

JUNE 2024



# WESTVILLE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## FAREWELL, CASI!

Casimir Storm, a brilliant exchange student from Germany, proudly rang the bell at his final assembly. This poignant tradition bids farewell to our graduating students, echoing the lasting impact each individual has made on our school community.

Casimir joined Westville Boys' High School a year ago through the Rotary Exchange Programme. Reflecting on his time here, he expressed, "This has truly been the best year of my life, and I've formed lifelong friendships. I am proud to be a Griffin!"

We wish Casimir all the best and extend our heartfelt gratitude for his valuable contribution to our school.

Pictured above from left, Ty Haynes (Deputy Head Boy) Casimir Storm, Max Robertson (Head Boy) Dr. Michael Ezekowitz (1963) Enzelwe Simelane (Deputy Head Boy) and Roxton Payne (Deputy Head Boy).



## A message from **Casimir Storm:** (Delivered to the school at his final assembly)

Good morning Mr. Steel, staff and last but not least my fellow students of Westville Boys' High...

My name is Casi and I have had the great honour of being part of this brotherhood over the last year on the Rotary Exchange Programme.

I distinctly remember my arrival here at Westville Boys' as if it was yesterday. I thought, wow this is a Labyrinth, a maze from mythology. How am I ever going to find my classroom or even something as simple as the nearest toilet. Yet, after a couple of weeks, I began to become familiar with Westville's nooks and crannies.

When I arrived here I didn't understand what it means to be a Griffin, to be part of this special brotherhood - a real family. In less than a few months, this school became my second home. But home is not the four walls around you. Home is where your friends are.

Here at Westville, I found them in abundance - friends for life, not just schoolmates like in so many other institutions. At Westville we are brothers, we know how to take care of each other.

I cannot express how grateful I am for my experiences here and for all the support and help that I have received from so many good people. Before coming to Westville, I had to fill out the lengthy application forms. I saw the litany rules, the school uniform and the leaders in their neat ties with an honours or full colours badge over the badge. I remember remarking to my mother that they might never let me achieve something because they could be arrogant and not take me very seriously due to the short time I would be here. Well, I am happy to say that I was completely wrong.

The most important lesson I have grasped from my experiences over the past year is to never give up. I truly believe that is the life motto for many South Africans. No matter whether you play sport or want to improve on your academics, not giving up and steeling your will to keep going is what creates success for so many in the end.

If you have a goal and you are willing to put effort and hard work into it, then Westville is the right place for you to achieve those dreams.

I would like to say thank you to the people who have assisted me, but there are too many people to thank right now. However, I do need to acknowledge a couple of special people.

Firstly, I would like to thank Mr. Tucker, my mentor, and father figure at this school. You always had the right words for me when I struggled.

Also, Ms. Martin, you always took your time when I really needed help, your kind and nurturing nature is a gift in this environment.

To all my brothers of this badge, I say thank you. And to all the staff who have willingly gone above and beyond, I thank you too.

It has been one of the biggest blessings of my life to have been able to experience this wonderful melting pot of a Country. From the variety of people and their culture to the beauty of nature and the incredible weather.

I often hear people complaining about how bad this Country is and that they would like to move overseas. I think that's rather sad. Please do not get me wrong, there are many things that go wrong on a daily basis and many of you have experienced real tragedies. However, I think or at least hope that there is going to be a change in this country.

You are that change, that hope, the future of South Africa and the continent's hope. The future of this Country is yours and you should welcome the chance to improve upon it. Your Country has so many beautiful sites, from the Berg to the Beach, from the Western Cape to Limpopo. But for me the people of this country are the reason for its unique character, kind and humble people who want to do right. I think this country has 62 million reasons to be successful in the future.

Ngiyabonga ubuntu benu Westville Boys!

Dankie manne vir al die goeie tye, gees en herinneringe wat ons by al die sportsgeleenthede kon maak.

Veels Geluk Matrieks van 2024.

Konke okuthle! Niqhube Kakuhle! Halala Westville Boys, Halala.

Thank you all for what you have given me and best of the luck for the future.

# WBHS PARTNERS WITH REEBOK



Westville Boys' High School proudly announces a partnership with Reebok, becoming the first South African school to partner with the brand in Basketball. This association reflects our dedication to sports excellence and our Basketball aspiration.

Reebok's Marketing Manager Steve Young, a proud Old Boy from the class of 1993, shares excitement around the collaboration, which aims to elevate WBHS Basketball efforts and offer the brand's support where opportunities allow.

