

St. Matthews High School

News Letter

Term 2, 2016

Celebrating 160th Anniversary

MIND-KNOW | HEART-VALUES | HAND-GROW

“Educating the mind, heart and Hand to its maximum potential”



Second Quarter Edition - English

Web: <http://www.stmatthewshighschool.com/>

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Principals Corner

The second school term did not kick off well due to school's financial constraints as the department failed to transfer government grant to our school. The school however managed to implement its scheduled programmes for the term. Teaching and Learning started in earnest on the first day of the term in preparation for the mid-year examinations scheduled for the beginning of June.



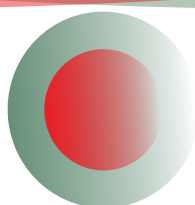
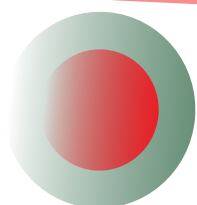
There are two major events in activities worth mentioning which took place during this term. During this term the first event was "Awareness Campaign against alcohol and drug abuse" on Friday the 29th April 2016. The launch was attended by different stakeholders including officials from the education department and neighbouring schools. I wish to commend all those involved in making this day a success.

The second major event organised by Sifunda Kunye Literacy Project group took place on Friday 13th May 2016. I also wish to sincerely thank the literacy project for the success of the event and wish for more events of this nature to come to our school.

On a negative note we lost two teaching days as a result of non-availability of water. The school had to suspend two teaching and learning days for two consecutive Fridays the 29th April and the 6th of May 2016. As a school we wish to thank Amathole District Municipality for coming to our rescue during this period. Also on Friday the 10th June 2016 the exams were disrupted by the taxi association strike and we had to change the exams timetable.

On a serious note the school lost two experienced educators through retirement namely Mr. M. Gquma the principal, and Ms. J.N. Shweni the Consumer Studies educator.

THANK YOU,
Mr. M. Gquma - School Principal





LRC President Corner

It is in time of trouble that one is strong, time of falling that one knows how to stand. My journey during this term was filled with challenges as we experienced a water crisis which escalated from the hostels. The Waddell hostel is occupied by the grade 10 and 11 which had been without water for a period of 2 weeks,

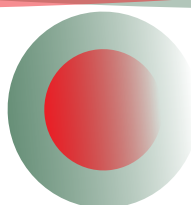
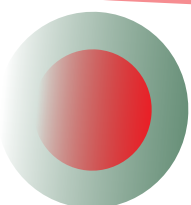


All problems began when both hostels and the school. Cullen hostel offered stability because they still had water. We had no option but to close the school for the day in order to stray from allowing learners to contract diseases and illness from this. Both hostels were also closed.

This problem rose in a very difficult area with exams the corner, but luckily it was fixed and school resumed. These are the moments that ensure whether the school resumed. Quality representatives and through the time of falling we rose, through the time of trouble we showed straight as the learner representative launch and with the support and care the principal to us.

