



Hostel superintendent's report

By Mrs A. Peltason

Not wishing to duplicate the comprehensive report submitted by our Head Girl, I shall concentrate on some of the facts about the hostel and hostel life.

The Sholto McIntyre Hostel serves an elite and essential role in the school make up, providing excellent, affordable care for those girls whose parents find it difficult to manage their daughters' everyday lives. The hostel fills this gap, enabling girls to enjoy a full extra-mural programme should they wish to do so.

Most of our hostel girls do have very busy lives. Our head girls, Sanelisiwe, has attended extra classes for Mathematics in the afternoons, has been an active member of the school choir, has served in the Library and has played hockey. Add to a busy curriculum the burden of bringing girls to evening functions too, and the hostel seems an extremely attractive option for a busy parent.

Here at Sholto McIntyre Hostel, girls are safe and cared for by caring staff who only want the best for everyone concerned. The hostel staff, and matrons, under the leadership of our chief matron, Mrs Lana Moss, who has been with us for many years, set high standards in cleanliness and discipline.

Mrs Moss, also responsible for the monthly rotating menus, plans meals which are both nutritious and appealing. The menu plan is approved by a dietician, and while every choice may not be to an individual's taste, the hostel does try where possible to meet the reasonable requests of a majority. Unfortunately, girls with special dietary needs can not be accommodated in the hostel.

Mr Reynolds and his team keep the hostel in good repair. Some of the equipment is getting worn now but Mr Reynolds manages to keep the plumbing in an excellent state of repair. The hostel is never without hot water. This year the leaks in the roof were also repaired.

Mrs Hattingh and the Hostel Council, presided over by Mrs Woods have budgeted for hostel needs, last year replacing the Common Room carpet and furniture, and this year painting the Matric Lounge.

The hostel also provides an excellent after-care service for parents who find it difficult to pick up their children in the afternoons. Our after-care group, mostly

juniors, has numbered between 18 and 21 this year. After-care provides lunch, afternoon prep and safe supervision until collection at 5.00 p.m.

Language spoken at table is supposed to be English, and this year, far more than the past two years, more English is spoken in the Dining Hall. This is encouraged not only because the school's language of teaching and learning is English, but also because it is the Lingua Franca for all, in a place where this year and last year, at least four different language groups were represented.

The planning of activities each term is left in the hands of the prefects and hostel leaders. Under the leadership of Sanelisiwe, ably assisted by Deputy, Emma-Kate, Prefect, Athi-Lilitha and Monitors, Pumela, Elle and Khanyisile, some great activities were planned and enjoyed, the highlight being the Amazing Race in the third term. We are most grateful to Sir Thomas Muir Hostel for providing the sound system as our own never seems to be available or in good repair.

Our Duty Teachers, Mrs Viljoen, Miss Potgieter and Mrs Boscombe are responsible for managing the girls on a daily basis, teaching them to be prompt, respectful and tidy, which, admittedly, is an on-going battle. These teachers fulfil a loving role and I am grateful to them for their unflinching patience with the girls. The girls are what make the hostel what it is, and this year we have a delightful group of girls, so full of talent and goodwill. Our numbers have ranged between 17 and 21, with some girls coming in for only a short spell, while others have returned after years away. It is wonderful to see how all-embracing the hostel is.

Overseeing the hostel, advised and assisted by a wise principal, Mrs Woods, now resident downstairs in the garden flat, makes my task a really pleasant one. I thank all who have contributed to the well-being of the hostel.

Hostel head girl's report

By Sanelisiwe Mrubata

It has been a great honour and privilege for me to serve as Hostel Head Prefect. We have experienced both happy and gloomy days this year. We hostel leaders started the year off with a workshop planning for the year ahead while reminding ourselves of the rules and what was expected of us as the newly elected body. This meant coming into Hostel a day earlier than the rest of the girls.

The leadership this year were: Sanel-

isiwe, (Head) Emma-Kate (Deputy), Athi-Lilitha, Pumela and Elelwani and we were later joined by Khanyisile. Full of enthusiasm that same night we went out for supper accompanied by our two dearest mothers, Mrs Woods and Mrs Peltason. The evening went off well, cracking and sharing jokes among ourselves, and with the fun we had, the leadership team received a few words of encouragement and were told what would be really expected of us in the year ahead.

