



St Francis High School

MOTTO

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

VISION

BE A SCHOOL COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE THROUGH ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT AND LIFESKILLS DEVELOPMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

PROVIDE A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT NECESSARY FOR QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING AIMED AT ACHIEVING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE NURTURING RESPONSIBLE AND ECONOMICALLY ABLE CITIZENS WITH GOOD MORALS THROUGH CO-OPERATION AMONG RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

CORE VALUES

PROFESSIONALISM

CO-OPERATION

COMMITTMENT

EXCELLENCE

INTEGRITY

UNITY

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Yet another end of year has come at St Francis High.

Yet another edition of what goes on in this prestigious institution.

It's been great working with a team of dedicated souls in the likes of Joey, Chris, Senna and Sid-our very own graphic Designer affectionately known as the Seed/Imbewu.

A big thumbs up to all and sundry for their tremendous contributions in this exciting, fun-filled and educational mag about what's been taking place all year round and I do hope you enjoy reading this edition.

To the outgoing students, you guys are more than welcome to own a hard copy of this mag and spread the word out that our school produces versatile people who always face the world head on and SHINE in every field they are in. This is further enhanced by the Form 6 class which takes the bull by its horn no matter what.

Looking forward to positive feedback from you all and trust me: the articles in this edition will leave you wanting for more AND definitely wanting ALL your children/siblings coming to this legendary institution.

Enjoy your read.....

Editor in Chief: F.L. Mnisi-Sithole



About 2km from the city center at an angle of about 150 degrees on the South East direction lies the mighty St Francis High School; a place where dreams are dreamt and made a reality.

St Francis is one of the biggest families that accept people as they are. It's not about the haves or the have nots. It is just us and who we are.

In this school you will find the most modest, friendly, dedicated and selfless teachers who are willing to

go to any lengths to see their children succeed.

St Francis is a "Jack of all trades" no wonder her products are everywhere you go just like MTN's logo. Go to Cyprus and you will find students from St Francis, go to UCT, Pretoria, in India, Russia, Ukraine and they are there. In fact, go to government offices and the corporate world in the country and abroad, you will find St Francis products dominating. As a matter of fact we do not dominate, we take over.

The school is well known for the best results that it produces almost every year. Peruse through the newspapers and you will find her produce, not just one but a multiple of them. I'm sure you will agree with us that her motto; "In pursuit of excellence" is befitting for this place.

Every year, parents flood the school to secure a place for their children because is well known for upgrading the worst to be the best. It is always sad to see parents being turned away because the school has reached its limit in occupation. And since it's never really easy to accept rejection and most parents are very persistent, St Francis ends up exceeding her limits slightly because after all, the many the merrier!... Children come first in this place

The School System...



The first school day is usually the most interesting one because students are grouped into classes; A, B and C based on their career choices, not jobs but careers. See, a career is a job that is chosen by choice, not by grades. As much as grades have a certain level of influence, what the magnificent teachers in the career guidance team focus on is urging students to pass the subjects that go in line with their career choices. They have the belief that if one loves to do something then they will go to any lengths to make sure it becomes a habit.

The curriculum is broad and accommodates everyone. Talk of the scientists, mathematicians, the designers, the artists, the nutritionists, well the list is endless

AS CLASS

The school has an extra class that we students call Form 6. This is the class that separates boys from men. The roots of enrolling in AS are sour but the Fruits are sweet especially when it's harvesting time. Benefits include enrolling in universities easily.



The Morning Assembly...

The name of the school declares that we are a Christian family. So, every morning we find it wise and proper to bow our heads before God and thank him for the gift of life and health.



As God said to Moses
'Remove your sandals for you
stand on Holy ground, so do
we respect this spot for it is
our Holy ground.'

Helter skelter! The bell has rang so every student should be in class for the commencement of the days lessons



SPORTS CORNER

The school partakes in many sporting activities such as soccer, net ball, Volley ball, dance and many others.

SOCCER

What brief information can you tell us about soccer matches and how you prepared for it?

The organizers of soccer matches in the school are Mr. Maseko and Mr. Ndwandwe. They are very steadfast in making sure that we are always ready for a soccer match. Whenever there was an upcoming match they would always make sure we had at least 45 minutes of training during normal school days and hours of training on Wednesday.

