

Take Note



DRAKENSBERG
BOYS CHOIR SCHOOL

50
YEARS
1967-2017

ISSUE

47



INSIDE

HAPPY MOTHER'S
DAY

MUSIC IN THE
MOUNTAINS 2017

THANK YOU

This is the first edition of the Take Note since the MiMs weekend. Although I have sent thank you letters to all the respective role players, I would once again like to thank you all for your support and hard work during the festival. I can comfortably say that it was a resounding success in all departments. Well done and thank you once again.

Follow me to page 2



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE HEAD

THANK YOU...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The building project is well underway, and like all building projects it will cause some inconveniences to both staff and boys alike. However, the finished product will certainly benefit the school and boys well into the future. I know we are aiming to have it completed by the end of the third term so with much luck and good fortune the current Grade 9's will have their Christmas dinner in the new facility.

This year we can be very proud of the fact that many schools have started offering exceptional scholarships to our boys. I have been hearing of 65% - 85% off tuition fees at the top schools in the country. To my knowledge percentages such as these are very rare indeed and worth hundreds of thousands of rand. I must congratulate the staff team for getting us to this point and the benefits it holds for our boys and you as parents. We will start publishing these 'awards' in the weeks to come.

This weekend we are hosting Mr Ulrich Fobian (Jnr), a social media lawyer to come and deliver workshops to the boys and staff on the laws and dangers of WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter and the like. I hope that this will once again add to my voice of warning about the ills of these modern communication tools. I certainly hope that it will resonate with both boys and staff while also adding to the development of a social media policy for the organization. I would like to thank the Fobian family for their continued support of the school over many, many years.

Finally, I would like to assure the parent body that my retirement from education is a family decision not taken lightly at all, but based on several factors in the sector currently and how it has impacted on my decision – firstly, taking responsibility for young children in a full-time boarding school is a huge task and extremely onerous on staff and management if taken seriously, secondly, there are so many factors in today's modern world that one cannot control, which makes risk management very difficult, and thirdly given the fantastic progress our school has made over the last four years, I believe a set of 'fresh legs' at the school is needed for it to continue on this trajectory. Rest assured that all is well at Drakies and that my commitment to the school and your sons' education will continue unchanged until I hand the reins over to the new incumbent.

Have a great weekend.

Andrew Stead

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

CHOIR AWARDS FOR THE PAST WEEK

COMMENDABLE PERFORMANCES CONCERT CHOIR



Ryan Smith



Neo Ramalitse



Sihle Manonyane



Anthony Ncube



Qhawe Mafika



Ntsako Lekula



Keanu van Staden

VOICE GROUP OF THE CONCERT

Altos

CHORISTER OF THE WEEK



Liam Muller

SOLOIST OF THE CONCERT



Keenan Beeslaar

NEW BOYS OF THE WEEK



Connor McKenzie



Alec Gibson



Nkazimulo Mabaso



Reece Olsen



Kigen Chepkonga



Damien Butt



Henno Klopper

NEW BOYS CHOIR

With MiMs now behind us, the new boys are now no longer going to be performing as a 'New Boys Choir', during the weekly Wednesday concerts. The reason for this is that all their focus and attention is now going to be on achieving their Concert Status, so they can perform with the Concert Choir. Their time will now mostly be spent studying for, and passing, their Training Status Tests, as well as learning the notes of all the songs that the Concert Choir is performing. This will enable them to perform with the Concert Choir, as soon as they have achieved their Concert Status.

There are currently no new boys who have achieved their Concert Status, although in the past there would have been a handful of new boys in the Concert Choir by now. This is mainly because of all the preparations for *Carmina Burana*, in which the new boys took part, as well as the Music Department wanting them to perform two new songs during the Portrait Concert at MiMs. I do believe that this was a wonderfully educational and enriching experience for the new boys, and we will continue with this status quo in future. It has, unfortunately, meant that passing of their Training Status Tests fell behind, which we are trying to rectify now, by not having dedicated New Boys Choir rehearsals anymore.

Please email jkruger@dbchoir.com if you have any questions or concerns regarding the new boys.

