

# The DHS Herald

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Durban High School  
Head Master : Mr David Wagner



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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Cricket Awards Dinner
- ◆ Scholarship Presentation Evening : 1 Dec
- ◆ Final Exam and Final Assembly
- ◆ Fishing Club Excursion

"He who gains a victory over other men is strong; but he who gains a victory over himself is all powerful."  
Lao Tzu

## From the Head Master's Desk

This is the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of the Head Master's Desk for the year, and congratulations to all of you out there who have managed to wade your way through all of my musings and ramblings. Well done! We are almost at the end of a very busy and iconic year, and I hope that you have enjoyed reading what I have written as much as I have enjoyed the writing thereof.

Last Friday night I was privileged to be at the Premiere of Spud - The Movie. The Executive Producer is a DHS old boy, Ross Garland. I taught Ross in the early 90's, and he was in a production of *Karoo View* that I directed in his Matric Year. The movie also stars Blessing Xaba, a Grade 11 boy at DHS, as Fatty, and an ex-pupil, Patrick Kenny - whom I also taught - as the school chaplain. My son had also had a very small role in the movie, which had been edited out unfortunately. For me, therefore, there were several connection points. I have also read and loved the three Spud books, and I am very familiar with Michaelhouse, where the book is set. I was very excited to see the film and honoured to be at the opening in Durban. One always feels a twinge of anxiety too, as I was so keen to enjoy the film. I need not have worried. The film is a wonderful experience. It is full of humour, pathos and sheer exuberance. For anyone with a connection to an all boys boarding school, there is an immediate connection. The boys of the Crazy Eight are fantastic, and in the lead role of Spud, Troy Sivan delivers a memorable performance. He is slight in stature, and big on talent! Our own Blessing is hilarious in his role and his presence is enormous. The film's masterstroke of casting, however, is John Cleese in the

role of The Guv. This is no Basil Fawlty, no Monty Python. Rather he demonstrates just how remarkable an actor he is. He is hilarious at times, don't worry, but he is far more than funny. He grasps the complexities of his role with sublime skill, and delivers a tremendous performance. All in all it is a fine film, and a fitting reflection of a fantastic book. I am sure John Van Der Ruit left the showing a satisfied man. I am so proud of Ross Garland. He is a young man of great intellect and enormous creative talent. He has worked on this project with his whole being, and it must have been immensely satisfying for him to see everything come together as it did. I feel so honoured to know you and count you as a friend. I am so grateful to have played a small part in awakening that creative spirit in you, and I hope with all my heart and soul that the public responds to Spud as they should - if they have a shred of sense! This is a fabulous film by any standard, and as South Africans we can be immensely proud of what we can do. Well done my friend!

This week has been a busy one. The Finance Committee had its final meeting to confirm the financials for the year and agree on the budget for 2011. The finances have been exceptionally well managed during a very difficult year. Congratulations to Mr Fisher, our Bursar, and Mr Vels. You have done a great job. The final Governing Body Meeting was held on Tuesday, and again my thanks go to the members for their commitment during the year. On Wednesday we held the AGM and Budget Meeting. The fee increase of below 10% was approved at a very poorly attended meeting. I am pleased



*No laughing matter:  
DHS Toastmasters - Jireh Mabamba-  
Kabeya (left), Junior Zulu and Suleman  
Patel*



*Thumbs up for the Future!  
They've just written their final Matric  
Exam!*



Making a basketball "court" appearance over the season and standing out from the pack were Siyabonga Mahlinza and Dukeke Lazarus (from left) representing SA Schools U17 players.

With them is proud coach Lethu Zulu who has been nominated as SA Schools assistant coach and Thabo Sithole (right) who played for KZN as well as being the SA Schools U16 Captain

## From the Head Master's Desk cont'd

that our parents are so confident in us that they feel no need to attend!

"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass ... it's about

learning to dance in the rain."  
Vivian Greene

Have a great week.  
Dave Magner  
Class of 1973

## Toastmasters Youth Contest Finals

It was a privilege to attend the finals of the Toastmasters Youth Leadership Contest on Saturday 20 November in the evening at Clifton College.

Three DHS boys took part - Jireh Mabamba-Kabeya, Junior Zulu and Suleman Patel.

The standard of the contestants was exceptionally high and it was humbling to listen to the youth who delivered prepared speeches with such aplomb and with such worthwhile thoughts to share with the audience.

Jireh was placed third in the Prepared Speech section which is an outstanding achievement considering that he was competing with the rest of KZN

and that he couldn't speak English on his arrival in South Africa not that many years ago. Congratulations to him!