This is good because it keeps us occupied and we do not have time to get involved in bad behaviours like taking drugs. So I think it is beneficial for us as students.

What is the benefit of the training?

The benefit of the training is that it unites us as soccer players. We are able to build what we call a team spirit and this enables us to work together and have no quarrels. We are able to work as one body and understood each other which is really good.

Coming to the different positions:

Top goal scorer: Thando Motsa

Best player: Sihle Khumalo

Disciplined player: Gcinwayinkhosi Maseko

Most improved player: Sabelo Simelane

Best skillful player: Thabo Sihlongonyane

Which was the best game you played? :

The best game we had was against Nsukumbili even though we lost the match but it was quite an interesting match because we were not just playing to win but playing to have fun we were enjoying the moment.

What was the highest number of goals the team scored and which school were you against?

The most goals that we scored as a team were against Mater Dolorosa High School and we scored two goals although we had low esteemed penalties.

SCIENCE CLUB...

We are not only good in sporting activities but also good in other activities like building projects in the science club. Not only do students get the opportunity to participate in the science exposition, they also get the opportunity to apply what they learn in class; in real life situations. One of them who was lucky enough to be interviewed is Mgcini Sithole

What drove you to make a project?

The love of science inspired me, so when I heard about the science fair I was over the moon because I had never I would get a chance the information that we learn in class in real life situation.

Did you have any help while making your project?

Yes I did have help from the science teachers and a student named Joseph Manyisa.

How did you feel about the finished project?

I felt like I could have done better as it was the project which drove me into the science club .I was also dissatisfied about the results since I had invested a lot of my effort and sleeping time into the project.

What were your best moments while making the project?

I was happy about the fact that Joseph was so engaged in the project as if it was his own too.

What advice would you give to future students who would be engaging in projects in the school?

You must be willing to learn from your mistakes and not be afraid to fail because failure is not being unable to do something but is being afraid to try. However, they should bear in mind that success is hidden under a big rock so to get to it we must be willing to dig deeper.

MATHS CONTESTS

It is an achievement to write a mathematics test and pass it but a greater achievement to be in a contest and win especially when it has to do with mathematics. We have one of those winners who granted us an interview.

When did you join the science club?

I joined the club in form 3. The whole point was to prove not only to other people but to myself as well that I am good in mathematics, because that was the whole point of me joining the club.

What was the highlight of the whole journey to you?

Finally getting to compete in the regionals with my team which composed of the Head girl and Sphokazi Ginindza. We got fourth position in the whole country which I have to say I was proud. We also had a representative from the juniors who got first position in the whole country, which made me feel like I was looking at a younger version of myself, excluding the fact that she is female.

What challenges did you face throughout the journey?

Everyone around me was so serious and too focused on their goals which really is not my style because I am too playful a person.

Also, it's not easy to accept results when they have been issued out since every team feels that they did better than the next, so sometimes it breeds hatred.

If I may pry just a little, what is your dream career?

I always wanted to be a dentist around form four but then I was introduced to Financial Mathematics which I really loved.

What advice would you give to your fellow peers?

I would encourage them to enjoy every moment while at school because we are at school to not only learn but to make moments that we will remember long after we have left Francis. Create the best moments and dwell in them because a wise man said dream as if you will live forever and live as if you will die tomorrow.

CULTURE DAY

It is a thing for us emaSwati to celebrate our culture; we love our regalia as it shows our pride and the way we respect ourselves as emaSwati.

The school of choice

Every year the school hosts a culture day to promote our culture and remind us that we are emaSwati despite the uniform that we wear every day. We get a chance to wear our traditional attire and have a traditional day full of traditional songs, dance, and of course the best traditional food that the school offers us at the end of the day.



The girls leaving the stage after a splendid performance!



Check out this girl, she's looking good in her Regalia!



Check out that guy, I hope he doesn't hurt anyone with that knobkerrie! And the smile on mam, she must be proud.



Now that is true culture! A mother and a daughter in their traditional attire with beautiful smiles as a cherry on top...



Look at those hotties! You gotta love culture for bringing out the beauty in people...



Who would deny our culture when it brings us all together? It is unusual for teachers to take pictures with students but our culture doesn't bring out teachers but parents who want to be with their children in these times...



I don't know about you guys but I've come to notice that this guy's style makes him stand out in every crowd (That is amazing!)