Junine Krüger



Joshua Sheppard, Tiaan Esterhuizen, Jayden Lubbe, Dian Botha and Luke Jansen van Vuuren.



MOTHER'S DAY VERSES AND THOUGHTS FROM THE GRADE 7's.

Happy Mother's Day,
From a sister and a brother to their lovely mother.
We hope you have a lovely day and
That you will have a lot more in the same way.
You taught us right from wrong,
And we will love you forever long.

Marco Marais Gr 7

Hello Mom, I like the things you do -
Every single morning, I wake thinking about you.

I am grateful for the sacrifices made,
And for that I just hope that you enjoy this day.
Happy Mother's Day.

Ben Samasuwo Gr 7

Nolene my mom, thank you for
taking care of your
daughter and I, your son.

You're the red to the rose
And I know that your love shows.

You're the light to the sun
And I love you because you're my
mom.

Mom, today you are you
And you are truer than true.

You're my mother – that's why I
love you.

Sashin Rathinasamy Gr 7

Hi Mom, Happy Mother's Day.
I hope you enjoy your special day.

I love you longingly, as your son.
And because of all you've done.

I'd like to thank you for the memories,
That we have had as a family.

And that you have cared for me,
Makes me grateful to have you with me.

Sugar is sweet, just like you.
And I don't think anything is sweeter
too.

Jesse Barth Gr 7

Magical
Outstanding beauty
Tremendous teacher
Helpful
Extraordinary
Reliable and rich with love.

Neo Ramalitse

Gr 7

Mommy,
I love you for all you do.
I'll kiss you and hug you
'Cos you love me too.
You feed me and need me to
teach you to play
So smile 'cos I love you on this
Mother's Day,

Oratile Pega

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Sugar is sweet
Just like you
I love you very much

Henno Klopper Gr 7

Dear Mom,
Thanks for your gleaming light
And that you helped me take flight.
Thanks for being the best.
You're better than the rest!

Connor McKenzie Gr 7

Happy Mother's Day
For all you do with love,
You are very special – a gift from above.
I hope you have a day full of sunshine,
Laughter, love and happiness.
I Love You.

Lwenziwe Sibiyi Gr 7

Many, many years have gone by
But for you it's no dull moment with your son
Life has never been a lie
Despite the troubles that come by.
My love for you is undefeated even by the
boiling gas of the sun.
I always wear a smile on my face
And when I do the sky is booming with electric
rays.
When I am with you I have won a race
When I am not it doesn't matter because you
love
No moment is with disgrace.

Ndalo Gumede Gr 7

Mom you're the best
Your love will never rest.
It is sweet like wine.
But steals my heart like a crime.

For all our fights
We always turn out right.
You make teaching fun
And I know you won't stop till you're done.

I love you Mom.

Luke Jansen van Vuuren Gr 7

Dear Mom,
I send this message from far
away
To you to have a lovely day
You sing like angels and birds
I love you to the moon and
beyond
And I'm blessed to call you...
MOM!

Dylan Palm Gr 7

To my Mom, Happy Mother's Day
It's a very special day in May.
Even though you are a prime in the
family
It will be a crime not to say
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.

Ntando Mbele 7

Mother's Day!

The day all mothers especially mine
Is to be celebrated on this day.
Today I say thank you.
As I say thank you to you Mom,
I also want to say
I LOVE YOU.

Matthew Beuster Gr 7

Dear Mom,
Life is a puzzle,
Different pieces have different meanings.
There are many good and bad pieces,
But there is this one golden piece that outshines the rest.
That one golden piece is the most elegant, proud and beautiful
piece that outshines the rest.
It will forever until the end of time,
You will be in my heart and nothing can break it.
I love you so much, you are my dove of love.
You are my bright light shining like a diamond.
You look so pretty that it is a pity you are not a model, but in my
eyes you are.
When I am down, you make me feel like I am so important
Like a golden crown.
From me to you,
I love you.

Devon Williams Gr 7

Dear Mommy

For all the efforts immense in size
You always have answered to all my cries.

Since '04 when I knocked on life's door,
You've loved me, you've cherished me,
And that's for sure.

