



Dear Parents, Old Boys and Friends of Michaelhouse

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## Rector's Message

I trust that the half-term provided a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with your sons and that they were able to relax after a very full few weeks. Before the break, we enjoyed having our E Block parents here at school for an Open Day at which several HoDs gave presentations on the innovation and direction within their departments. It is good to know that this was appreciated by a number of parents whose comments in this regard have been valued.

Our Prize Giving followed on that evening; unlike other schools, we have a Speech Day in October at which we chiefly focus on matric students and a prize giving, held in February, which is a celebration of the previous year's academic successes and the achievements of the current A to D Blocks. It was good to congratulate those who won prizes which are awarded on the basis of excellence and also diligence and improvement. It is our intention that a prize or certificate should be within the reach of every boy in the school: even if one is not top of the class, a prize can be won for working really hard or improving significantly. We hope that this occasion might have been an inspiration both to those who were rewarded and to those who will aim high throughout this year.

The following boys were in the top three in their year groups in 2021:

E Block: 1<sup>st</sup> **Reily Elliot**  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Roelof Rossouw**  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Oliver Bruyns**

D Block : 1<sup>st</sup> **Ruben Visagie**  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Carlyle Hawkins**  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Patrick Lambert**

C Block : 1<sup>st</sup> **David du Toit**  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Kofi Asumaning**  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Aiden Jinnah**

B Block : 1<sup>st</sup> **Benjamin Frost**  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Peter Woodland**  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Reuben Baldry**



### *Sir Henry Strakosch Internal Scholarship*

The Sir Henry Strakosch Scholarship is held for one year and is awarded to the top boy in the Block with the best combined mark in Mathematics and Science in his previous year. Based on their 2021 results, the scholarships were won by these boys:

- B Block: **Tristan Hoyle**
- C Block: **David du Toit**
- D Block: **Dylan Hewlett**
- E Block: **Reily Elliot**

### *John W Hamilton Internal Scholarship*

The Hamilton Scholarship is held for one year and is awarded to the boy with the top aggregate in his Block who is not already the recipient of another academic scholarship. Based on their 2021 results, the scholarships were won by the following:

- B Block: **Peter Woodland**
- C Block: **Theo Apteker**
- D Block: **Carlyle Hawkins**
- E Block: **Reily Elliot**

### *House Academic Awards*

- Academic Achievement (Fleischer Shield): **West House**
- Academic Effort (Ralfe Cup): **West House**

Our warm congratulations go to those boys who won awards. A list of these boys is attached as Appendix A to this eNews.



West House with the Fleischer Shield for Academic Achievement and the Ralfe Cup for Academic Effort



## Confirmation Camp – Reverend Chris Meyer

The beautiful Em'seni Camp site near Spioenkop, played host to the annual Michaelhouse Confirmation Camp, held recently from Saturday 12 to Wednesday 16 February. A group of 105 boys and a dedicated team of 14 staff members enjoyed the beautiful surroundings, while taking the time to explore the Christian faith and the implications of entering into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The content of the camp is shaped by the excellent Youth Alpha Course which the boys, once again, loved. And at the heart of Alpha is the opportunity to gather in small discussion groups where no question is regarded as too small or too large. In the groups the boys reflected on engaging topics like, “Who is Jesus?”, “Why did he die?” and “What about the church?” with every opinion given space. The camp also managed to balance plenty of time for leisure and fun, with times of contemplation, together with plenty of hearty food. There were also opportunities for those boys who wanted to chat in confidence about the deeper issues on their hearts and to receive prayer. From the comments shared by the boys, most found the camp to be enjoyable and a significant opportunity to grow in their faith.

For many of the boys who choose this, the next step will be to declare their Christian faith publicly through the service of Confirmation, which will take place on Friday 18 March. Further information about this significant service, led by the Bishop of Natal, will be circulated shortly.

## 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](mailto:carbal@michaelhouse.org) to request the flyer.

## Strong Mothers – Strong Sons – Mr Tim Jarvis

“Strong Mothers – Strong Sons” is a course for mums of teenage boys facilitated by psychologist and author Megan de Beyer. The course is ideal for mothers who want to have a connected, meaningful relationship with their sons and yet allow their boys autonomy, independence and maleness as they reach adolescence. It will equip you with tools and information to raise a son in a balanced way. The programme deepens a mother's understanding of her son and offers advice on how to approach, communicate and deal with him in a way that allows him to become a strong and caring man. It includes practical tips, discussions, time for questions and beneficial interaction techniques to use with your son.

The topics covered are:

- Understanding what it means to be a teen... the struggle for identity
- Mom's role in raising a son... the demand for more freedom



- Dad's role in raising a son... shared and co-operative responsibilities
- The impact of parenting... getting in touch with your past and your present
- Communicating with boys... reaching him in his silence
- Tackling boys' emotions... your anger and his
- Sex, drugs, parties and his value system
- Good relationships... establishing inter-dependence and healthy intimacy

## Details

The course takes place in person at Michaelhouse, starting at 12:00 on Tuesday 22 March and continuing throughout Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 March. Lunches and teas are included. The cost is R 3 200 (R1 600 non-refundable deposit) and can be debited to your school account.

## How to book

Contact the Counsellor's Secretary, Caryl Ballance, for a booking form.