(From left to right) Make Shoba, Mr. Mamba, Make Mhlambi, Make Mamba, Make Shongwe, Make Mazibuko and Make Mahluza.

They look majestic!!!



Check out them ladies! Now that is the true definition of culture!!



Our colours blend well with nature, bright as they may be, they bring out the beauty in us...

SPORTS BONANZA...

Going out is always fun, but going out with the school is more than thrilling. As students we always want to look our best when we are heading out so it is a pity that we end up getting into trouble while trying to impress our peers from other schools.

The school always makes sure that once every year the students get a chance to mingle with students from other schools by initiating what we call the Sports Bonanza. This is a friendly competition between schools where we get to compete in different sporting activities namely soccer, volley ball, netball, karate and many others. We also get to debate and have a little bit of spelling bee and mathematics and science competitions. This is the only time of the year where students get to have fun thus releasing academic stress, so we call it "A day well spent"

This year we were invited by Ngomane High school in Simunye. You could feel it in the atmosphere when you walked through the school gate that something was on the way. The teachers arrived early at the school to make sure that everything was ready by the time we, their beloved children, arrived. The whole front yard was full of students as early as seven o'clock sharp. Everyone was excited about the journey we were about to embark on.

The first thing we received at school was the "healthy lunch" as promised because I have to say the school does keep its promises. Once received we were packed into the buses and the long four hour journey to Simunye began. The buses were roaring with music and we danced as expected. As much as we knew that it was not safe to be standing in the bus, some did not care because after all, you have to risk it to get a biscuit and besides why would you dwell on that factor when everyone around you is having fun?

When we arrived in Simunye after a gruelling four hours and thirty minutes because we got a little lost on the way, we roundeuvouzed at the parking lot where we met students from Mhlatane High. We were then ushered in by the prefects from Ngomane high School into their magnificent school. And the planned activities began. Every student was working to impress and show their opponents what they were made of. There was no trouble at all, I mean why would there be when everyone was having fun and getting to meet new people?

It was truly sad when we had to come back to our homes. The faces that the students had wreaked of sadness because it is always sad to part with a newly met friend or in other cases friends.

STUDENTS CORNER

In a school and as students we tend to have different ideas on how things should be. After all, we have different definitions of comfort zones and this is what some of the students had to say:

NHLEKO NKHOSEPHAYO



When did you enroll into the school? :

In 2015

How did you feel on your first day? :

I was excited since I knew a lot of people in the school so it felt like home.

Why did you come to St Francis? :

I was in the same primary school so I figured I should enroll in the same high school after all; there is no place like home.

What good moments have you had so far?

:

Just last term when we had the SiSwati day I had to perform in front of the whole school which felt kinda good.

Any worst moments? :

Bummer! I was punished by the deputy in form two for singing in class and it really hurt!

What are your views about the current syllabus? :

I don't really like it. It limits our chances to get enrolled in varsity since in overseas countries they easily accept IGCSE.

What are your views about the schools new system of sending messages to parents? :

It is safer and more efficient, parents are always updated.

Any rules you would like to be changed in the school? :

Hair styles should be added, we should at least have a little variety. Also there should be a suggestion box for students to raise their views.

Any rules you would like to add in the school? :

Being allowed to wear trousers when it is cold.

Any suggestions you would like to make? :

The suggestion box should cover it all up.

SIMAMUKELNGENJABULO MAHLABA



When did you enroll into the school? :

In 2015

How did you feel on your first day? :

I felt really welcomed because there were some students from my previous school who are here, plus I was looking forward to meeting new people and expanding my range of friends

Why did you come to St Francis? :

To tell the truth, I missed my interview at St Marks so I came here to Francis which I have to say I am glad that I did because it made me who I am today.

What good moments have you had so far? :

Well for status, last year when the 'Be humble' sound track was still trending. On the day of the speech and prize the principal said and I quote "You must be humble" and all the students said and I quote "and sit down" She was really confused and had this expression on her face which was really funny! I also enjoyed the trip to Cape Town which was quite interesting.

Any worst moments? :

Not really, I'm always having fun so I have no time to be gloomy.

What are your views about the current syllabus? :

It's not that bad although I would prefer the IGCSE version because it reduces learning time. Imagine having to go to Form six to be enrolled in varsities overseas? It's really stressing.