You love me more than words,
And I love you just the same.
I'm always in your heart,
The love I get is insane.

Every single day, you'd give me the world
And more.

My idol, my hero, you're the one that I adore.

Angus Sommerville (Gr7)

Hello Mom,
I really love you just like kids and cartoons.
I hope you have a lovely Mother's Day.
I hope you are spoilt rotten and treated like
the Queen of the home.
I hope you get breakfast with lots of bacon
and egg.
Bye Bye Mom,
I really love you and I hope you have a really
good day like you should do,
So bye Mom and love you lots.
Jordyn Fraser Gr 7

To me a mom is the most beautiful woman on earth.
A mom is not just there to drive you somewhere or clean the house.
A mom is there to lead her children.
A mom is someone who would sacrifice her whole life for her
children.
A mom is someone that would not just watch and see her children
get hurt.
A mom is a person that takes the knife on the sharp side.
A mom is a forgiving person no matter the situation.
And today I will put my hat down to MY MOM and to all the
mothers,
And wish all the mothers a HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
Stanley Horing Gr 7

Dear Mum,
Hello Mum,
Let's have fun in the sun.
You will be getting letters and presents and
gifts
But my gift is love and
So doves will fly high in the sky
Because it's Mother's Day.
Love you Mom.
Luke Torres Gr 7

There are angels God puts on this earth
Who care for us and guide us.
You can feel their love and gentleness
As they walk through life beside us.

Moms do great things for us,
Every day they whisper in our ears;
They even hold us in their hearts
When we are filled with all our fears.

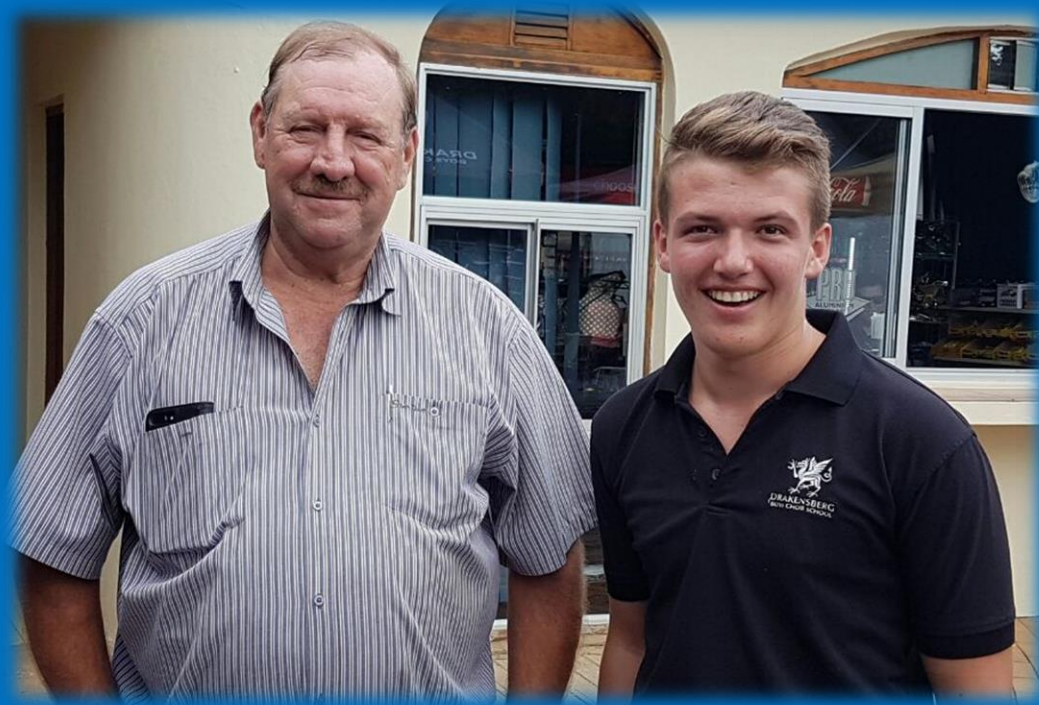
They are always there to make us smile.
They treat us with respect and love.
I'm lucky to have a Mom like you.
Happy Mother's Day.
Kevin Smith Gr 7

Happy Mother's Day.
Today is the only day you don't have to pay.
I love you with all my heart.
Your love penetrates like a dart.
You can be very serious
And you control it without being furious.
Time is running out
So spend the day with no doubt.
Although we've had some fights
You're my mom and you're guiding me in the
right light.
You're my mother and I love you beyond God's
sight.

