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Friday
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Message from the Senior School Principal

Geoff Quinn

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Springfield,

As the last newsletter was published, we were part of the way through the Herschfield week. Despite the challenges of power and weather, we were able to complete most of the planned programme. There were numerous highlights among all of the events that did take place.

The very first cultural evening saw stellar performances by pupils from both schools and ended with the rock bands from both schools teaming up for a spirited rendition of "I Love Rock and Roll." The very first Herschfield cross country race was run under sunny skies through Wynberg Park and ended in the Palm Avenue. The pouring rain on Friday afternoon could not stop the Springfield Soccer team from winning the first-ever Herschfield soccer match. When the hockey matches had to be called off, the party moved down to the Herschel indoor centre where the Spirit portfolio led the school in an afternoon of bellowing cheers while the netball teams played their hearts out on the court. While there were highlights throughout the week, what was really pleasing was the way Springfield pupils continued to live the school values by showing respect and compassion both on and off the fields, courts and stages, serving their school by performing or assisting during the week and acting with responsibility and integrity in their interactions with their peers and the opposition.

A huge vote of thanks goes out to the music and sports staff from both schools who put together such a wonderful programme. In particular, thanks are extended to Catherine Munro, our Head of Sport, who led the way in the most trying of circumstances. Finally, we thank our facilities staff for their contribution to this event. Their adaptability and responses to the many challenges and changes during the week are greatly appreciated.

The feast of St Dominic Guzman was celebrated on Tuesday. In the Senior School, we welcomed Father Mike Deeb to say mass. Father Mike, who is a Dominican priest, gave us an account of the life of St Dominic and challenged us all to seek truth - Veritas - in our lives. The day concluded with the house cross country event which included an elite race and a mass participation event through Wynberg Park. Congratulations to all the runners!

It was to a round of rapturous applause that the Head Students for 2024 were announced on Friday last week. Congratulations to Anda Jokazi and Ella Rennie who were elected into the position of Deputy Head Student and to Erin Heath who has been elected to the position of Head Student for 2024. We look forward to working with them and the Class of 2024 as a whole as they assume leadership roles in the school in the coming months.

The current unrest in Cape Town has been unsettling for many in our school community. While we have had to cancel some events and make some alternative arrangements for academics, we are cognisant of the crippling effect this has had on a wide range of members of our own school community and that of the greater community of Cape Town. While there was some positive news yesterday evening, we pray that our government and community leaders will continue to strive for equitable and peaceful outcomes.

We offer our condolences to the Dominican Sisters who have lost two members of their community in recent weeks. On Friday last week, the Requiem Mass for Sr Francis Cosgrove op was held in St Dominic's Chapel and the funeral of Sr Maria Mackey was held this morning in the Chapel. In both cases, the congregation heard how each of these remarkable women had lived their lives in service to their congregation, to their community and to God. We give thanks for Sr Francis and Sr Maria and their mission to spread the Good News and for their support of education in South Africa.

Today our Matrics celebrated 40 days. We continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they head into their last months of lessons. The following blessing was written by Sr Maria Mackey and it seems fitting to offer this up to our Matrics and all in our school community.

A Blessing

May the God
Who shaped the stars and shells and seasons
Shelter you

And may His wind
Which makes the corn to dance
Blow kindly on your days

His seas and murmuring billows
Ease your soul to gentleness

His grasses soft and silk
And delicate
Delight your step

His angels whisper solace
In the worrying time

His presence be your balm at evening
And your joy at dawn

His soul and yours be twined
Be circled like the bridal ring

All this, and may His love be yours in everything

Sr Maria Mackey OP



Dominican Blessing

**May God Creator bless us. May God Redeemer heal us, And
may God the Holy Spirit, Fill us with light.**

**God give us eyes to see you, and ears to hear your voice.
God give us minds to know your will, And hands to work for
justice.**

**God give us feet to journey, A mouth to preach your word.
God help us to proclaim aloud The good news of salvation.**



Message from the Junior School Principal

Brandon Paulse

#Create-Care-Connect

"No country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half its citizens"

Michelle Obama

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Springfield,

Happy Women's Month and happy and blessed Feast of St Dominic.

This is certainly a time to honour and celebrate the remarkable women who have shaped our school, communities, our country and our world and to reaffirm our commitment to women's empowerment, equality, and progress in the world.

This month we have seen the hosting of the Netball World in Cape Town and across the oceans we see the Women's Soccer World Cup where attendance records are broken daily.

It was very special that many of our girls took the opportunity to attend the Netball World Cup games last week at the CTICC where they could experience being in the presence of women who continue to inspire others to achieve their goals. The women's netball scene in Cape Town has been a shining example of how sports can bring communities together and empower women. With its roots firmly planted in teamwork, skill, and camaraderie, netball has given women a platform to showcase their talents and challenge societal norms. Beyond the court, the sport fosters a sense of belonging and confidence that transcends barriers.

Last Friday Mrs Velensky took a group of girls to a Coding and Robotics competition in Durbanville where they competed against other schools. I highlight this as another example where our girls are given opportunities to play and compete equally in a field that was often the domain of only men. Later this term we will have our STEAMAC day. Recently the Minister of Energy was given a taster of what our Grade 6's produced with sustainable energy as part of our Project Based Learning (Quest) curriculum shakeup. Who knows, we could be sitting with the prototypes and solutions to our energy crisis right here at Springfield.

This is such a wonderful time in education as we educate women to be part of the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals as well as ensuring our Girls are future fit for the 21st Century.

It is so important that we can create a school and a world where every woman's strength and resilience are celebrated, and where their contributions are recognized and valued. May we continue to uplift and inspire each other, pushing boundaries and fostering an environment where every woman can flourish.

This past week, on the 8th of August, we also celebrated the Feast of St Dominic, the Founder of the Order of Preachers, commonly known today as the Dominicans. May we continue to draw inspiration from St. Dominic, who encourages us all to praise, bless, preach and search for truth in all things, through our example, our life and daily actions.

Today we give thanks to all the remarkable and visionary Sisters who had the foresight to establish a school for girls in this part of the world, and to all who have continued to build on the amazing legacy and heritage of St Dominic. We give thanks to all who have passed through the gates of Springfield, especially our Sisters, past and present who continue to inspire us to live by St Dominic's example.

May we always recognise in the present that we stand on the shoulders of giants. We remember especially at this time Sr Francis Cosgrove OP and Sr Maria Mackey OP who sadly passed away this past week. They both lived in the Rosary House retirement home here at Springfield. We thank God for their lives and witness, and for the gifts they shared with so many, impacting the lives and situations of the many who crossed their paths.

There are often beautiful images and stories of how St Dominic walked the length and breadth of the Holy Land and Europe, barefoot, proclaiming peace, mercy and love. We pray that we too may have the feet of Dominic, spreading the good news and ensuring that all our women are loved, respected and treated equally in all aspects of our society.

Wishing you all a month filled with passion and purpose.



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