What are your views about the schools new system of sending messages to parents? :

I think it's a good system because parents are always updated on what is going on in the school, so it's good.

Any rules you would like to be changed in the school:

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The one about hair styles is really frustrating because we are only allowed to have one hair style which is corn rows without extensions. This has been the hardest rule to accept, even among my peers. Also I would like the school to lay off the rule of students into being allowed to eat in class, especially during Break and Lunch time.

Any suggestions you would like to make? :

I would like the school to improve the library, in a way that there would be more books which are new and also that there would be computers in the library which are connected to a WIFI system, which are available to all students to use, in doing research assigned to them during lessons.

How do you see the school in the near future? :

I think the school is going to crumble to the ground. Firstly there are not many improvements in the school which are actually being beneficial to the students. Inadequate science labs, computers in the school are being shared amongst students and there is not enough to accommodate my fellow peers. Sometimes the teachers are not interested in what the students want and don't seem keen until the last moment when the situation starts to become dire.

Interviewed by: Joey

TEMBE KHWEZI



When did you enroll into the school? :

In 2017.

How did you feel on your first day? :

I was very excited, even though the day did not end as I had expected it but it was fun.

Why did you come to St Francis? :

My father suggested it was a good school so I was enrolled here.

What good moments have you had so far? :

This year I went to the sports bonanza which was really exciting. I also enjoyed going to debates during the second term which was really nice. I really enjoyed eating the KFC almost every Friday which I have to say was 'Finger Licking Good!'

Any worst moments? :

The first day of school I went to the staffroom for asking a girl out yet I did not do it. Also, one of my favourite teachers “Make Sithole” shouted at me and promised me two hot ones, which was one of the most traumatizing things that happened to me.

How are you preparing for the upcoming Exams? :

As a Form 3 student, I study hard, get enough rest and try not to overwork myself when I am tired.

Any suggestions you would like to make? :

We should wear the same uniform format, do you have any idea how unsightly it is for students to be wearing different clothes, imagine me wearing a maroon school jacket and another student wearing a maroon school jersey; it really does not sit well with me.

Interviewed by: Sid



Any changes you'd make in the school? :

There are quite a few actually. For status, wearing stockings whenever we want. Also, other sports tend to get special treatment which is a little unfair from my perspective and that they should be there every year. Another thing is the issue of cell phones. I feel we should be allowed to carry them to school because we live in a technologically advanced era.

Any advice that you have for your peers?

I would advise them to stay away from drugs, work hard in their studies, respect other people especially the teachers and lastly always make moments to remember!

Interviewed by: Sena

What good moments have you had so far? :

Meeting new people and being able to make new friends. Also sports bonanza was a blast. I had never been on an exhibition with the school so this was a day to remember.

Any challenges? :

Not being to wear stockings whenever I want is really challenging, because I cannot cover up when I feel like it. I also noticed that some students are sent home for not having the right hairstyles instructed by the schools prospectus which is really not something I like. Another thing is being allocated a class based on youe results which is really not something that went down with me , although it happened last year.

The school of choice

WHO IS IN CHARGE?

The good thing about our school is that the teachers not only groom us to be adults in the future but to be leaders too. A good example is of the schools prefects. We were able to get an interview with the head girl, head boy and one of the prefects on their roles as leaders:

PREFECT



Her name is Sphokazi Ginindza, one of the school's best prefects. She may look a little shy and quiet but when it is time to do her duties, she tackles them without hesitation.

How long have you been a prefect? :

Since 2016 until present 2019

What do you enjoy about being a prefect? :

Well for starters, I do not do the other chores that the students have to do like maybe cleaning the classrooms and washing buckets after having our lunch. Plus, I get recognition every speech and prize giving day yearly.

What difficulties have you faced lately in your role? :

Well, monitoring a lot of people is problematic. One cannot afford to be soft when dealing with a lot of people because some take advantage of the fact that you're being nice; and this paints a different picture of us as prefects because some view us as rude people yet we are not.

Really now is that so? :

Actually it is. I may be a different person when tackling my duties but when I am not doing my duties I am a completely different person. The same goes for every single one of the prefects.

Are there any rules that you would change given the chance? :

The one about eating in class. Seriously there is no place for us to dine during Break time and lunch time so I really don't understand what the high table expects us to do. Also the issue of chewing gum is really confusing as some have mentioned.