Kabo Madi Gr 7



NEWS FROM THE MARKETING DEPARTMENT



1967 MEETS 2017

Francois Cronje(left), was 12 in 1967 and he was then known as the Chief Minister. His brother, Ben was 11 and they were from Standerton.

Liam Muller(right) is our current Head Boy - earlier years he would have been known as the Chief Minister.



DRAKIES CARE

Sheldon Spence baked cupcakes to sell for the animal shelter. He made R451.50.

We are proud of you Sheldon!

MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS 2017

The planning for the 2017 Music in the Mountains Festival began with the 50th anniversary committee around the table in Mr Steads office in December 2015. From then on, various meetings were held at different locations, as we planned how we would entice as many Old Boys as possible to return to their school, to celebrate 50 years of the Drakensberg Boys Choir School.

A bumper festival programme was put together and we invited 8 visiting choirs from as far as Gauteng, the Northwest Province, KwaZulu Natal, and even Zimbabwe! The visiting choir concerts on Thursday and Friday afternoon set the tone for what was to be a record breaking weekend at the Drakensberg Boys Choir School. The concert by The Parlotones on Friday evening was fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by many; I found their story fascinating and it just goes to show that there is no easy road to fame and fortune!

The atmosphere around the school was electric throughout the weekend, and the food on sale by the DPA was enjoyed by everyone!

Saturday afternoon's Shining Stars Concert was once again a hit, and without a doubt, established itself as a show that should light up the MiMs stage every year, for many years to come!

The build up to Saturday evening's Carmina Burana concert was epic, and the show did not disappoint. It was a concert of a world class standard and should be performed in venues around the world. When one sits back and tries to work out the number of hours that went into preparing for such a concert, one actually realise the ridiculous amount of work which is involved. There were approximately 250 musicians involved in the production - take it that each person spent 20 hours working (a conservative estimate based on the constraints of studying, rehearsing, passing commitments, etc) - that works out to 5000 hours or 208 days preparing for this show! Wow, JUST WOW!

Sunday's programme kicked off with a Founders Day Assembly, followed by another stunning Portrait Concert, and then finished off with a repeat of the fantastic Carmina Burana!

By the time Sunday evening came around, exhaustion had set in, as people had worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this all possible. A huge thank you to everyone involved in MiMs, from the set-up and décor, to the meals and refreshments, music, CD Sales, sound and lighting, ushering, ticket sales, cleaning... the list goes on!

Christmas in the Berg is on 2 - 3 December this year. Book your accommodation now, to avoid missing out!

Steven Wellbeloved





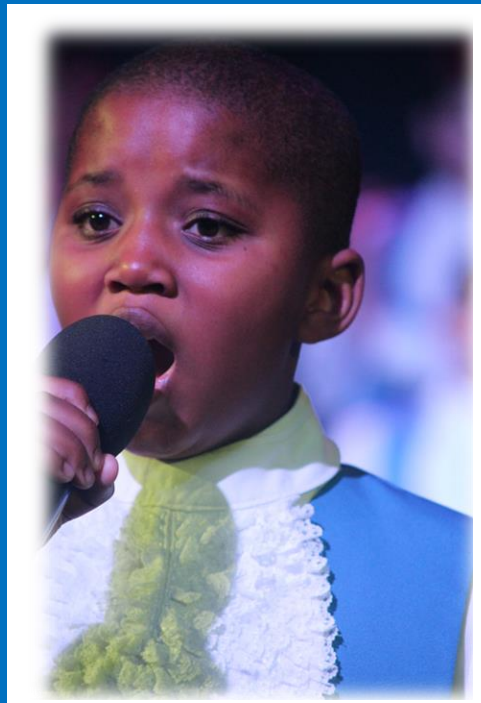
LIVE BROADCAST

Watch Channel 144 (KykNet) next week, Friday, 19 May at 06:00. Bernard Krüger, Belinda Espag, Liam Muller, Stephen Barnard, Nivin Pillay and Ryan Smith will be doing live interviews.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WEDNESDAY CONCERT



Keenan Beeslaar doing his first solo.