So a big thank you to the principal and the L.R.C at large

Our sincerely,
L.R.C president
Gladile Zikhona



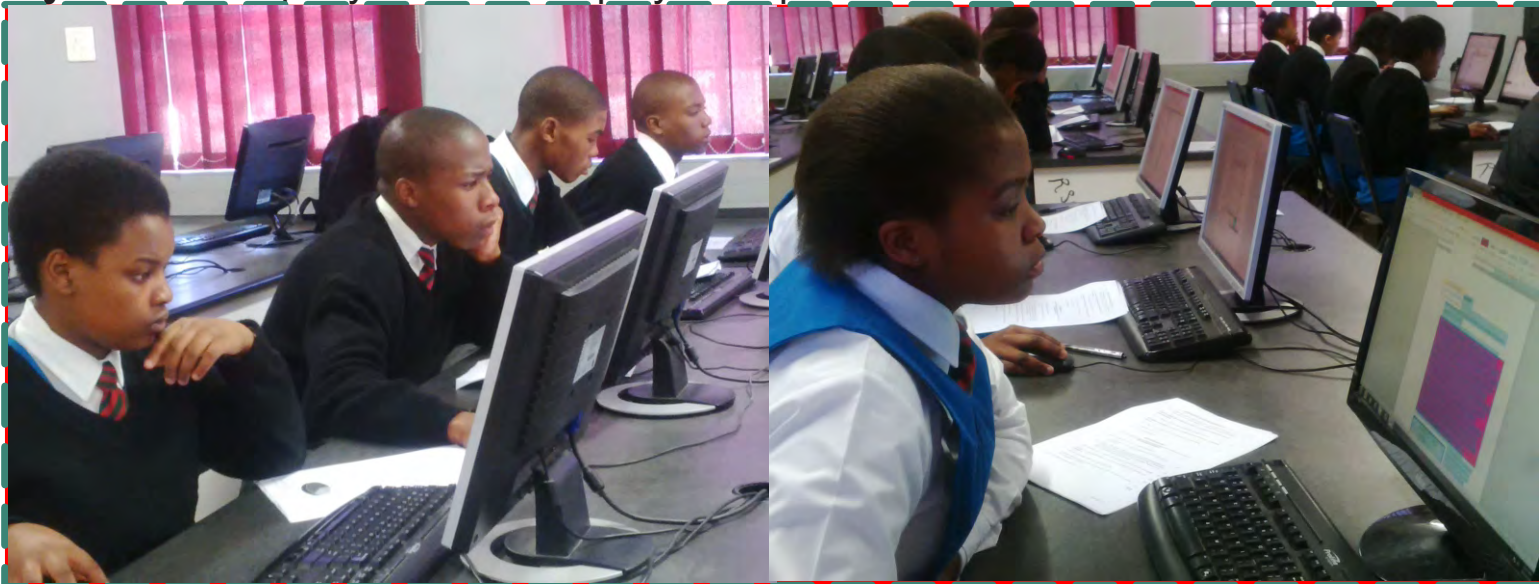
School Developments

Sifunda Kunye ICT Impact at St. Matthews

The support of ICT and CAMI in transforming St. Matthews has become great. CAMI English has helped to improve the ability of learners to communicate and comprehend in the language of teaching and learning. Whereas CAMI math's has improved the logical and analytical thinking skills of the learners as result we have better quality of learners coming into the FET phase. We are hoping that this will help to sustain the good quality of our result and improved on it.

Also two computer labs all equipped with internet, means that our learners get basic computer training here at school and are better prepared to cope with the demands of the modern technological world. The internet helps them to be able to research and acquire information beyond the scope of the text book and the Library. We are internally great full to the Sifunda Kunye IT support team in the wonderful work they are doing.

By: Mr. E. Adekponya - School Deputy Principal





Academic Corner/ Literacy Project

A Special Day for Literacy Project

On the Saturday 22nd Mays 2016 we had special visitors in our club; one of the board of directors of Calabar Foundation and Sifunda Kunye Ali Pauluhn and her friend Linh.

Because it was special Mhlahlikazi Khumalo, a literacy project facilitator told a story of a special bird, a story of the rain bird. Children then painted their own imaginative birds and wrote special messages to their birds. It was all fun and games. Linh had brought gifts for the children which included books and stickers! there was so much excitement and happiness! stories bring us together!

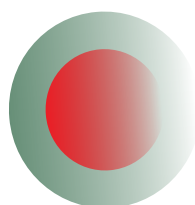
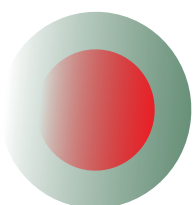


By: Literacy Project

Celebrate

Commemorate each day
Excell all the time
Live to be a legend
Enjoy the hardwork as it comes
Become thee inspiration to others
Run the race of time
Act now!
Take up all of your strength
Enjoy all the benefits that will result

By: Liselihle Majola



Entertainment/Events Corner

St. Andrews visits St. Matthews

On Tuesday, the 17th of May 2016, St. Andrew's paid the sports field of St. Mathew's a visit to battle it out on rugby and netball as expected, everyone at school was excited, at the thought of having a school coming around to play and we could not wait for them to arrive, and when they finally did, they were welcomed by practically the whole school and everyone was happy to see them.

The two teams from St. Andrew's were given time to familiarize themselves with the environment, and mingled with St. Mathew's pupils before descending to the fields. As the teams were leveling things out, chants and songs broke out. Eventually the friendly matches were over; ending with St. Matthew's winning in netball and losing in rugby.

Refreshments were served and our visitors were entertained with music and then it was time for them to say goodbye. The whole experience was fun and we actually got to make friends and build relationships with others. Even when the time for them to go back home had arrived, you could see that they wished that they could stay a bit longer. For me, this was the highlight of this term's events.