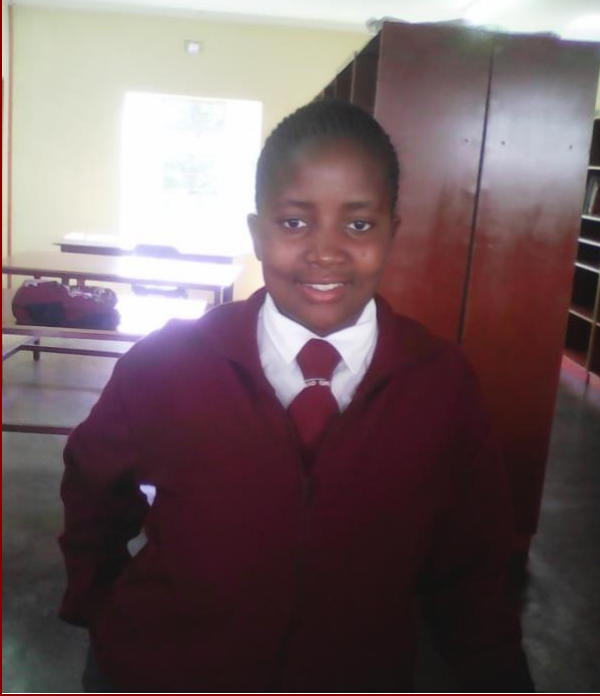
How do you see the school in the future?

Well, to be honest I do not think that parents will have the urge to be bringing their students to the school because the rules are starting to slack out a little. Students do not take their being in the school seriously which is really disappointing.

Interviewed by: Joey

HEAD GIRL.

The school of choice



Her name is Mbalenhle Mdluli and she has been head girl from late 2018 to and currently and this is what she had to say:

What is your role as the Head girl?

My role as the Head girl is to keep order among the students and make sure they conduct themselves accordingly. Not to mention keeping order in the case where teachers are absent.

What do you enjoy about being the Head girl?

Being famous- it's good to be recognized not only by my peers but also by others people outside the school premises. For example in town, in some shops my friends and I get some special treatment because I am the head girl. Also I get respect from the students and the teachers too because I am viewed as an extension of the teachers. I also enjoy listening to the queries of my peers and reporting them to the "High Table", so I like to serve and be served. And besides who gets a chance to frustrate the principal and get away with it? Plus I get to send the other prefects around to do the chores that I find uncomfortable doing.

What are the challenges that you faced as the Head girl?

I am undermined by my peers. I am a soft person and so it is difficult for me to keep my hand firm on some rules. I also have to move around the school and make sure that everything is in order and students conduct themselves accordingly. On top of that, I have to be a role model to the female students in the school since they all look up to me to lead by example which is a crucial role because if I happen to make a mistake they may copy it and then say they saw me do it and so decided to do it too. Another thing is transferring culprits to my hand book so that they can be called at the assembly square for punishment, to tell the truth it is a waste of my time which could be used to do other productive things. Plus, since I am a slightly shy person although it may not look like it, it was at first hard for me to stand before the whole school and address it when I first took the position of head girl from the previous head girl.

If you were to add any rules in the school which would you add?

I would allow students to leave school premises during lunch time as long as they will return in time for afternoon classes.

If you were to remove any rules from the school, which rules would those be?

The rule about chewing gum in the school premises. No disrespect to the authorities but I feel like they are indecisive about the matter because gum is sold in the tuck shop yet students are not allowed to chew it. If they want to better implement the rule I feel like they should ban chewing gum from the school premises or just let it stay. More like make a proper choice on the matter.

Another rule is the one about eating in class. I don't understand where they expect us to dine especially during lunch time because it is inappropriate to eat while standing as per Eswatini culture. So I would suggest that they find us a place where we are going to be able to

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sit and eat there if they want to implement the rule or just remove it completely.

Are there any improvements that you would like to be made in the school because this will reach the High table and this might be your only chance to get the message to them?

Well, I do have a list of things that I would change if I were in charge, not that I am telling the High table that they should do things my way because they maybe have a reason for doing things the way they are doing things. However I would be pleased if they would improve the tuck shop for example adding a few things in the tuck shop like burgers , fries, and many other things that students find to be catchy which could be of great help since it might even reduce the drug problem in the school.