Vuyo Mcanyana.



Ntsako Lekula.





**DRAKENSBERG
BOYS CHOIR**

50
YEARS
1967-2017

OPEN WEEKEND

2+3 June 2017



Boys in Grade 3 - 7 are invited to audition and spend the weekend with South Africa's Singing Ambassadors at this world-famous school. Booking essential.

INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING JAPAN



- The Japanese name for Japan is “Nihon” or “Nippon” which means “sun origin”.
- Japan belongs to the continent of Asia. Japan is an island nation surrounded by the Sea of Japan to the East and the Pacific Ocean to the West.
- Japan is made up of 6,852 islands.
- The highest point in Japan is Mount Fuji, which stands at 3,776m.
- As of July 2012, there are over 127 million people living in Japan (127,368,088), which is the tenth largest population in the world.
- Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and also the largest city. Other major cities include Osaka, Nagoya and Sapporo.
- Japanese is the official language of Japan.
- Japan sits along the “Pacific Ring of Fire”, so has many volcanoes and experiences many earthquakes. In 2011, an earthquake of magnitude 9.0 hit Japan and created a tsunami which resulted in much devastation.
- Almost three quarters of Japan's land is either forest or mountains and is difficult to be made into farms, industrial or residential areas.
- Human life in Japan dates back thousands of years.
- Ancient warriors of Japan were known as Samurai. They were very skilled fighters and swordsmen. Their main weapon was the Katana, a sharp sword with a slight curve to it.
- Due to gases produced by power plants, Japan sometimes suffers from acid rain.
- Japan is an industrialized nation, producing some of the most technologically advanced motor vehicles, electronics, and machine tools.
- Japan is a world leader in robotics. Japanese engineers are known for producing a range of human-like robots such as ASIMO.
- Some of the most well-known companies in the world are Japanese such as Toyota, Honda, Sony, Nintendo, Canon, Panasonic, Toshiba and Sharp.
- Japanese cuisine has become popular around the world. Some well-known dishes are sushi, sashimi and tempura.
- Japan is home to many different forms of martial arts. Karate, Judo, Sumo, Ninjutsu, Kendo, Jujutsu and Aikido to name a few.
- Sumo is recognized as the national sport of Japan, although the most popular spectator sport is baseball.
- Japan hosted the 1964 Summer Olympic games in Tokyo and will again in 2020. They also hosted the 1972 and 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Sapporo and Nagano, respectively

GOLF DAY IN JOHANNESBURG



DRAKENSBERG
BOYS CHOIR SCHOOL

FUNDRAISER GOLF DAY AND GALA DINNER WITH CHOIR PERFORMANCE

The Drakensberg Boys Choir Cordially invites you to their annual Johannesburg Golf day. This event will be held at the prestigious Bryanston Country Club on the 29th September 2017. All proceeds from this event will benefit the pupils of the Drakensberg Boys Choir.

Date: 29th September 2017
Venue: Bryanston Country Club
Format: Better Ball Alliance (2 to count)

Registration: 10h00
Shotgun Start: 11h30
Post golf drinks: 17h30
Prize Giving: 17h45
Gala Dinner: 19h00

Entry Donation: R4000/ 4-ball
Includes: Green fees, Halfway, Gala Dinner and a performance by the Drakensberg Boys Choir.

Gala Dinner only: R450/ person
Includes Gala Dinner and a performance by the Drakensberg Boys Choir.

RSVP: James Brown
Email: james@leggattandbrown.com
Mobile: 084 630 4040



Mrs Ayliffe, House Mother, and some of her precious boys.

SNIPPETS FROM THE SAN

A sense of normality has returned to our little microcosm in the mountains. Not that DBCS normal is the same as everyone else's understanding of the word. But then again, I don't know many families who one would call normal either. A subjective term, indeed.

