School Buzz

Westville boy selected for KZN cricket team

Westville Senior Primary learner, Vihvir Ramcharan, was recently selected for the KZN U11 Invitation Cricket Team.

Westville Senior Primary School congratulates him on his achievement.

A trip to the post office

The Grade R learners at Atholl Heights Primary School have been learning all about letters and the post office.

They were all asked to write a letter to a loved one and on Monday this week, staff from the post office kindly came to visit the school. Zama Zuma and postman Stanley Mkhwanazi explained to the children about the journey of the letter, from posting to delivery.

After the talk, the children all placed stamps on the envelopes before posting the letters in a real post-box, donated by the post office.

Right: Principal Lloyd Wing is Declan Suttle and Amber Morris posting their letters.

Postman Stanley Mkhwanazi helps Laini Shreaden post his letter.

Schools’ competition encourages business innovation

Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA), in partnership with 10 high school learners from KwaZulu-Natal schools, that study Business Studies as a subject, to participate in the MANCOSA Schools’ Business Proposal Competition and Exhibition.

Learners have until Friday, 30 September 2016, to enter the competition and participating learners must produce a detailed business proposal in English. The proposal must encapsulate their business idea, explain why their idea would work, reveal what steps they will take to execute their business plan in order to make it a reality and state how they will achieve and sustain a successful business. The competition is a community initiative by MANCOSA, aimed at encouraging the inception of innovative business ideas among learners and fostering entrepreneurship. Finalists are required to attend an exhibition on Wednesday, 8 October 2014, where they have to present their business proposal before a panel of judges, who need to be convinced that the entrant’s business idea is a winner, hence promoting a competitive spirit amongst fellow learners.

Prizes up for grabs include a MANCOSA USB drive and Tablet for the winning entrant and the school attended by the winner will benefit from a one-day leadership skills training programme for a select number of senior staff members. Terms and conditions apply to prizes allocated to the winners. For further information on entry requirements visit the website www.mancosa.co.za or contact the Public Relations Department at MANCOSA on 031 309 7311/7290.

A star is made!

L to R: Educator Mr B Bezuidenhout, Bryton Odaday and principal Mr O Kakayeye who is handing Robert his voucher.

Ryland Odaday, a Grade 8 learner at Star College Boys High, eKhalasana, was crowned the world Knowledge Olympiad, held recently. He came first in KZN and second in South Africa in his grade!

The School learners in the following grades were also ranked in the top 5 of their grade, Nogugu Sandu, Mandakayise Lithung, Grade 10 (second); Shusita Nkosi, Grade 10 (third) and Nkholo Singh, Grade 12 (third). Ryland was asked why he thinks he did so well in the World Knowledge Olympiad, "I read the newspapers every morning, as well as on my phone. I like watching documentaries and sports programmes on TV."

Well done Ryland, Nobza, Shibuco and Nkolino on your outstanding achievements!

Swimming champions represent KZN

Little Miss India SA Win a ticket to India

The search is on for Little Miss India SA 2014. One little girl will walk away yet again with a return ticket to India via Dubai, the crown, the prestigious title of Little Miss India SA 2014 and will enjoy a reign of one year.

The winners as well as all contestants will be showered with a host of wonderful prizes and trophies including cellphones, doll players, doll sets and much more. No contestant will walk away empty-handed.

Anyone can enter between the ages of 5-12 years, no matter what colour race or creed. The event takes place at Durban City Hall on 23 October 2014 at 2:30pm. Each contestant will enter three segments. First is the talent segment where one can display their talent in dancing, singing, doing a speech or reciting a poem, no matter what your talent.

In the second segment you have to model an outfit or an evening gown of your own, and in the third segment Q&A, judges will then ask you a simple question. A window of opportunity awaits you if you enter this pageant.

Tabloid Newspapers is the media sponsor of this event and will give you exposure in their widely published paper throughout KZN.

So if you have what it takes to be the next, Little Miss India South Africa 2014 and enjoy a trip to standon, call pageant co-ordinator Scotch Behar on 082 585 2309 / 084 682 1428 or SMS your name, age and area. Limited space available, T&C's apply.

Aria Thakundu - Westville
Know the alien invader

Owners now responsible for eradicating alien plants from their gardens

STEPHEN COAN

Garden invaders

Among the invasive alien plants commonly seen in gardens in Durban and Pietermaritzburg are Coral bush, Camphor tree, Indian laurel, Goat foot and Cat’s claw.

These are ornamental, the flowers turn pink and people think they are pretty but the wind spreads the seeds everywhere.”

