



Danville DIGEST

9 February 2016

FROM THE DEPUTY'S DESK



Dear Parents

You will notice that this letter comes to you from the Deputy's Desk as Mrs Maddams, in her capacity as President of the South African Girls' Schools Association, is representing all-girls' schooling at an international conference in New York. Thanks to technology, she was able to share the opening of the conference with us and it was exciting to see 2 Danville pupils sharing their views on this topic with delegates from around the world.

So here we are in February and the school year is well under way. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Jennie Bircher to Danville and hope that she will spend many happy years with us in her capacity as Deputy Principal. We are also extremely proud of yet another outstanding set of Matric results from the class of 2015 – and another first for Danville – 100% of our girls achieved university entrance passes.

We look forward to celebrating the successes of our Grades 8 – 11 girls at Junior Prize Giving next week and this would be an appropriate time to acknowledge the enthusiasm, commitment and vision of both teachers and pupils at our wonderful school. An exciting year of new possibilities and challenges lies ahead and we intend to make the most of each opportunity.

“A strong, positive self-image is the best possible preparation for success.”

Kind regards

Mrs G.



DATE TO DIARISE

18 Feb	Junior Prize-Giving
02 March	Inter-House Gala
02 March	AGM & By-Elections
05 March	Family Fun Run/ Walk
9/10 March	Danville@thefringe
15 March	Careers Evening
16 March	Adjourned By- Elections



Highlights



WELCOME TO OUR NEW DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

We have great pleasure in welcoming our new Deputy Principal, Mrs. Jennie Bircher, to the Danville Family. Mrs. Bircher is a highly experienced management member from Westville Boys' High School. She is also an outstanding Mathematics teacher with extensive experience as a Senior Marker for the National Senior Certificate.



We look forward to her fresh, inspiring ideas, and wish her a fulfilling, rewarding and happy time at Danville.

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Traditionally at Danville Park Girls' High School the Grade 8's ring the school brass bell following a special assembly to mark their entry into high school. The ceremonial ringing of the bell symbolises each girls' commitment to uphold Danville values. This special occasion was witnessed by the Grade 12's, Prefects, Orientation Mentors and teachers who welcomed the newest Danville family members with round after round of delighted applause.



THINK

first



H is it helpful?

TENNIS

On Saturday, the 30th of January, Jessica Smith and Megan Sperring played in the prestigious Smythe Tournament in Pietermaritzburg at Kershaw Park. This tournament attracts top Doubles teams from around KZN. Twenty-four teams entered, with only four being government schools.

We played in two pool rounds, in challenging heat conditions, with the temperature being well over 30 degrees on the court. Both our players learned valuable lessons at the tournament and played well to eventually place 15th out of 24 teams.



SWIMMING

On Wednesday, the 27th of January, Danville hosted the Inter-schools gala with some of the top swimming schools attending. The Danville swimmers gave of their best, resulting in Danville improving their score from the previous gala. Danville placed fourth overall. Well done and thank you to everyone who came to support, as well as all the teachers and pupils who helped at the gala.



I is it inspiring?

TRIATHLON

Congratulations to Tegan Gore and Daniella Arrigo who have been selected to represent KZN at the upcoming SA Junior Triathlon Championships to be held at Maselspoort (Bloemfontein) on Saturday, 12 March 2016. We wish you all the best for the Champs, girls!



HORSE-RIDING

Well done to Alison Inggs who competed at the Durban Shongweni Club this past weekend in the 1.20m Adult/Junior class where she came 1st on Medicine Man and 2nd on River Dancer. Congratulations Alison.

N is it necessary?

CYBERBULLYING



is it kind?

Pritima Osman from the Department of Justice recently warned parents to adopt a more proactive role in monitoring their children's social media activities in order to prevent them from becoming victims or perpetrators of cyberbullying. Ms Osman made an extremely important point; that children's right to privacy is always secondary to their wellbeing. And, until our children are eighteen, and become 'adults' in the eyes of the law, their wellbeing is our responsibility. This means that at times, in order to ensure our children's wellbeing or safety, we may need to infringe on their privacy.

Most parents feel uncomfortable about 'prying' into their children's interactions on social media, however, a number of suicides worldwide, including South Africa, of children aged as young as twelve, have been directly attributed to cyberbullying. In the majority of cases, parents were completely unaware that their children were victims of cyberbullying. Had their parents been aware of this information, the outcomes may have been different. Of course, not all victims of cyberbullying respond so drastically, but most victims display symptoms of depression, anxiety, social withdrawal, or falling grades. Few victims are totally unscathed by the experience.

Unfortunately, telling your children to inform you if they are ever bullied is unlikely to have any effect. Children, and teens in particular, are very unlikely to disclose this information to their parents because they are ashamed, or fear retribution. It is up to parents to be vigilant to any signs which may suggest their child may be a victim of cyberbullying and then to take immediate steps to protect them, for example enlisting the help of a counsellor to support your child while developing a strategy to deal with the bullying.

Kind regards, Lynda Pretorius (School Counsellor)

Letter from Past Pupil



It is always great to hear from past pupils and we thought we would like to share a recent, heart-warming message from Radhia Kazi - Class of 2012

"Dear Mrs Madams and staff

I spent my years at Danville never fully understanding why Danville prided themselves on their appearance. I was never fully aware how it reflected our union and our pride in our school when we collectively stood to sing hymns in assembly and how we so gracefully welcomed every stranger into our "home". It has been 4 years since I have matriculated and it's only now that I realize how Danville has groomed me in many ways into becoming the lady I am today.

To Mrs Maddams and your outstanding Team at Danville Park, I owe my degree in Clinical and Industrial Psychology as well as my acceptance into Honours 2016 to you. Thank you for making me an organised, well-mannered, well-educated lioness. It is with utmost pride that I recommend Danville to each young lady that I meet."