



Dear Parents

My previous newsletter touched briefly on some of the pressures facing families and young men and women in particular. This obviously continues to highlight the critical importance of a good education and I am buoyed by the wonderful performances of our pupils on a number of fronts at this time.

### International Benchmarking Tests

Oakhill continues to write the International Benchmarking Test which compares us to the academic standards of the best education systems around the globe. The IBT's benchmarks student performance against a broad, international cohort of students, in which 50 countries participate. Our results indicate that our school's academic standards are comparable, if not better, than many other schools throughout the world. These tests are done in Grade 3, Grade 6 and Grade 9 and I am pleased to announce that the following young men and women have excelled in these tests:

#### IBT Results: 2012

##### Grade 9

Name	English	Percentile Ranking	Mathematics	Percentile Ranking
Carver, Joshua	High Distinction	99	High Distinction	98
Duminy, Mia	Distinction	92		
Fermor, Matthew			Distinction	91
Groenewald, Kristin	Certificate of Honour	100		
Laure-Smith, Danielle	Distinction	92		
Matter, Dean	High Distinction	99	High Distinction	100
Mincione, Luke	Distinction	92	High Distinction	97
Moodley, Sonia	High Distinction	99		
Thomson, Megan			High Distinction	94

##### Grade 6

Name	Subject	Certificate
Joscelin Fogle	English	High Distinction
Jamie Hattingh	English	High Distinction
Robin Pieterse	English	High Distinction

Logan Tait	English	High Distinction
Leila Turner	English	High Distinction
Liam Watson	English	High Distinction
Luc van den Handel	Mathematics	High Distinction
Jamie Hattingh	Science	High Distinction
Sean Phillipson	Science	High Distinction
Robin Pieterse	Science	High Distinction
Jordan Shrosbree	Science	High Distinction
Luc van den Handel	Science	High Distinction
Liam Watson	Science	High Distinction
Samuel Orsmond	English	Distinction
Michaela Vogt	English	Distinction
Jamie Hattingh	Mathematics	Distinction
Robin Pieterse	Mathematics	Distinction
James Anderson	Science	Distinction
Joscelin Fogle	Science	Distinction
Samuel Orsmond	Science	Distinction
Anabel Thomson	Science	Distinction
Leila Turner	Science	Distinction

Grade 3:

Name	Subject	Certificate
Slade Tait	Science	Distinction
Slade Tait	Mathematics	High Distinction
Sahar Mall	English	High Distinction
Affrica McBurney	English	High Distinction
Affrica McBurney	Mathematics	High Distinction
Affrica McBurney	Science	Honour
Gabriel Martin	Science	Honour
Gabriel Martin	Mathematics	High Distinction
Alexander Hunziker	Science	High Distinction
Cayla Ballantine	Science	High Distinction
John Tanner	Science	Distinction
John Tanner	English	High Distinction
James Devine	Mathematics	High Distinction
James Devine	Science	Honour
Alodie Gould-Wagenaar	Science	High Distinction
Alodie Gould-Wagenaar	English	Honour
Alodie Gould-Wagenaar	Mathematics	High Distinction
Luke Shrosbree	Mathematics	High Distinction
Luke Shrosbree	Science	Distinction
Nina Micklewood	English	Distinction
Ockert Kok	Mathematics	Distinction

Julian Bunge	Science	Distinction
Aidan Le Fleur	Science	Distinction
Liam Watts	Science	Distinction
Liam Watts	English	High Distinction
Toby Tyrell	Science	High Distinction
Toby Tyrell	Mathematics	Distinction
Toby Tyrell	English	High Distinction
Jessica Bailey	Science	Distinction
Jessica Bailey	Mathematics	High Distinction

Kristin Groenewald needs to be commended for her outstanding result in English in Grade 9 where she achieved a Certificate of Honour and the 1<sup>st</sup> place in South Africa for this test. This is an outstanding achievement but I also need to point out that another eight Grade 9's, received either High Distinctions or Distinctions in both Mathematics and English. Both our English and Mathematics departments need to be commended and congratulated on these outstanding results but more importantly, it shows that our strategy of striving for excellence, in both these subjects continues to prove that we are making pleasing progress and upholding world-class standards.

Affrica McBurney, Gabriel Martin, James Devine and Alodie Gould-Wagenaar also achieved certificates of Honour and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

### Achievements

I am also delighted to inform you that **Luyolo Mvimbi** (Grade 5) has been selected to represent South Africa in Los Angeles, after winning two silver and one gold medal in the SA Championships in Rustenburg. Luyolo also played a lead role in the Prep School's musical, 'Dear Edwina' and if you missed this performance you certainly missed out on some exciting acting and music talent for the future. Congratulations must go to **Leila Turner** who played Edwina and **Beatrix Hardick** who directed this production. I would also like to thank **George Potgieter** for stepping in when Beatrix was hospitalised for the premature birth of Daniel who is making pleasing progress in the George hospital.