Following a product endorsement by our esteemed Artistic Director, a new weapon has been added to my medicinal artillery. It's odd that someone in Chef's position gets regular mention in this medico-social commentary from the Sanatorium. The man is renowned for his versatility though, so his keen interest in pharmaceuticals and extensive knowledge of nasal sprays is to be expected.

The new tool of torture and suffering comes in the form of a Propolis throat spray. Since I harbour an abiding respect for the cleverness of bees, I figure that if it works for them, it must surely work for us. Plus it comes with Artistic Director accreditation. The people at Deon's Honey Products evidently have a jolly good sales pitch.

The power of Propolis spray lies in its taste. It is so utterly vile that I have boys begging for Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV) as an alternative. The Relative Placebo Index (RPI) must be sky high. Calculation of the RPI is based on the premise that the more revolting a placebo tastes, the more potent its action. Not that placebos should contain active ingredients, but you know what I mean. On this score, Propolis looks set to be a winner.

Speaking of ACV, a delightful gift from a 2016 Old Boy came my way during MiMs. I was presented with my very own personalised ACV bottle – now proudly on display in the San. Johan Piek always was a creative young man and the handmade label (pictured alongside/below) is a masterpiece.

One of the uses listed on the bottle is for removing the smell of cat urine, presumably by substitution. Fascinating! I suppose that notions of odour versus aroma lie in the nostrils of the sniffer. Personally, between the ACV stench of fetid foot-rot and the pong of cat wee, it's a close call.

Sister Lianne



The artwork on Johan Piek's gift demonstrates a proficiency in portraiture.



GOLF DAY IN DURBAN



DRAKENSBERG
BOYS CHOIR SCHOOL

FUNDRAISER GOLF DAY AND GALA DINNER WITH CHOIR PERFORMANCE

The Drakensberg Boys Choir Cordially invites you to their inaugural Durban Golf day. This event will be held at the prestigious Durban Country Club on the 25th August 2017. All proceeds from this event will benefit the pupils of the Drakensberg Boys Choir.

Date: 25th August 2017
Venue: Durban Country Club
Format: Better Ball Alliance (2 to count)

Registration: 10h00
Shotgun Start: 11h30
Post golf drinks: 17h30
Prize Giving: 17h45
Gala Dinner: 19h00

Entry Donation: R4000/ 4-ball
Includes: Green fees, Halfway, Gala Dinner and a performance by the Drakensberg Boys Choir.

Gala Dinner only: R450/ person
Includes Gala Dinner and a performance by the Drakensberg Boys Choir.

RSVP: Kaleigh O' Neale

Email: Kaleigh.ONeale@dfc.discovery.co.za



*New Boys Damien Butt
and Mohau Tladi.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Awande Kheswa
17 May



Vuyo Mcanyana
18 May



New Boys Jonathan Frattaroli, Reece Olsen, Zipho Mpofu and Awande Kheswa.

DRAKENSBERG BOYS CHOIR SCHOOL

Calendar 12 May – 21 May

DATE	EVENT	TIME
12 May	SCA Youth Staff Briefing	10:20-10:40
13 May	Academics (Social Media Workshops)	08:00-12:00
14 May	Educational Excursion Mother's Day Chapel SCA	10:00-11:00 18:00-19:00
15 May	Staff Briefing Assembly Prefects Tea	07:20-07:30 07:25-07:45 10:40-11:40
17 May	Wednesday Concert	15:30-17:30
18-19 May	Roadshow: Gauteng Assembly	10:05-10:25
19 May	Groot Ontbyt (TV Show Channel 144) Staff Briefing	10:20-10:40
20 May	Choir	08:00-12:00
21 May	Chapel SCA	10:00-11:00 18:00-19:00



DRAKENSBERG
BOYS CHOIR
50
YEARS
1967-2017

PRIVATE BAG X20 | WINTERTON 3340 | KWAZULU-NATAL | SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +2736 468 1012 | Fax: +2736 468 1709 | Email: administration@dbchoir.com | www.dbchoir.com