The other two, Junior and Suleman, weren't placed, although I hasten to add that, with all bias aside, the adjudication in the Evaluation Speech Section was somewhat dubious and Mr Cele and I thought that Suleman deserved a place in the top three.

All three of our boys were great ambassadors for the school and they and Mr Cele are thanked for their commitment and many hours devoted to this competition.

## Thumbs Up for the Future!

DHS Matric pupils seen recently after their final major Afrikaans exam as happy and relieved as can be. Some of the boys said the paper was challenging but others were just delighted to have finished and to be on their way into the big wide world.

When asked "Where would they like to be in ten years time", some of the boys had some interesting ambitions.

Chico Muya (extreme left) said he would like to take his love for sport further by playing rugby for the London Wasps and possibly create his own International Gospel magazine.

Johann Potgieter (top left) mentioned that he would like to

be practicing Psychology or producing films in Hollywood.

Jonti Richardson (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) said he would like to be working as an Architect with the main focus being on housing, large scale development and B&B's.

David Prinsloo, the 2010 Head boy (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) had the last say by adding that he would hopefully be working in Durban as an eco-friendly Civil Engineer and possibly be married or engaged. Some of the boys still have their elected subject papers to write, but look forward to the road ahead.



## Theatrical Snippet

The annual Kickstart pantomime opens on 8 December and the lead role is played by DHS Old Boy, Lyle Buxton. Catch him in

action in *Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood* at the Sneddon Theatre during the holidays.

## SharkSmart Sounds Warning

SharkSmart sounds warning for suspect supplements ...

In the wake of the announcement that two Springbok players have tested positive for the banned supplement Methylhexaneamine, Discovery SharkSmart Doctor Glen Hagemann has stressed the dangers of using supplements that potentially contain undisclosed drugs.

Hagemann has expressed concern that some supplement manufacturers may illegally and covertly add powerful banned stimulants to their supplements to make athletes feel like they are performing better after taking the supplement.

Methylhexaneamine, also referred to as dimethylamylamine and dimethylpentylamine, is classed as a Schedule 6 stimulant on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List and is prohibited in competition. Bans involving this substance can range up to two-years.

"In many cases the athlete taking the supplement does not know that he or she is taking a banned substance, simply because the manufacturer does not declare it amongst the contents list on the product label," said Hagemann.

Positive testing for the powerful stimulant has suddenly snowballed worldwide, with nine recent positive testing in Australia alone. In most cases the athletes claim they were unaware they were ingesting the banned substance which was found in their supplements.

Hagemann has urged athletes thinking of taking supplements to restrict their purchases to products that have been verified, batch by batch, by the internationally recognised and independent HFL Sports Science laboratory in the UK. "That is the

only way you can be sure that each supplement is free of banned steroids or stimulants, because many of the supplements are inconsistent and the makeup varies from batch to batch."

"The blunt truth is that the majority of these supplements do not have a proven scientific benefit," Hagemann added. "The Discovery SharkSmart philosophy is aimed at making sport fair and safe, and the news of the latest positive testings should be seen as evidence that few supplements can be regarded as safe."

He added that taking a powerful schedule 6 stimulant like methylhexaneamine was potentially dangerous as it may have significant adverse effects on the health of the individual taking it. Such effects include hypertension and placing excessive strain on the heart.

"Our research done in schools across KwaZulu-Natal shows that more and more learners are using supplements," said Hagemann. "Each and every one of them needs to understand, especially in the absence of any industry regulation, that every supplement is potentially unsafe."

"Anyone who genuinely feels the need to use a supplement must understand that the onus is

## Congratulations!

- ◆ Old Boy, Andrew Webster, won Best Performer in a Music Revue at the Durban Theatre Awards Ceremony, held at the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre on 22 November.
- ◆ The DHS Badminton team would be representing SA in the all Africa Schools tournament in UGANDA from the 12 to 17 December. Good luck and make us proud!
- ◆ Kodeshan Naidoo has been selected to represent Ethekwini in Table Tennis (Boys U14) at the Kwanolaga Games to be held in Richards Bay from the 11-14 December 2010.



entirely on them to understand fully and accurately what they are taking," he said.

Earlier in the month three young U19 rugby players tested positive for banned substances, two for the potent steroid nandrolone, and the third for methylhexaneamine."

More information can be found at [www.sharksmart.co.za](http://www.sharksmart.co.za)

THE EXHIBITION



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You are invited to the official opening  
of the everyONEcounts exhibition  
hosted by Dave McLeod

Thursday 25 November 2010  
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RSVP: Angela: +27 (0)82 606 0558  
angela@everyonecounts.co.za







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