Reebok has a rich heritage in Basketball culture, with the category now being spearheaded by Shaquille O'Neal, as Global President of Reebok Basketball. In 2025, Reebok will launch performance basketball products into South Africa.

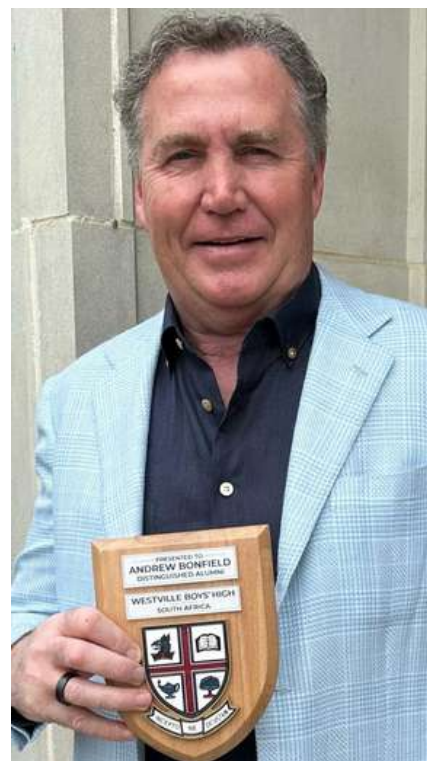
## HONOURING ANDREW BONFIELD

Andrew Bonfield, a member of the class of 1980, and CFO at Caterpillar Inc. ( USA ) was presented with a Distinguished Alumni plaque for his outstanding contribution to the WBHS Foundation.

The Foundation's primary focus last year was to ensure the completion of Griffin House – a 60 bed Boarding Establishment, complete with a Sanitorium and 3 flatlets for Boarder Masters.

Completed earlier in the year, Griffin House offers a true "home-away-from-home", experience for our boys where they will receive unwavering support to help them discover their purpose.

Thank you, Andrew, for your generous support and contribution to our school!



## GRIFFIN SUPPORTER'S KIT

Designed, manufactured and embroidered by three different Old Boys, the top-quality Griffin Supporter's Kit is on sale, as part of our ongoing efforts to uplift and support our school.

In honour of your strong Griffin brotherhood, purchase your supporters gear from our online shop [www.woba.co.za](http://www.woba.co.za) with an option to collect it directly from the school or to deliver.

For any queries, please contact [business@wbhs.co.za](mailto:business@wbhs.co.za).



# NEWS FROM THE **WBHS ARCHIVES**

## **Water, water everywhere!**

Heavy rainstorms and flooding have become common in our local weather over the past few years. While WBHS has generally seen minimal damage, a recent heavy downpour and a leaking roof in the Media Centre caused damage to yearbooks, school magazines, and other items in the WBHS Archives. Thankfully, the Archives has duplicate copies of these magazines, which are a valuable record of the school's history.

There are various reminders of excessive or insufficient water throughout the school's history. The first school on this site, the Bernard's farmhouse, used water from a borehole (well). In 1946, the borehole dried up, and the school had to purchase water from the Town Board, which suggests they didn't have piped water at the early farm school.

The school is situated on a hill, with lower land to the north and south. The northern land was leveled and filled to create what's now known as Bowden's Field. Originally, there was a pond in that area. Since the early days of Bowden's Field, the area has been prone to flooding, and puddles collect in the outfield. On May 12, 1971, Westville experienced over 150mm of rain, leading Bowden's Field to flood. Two Westville schoolboys even launched a rowing boat to improve drainage. An underground drainage system has been installed, but nature still plays a significant role.

To the south of the school buildings lay an area of bush and scrub in the early days. This extensive area of nearly six acres was cleared and leveled in 1961 to create a new sports field, known as the new field. Westville cricketers who have had to retrieve balls from down the bank on Common's Field will encounter a deep drain built to channel the stream that ran through that area.

Finally, the last remaining sports field to the east of the school building was initially named Millard's Field, after the headmaster Mr. V.E. Millard, who led Westville Government School from 1951 to 1954. This field was later known as Growler's Patch, after a legendary vice-principal who supervised sports activities on that field. Today, Growler's Patch is submerged underwater, and two swimming pools have been built in that space. The older pool was named in honor of Chad Ho, an Olympic long-distance swimmer and multiple Midmar Mile winner. The newer pool, Chad Le Clos pool, was built to water polo dimensions, with most of the costs being covered by a donation, although the water to fill it was not. Oh dear too much water again!

-D.O. Collier, WBHS Archivist.