He said Hillcrest and Kloof had a different experience. Old Camphor trees were spreading everywhere with birds spreading the seeds.

Particularly bad in Hillcrest was Pericallis anguina

The invasive Alien Plants in KwaZulu-Natal published by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (Wiessa) KZN branch lists Cat’s claw as a particular problem in Pietermaritzburg and the Midlands.

-The Witness

-Stephanie Coan

Budding Elon Musk’s robot car winner

Tashic Natail (15) from Sar College Boys’ High in Westville with his award winning Autonomous Automobile.

PHOTO: MATTHEW MIDDLETON

STEPHEN COAN

ROBOT cars could mean safer roads, according to a prize-winning high school pupil.

Tashic Natail, a Grade 10 pupil at Sar College Boys’ High in Westville, entered his “Autonomous Automobile” in the Electronics and Robotics category of last week’s FES Science Expo for Young Scientists at the University of KwaZulu-Natal’s Edge

wood Campus in Pinetown.

He was awarded a gold medal and a “Best Senior Entry” title.

“I enjoy taking things apart and putting them back together. I rebuilt my school phone because I broke it.”

Tashic moved on from rebuilding cell phones to laptops. He then developed an interest in programming focused on “micro controlled” computers that convert the programmed code into signals to the different components.

“Micro controllers have lots of potential. The possibilities are endless, and this year I thought I should do a project with them.”

The project suggested itself. “I like cars,” said Tashic. “And I thought of the problems we have on our roads with lots of crashes. These are mostly due to human error, either driving under the influence of alcohol or misjudging turning distances. “If I thought if you could stop a car before it hits an obstacle, this would be useful for road users, and if successfully implemented, could save lives.”

Tashic began teaching himself the necessary programming last December then built the self-driving robot car over a week in March. He purchased the basic chassis and electronics components and built up the body using shade plastic joined with carbon fiber tape.

Natal budgeted R2,500 for the project – “I went over by R500” – using money from vouchers he won at last year’s Eskom Expo for Young Scientists in which he entered a robotic hand. “It was a low-cost alternative to expensive prosthetics.”

-Article by the Witness
Bright sparks win awards
18 Aug 2014

NEARLY 400 pupils presented a record 531 projects at this year’s Eskom Expo for Young Scientists held at the University of KwaZulu-Natal’s sports hall last Friday. Winning regional projects will be selected to go forward to the national Eskom Expo for Young Scientists to be held in Cape Town in October.

Over 150 judges awarded 38 gold medals, 55 silver and 81 bronze, as well as a number of special awards.

The Eskom Energy Award for Best Project was added to the gold medal won by Tyrique Byrreo (14), a Grade 9 pupil from Star College Boys’ High, for his project “It’s a Berry Bright Future”.

“I wanted to address the three big problems facing South Africa — cost effective energy, the food crisis, and unemployment,” said Tyrique, who experimented with fruit and vegetable dyes in sensitised solar cells to see which would speed up the flow of electrons in the cells. He found that pomegranate dye created the highest voltage.

Star College Girls’ High Grade 10 pupil, Koyal Dhumal (15), won gold and the Eskom Best Female Scientist Award for her mathematics project titled “Strike”, which calculated how to get the perfect strike in tennis bowling.

“Everyone thinks it’s by striking the front pin in the triangle, but it’s not. I worked out the parabolic function and the correct technique required to roll the ball.”

Chase Raymont, (12) a Grade 7 pupil from Kloof Senior Primary, won a silver and a Best Category Physics Project Award for his project “Can Humans Live on Mars?” “I was fascinated with space and then read an article about life on Mars and decided to take it a step further,” he said.

This included creating a scale model of a human colony on Mars, all under oxygenated transparent domes.

A silver medal was awarded to Shandiwe Msomi (14), a Grade 9 pupil from New Forest High, who tested levels of Vitamin C found in orange, lemon, and mango juice.

“I wondered which was the healthiest so decided to investigate,” said Shandiwe. Using an indicator consisting of cornflour and iodine she measured the levels of Vitamin C present and found the lemon juice had the highest level.

Thamesan Govender (15), a Grade 10 pupil at Glenwood Boys’ High, won a silver medal for his project “The Efficiency of Energy Supplements on Athletes”. Thamesan found that while energy drinks were good for short distances, protein-based supplements provided greater staying power over longer distances.

