



Founded 1922

HERSCHEL
GIRLS SCHOOL

MARCH 2016

observer



READING FOR MEANING

■ In support of **Reading for Meaning**, a module now incorporated in the Life Orientation Curriculum, The Hub at the Senior School has been transformed into a quiet reading space, where girls can kick off their shoes, curl up and read.



■ **World Read Aloud Day** was celebrated at the Preparatory School by senior girls reading aloud to junior girls in all nooks and crannies of the campus.

■ Early morning at the **Pre-Preparatory** is the best time to read a quick story, to relax and chat with friends, before the start of the school day.



Generations



Head Girl, **Emma Leslie**, with her mother, **Kathy**, at the Reunion lunch. Kathy also attended Herschel.

Our theme for **Founder's Day** this year, *Generations*, was inspired by the school production, *My Mother Said I Never Should*, a story about four generations of women.

During the Founder's Day Assembly, Herschelians with a long history at the school, recounted their memories of their time at Herschel. Seated in the sand of the set are (from left) **Mrs Pam Duff**, ex-Head of the school, with her daughter, **Mrs Fiona Cochrane** and granddaughter, **Dr Bridget Cochrane**. On the right are **Mrs Jean Bradshaw** with her daughter, **Jenny Lange** and granddaughter, **Abigail**, who are direct descendants of one of our founders, the Hon J W Jagger. In the audience was **Emma Ford**, great great great great granddaughter of Jagger.



Neil and Lesley Burns, visiting from the UK, were excited to attend the Preparatory School's gala to watch their granddaughter, **Leah**, swim, and afterwards Neil told us: *It was a very happy occasion and that photograph will bring back happy memories. It was 50 years ago exactly when we were married in the Presbyterian Church on Kenilworth Main Road.*

On the first day of school, when **Mrs Heather Bailey** met her **Grade 1** class, the girls could not believe that Mrs Bailey had also taught the mothers of two of her pupils, **Chelsea Petersen** and **Georgia Nicklin**.





Dèjà vu. The cast of *My Mother Said I Never Should* on Muizenberg beach for a poster photo shoot (above, left) and a photograph of Herschel girls on Muizenberg beach, circa 1930 (above, right).



On Founder's Day, we received a letter, filled with memories, from **Pamela Mandindi**, who matriculated from Herschel in 1985. Here is an extract:

I came to Herschel as a timid 12-year-old... My English was very sparse when I arrived and my parents decided to put me in the boarding house so that I could eat, breathe and sleep English. I was so overwhelmed! To say I had a culture shock is an understatement. The teachers were fantastic. The girls were helpful even though there were lots of hilarious moments with diction and pronunciation.

I left Herschel a well-rounded young woman, due to Herschel's holistic approach. After I matriculated, I made a vow that if God blessed me with a girl-child, I would bring her to Herschel so that she could receive the best learning experience...the best gift any parent can give to a daughter.

Pamela's daughters, **Nthabiseng** and **Lihlombe**, with a copy of the 1985 *Herschelian*.

■ The **Grade 10** girls experienced the practical use of Mathematics by making their own astrolabes, based on the medieval instruments which were used in navigation. Armed with their astrolabes and their knowledge of trigonometry, they were instructed to measure the heights of different trees in the Arderne Gardens.



■ The **Grade 12** Geography students and their teachers embarked on an excursion to Beau Constantia. In their "Classroom in the Sky", the girls were taught about the intricacies of the Western Cape's micro-climate and how it contributes to this area being a world-class, wine-making region. After a visit to the winemaker, the girls were forced to ponder on the real reason for the excellent quality of our locally produced wines: Is it our climate? Or is it the skills of the winemaker?



■ When learning the /b/ sound, the **Grade 1s** had a /b/ picnic. Barbies, build-a-bears, bush babies and teddy bears were all invited. The girls brought their /b/ toys to school, painted bear pictures, read bear rhymes and had the /b/-est picnic afterwards.



