) was selected for the tournament's All-Stars team after his outstanding performances at the tournament.



The U16A Basketball Team with their coaches: **Mr Bandile Nsele** (left) and **Mr Sifiso Shabangu** (right)



We are pleased to announce that **Matthew deVilliers** (A Block Pascoe) and **Elihle Ngcobo** (B Block Tatham) have been selected for the KZN Like-Minded Schools Basketball Association (LMSBA) U18 team.

Congratulations go to **Maanda Ramabulana**, **Kyle Farndell** and **Zak Aimone** who have been selected for the Inland Basketball Team and will be taking part in the final round of the KZN trials today.

The Inter-House Basketball Champs were held on Saturday and the results are as follows:

<u>Junior</u>		<u>Senior</u>	
4 th	Tatham	4 th	East
3 rd	Pascoe	3 rd	Farfield
2 nd	Founders	2 nd	Ralfe
1 st	McCormick	1 st	Baines

Congratulations to **Baines** who were the overall winners of the Inter-House Trophy

Canoeing

This past weekend the Shongweni Inter-Schools K1 Marathon Race was held; **Jack Shooter** won the event and **Lucien Baldry** was third in the U16 race. Congratulations to both!



The Michaelhouse Canoeing boys at the finish line

Squash

This past week, our squash teams played against Glenwood and Maritzburg College with these results:

vs Glenwood: 1st team won 6 – 0 and 2nd team won 6 – 0

vs Maritzburg College: U15 team lost 2 – 8

We also attended a major Inter-Schools' squash event at St Andrew's in Bloemfontein. We were missing some of our top players who were involved in other games and we achieved the following results:

1st team played 5 and lost 5; 2nd team played 5, won 1, lost 2 and drew 2.



Golf

Our golfers headed out to play against St Charles at Victoria Country Club; our 1st team won 4-0 and our 2nd Team won 3-0.

Tennis

Our Tennis teams played matches against varying opponents in the leagues during the week with the following results:

1st team vs Maritzburg College won 9-3; 2nd team vs Kearsney A lost 3-9; 3rd team vs Wembley A won 11-1; U15A vs St Charles won 10-2; U15B vs Hilton A lost 0-12 and U15C vs Voortrekker A won 12-0.

Team of The Week – Mr Ryan Strudwick, Senior Master: Sport

Once again we had a lot of good victories and it is great to have to sift through them and choose a performance of the week. There were a lot of good cricket successes, and I make special mention of the 3rd XI Cricket and the U14Bs for their good wins, **Tristan Atkinson** for his 9 miles of swimming and **Jack Shooter** for winning another canoeing race as well as **Keketso Bopape** for his 103 runs; but the Team of the Week is the 5th XI Cricket for their 9 wicket win over Hilton and two days later a 10 wicket win against Glenwood. Well done to the 5th XI.

Careers Guidance

Michaelhouse is partnering with Bryce Dekker and his company '**DirectionDD**' to make sure that we are **supporting the process of decision making ahead of university applications**. Collectively we want to help your son make the most appropriate choices for himself whilst playing towards his unique strengths and talents. We have a series of dates over the course of this year on which Bryce will be visiting the school to conduct career assessments. The first of these takes place on Wednesday 23 February. After the assessment, sometime on Thursday 24 or Friday 25 February, Bryce will meet with your son one on one to unpack the assessment results, identify possible careers and provide options relating to tertiary choices and entrance criteria.

This Quarter we are prioritising A Block boys. To that end all A Block parents have already been emailed a letter with details of this initiative and how to book. Please email Caryl Ballance CarBal@michaelhouse.org for further information. Next Quarter we will open this opportunity to our B Block as well.

University Applications

From March onwards **university applications** will start in earnest for our A Block boys. All applications are completed online and all necessary school documentation for such applications can be obtained on request.

We expect to host visits from top South African universities in the next few months, either online or in person. Please encourage your son to attend these. In addition, from March onwards the Counselling Department will run several voluntary workshops to guide boys through their applications should they require it. We will soon be emailing a letter to all A Block parents with further information regarding the university application process. Please contact **Tim Jarvis** timjar@michaelhouse.org or **Herman Visagie** hervis@michaelhouse.org if you have questions in this regard.



Community Partnership Trust

The Michaelhouse IT Department recently donated 24 working computers to the Michaelhouse Community Partnership and they were delivered to Sibonokuhle Primary, Nottingham Road Primary and Crystal Springs Primary School. We plan to have good and stable internet connectivity at all Partnership Schools by the end of first term. These computers are the start of an IT project incorporating running IT workshops at all the schools.



Mrs Cameron and two learners from Nottingham Road Primary with their new computers.



Sibonokuhle Primary School staff with their new computers

Soul2Sole

Thank you to the Michaelhouse boys for their donation of school shoes late last year. The team at Soul2Sole spent time earlier this month distributing them to those in need in northern Zululand. Thank you to Aramex for storing and collecting the shoes from Michaelhouse.

Conclusion

As you will appreciate, this has been an exceptionally busy half of the term with a huge number of activities, apart from the boys making a purposeful start in the academic arena. I trust that you will enjoy having your sons home for the long weekend and that it will be a restful time for them.

With my best wishes

ANTONY CLARK
RECTOR