Anthony Cope, Class of 1974, joyfully pointing to himself sitting on the scoreboard in the famous flood photograph (right).



## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding success of our students for their great achievements in the Top 10 of Grade 11 and Grade 12 in Term 2. Their diligence, determination, and enthusiasm have truly yielded remarkable results, and we are immensely proud of them.

Congratulations to these exceptional students for their well-deserved academic accomplishments!



### **Top 10 of Grade 12 (in order):**

Roxton Payne  
Ronan Du Plessis  
Lukas Smithers  
Grendon Cass  
Zuhayr Elias  
Safwaan Ebrahim  
Sulaym Ally  
Reece Olsen  
Mawande Buthelezi  
Yang-Guang Chen

### **Top 10 of Grade 11 (in order):**

John Adewumi  
Stephen McKenzie  
Scott Bowman  
Nhlakanipho Ciliza  
Lwazi Makgabutlane  
Keenan Mare  
Thomas Englund  
Johnathan Standage  
Dhiashan Govender  
Nhlonipho Mkhize



## SPORT ACHIEVEMENTS



Mbasa "Larry" Nkonki, a Westville Old Boy from the class of 2020, has been chosen to represent South Africa in the Rugby Sevens squad at the 2024 FISU World University Championships Rugby Sevens in France.

Congratulations, Larry! Your unwavering commitment and effort have led to this incredible achievement. We are bursting with pride and eagerly anticipate witnessing your brilliance on the global stage.



Ethan Hooker, who matriculated in 2021, earned a well-deserved spot in the Springboks training squad for the upcoming internationals. Ethan's dedication, talent, and hard work have propelled him to this remarkable achievement, and we couldn't be prouder to see our school be represented at the highest level of rugby.

Likhona Finca and Liyema Ntshanga have been selected for the Junior Springbok squad for the upcoming World Rugby Under-20 Championship.

The tournament kicked off on 29 June in Cape Town at DHL Stadium and Athlone Stadium, with subsequent pool match days scheduled for 4 and 9 July. The playoffs, including the semi-finals for the top four sides, will be staged on 14 July, with the final and ranking matches on 19 July.

The Junior Boks started their campaign on Saturday, 29 June with an exceptional win against Fiji with Lekhona scoring a try in the 68th minute. The next pool game is against Argentina on 4 July at the Danie Craven Stadium in Stellenbosch followed by England on 9 July at Athlone Stadium.

**GOOD LUCK, GRIFFINS.**  
**YOU MAKE US PROUD!**



Likhona Finca (2023)



Liyema Ntshanga (2022)

## THE GRIFFIN LEGACY

The Griffin Legacy Network was established in late 2023 with the aim of providing support to the WBHS Foundation in its efforts to enhance the school's Boarding facilities. Originally conceived as a network exclusively for Old Boys, it has evolved to encompass the participation of current students' parents and the parents of former Old Boys.

As a member, you can look forward to gaining access to exclusive events, functions, and a closely-knit and supportive community. This initiative has garnered significant interest within our community and every month sees the onboarding of new partners. Some of our current partners include Dunlop Tyres, Lupa Astoria, Waxy O Connors, Woodcutters, Bluff Meat Supplies, Olive & Oil, Westville Country Club, Corogains Sports, Adidas, Puma, The Pavilion Shopping Centre, and others.

To join the #GriffinNetwork, simply visit [www.woba.co.za](http://www.woba.co.za) and follow the instructions to choose from the available options. For as little as R 50 per month, you can help the Westville Boys' High School Foundation accomplish its Boarding Establishment and Campus enhancement objectives. If you wish to include your business in this network, kindly reach out to [business@wbhs.co.za](mailto:business@wbhs.co.za).

All legacy donors will receive a #GriffinNetwork card, which will serve as your gateway to accessing numerous benefits offered by our above-mentioned partners. Once processed online, your card will be promptly made up either for collection or delivery as per your request.

At the end of each year, every matriculant will be gifted membership for 5 years. We trust that they will, thereafter, support this initiative and become Legacy Donors themselves. With over 10 500 Old Boys, our initial target is to receive support from 2500 Old Boys, and as the network evolves, so will the value – but we cannot do this without your support. No matter where you are in the world, you can help us achieve a sustainable, annuity driven source of much needed income to keep our beloved school in demand and the leader in its class!

All donations are eligible for an S18A tax certificate, providing you with an added incentive to support this long-term initiative.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LUCKY WINNERS OF THE GRIFFIN CLUB EVENING THAT TOOK PLACE ON 7 JUNE



# 2024 REUNION WEEKEND

What a wonderful weekend it was as we reunited with our esteemed Old Boys at Westville Boys' High School!