Our **Exchange** visitors, from all over the globe, had several exciting experiences on their Garden Route tour, including an unusual ride on a game farm outside Mossel Bay.

The phrase, Budget Breakfast, took on a whole new meaning for a group of **Grade 12** girls who were invited to attend a breakfast after the Minister of Finance's Budget Speech. The event doubled as a question-and-answer session where the Minister answered questions from the attendees.



The **Business Studies** students had a jam-packed day in Elgin. At Dennegeur they had to forego their sense of style while they examined the sorting, grading, packaging and storing of apples. A manager filled them in on farmers' co-operatives in the area and on the importance they place on running the business as a family.



At Oak Valley Flowers, the **Business Studies** girls were taught about the flower growing market and the packaging and distribution of the flowers. They were fascinated to hear that different flower "fashions" exist for different suburbs and cities.

Learning with a difference



■ The **Grade 7s** went to Camp High Africa and, according to the girls, the biggest lessons learnt were how to overcome their fears and the importance of team work.



■ The **Grade 10** Life Sciences pupils went on a field trip to Dalebrook. Their task was to gather data in transects along the rocky shore in order to determine species diversity and distribution. They were hosted by the Save our Seas Foundation. The weather was perfect and they had a wonderful and productive day.



Grade 1 girls helped to move piles of boxes of donated Easter eggs to Mrs Bailey's store room, which has never been so crammed with chocolate eggs before. These will be donated to children's homes and hospitals and also to our own Service staff.

Community Service



The girls at the Preparatory School donated a mountain of soap and toothpaste for the homeless and for love packs which will be distributed at the Mowbray Maternity Home.



New members of the Herschel care clowning team, **The Red Nose Chickens**, have received their training from Madame Macfarlane and are ready for their weekly sessions in children's hospitals.



After an induction ceremony at Claremont High School, the **Herschel Interactors'** first big service event was the annual Fun Frenzy. This is a morning of fun and games for underprivileged children, organised by Claremont Rotary Club.



Awards



Five of our **2015 Matriculants** were invited to the Premier of the Western Cape's home for the **Top Achievers Award Ceremony**. **Kate van der Merwe** made the Top Achievers list with 8 distinctions, while **Shandukani Mulaudzi**, with 9 distinctions, was also named a Top Achiever and received an award for 100% in Mathematics. **Helen Acton** was named a Top Achiever (she had 8 distinctions and 100% for History), **Samantha Hearn** received 9 distinctions and was on the Top Achievers List and **Nicole Lancefield** (8 distinctions) received an award for Excellence in Accounting (100%). The entire class of 104 girls did exceptionally well, with 78 of them achieving aggregates over 80% and 24 girls scoring averages of over 90%.

At the Western Cape Schools Awards for Achievement in Language and Mathematics, Herschel won two Awards for Overall Excellence in Language and Mathematics in Independent schools. **Mrs Lin Heidmann** (left) received the award for the Preparatory School, based on the systemic tests for Grades 3 and 6 and **Ms Ros Bouwer** (right) accepted the Senior School Award, based on the Grade 9 tests, on behalf of the Senior School.



Two Herschelians, who started their music careers here at school, have done exceptionally well in recent competitions.

Alice Clegg (Matric 2011) right, who is currently completing her fourth year as a BMus student at UCT, won the Lionel Bowman competition and a recital at the Baxter.

Emma Luyendijk (Matric 2009) below, was the winner of the Laura Searle Prize for Concerto Playing. Emma completed her Honours in Music Performance, with distinction, and is the recipient of the University of Cape Town's Grant Pulvermacher Prize for her research into the role of music in peace building and the incitement of violence. She recently returned from Japan where she gave a recital with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra's principal violist, Richard Elegino.



Rehearsals and Recognition



The Grade 12 Music students were privileged to attend a rehearsal of the world famous Russian pianist, Olga Kern, the day before her sold-out concert in Cape Town. They were delighted to meet her after the rehearsal in the City Hall. From left to right are: **Uliana Alekseev**, **Abigail Russel**, **Olga Kern**, **Megan Cunnington** and **Jessica Scott**.