How do you think this would reduce the drug problem in the school?

Well, for one, it is a fact that our parents give us more than enough money to buy ourselves some treats during lunch time. So if the tuck shop were to be improved, students would use more money in the tuck shop thus leaving no extra money for them to be tempted to buy some drugs because they do remain with some extra money and that is a fact.

Also the food in the kitchen could be improved, maybe add Beef, or Emasi the traditional one not the ones from the shop with traditional pap (liphutfu) this will not only give a new taste of food to the students but also entice their food variety. Also, it would be nice for students to receive different gifts for the speech and prize. I have heard some students complaining about getting the same gifts all the time. "We are tired

of getting the same anticipated gifts every year. We already know that we will receive face towels, Danielle Steel novels and Flash drives branded SanDisk" I heard one of the students say. It would be nice if for once the gifts would change.

Another thing of concern is the syllabus that we use. The EGCSE syllabus, it is not bad but I feel like it is out of date. I feel like it is time to implement the IGCSE syllabus which will give students a better chance of being enrolled in universities overseas.

What are your thoughts about the schools new system of communicating with the students' parents, the instant message method?

I like it! I think it is really really good because it ensures that the messages get to the intended audience unlike in the past where students would take letter to their parents which sometimes would not reach their parents. This method is effective and cuts out costs in the school budget and shows that we are embracing technology.

How do you see the school in the future?

Honestly speaking, I think it will be a little worse than it is now. When you look at the prefects that we have now, they rarely take their duties seriously. Personally I think that students will be looking up to the teachers for role models instead of looking up to the prefects. I mean, seriously if we cannot lead our own brothers and sisters to success by leading by example then who will do it for us?

Interviewed by: Joey

The school of choice

HEAD BOY

Sive Msibi is not one who likes to beat around the bushes, straight talker and a lover of God. This is what he had to say:



What is your role as the Head Boy?

My job is to simply instill the school rules and regulations in the school and to make sure every student abides by them, for if I did not do this, there would be chaos in the school.

What challenges did you encounter being a Head boy?

There are a lot really! First of all I got mixed reactions from other students for always trying to instill the school rules all the time and some students would not listen to me when I tried to instill those upon them. Of course there some students who would break the school rules on purpose, but still I did not let that get into my way. Teachers would expect me to act in a respectable way at all times and I had a tough time trying to balance my responsibilities of being a Head Boy and my role as a student. It was difficult, but through the grace of God I managed to pull through.

What do you want to be when you grow up and why?

I would love to be a Civil Engineer. This is because I fell in love with the art of designing and constructing things from scratch. Also my uncle is a mechanic so I used to enjoy helping and in that way I developed more love for engineering.

What are what are the benefits of being the head boy? :

Well, the benefits I gained were leadership skills, which was beneficial for me as I couldn't be as comfortable back then as I am now, which was quite helpful to me. I gained public speaking skills. Also I quite enjoyed getting respect from fellow peers, even though I met some challenges along the way with my role in the school.

What advice would you give to fellow students?

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I would advise that students should be serious about life and should not associate themselves with wrong people, people who delight themselves in all evil things. Even though it's true that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy it is also true that all play and no work makes Jack a dull boy too. So I would like to encourage my fellow peers to be serious and committed in their school work.

What changes would you make in the school?

Basically I would be happy if teachers were to change the way they engage themselves to prefects.

Teachers should work hand in hand with prefects more and be stricter even though there is positive discipline. This may, along with other schools I think, help return the school to what it was when I first arrived in Form 1.

Also I would like for teachers to revisit some of the school rules such as 'Chewing Gum'. Such a rule is difficult for students to abide by because if the school truly wished for students to follow this rule then Bubblegum should be not sold within the school premises. Another rule which is of concern to me is the issue of students being allowed to eat in class. As a Head Boy I had to make sure such a thing never takes place within each class and I understand my fellow peers cry over this matter. I would suggest that the school should construct some sort of gazebos where students can go to eat and not have to eat in class.

Interviewed By: Chris

THE DEPUTY-HEAD TEACHER

The school of choice



In every school there is that one teacher that every student is afraid of, and not because he or she is scary but because their presence is always unsettling. In our school it is the deputy. Every student stays clear of his path, unless you want to get into trouble of course.

