



Inside this newsletter:

- [Pre-school](#)
- [Junior School](#)
- [Senior School](#)
 - [Second Hand Textbook Sale](#)
- [Music School](#)
- [TheShop@Springfield](#)
- [2023 Term Dates](#)
- [2024 Term Dates](#)

Thursday
2 November 2023

[click links](#)



Message from the Senior School Principal

Geoff Quinn

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Springfield,

The matric exams have finally begun with a busy week of subjects including English, Afrikaans, History, French and Maths. This has coincided with the final push for academic lessons in grades 8-11. As this newsletter is published there will be 5 academic days before the commencement of the November exams on Friday next week.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our grade 8-11 pupils all the best as they begin this phase of the school year.

Towards the end of any year it is often time to reflect on the things that have a significant impact throughout the year. In a school environment such as Springfield these events are many and varied and many of them have been mentioned on these pages throughout the year. Today I would like to focus on one part of our Senior School curriculum that has grown significantly during the year and which we hope will go from strength to strength. I am referring today to our Social Justice and Ethos programme which we have, for the first time this year, built into our academic timetable. So for this edition of *The Veritas* I have asked Ms Gillian Stubbs and Ms Dominique Ducray who coordinate this programme, to write a short critique of the programme this year and what they see as its successes and challenges going forward.

The Social Justice Program, piloted in 2022, is now a fully operational program rooted in the fabric of the school's Ethos/RE life. Social Justice is key to Catholic Social Teachings, and it falls under the role of RE to create an ethos where everyone has a space to engage with new ideas, listen to each other, learn, and create a space of belonging. Topics covered include identity, race, bias, inclusion, and intersectionality. The

program is based in dialogue, reflection, and introspection. Past pupils have for a long time been calling for some program like this one, and it is very pleasing to see it reach fruition.

Whilst we are in the early stages of rolling out the program, and it is still far from perfect, we have a few wins of which we are very proud. Firstly, we are proud that it exists! This is the second year we have run the program, and we are very excited to see that it has grown and deepened. Secondly, our staff have been incredibly supportive. We have many of the teaching staff involved in the program, and they have devoted themselves to it in a manner which is inspiring. In addition to the program designed for students, we have also recently started a space for Senior School staff to discuss issues of Ethos and Social Justice. There is such keen interest shown by staff to be part of this Springfield conversation and a commitment to creating an environment built on the principles of truth, mercy and love. Thirdly, we are proud of taking ownership of the program. It is fully a product of Springfield, speaks to our context, and is firmly rooted in our Catholic ethos. Lastly, we are proud of the feedback we have received from our students. Many of them have found the space to be one of learning, growth, and challenge, and we trust that the seeds planted in Social Justice sessions will bear good fruit.

We are very aware of the fact that we are still working on creating a school of true belonging and designing a Social Justice program which adds to that. We walk into this process knowing that it will never be fully and perfectly accomplished, but that, as a school body, it is a conversation we must begin with our students. Hopefully, we start to ensure that we create a space where everyone feels a true sense of belonging.

“We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.”

— Archbishop Oscar Romero

*Geoff Quinn
Principal*



Message from the Junior School Principal

Brandon Paulse

#Create-Care-Connect

"I've learned that no matter where you come from, or what your background is, you can aspire to be whatever you want to be"

Siya Kolisi

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Springfield,

I am sure you are still basking in the glow of our South African Rugby team, pulling out all the stops to clinch a record, 4th World Cup win on Saturday evening. I'm sure if you are my age, there are major risks to one's heart, especially after the nail-biting wins against France and England, and then in the final again. In an unforgettable showdown, the Springbok rugby team etched their name in the annals of history, capturing the World Cup in a display of sheer grit, resilience, teamwork, and unwavering spirit. This triumph was not just a victory on the field but also a testament to the power of unity and togetherness in South Africa.

From the first whistle to the final tackle, the Springboks demonstrated unwavering determination and grit. They faced formidable opponents and numerous challenges, but they never wavered in their resolve. The journey to the World Cup victory was paved with setbacks, but it was their resilience in the face of adversity that truly set them apart. It was a reminder that success is not just about talent, but about the courage to persist in the face of difficulties.

The Springboks exemplified the essence of teamwork and the spirit of unity. Their performance was a well-orchestrated symphony of skill and camaraderie. They showed the world that no individual can ever overshadow the collective strength of a team that stands together, works together, and believes in each other. It's a valuable lesson for us all, whether on the rugby field or in our daily lives.

The Springbok team's rallying cry, "#StrongerTogether," has not only echoed across the rugby world but also reverberated deeply within South Africa. This slogan is a powerful reminder that South Africa is a nation that thrives when its diverse people come together with a common purpose. It represents the idea that unity transcends differences and that, when people unite, they can achieve the extraordinary.

In a country with a rich history of diversity, #StrongerTogether, carries a profound message. It underscores the strength found in celebrating our differences and leveraging them to build a brighter future. South Africa, with its unique tapestry of cultures, languages, and backgrounds, is at its best when it stands as one, ready to face any challenge.

The Springboks World Cup victory provides a blueprint for how #StrongerTogether, can be applied in our South African and especially in our Springfield Convent School context. In our everyday lives, at school, in our communities, and in our social interactions, we can draw inspiration from this triumph.

The remarkable lesson of teamwork, recognises that working together for the common good can lead to remarkable accomplishments. Our amazing captain Marvel, Siya Kolisi said in his speech after the game, "This team just shows what you can do. As soon as we work together, all is possible, no matter in what sphere – on the field, in offices, it shows what we can do."

As South Africans, and as "Springers" we are indeed "Stronger Together." Let's embrace this message and make it a reality in our lives, for it is in unity that we find our true strength.

This week in the Church's liturgical calendar, we celebrate two significant Feast Days, All Saints' Day (1 November) and All Souls' Day (2 November) which hold a special place in the hearts of many, not only in the Christian tradition but in various cultures worldwide. These days serve as a time for reflection, remembrance, and celebration of the lives of those who have gone before us. They provide an opportunity to recognize the importance of the saints and the ordinary faithful, offering valuable lessons and inspiration for our own lives.

On the 3rd of November we celebrate the Feast Day of a great Dominican saint, Martin de Porres: Known for his compassion and care for the marginalised, St. Martin de Porres teaches us the importance of humility, service, and acceptance. His life reflects a deep commitment to helping those in need, regardless of their social status or background. We can learn so much from him that true holiness lies in selflessness and the willingness to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate.

Oscar Wilde once said, *"The only difference between the saint and the sinner is that every saint has a past and every sinner has a future."* So there is certainly hope for all of us.

On the Feast of All Souls Day, we remember all in our school community, family and friends who have gone before us, for the sacrifices they have made for us and are mindful that we stand on the shoulders of giants.

We also wish all our matriculants every blessing and success as they start their final exams this week.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed week and term ahead.

BUY SECOND HAND GRADE 8 TEXTBOOKS FOR 2024

WHEN? WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2023 AT 12.30 PM

WHERE? SPRINGFIELD SENIOR LIBRARY

MORE INFO



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