Congratulations to **Kendal Pillay** (Grade 7), for being on the Trinity Music Examinations Top Achievers List for 2015. She achieved a mark of 92% for her Violin (Grade 4) examination.

■ The **Grade 7s** met the **Grade 1s**, who will be their 'little sister' for the year, for the first time soon after school reopened. They presented their mentees with roses, read them stories and soon the group just chattered away, like sisters do.

Firsts



■ It was a day of firsts for **Ms Asanda Malefane**, our new Teacher's Assistant in the Pre-Preparatory, and for **Mila-Belle**, who seemed right at home, on her first day of school.



■ The **Grade 3s** enjoyed a two-day, Mini First Aid course, where they learned how to assist any person suffering from a sudden injury. A first aid coach taught them how to deal with nose bleeds, cuts, burns, breaks and choking. They practised using bandages and dummies.



Our **Grade 8 boarders** in their first week in Arderne House.

To launch our first **Green Week**, **Lea Weimann**, Management Head of the Environmental Portfolio at Herschel, invited **Carolyn McGibbon** to address the girls at the Senior School. McGibbon, a PhD student at UCT, spoke of her recent trip to the Arctic, to look at how climate change is affecting polar bears, and about the wonderful, motivating experience of seeing her first polar bear.



Brittany Johnson and her partner achieved first place at the South African Ballroom and Latin Dance Sport Championships in Johannesburg. They received their Western Province Colours.



Sport

Our Herschel girls shone at the XTerra triathlon in Grabouw. **Hayley Preen** successfully defended her XTerra title and came first in the field of women (including professional and international athletes) and first in the U19 age group. In the same event, **Amy Goodwin** (below, left) came eighth overall and third in the U19 group – and this in her first triathlon. The previous day Hayley, together with **Georgia Grobler** (below, right) participated as a team in the main Xterra event and won the Ladies Team category.



Hayley has also completed the Spur Cape trail series long course over the past few months, and won the Series' Ladies Award. This lovely photo of Hayley, running the XTerra, was taken by Tobias Ginsberg.



Kirsty Orton has been selected to represent Western Province A in the Tennis South Africa National Interprovincial, to be held later this term.



Kari Steyn, our U16 Swimming Champion, has been included in the South African Schools Water Polo squad and will attend trials in Durban. She has also been selected to represent the Western Cape in the SA Surf Lifesaving Championships.



■ **Alexandra Miszewski** attended the South African Equestrian Championships in Johannesburg. Alexandra won the show jumping Championship Class and the Victor Ludorum.



■ **Erin Roos** has been selected for the SA U17 World Mounted Games Championship Team.



■ **Katie-Rose Powell** (Grade 9) has won both the 100m and 200m events at the Western Province Athletics championships. She ran the 100m in 12.5 seconds, a National qualifying time. **Raine Halvorsen** (Grade 8), who excels at hurdles events, has been selected for the Western Province schools athletics team.

■ **Daniëlle Blignaut** has been chosen to represent South Africa at the Fencing Junior World Championships in Bourges, France, in April.



■ The Preparatory School's A tennis couple, **Isabella Nicholson** and **Chelsea Lennett**, won the PGSGU Interschool Tennis Tournament.





■ Congratulations to our **U14 Water Polo** team who won the prestigious Fitzcarr Cup.