The 2024 Reunion Weekend began with a Memorial Service in the Bernard Quad to honour former WBHS Staff and Students.

The Old Boys were warmly welcomed to the assembly by our current Griffins. They enjoyed a tour of the school, followed by a dinner in the long room where old friendships were rekindled and new memories were created.

A special moment occurred when Gordon De Beer, the 1st XV Captain from 1974, passed the rugby match ball to the 2024 Captain, Chris Cloete, at his 50-year reunion. This significant occasion set the stage for an exciting match against Northwood. The Griffins played Northwood Knights across 20 rugby and 14 hockey fixtures, winning 12 rugby games, losing six and drawing two, while also winning five hockey games, drawing six and losing three.

Old Boy and XV Head Coach, Jabz Zulu, celebrated his 20th reunion and expressed what a special opportunity it was to represent his class and team on this day as a WBHS Old Boy and noted that the heart of the Griffin, the love, and the brotherhood remained unchanged over the years.

In another inspiring moment, Jacques Bleeker, the 2014 Hockey Captain, delivered a motivating speech to our 1st Team ahead of their clash against the highly rated Hilton side. His words of encouragement proved to be effective as WBHS emerged victorious with a 2-1 victory.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this reunion. The enthusiasm is palpable as we eagerly anticipate next year's reunion!



**Hendan Wienand, Class of 1981, delivers the eulogy at the memorial.**



"You young men are part of us, just as we are part of you. We are a family, a brotherhood. A tribe of proud Griffin men past and present, and now it is your turn to create your stories, add a piece of yourself to this house, and to build onto the legacy of this ever-strengthening and special tribe of men"

- Michael Falkson, **Chairman of the Westville Old Boys' Association**

Michael Falkson, Class of 1987, addresses the entire school and Old Boys at the 2024 Reunion.



## MAY I NOT SHRINK FROM MY PURPOSE



# INCEPTO NE DESISTAM



# INCEPTO NE DESISTAM



"A huge thank you to the team who organised the 1964 Reunion. It was awesome. The gentlemen of the school couldn't have given us a warmer or more respectful welcome when we walked into assembly - it was honestly a very emotional time for all of us. The school has grown so much since we completed matric in 1963, and walking along the old corridors and stairways certainly took us down 'memory lane'. May Westville Boys High School continue to prosper and provide an outstanding grounding for the future lives of all the learners who are so fortunate to be enrolled there" - **Trish Bright**