In just in the blink of an eye we had to wake up and prepare for the homecoming of the girls. We put together the rule packages, did dorm allocations, kitchen duty lists and welcome packages. This year we welcomed Mrs Boscombe to our hostel family, taking charge as a new duty teacher. Our dear Mrs Viljoen and Miss Potgieter continue to serve as duty teachers.

Our first activity was Orientation Week. We ran with this for two weeks and ended on a good note by having a mini talent show with our girls, thereafter enjoying a social with our brother school hostel, Muir College. Within two weeks of our social we were invited by the boys to join them for their movie and braai evening.

Not only are the hostelites known for socialising but also for praising God in our 'Saal Sessions' which were introduced by one of our Duty Teachers, Mrs Viljoen. We have fond memories of when Mrs Moss arranged an incredible way to end the first term by treating us to a wonderful supper of take-outs of our choice and later that day, supplying us with snacks to munch on during the movie session. The second term was rather quiet but one of the highlights was when we heard that we were getting another sister to join our family, Siviwe Ndodana, who was warmly welcomed by everyone. The second highlight of the second term was when we were able to showcase our talent at our assembly, loosely centred on the role of a woman. The talented young ladies read poetry, rapped, and danced, generally entertaining the assembly. Everyone took part.

We have shared fond memories together from picnicking at Willow Dam and keeping up with our childhood memories to attending events such as The School's Annual Drama Production, *Finding Fame*, the Inter house Plays, Miss Riebeek, the JTC talent show and the SCA Bash. In the third term, the Matrics finally had the long awaited privilege of moving up stairs, proving that they could study by themselves, and be left alone. While the Matrics were left to move upstairs, we were also planning what we would do for our very last social as hostelites. We

came to the decision to host our very own AMAZING RACE 2014. The Muir hostel was once again invited. The social started off with the hostelites, from both hostels, being divided into ten groups of four to five participants, each thereafter having to complete challenges in the corners of the school ground and around the hostel where they would find stations, each manned by a Matric from either school.

There would of course be no social without music, and as tired as the participants were, they managed to revive and the girls didn't hesitate to do what they are good at, which would be dancing. Yet again our visitors were amazed by the beauty and talent we have at the hostel and many were able to exchange numbers and make new friends on that very same night. Thank You to the hostel prefects, Emma and Athi, for being able to pull off such a successful and time-consuming event together.

To my deputy and prefect, Emma-Kate and Athi, thank you so much for being there for me 24/7, literally. If it wasn't for you ladies being able to calm me down or cheer me up when I was at my lowest, I don't think this year would have been as celebrated as this one has been. And to my monitors: Elelwani, Pumela and Khanyisile, I appreciate you all. You have been amazing: your labour is not in vain.

To the Matrons, Staff, Duty Teachers, Superintendent and Principal: Dearest ladies, I would like to thank you so much for the efforts and energy invested in us this year because I know there were days where you felt like leaving us here and going back to the peace and quiet of your

own homes, but we know once you were at home you would be missing the girls like "crazy". I would like to thank you for everything you have done for us from the leading us into the right direction of life, teaching us cleanliness, respect for others and giving us those unexpected treats now and again which I think have added to the weight gained over the years we have been at hostel. Thank you for the love, the care you have shown us, not only this year but over the years you have been part of our lives.

To my sisters, partners in crime and the hostel girls at large, you have been amazing young ladies. At times you have been a handful but I reckon every relationship has its pros and cons. I am truly going to miss the girls, the energetic Grade 8s, the bubbly and sweet Grade 9s, the funny Grade 10 and naughty, funny Grade 11s.

Hostel has been one of the best places to be. If I could, I'd come back again just to indulge in the amazing hostel food and the experience the loud atmosphere. It is not just about four walls you see, but the people who live within the walls who make it a home away from home. To the new head, I leave you with the following words which have been traditionally passed on from the hostel head of 2009, Bongiwe Dawuwa, the words from the movie Spiderman:- "With great power, comes great responsibility" and always keep this in mind: the latter shall be greater than the former.