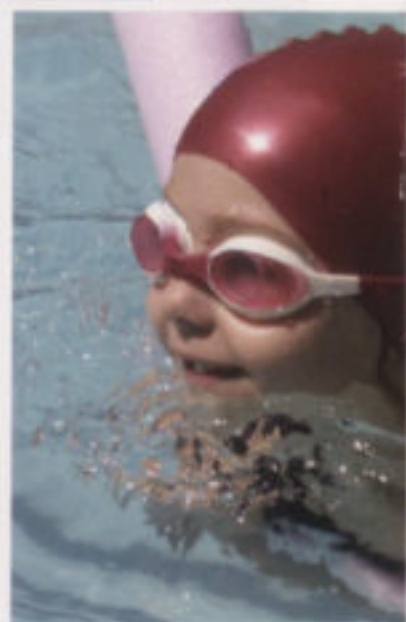
■ At the Preparatory School's Senior Phase gala, **Honey Osrin** (Grade 7) received the Open Victrix Ludorum trophy and the Van Heerden Cup for winning the Open Individual Medley. She also broke the Open 50m backstroke and 25m butterfly records. Recently, Honey took part in the **Invitational Swimming Grand Prix** in Stellenbosch after qualifying with national times. She swam with top swimmers from around the country as well as international swimmers. At only 13 years of age, Honey qualified for the 100m backstroke final and came sixth overall.



Sport

■ **Michaela de Villiers** (right) shows her mettle in the Preparatory gala.

■ The **Foundation Phase** gala, the first gala for many of our girls, was a breeze... with a little help from their pool noodles and lots of cheering from the spectators.





■ **Sarah Turner-Orton** (Grade 8) competed in the Western Cape Rowing Championship Regatta held this past weekend. She won her event in the single scull, making her the undefeated **U14A Western Cape** champion.

■ Sisters **Ammaarah** and **Hānim Abrahams** (of Carter House) with the trophies they won at the Interhouse Gala. Ammaarah (Grade 12) won the Senior Breaststroke Cup and Hānim (Grade 8) won the trophies for the U14 Individual Medley and for being the U14 Swimming Champion.



■ Our Senior School Open Swimming Champion, **Alessandra Bayly** (left), has been selected to represent the Western Cape in the SA Surf Lifesaving Championships in Durban in March.

OLD HERSCHELIAN NEWS

Alumni are invited to contact us on
info@herschel.org.za



ARTISTIC AND AUDACIOUS

■ Another Old Herschelian artist, **Margaret de Villiers**, attended the Founder's Day Reunion lunch where she chatted to **Katherine Diemont**, the granddaughter of her twin brother. She wrote to us: *I am so impressed with my "old school". It is FANTASTIC. Everything is just the same but it is all different. Our 1956 Class attended the celebration of the acquisition of The Hill, now the junior school. So many good memories... I am off to London next week to participate in a Botanical Art Exhibition...* When, a week later, it was announced that she had won gold at the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Botanical Art Show in London, Margaret quipped: *And to think that it all started in the Art Room at Herschel!*



■ *It was such fun meeting you and amazing to be back at Herschel and not standing outside the Head's study waiting for a summons, writes renowned sculptor, **Rosie Sturgis**, (left) who was on holiday in South Africa and stopped by to give the school a copy of her first and delightful book, *The Mammals That Moved Mankind*. Rosie was born at The Hill (now the Preparatory School) 84 years ago, but this artist, photographer and intrepid traveller still vividly remembers The Hill, the wild cranes (named Peter and Sarah) that freely roamed the gardens and even the names of their two Jersey cows, Margot and Piggy. Rosie matriculated from Herschel in 1946, studied at St Andrew's University and learned the art of bronze casting in Italy. (She was commissioned to sculpt our Dux Trophy, of a bird in flight, by Mr Desmond Loch Davies, Chairman of the Herschel Trust.) Rosie and her husband, John, live in the United Kingdom.*

■ **Alison Bradley** (Matric 1999), who studied in the USA, worked in Vietnam and is now working for the United Nations in Geneva, was in Cape Town for a few days and she agreed to address our Grade 12 History class. Alison's own fascinating history includes her relationship with her grandfather, who is one of the men in the iconic photo of the flag raising at Iwo Jima. She told the girls:



Herschel taught me:

- *Set your mind in the direction you want it to follow*
- *Manners go the extra mile*
- *Friends are the glue*
- *Push the boundaries but don't forget the boss*
- *Remember where you came from*



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