Among the pupils at the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists held at UKZN were (from left) Langelo Mngomezulu, Shandiwe Msomi, Estelle Ponusamy, Thamesan Govender and Chase Raymont.

http://www.witness.co.za/index.php?showcontent&global%5B_id%5D=124439
Star College pupils shine in maths contest

Published: Thursday, 2014/07/31

"WHEN everything works it’s like scoring a goal in soccer," said Suvir Doodnath, a Grade 6 pupil at Star College in Westville.

Doodnath had just completed the final round in the South African Mathematics Challenge. Had he scored any goals? "I got over 20." Not bad, considering the top score is 25.

He was one of several pupils taking part in the Challenge from Star College Boys’ High School and the adjacent Star College Girls’ High School in Westville.

Yesterday, while thousands of primary school pupils countrywide were competing in the final round of the South African Mathematics Challenge, secondary schools participating in KwaZulu-Natal also competed.

Co-ordinated by the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) plus the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (Amesa) and sponsored by Sasol, the Challenge aims to breed a generation of school pupils who enjoy mathematics.

"We thought let’s celebrate high schools as well in KZN," said Daniel Krupanandam, the regional organiser. "It’s a celebration of good teaching and learning and it provides an opportunity to children who are excelling in maths."

Grade 9 pupil Keshaylin Govender has been winning gold in the Challenge since Grade 3.

"I enjoy the challenge of maths and the feeling you get when you solve a really hard question. Like the big equations and at the end the answer is one or zero," she said.

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By: Stephen Coan
Photo: ian carbutt
Physics whiz aims to be the best

VERUSCHKA MUNGOO

HE WON a gold medal in last year's International Science Olympiad in Nigeria. This year, Veshalin Naidoo aims to become the best physics pupil in the world.

The Star College matric pupil will be one of six from around the country to represent South Africa at an international Olympiad in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The prestigious annual event sees six of the best high school students compete from each of the more than 20 participating countries compete in: mathematics; physics; chemistry; informatics; biology; philosophy and astronomy.

Naidoo, who participated in all the categories last year, will take part only in the physics one this year, because of his pressing matric schedule.

“It is always an honour to be able to represent your country in something as prestigious as the Olympiad.

“You get excited but also anxious at the prospect of going to another country to compete with the best the world has to offer.”

He says his effort last year will stand him in good stead this year.

“Nigeria's unbearable heat had my team confined to our room last year. With nothing but books to keep us entertained, we studied. This made me realise the effect constant studying can have on your results. There can never be too much preparation.”

The Bluff resident attributes his academic success to his winning philosophy.

“I don’t have a motto, but I believe there is no point in doing something if you’re not going to excel in it.

“This might sound harsh, but I think modern society has become too soft. A world filled with participation certificates and congratulations for trying does not breed winners.

“This attitude drives my need to be exceptional in everything I do. If you’re going to do something, go out and dominate it. This ideology was also reiterated by an internet icon, commonly known as Zyzz, whom I admire.

“Mediocrity is not good enough. This might not be a healthy outlook, but it does force me to do well,” he said.

Naidoo, who intends to study actuarial science next year, said the biggest challenge in participating in such high profile Olympiads was the lack of education in South Africa.

“The biggest challenge for any South African taking part in an international Olympiad is the education gap between our country and the rest of the world. South Africa’s education system is dismal.

“Even compared to other African countries, we are way behind. Lowering our standard of education to boost the percentage of pupils who pass makes the statistics look better, but it is ultimately undermining our education and disadvantages my generation.

“We cannot expect to com-
Nash at 55th IMO in July

KEISHA SINGH

THE South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) has announced the names of the six high school pupils who will represent South Africa in the 55th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in Cape Town from July 3 to 13.

Nashlen Govinda-Samy from Durban’s Star College Boys is the only KwaZulu-Natal pupil to make the team.

The IMO is an international mathematics competition for high school pupils and takes place in a different country each year.

South Africa has been competing in the event from 1992 and this year marks the first time the event is taking place on African soil.

NASHLEN GOVINDASAMY

The South African IMO team members were chosen from the best performing pupils in the South African Mathematics Olympiad (Samo).

Nashlen, a Grade 12 pupil, said: “I feel honoured but this is a competition, so I will give my all to help the South African team win.”

Nashlen is regarded by his peers and teachers as being a maths whizz.

At school he is studying three maths courses – general mathematics, additional mathematics and advance programming mathematics.

“I naturally love everything about this subject, there is nothing I do not enjoy about it.”

He believes that anything can be accomplished but only if an individual is confident and daring enough to take up the challenge.

Nashlen’s mathematics teacher, Murat Tushiyev, has known the pupil from Grade 8.