Our academic programme is diverse in nature and involves far more than just sitting behind your desk in a classroom. Many of you would have seen the magnificent experience of five of our Grade 4 class who had the privilege of seeing a Knysna elephant in the Millwood forest. This story hit the front page of the Knysna-Plett Herald which was a wonderful experience in itself, for these young boys and girls but more importantly they were learning and experiencing the joy of learning in the beautiful classroom which is our natural landscape in Knysna. Follow this link should you want to read this story: [www.knysnaplett Herald.com/news.aspx?id=50606&h=Learners-spot-Knysna-elephant](http://www.knysnaplett Herald.com/news.aspx?id=50606&h=Learners-spot-Knysna-elephant)

The following young men and women have also achieved amazing results in a diverse range of activities in the last while:

#### **Jamie Hattingh**

Cape Town Level 2 Swimming Champs; Silver 100m Free style - Qualified for level 3; Gold 50m Free Style.

#### **Daniel Forbes, Grade 6**

Gold Archery; Category U12 - U17; he is only under 12.

## **Hockey**

u18 SWD Hockey

A Team: Stephen Cameron, Caleb Bell, Chris Marrow

B Team: Thomas Marrow

## **SA Swimming Nationals**

Anola Walk achieved 2 x 2<sup>nd</sup> places and 1 x 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

## **Body Boarding**

Cape Classic Body boarding Competition in Cape Town. **Nik Martin** achieved a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the u18 Division. Nik is currently lying 1<sup>st</sup> in u18 Division and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Pro Division in Southern Cape region.

## **Cycling**

SA Champs (Track). **Mikayla Oliver** won 2 x Gold, 5 x Silver and 1 x Bronze medals. Mikayla has attended a Track Competition for selection to go to Worlds Track event in Glasgow.

## **Tennis**

**Josh Pama** represented SWD U19 Tennis team at the IPT over the March holidays.

Congratulations to all of these students.

## **Freedom Day**

As we enter a mid-term break brought about by the fact that it is Freedom Day, I would encourage you to listen to a wonderfully fulfilling and exciting conversation between Joshua Buchalter, our local Knysna FM DJ and current Matric student, and Dottie Rakau, a past-pupil of Oakhill who matriculated in 2005. There is so much to be grateful for in our country and we should never forget the miracle which gave birth to our rainbow nation in 1994 when we experienced free and fair democratic elections for the first time.

## **Oakhill Sport Campus**

I am pleased to inform you that the development on our new Sports Campus continues to progress pleasingly. Our first four fields have been completed and the grass is beginning to germinate as I write this newsletter. If you have not taken a drive to see this facility I would encourage you to do so (take the Welbedacht Lane off the N2 and follow the road until it takes a sharp right turn at which point you continue straight onto the gravel road. The field development will be directly in front of you). Follow this link to see the progression of this development: <http://www.oakhill.co.za/category/new-land/>

## **Oakhill into the future**

Our vision: Oakhill School into the future, a funding memorandum in support of capital development projects for the years 2012-2017 continues to gain momentum and we are extremely grateful that we have raised all the money needed for the first phase of the Sports Campus.

Another priority for us is the development of the **Art, Drama, Library Centre** and we will need to raise another R5 million for this project should we want to start on this building before the end of the year. Many of you have spoken of your passion for getting this project underway and I would encourage you to read our debenture documentation and commit to either donating toward this project or investing in a

debenture. Follow this link for more information: <http://www.oakhill.co.za/about-us/fundraising/> or phone Jon Salters (082 800 8459) or Gordon Shutte (083 400 7568).

We would also like to develop a clubhouse on the Sports Campus for the convenience of parents and visitors. If you are interested in contributing toward this facility please contact me personally at the school office on 044 382 6506.

Furthermore we have a group of dedicated 'hockey parents' who are committed to raising enough money to build an Astro-turf facility. This venture is being headed up by Jenny Gardy and if you would like to get involved please contact her on 072 227 5393.

### Staffing

I am also pleased to announce that we have acquired the services of **Ian Melliar**, who has helped at our Annual Water Polo Chukka Festival for the last two years. Ian is an internationally recognised Water Polo referee and coach and I have no doubt that he will take our Water Polo Club to the next level as we seek to give all our kids world-class opportunities right here in Knysna. Ian joins us in September 2013 to head up Water Polo and we look forward to his involvement.

We have also appointed a new Director of Music after an extensive interview process. **Carika Rademan** is currently the Director of Music at Woodridge College, near Port Elizabeth and will be joining us from August 2013. We are excited by her vision for music at Oakhill and I have no doubt that she will bring the energy and passion needed to build a successful department.

Finally, I would like to wish you a wonderful mid-term break with your children. Enjoy the time with them and we look forward to you returning on Monday 6 May.

Kind regards



**Shane Kidwell**