However, when he is not moving about doing his duties, he is a nice and calm person that is easy to talk to. He has that fatherly presence. If only every man had this character, this world would be a better place.

Since when have you been the deputy in the school? :

Since December 2014

And how has been your stay so far? :

It has been splendid of course, with a few challenges on the way but then that is part of life.

What have been your best moments in the school so far? :

It's always good to see students succeeding and some excelling in their studies. I could never be more proud of the students.

Any challenges? :

Being in a place where you're not sure whether you fit in or not. Also, getting everyone's cooperation is never easy especially with teenagers.

What is the greatest challenge you've faced in the school? :

The issue of drugs and sexual relationships in the school is a pain in the neck. I really don't understand why students want to rush into it. I believe that there is a time and place for everything. And the school is not the right place for sexual relationships, not to mention drugs. But then I'm still crossing my fingers and hoping that the students will change their ways for the better.

Any insight on how you plan to deal with these issues? :

Well my first line of action will be to involve the parents of the students that are involved in such behaviours because as much as we may have the right to deal with the bad behaviours of the students our actions are limited yet the actions of the parents may not be. So if the parents are involved I think this issue may start to settle down and then be easily dealt with.

Any insight on your expectations of the Junior's and Senior's results? :

Well, personally I am holding my breath on that matter because when you look at the student's performance, it fluctuates every now and then, and if the rumours that I hear from the teachers every now and then about their performances then it is a cause for worry.

Interviewed By: Sena

THE PRINCIPAL



This is a special interview not only to me but to the other people who were present it was an un-anticipated surprise to have the principal herself welcome us with warm hands into her office for this interview which we are very grateful for because we were able to have a little insight on her own thoughts about some of the issues that are in motion in the school.

Her interview was different from the others because as someone who is scarce in terms of conversation, we did not know which questions to ask so we just put in everything that we figured would be interesting.

What made you pursue a career in teaching?

To tell the truth, I did not want to be a teacher. A medical doctor was what I wanted to be so I did

biology and chemistry which I was really good at. I went to UNISWA which at first was really interesting since I was really looking forward to being a doctor. Now, in varsity we were taught how to teach students in class, in fact it was something compulsory so we were all like "If this is what we have to go through to get what we want it is not a problem" I continued with my studies and when the semester was over I had to go and renew my scholarship because the government was sponsoring me. I started the process but I did not get the scholarship to continue my studies as a medical doctor. Seeing I had no other choice, I became a teacher. However, I am proud that I became a teacher because of the thrill of teaching. I was role model to those I was teaching even though they were older than me; they would occasionally ask me for advice which was a shocker to me, seeing me as the matured one.

What do you enjoy about being in an environment full of students or people in their youthful/rebellious stage?

Well students in a rebellious state of mind will occasionally be the same year in year out. As teachers we can only equip them with the necessary tools they need to pass. All there is to hope for is that they do their best in their Exams.

How long have you been a teacher and a Head teacher at the same time?

My whole career based on teaching has been about 23 years; I started teaching since 1996 and began my role as a Head teacher in 2007.

What is the greatest challenge that you have faced as a Principal?

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Well it would have to be the decrease in performance levels in the school, students not being able to access their full potential around Exams, when they need it the most. Once this happens, people stare at you as if you have failed to do your job as the Principal and most importantly have failed the students. Children choose to be rebellious and choose not to adhere by the school rules which make it difficult for the school to enforce those rules, especially if so many students are not following them. Drugs have become an issue in almost every school there is, dating is the most common problem in this generation that we are dealing with. What students do not understand is that such things are what disturbs them most as students and alters their attention from what they actually should be focused on.

What is your view on corporal punishment?

Personally I am not a violent person. I believe that discipline should be through communication. I do not believe in using a stick to correct a child, but talking and getting to understand each other is where it begins. As a parent myself I sometimes have problems of misbehavior with my own children but I do not resort to violence. Instead I sit them down and we talk to get to the basis of the problem because if you keep using a stick on a child that child will adapt and know that if she or he does something wrong they will be whipped and it will be over yet if you talk to them and they feel the guilt of their actions then they will not repeat the act of misbehavior. I believe that discipline begins with remorse for the bad things one has done.