“He is a friendly pupil who takes pride in his schoolwork. All his hard work is now producing dividends,” Tushiyev said.

When Nashlen is not absorbed in his school books he enjoys the moment. Mostly, he listens to music or plays his Fender guitar.

The other pupils are from Cape Town and include: Yaseen Mowzer, Tae Jun Park, Sanjiv Ranchod, Bronson Rudner and Robin Visser.
Star College

Primary and Girls High

STAR College Girls High prides itself on achieving academic excellence in our first batch of matriculants in 2013. We have excelled with an average of 4.58 distinctions per learner. This has taken us to the best-performing school in KZN.

The Primary School works with excellence and has shown a remarkable increase in admissions over the years. The unrelenting dedication and commitment of our management and staff has driven the school to new heights.

The Horizon Educational Trust prides itself on establishing close links with communities and empowering them to share in a common vision of excellence in education.

Erdal Ozkaya
Principal – Star College Primary and Girls High

Boys High

My first consideration is always what is in the best interest of the students. My goal is to promote academic excellence and continuous school improvement. This can only be done with the strong, dedicated and highly qualified staff that crafts the learners of Star College.

My staff works to ensure that curriculum, instructional strategies and integrated technologies are designed to enable students to learn. It is important to secure teachers committed to critical reflection and coach them to excel. Furthermore, I believe it is of paramount importance that our learners have sufficient motivation and encouragement in order to achieve their aims.

At Star College we support this by tutoring learners for national and international olympiads with focus on maths, science and computers. The secret to our success is the triunity of learners, staff and parents. Our staff devotes their time to our learners in extra tuition classes after school hours, weekend classes and school holiday workshops. Our parents in turn, support our system, our staff and their children by ensuring they attend all extra tuition available to them.

Our school boasts excellence in the fields of maths, science and computers. I would like to thank all our dedicated staff members, supportive parents and hardworking learners for their contribution in attaining the incredibly high academic standard of Star College.

Excellence in Education is not a final destination, it is a continuous walk. I welcome you to join us on this path.

Osman Karasuwan
Principal – Star College Boys High
The Durban college that uses structure and support to produce lots of stars

07 Jan 2014

Stephen Coan

STAR COLLEGE in Musgrave, Durban, celebrated its 10th year of existence by maintaining its record 100% matric pass rate with all their 120 matric pupils passing. Principal Osman Keraavyaz said the key ingredients to matric success were extra tuition and extra lessons.

Among their star performers is Amitha Doodnath, who achieved 10 distinctions and is now planning to study actuarial science at the University of Cape Town.

“We had been preparing for matric since Grade 11,” she said.

“The school provided a study timetable … there were study hours between five and seven in the afternoon when we could ask questions.”

Amitha belongs to the first year of girl pupils to matriculate from Star College.

Initially a boys’ high school, there is now an adjacent girls’ high school. Run under the banner of the Horizon Educational Trust, both schools are staffed in the main by Turkish teachers, in keeping with the trust’s aim to cultivate a relationship between Turkey and South Africa.

Amitha lives with her extended family, which puts pressure on studying. However, her parents created a separate area for her to study in. Her father is a policeman and her mother a housewife.

In her spare time, Amitha likes to watch television and read, naming Stephen King as her favourite author, and Revenge and Suits among her favourite television programmes.

“I also like Japanese anime.”

Asked what contribution she would like to make to society, Amitha said she wanted to help as many people as possible.

“If you have the resources, why should you keep them to yourself?

“Education is the key to the future. Nelson Mandela was passionate about education and even made sure there were classes when he was on Robben Island.”

Fellow pupil Mohammed Wasim Khan also attained 10 distinctions and was relieved he had done well. “Now I’m quite chuffed. My mum’s off my back.”

Mohammed intends studying aeronautical engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand, a choice reflecting his hobby of building model cars. Mohammed is also keen on sport and maintaining a social life. “It’s important to keep a balance.”

Mohammed paid tribute to his teachers, saying they were “always on tap”.

Mohammed hopes to get through his studies quickly and get a job in order to make a contribution to South Africa.

Because of the crime rate, Mohammed said a lot of his fellow pupils intend getting their qualifications and then going overseas. “But I intend staying here and making South Africa a better place.”

In all, 24 pupils from Star College attained eight distinctions or more. According to deputy principal Anuj Maharaj, this was thanks to “a lot of dedication” on the part of the pupils and their teachers, both of whom were “willing to give their time after school and on Saturdays”.