By: Hlonela Pase



Entertainment/Events Corner Cont...

Principal's Last Address To Staff

1. Teaching as a career

From Primary to tertiary education my education has not been a smooth sailing journey. Like any other black child of my time education was characterised by lack of funds for better and higher education. After completing my form 5(Matric) I had no funds to continue with my tertiary. Fortunately for me my former principal at Mpambani Mzimba High School, where I matriculated offered me a teaching post in 1980(teaching with only form 5)

Towards the end of 1980 I applied at Fort Hare University, my home town University, but did not have registration fee the following year. Mrs. N.A. Makunje come to my rescue when She introduced me to people like Rev. Stofile, Charles Nqakula and others who had a scholarship for poor children like me. The scholarship paid for all my needs for the period of three years, and I was able to obtain my bachelor's degree. The following year the then Ciskei government offered, with the help of A.L. Matikinca(Business person and former teacher in my village), me a bursary to do University Education Diploma(Teaching Diploma) in 1985.

Mr. S.L. Njamela, the former principal of my school, who was then transferred to St. Matthews recruited me to join the school on the 25 January 1986. I thought History and at the same year introduced Geography as a new subject in Std. 10 at the school. I also taught the following subjects; English standard 6, isiXhosa Std. 10 and Religious Education in standard 6 and 7.

In 1989 I was appointed as a head of division (HOD) for Humanities. When our principal Mrs. N.C. Kekana died in 1991 I became an acting principal up to January 1992 when a new principal Ms. N. Mxotwa took over principalship. The same year 1992 with Ms. Mxothwa's arrival I was appointed as her Deputy Principal, the post I occupied for 14 years under her leadership. It is during this time that I developed as a manager and a leader. Her mentorship and love for the profession made me grow or develop in leadership skills. It is during her reign that I become confident of who I am and helped me know my strengths and weaknesses. Thank you to her for being part of my teaching career.



Entertainment/Events Corner Cont...

2. As a school Principal

In March 2006 Ms. Mxotwa was promoted to become an education development officer (EDO) in the Grahamstown district and then I took over as a principal.

2.1. What kept me going

2.1.1 The mentorship I received from senior teachers in the school including my three principals I served under from Mr. S.L. Njamela, Ms. N.C. Kekana and of course Ms. N. Mxotwa. They held me by hand and walked with me on this professional journey.

2.1.2. St. Matthews staff which has been fantastic to work with. I wish to salute this dedicated, disciplined and wonderful team of educators who have been so supportive throughout. Without you I would have perished due to the magnitude of challenges the school had.

2.1.3. Sifunda Kunye (Calabar Foundation), The foundation is the reason for my survival as they kept our world renowned institution functional. The number of projects and programmes in the school are making our school one of the best schools in the area, district, province and nationally. I wish this partnership grow from strength to strength. Because without their support we are doomed.

3. Memorable moments/periods

The visits by people of note was when the school was visited by the then MEC for Education in the Eastern Cape Mr. Stone Sizani; the visit by the British High Commissioner; visit by EC Premier Noxolo Kiviet and visits by Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane with the introduction of Historic Schools Restoration Project. The academic achievement of the school especially at the matric level for many years. The principals conferences organised by HSRP where we shared our successes and challenges we face in our different schools. Hosting of major events such as Science National Festival day in our school; Presidents Awards Ceremony which was televised and the State of the Nation address by the president

4.Sad Moments/Periods

Deaths in the school while serving such as the late principal Mrs N.C. Kekana; Science educator Ms. Ndlwana; Biology educator Ms. Ngetu and Maths educator Mr. T. Kali. We also lost registered and serving matron support staff such as Ms. N. Mngqana; matron Mrs. Mbotho; Mr. Phillip gardener worker and Mr. S. Mfundisi clerk.

5. Conclusion

Keep the unity in the school as they say "Unity is strength". Wishing you all the best for our prestigious institution and don't allow any evil spirit destroy peace and harmony in our school. Nasi isikolo ezandleni zenu singawi. God bless you, Thank you.

Contact Us

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St. Matthews High School Vision & Mission

VISION

To become a High School of excellence in the fields of Culture, Mathematics Science and Technology and also to help all children realize their dreams and to develop to their maximum potential.

MISSION

- To graduate independent, critical and forward thinking intellectuals.
- Grounded in culture, ethics and family values.
- Equipped with life-long and practical skills.
- Be capable of making positive contribution to their community and to the nation.