



Newsletter

We wish you all a good, happy 2012. The girls have bounced into school with great enthusiasm and joy and it was lovely to see them all. Mrs Tagari and Miss Blackburn have enjoyed first few days with us and we are glad to welcome them to the school community. Ms Hartmann has also returned from her long leave and is restored and re-energised. Several new girls have joined the St Katharine's community and we wish them and their families a long and happy association with the school:

Grade 1: Kesha Bruinette, and Alethea Wilson; and Antonia Williams joined this group at the very end of last year too

Grade 2: Angela Hudleston and Nadia Jassat

Grade 3: Lara Stipinovich

Grade 4: Sasha Fabian, Lerato Migogo and Ilham Jassat

Grade 5: Khuthatso Motanyane

Grade 6: Nikita Nightingale

Of course, the Grade 0 girls are new to the school too. Mrs McClarty and Mrs Drake are introducing them to the world of school.

Mrs Sobey became a granny twice over in December. Blake Richard Sobey was born on 19 December (Mrs Sobey's birthday) and Payten Savannah Sobey was born in England on 28 December. We extend our congratulations to Cathy and Eric on their rapidly expanding family.

Mrs Sobey was busy over the holidays. The whole school was repainted and is looking brand new and very crisp and smart. Please remember the traffic protocol and the suggestions made therein for respectful and considerate driving and parking in Escombe Avenue. Your assistance in this regard would be appreciated. I have attached a copy of the protocol for your perusal, just in case you may have forgotten how the system should work.

Many of the St Katharine's girls who were in Grade 7 here in 2006 matriculated last year. Their results were exceptional. We will publish these in the next newsletter. Ms Warner has counted 93 distinctions obtained by this class and we think there

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may be more among one or two who did not attend local schools.

The staff began the week with a workshop around Thinking and Thinking Tools. This was run by Mr Praulins from the Ridge and was a good experience all round. We will be pursuing this particular topic further during the course of the year with a view to finding a thinking platform or language that would suit us.

I was very disappointed to receive Mrs Hampton's resignation this week. Mrs Hampton joined St Katharine's at the beginning of last year and came from a strong Science and Maths background in the FET sector. She has spent over 30 years teaching in high schools and had held a senior position at Kingsmead and Wykham Collegiate. Mrs Hampton was hoping to spend more time with her new grandson Ethan when she joined us. Sadly, her son and his family have subsequently moved abroad, making this intention more complicated. In addition, Mrs Hampton has found the move into a primary school environment very different from what she was expecting and feels that she needs to return to teaching the older children. I know that she did not make this decision lightly and has agonised about this choice. She has made a significant difference to her subjects, to the girls with whom she has worked and in the staff room. I thank her for her positive influence and hard work. Mrs Hampton will see us through to the end of the first term.

I know that this is very unsettling for the girls but Mrs Hampton has absolutely certain about her decision. I have already begun the search for a suitable replacement and will keep you apprised of developments.

Mrs Sithebe will be taking her sabbatical in the second term. This gives us more time to find a locum for her and we have had contact with a teacher who has indicated that she would be available.

Fatima Gardee's brother, Yusaf, has just gone back into hospital for another month. Please remember this family as they face the challenges of chemotherapy and possible bone marrow transplants.

We are looking forward to another busy year filled with all those good things the girls enjoy – each other, music, swimming, tennis, playing, learning and being happily engaged in their full day.



Mandy Mitchley