## A HEARTWARMING GATHERING FILLED WITH REMINISCENCE!



# IN MEMORY OF STUDENTS

|                           |           |                             |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| David Allock              | 1947-2001 | Andrew Gordon               | 1976-2001 |
| Michael Nicholson         | 1950-2000 | Brent Wilson                | 1974-2010 |
| Clive Ellis               | 1952-1972 | Stephen Griffiths           | 1979-1996 |
| Anthony Benjamin          | 1954-1978 | Bruce Scott                 | 1961-2006 |
| Bruce Stevenson           | 1954-1975 | Murray Steele               | 1960-1986 |
| Clive Thomas              | 1955-1993 | Leonard Kumst               | 1965-2008 |
| David Pocock              | 1956-1991 | Curtis Franklin             | 1988-2009 |
| Keith Williams            | 1958-2005 | Michael Da Silva Coelho     | 1972-1991 |
| Barry Stead               | 1960-1992 | Alastair Lomas-Walker       | 1967-2009 |
| Alan Jones                | 1962-2002 | Dennis Rudman               | 1944-2010 |
| Roger Leech               | 1962-2000 | Michael Ramsey              | 1996-2011 |
| Lance Sibbald             | 1964-2000 | Cameron Adamson             | 1958-2011 |
| Roger Owen-Ellis          | 1966-2004 | Gareth Vaughan              | 1955-2012 |
| David Leisegang           | 1968-1982 | Matthew Simons              | 1986-2012 |
| Brian McGroarty           | 1968-1992 | David Peter Harley          | 1962-2011 |
| Derek Anderson            | 1969-1997 | Colin Burt                  | 1954-2003 |
| Gregg van Quickelberge    | 1971-2005 | Robert De Beer              | 1962-2013 |
| Wade Hulsén               | 1971-1989 | Grahame David Walsh         | 1956-1989 |
| Warren Hancke             | 1971-1988 | Pieter Klaas Klop           | 1956-1991 |
| Johnathan Nurcombe-Thorne | 1972-2002 | Conal Anthony McIntosh      | 1955-1998 |
| David Patton              | 1972-2003 | Quinton Reed                | 1975-2001 |
| Darren Berriman           | 1972-1989 | Mark Johnston               | 1999-2014 |
| Andrew Howells            | 1974-2002 | Anthony Barnes              | 1960-1999 |
| Trevor Spavins            | 1975-1994 | Michael John Gundry         | 1963-2012 |
| Charles Eden              | 1976-2001 | Ken Gillings                | 1947-2016 |
| James Hedgcock            | 1977-1994 | Bryn Magree                 | 2000-2017 |
| Matthew Jennings          | 1985-2003 | Russell Greenwood           | 1959-2016 |
| Tremaine Dedekind         | 1986-2005 | Trevor Coni                 | 1959-2015 |
| Kevin Andre Meyer         | 1956-1987 | Angus MacDonald Hudson      | 1960-2016 |
| Colin Michael Doyle       | 1955-2009 | Ian MacDonald Hudson        | 1953-2011 |
| Michael Clive Swan        | 1955-1990 | Richard Smorenburg          | 1973-2017 |
| Philip Denton Cleverton   | 1956-1989 | Gregory De Wet              | 1951-2016 |
| Marco Pettit              | 1978-2006 | Gareth Evans                | 1981-2016 |
| Brian Haine               | 1953-1975 | Adam Bold                   | 2002-2019 |
| Marc Joubert              | 1977-2007 | Mark Howard                 | 1966-2020 |
| Greg Bosch                | 1955-2002 | Christopher Van Quickeberge | 1969-2020 |
| Colin Kirk                | 1965-2002 | Duncan Milne                | 1977-2020 |
| Hilton Adkin              | 1957-2002 | Jeffrey Maiden              | 1962-2010 |
| Trevor Hampton            | 1951-2006 | Peter John Lamb             | 1956-2002 |
| Mpumelelo Sithole         | 1991-2007 | Daniel Isak Taft            | 2003-2020 |

|                   |           |                        |           |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Alan Brooks       | 1947-1997 | Howard "Curly" Roberts | 1943-2021 |
| David Walker      | 1959-1998 | Bruce Fraser Gourlay   | 1954-2021 |
| Jean-Paul Meiring | 1974-2021 | Neil Marchussen        | 1961-1995 |
| Craig Thwaits     | 1970-2021 | Jono Marsden           | 1971-2020 |
| Sheldon Scott     | 1973-1991 | Clinton Johann Stoltz  | 1972-2017 |
| Don Paverd        | 1936-2023 | Donald Storey          | 1964-2024 |

## IN MEMORY OF STAFF, BENEFACTORS & FRIENDS

|                      |           |                    |           |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Gerald Sweidan       | 1955-2005 | Peter Bees         | 1951-2012 |
| NW Bowden            | 1955-1963 | Germaine Leonard   | 1986-2012 |
| HJ Commons           | 1964-1965 | John De Wet        | 1931-2012 |
| DC Thompson          | 1966-1970 | EP Stockil         |           |
| CD Harcourt          | 1971-1973 | Diana Warwick      | 1949-2014 |
| PC Doyle             | 1974-1983 | Sandra Houghton    | 1949-2012 |
| RW Coouzens          | 1983-1989 | Kenneth Dickens    | 1929-2018 |
| Wilma Erika Fitschen | 1943-2006 | Nestor Pierides    | 1954-2019 |
| Eugene De Bruyn      | 1961-2014 | Jacques De Marigny | 1950-2021 |
| Carol Cash           | 1958-2009 | Terry M Nevin      | 1934-2022 |
| Viv Slabbert         | 1941-2009 | Phillip Kemp       | 1933-2011 |
| Nic Scheepers        | 1942-2009 | Michael John Metz  | 1939-2023 |
| Derrick Gwabuzela    | 1973-2010 | Sally Anne Beuster | 1954-2023 |
| Reagan Jacobus       | 1958-2011 | Esme Nelson        | 1951-2024 |

## OLD BOYS DATABASE UPDATE

[Click here](#) to update your details so that we can stay in touch.

As a subscribed member, you will gain exclusive access to various benefits such as professional networking opportunities, discounts, preferential pricing and invitations to special alumni events.

Do you have a story as an Old Boy that you would like to share?  
Email [marketing@wbhs.co.za](mailto:marketing@wbhs.co.za) to feature your news in our next edition.