As we are approaching the end of the year, students will be writing their exams. What are your views on this? :

Honestly speaking, I am really worried about it. The teachers have been reporting to me that the students especially in the external classes are not serious as in they are slacking and if this is true then it is a call for concern because they are the ones who are supposed to put the school on the map and prove to the parents that St Francis is a must go to destination for their children so if the rumours are true then I am really worried. You know sometimes I even pray for these students because they are my pride. They are the ones who are supposed to show the world what our school is made of. I can only keep praying and keep hoping for the best for them because any mistakes that they do will reflect badly on us as a school in whole and that will ruin the reputation of the school. I'm still hoping that one of the teachers is going to come to me and tell me that they were just playing around and that what they said is not true.

So far how is your stay in the school?

It's really great actually. I work hand in hand with the deputy who also happens to be my brother by surname so when you work with family things tend to be easier. And as for the teachers, I could not have asked for a better staff. They are so nice and cooperative not to mention understanding. They get the job done and with a smile on their faces. Sometimes I visit the classes when they are teaching and when I observe, I can see the passion in them, I can see that they enjoy teaching their children just to ensure a better future for them so, yeah, I would say they are the best at what they do.

I think it is a good thing that the principal has spoken and I hope that students will listen and adhere to the school rules.

Interviewed by: Chris, Sena, Sid and Joey

FUN CORNER

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PICTURES OF THE DAY



LAUGH A WHILE

“SAVED BY THE BELL”

One day, a boy who had hears his teacher say to another student “saved by the bell I see” after the school bell had rang signaling the end of the school day is left confused. In the midst of it, he figured he would ask his father about it. When he gets home he asks, “Dad, where does the saying ‘saved by the bell’ come from?” his father takes a puff from his cigarette and then says “You see boy, back in the day there was no way to tell if someone was dead or not, especially if he had a bit too many. So the idea was brought that every time someone was buried, a bell would be attached to the person’s coffin so that if they were alive they would ring the bell and be dug out. And trust me son that helped, as a lot of people came back to life, hell I was buried once too. But, luckily I was saved by the bell...

By: Khwezi Tembe

ART CORNER

We always encourage each other to do what we love best and so this is the corner where we unveil our artistry

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THE BLOOMING FLOWER...



By: Samketi Dlamini

THE CUPID'S DAGGER...



By: Virginia Wamukoya

POETRY

The school of choice

The kid around the corner. She is a good poet, and a perfectionist.

Her name is Nobuhle Sithole and the writer of the next poem.



EDUCATION

YOU ARE THE WATER IN THE DESERT
THE MOTHER AND FATHER TO ALL
YOU ARE THE PILLAR AND STRONGHOOD OF ORPHANS
THE PILLAR OF THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD
YOU ARE THE LIGHT IN THE THICK DARKNESS
YOU ARE SHINNING LIGHT TO ALL

YOU ACCOMODATE ALL; THE GIFTED, AVERAGE AND DULL ONES TOO
YOU SHELTER
YOU INCREASE THE INTERLLECT TO THE GIFTED
YOU DIRECT THE DULLS TO USE THEIR HANDS
EDUCATION YOU ARE EVERTHING A PERSON NEEDS...

By Nobuhle Sithole

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This one is a Masterpiece by Hlonphile Nxumalo and Sive Dlamini who decided to collaborate and write this Shakespearean poem!!!



Where Gone Has Cupid?

Where gone has Cupid?

Where gone has Cupid?

Has he been swallowed by the demon of
hatred in the hearts of man?

Or, has he plunged into the hearts full of love?

It is said that he is a blind baby seen only by
those who feel love

But truly, where gone has Cupid?

Has he fled home to the land of the gods
where love is in abundance?

Truly, where gone has Cupid, because his
arrows rarely fly

His wings rarely beat

His glow has ceased to exist and hatred is
dominating

Has he truly abandoned his post?

Where gone has Cupid?

Where gone has the love of the world?

Comprehension is replaced by doubts...

By: LKP; Written Chronicles of the Prince

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When People read this magazine and not only the students, I'm hoping that they will enjoy it not because we put in a lot of work into it but because it is a means of entertainment. We came up with everything in it as a means of giving insight to the other of what the other is thinking. I am hoping that as people read this, they realize their mistakes and their flaws. I hope that it will bring about a slight if not a significant change in the behavior of everyone. I hope that there will be changes in the school that will benefit the students and make this place more like home away from home...

Joey...