Email: [carbal@michaelhouse.org](mailto:carbal@michaelhouse.org) Phone: 033 234 1014

(Spaces are very limited. On receipt of the completed booking form, your **place will be confirmed by return letter** from Michaelhouse)

## Co-Curricular and Individual Achievements

### *Debating League*

Our senior debaters delved into the world of politics this past week with a very interesting topic: "This House would disallow political parties in South Africa from being the leading party for more than 4 consecutive terms (20 years)". Michaelhouse 1 took up the challenge, competing against Maritzburg College's first team. **Luke Kaufmann, Mayenziwe Nene, Frederick Waller and Xihluke Marhule** found themselves on Side Proposition, and their arguments included that disallowing one dominant party from serving for more than four terms would force people to become more discerning again as to who they would vote for if the ANC were out of the running, and that this would mark a return to considering ideologies and policies, moving the country away from "identity politics", and forcing those now in the running to improve on their own policies and offerings – a win-win situation! **Luke Kaufmann** is to be commended on the enormous amount of research and preparation he put into his First Speaker Speech – well done, Luke! Unfortunately, Side Opposition's argument was stronger this time around.

### *Canoeing*

Our canoeists took on the Dusi Canoe Marathon over the half-term. After a couple of early mornings, the top paddlers were able to sleep in on the final leg of the Dusi Canoe Marathon due to the reverse order start. **Jack Shooter** and his partner started in elapsed time; with a comfortable 15 minute overnight lead in the U18 category they did not need to take excessive risks on the final leg of their race. Their race plan paid dividends; a flawless paddle into Durban proved too strong for the rest of the U18 competition. They also made up one position in the overall standings to finish 22<sup>nd</sup> - a very successful race! **Mr Sifiso Masina** and his partner finished 21<sup>st</sup> overall.

**Dominic Furby** and **Robert Butcher** threw the hammer down on the final leg to Durban. They made up 8 positions to achieve a top 50 finish (46<sup>th</sup> overall). They made time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> U18 boat but settled for 4<sup>th</sup> position. As U17s they gave an excellent account of themselves.





**Aiden Furby** and **Louis Souchon** held onto their overnight lead over **Stuart Neilson** and **Rourke Murray** in the U16 competition. Both of these crews finished in the top 150 overall.

**Oliver Bekker** and his father finished 81<sup>st</sup>. **Matthew Nel** and **Mr Paul Snyman** achieved a top 100 finish - 99<sup>th</sup> overall. The **Reuben** and **Lucien Baldry** combination had a testing Day 2 and 3 with plenty of boat issues to overcome, but they can be proud of their 165<sup>th</sup> position overall. **Jaden Adam** and **Ethan Cockram** had a safe journey to Durban and were quick with a smile after each day; they finished 239<sup>th</sup> overall.

6 Michaelhouse Old Boys were placed in the top 20 overall, 4 of whom were in the top 10. Michaelhouse retained the schools' award, which is calculated based on the combined time of the top two boats.

The many hours of training certainly paid off in this year's Dusi Canoe Marathon. Huge congratulations go to all our canoeists who constantly excel!



**Rourke Murray, Stuart Neilson, Matthew Nel, Mr Paul Snyman, Jaden Adam, Ethan Cockram and Robert Butcher** at Dusi Registration



**Dominic Furby and Robert Butcher** running the Inanda Dam Portage



**Jack Shooter** and partner at the Day 2 finish



The **Baldry brothers** shooting Mission Rapid on Day 1



## *Water Polo*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> team played in the Logan Stanley Water Polo Tournament. The tournament was a mixture of school 1<sup>st</sup> Teams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Teams and U16A Teams. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Team put in some dominant performances, beating DHS and Glenwood 6-3 and 7-1 respectively. The final outcome of the tournament was that we played 7, won 3, lost 4. We finished 8<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams.

Congratulations to the following boys for being selected to attend the KZN U18 Currie Cup trials:

**Campbell Ridl, Joshua Haswell and Samuel Berchowitz.**

## *Pre-Season Rugby Camp*

**Mr Grant Ball** and our team of coaches hosted a group of 45 boys for a pre-season camp over half-term with a view to doing some essential preparation prior to our first games against Helpmekaar on 12 March.

The camp kicked off with a squad and family braai on Saturday afternoon at the Centenary Centre followed by an educational and inspirational talk by **Graeme Duane** (1987 Old Boy) on a cycling adventure in the Himalayas in 2013 that went horribly wrong. Graeme described the conditions which he and his friends endured and survived by demonstrating incredible resilience and some good fortune while many others lost their lives.

Another Old Boy and ex Springbok prop, **Pat Cilliers**, spent Sunday working with **Mr JP Olivier** and the forwards where they focussed predominantly on set piece play. Pat was as helpful and motivational as always and we expect that we will see the benefits of his work in the weeks and months to come.

The backs focused on their strike play, kicking game and core skills and will be showing those off to another Old Boy and ex Springbok this afternoon, this one being **Pat Lambie**.

Monday's sessions were strength and conditioning as well as tackle technique based which are fundamental to performance and injury prevention.

A huge thanks to the boys, families, coaches and catering staff for giving up their half-term to make the camp possible.

## **Trade-Inn Hours**

The Trade-Inn will be open on Saturday 26 February from 9am-1pm. If you need any uniforms for your sons, or even just want to browse, please do come and say hello.

## **Community Partnership Trust**

On Tuesday last week some B Block boys went to visit the KZN Crane Foundation. The KZN Crane Foundation was established in 1989 in response to the dramatic decline in KwaZulu-Natal's crane populations. The following boys enjoyed a nature walk as well as a presentation by Mrs Janet Snow:





From Left to Right are: **Thomas Kuhn, Jason Lawrence, Joshua Aissing, Brian Bowmaker, Thomas Cradock, Sebastian Bailes and Donovan van Staden** enjoying their walk in the Bill Barnes Oribi and Crane Reserve

## Conclusion

May I wish you all a rewarding and fulfilling week ahead.

With my best wishes

**ANTONY CLARK**  
RECTOR