

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10 JUNE 2009

Good evening ladies and gentlemen – welcome to our AGM for 2009.

We would like to thank you for your attendance this year, the turnout has exceeded any other year.

Particular thanks must go to the class mothers and fathers that have been integral in spreading the word and getting you all to attend.

The past year has not been an easy one in terms of the Guild Committee. A year ago we started out as a new Guild with entirely new members facing the daunting and challenging task of delivering on what previous Guild Committees had accomplished. This, with the fact that it was the schools 60th birthday and there were numerous tasks at hand.

Our first order of business was the Golf Day. Special thanks, particularly to Sandy Venter and Stephanie Forbes in the manner in which they took charge and delivered, along with Amanda Derksen, Claire Hodge, Megan Turner and Garth Whaits, what turned out to be a most spectacular day. To borrow the words of the previous Chair of the Guild from a year ago – **NOTHING GREAT WAS EVER ACHIEVED WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM AND COMMITMENT** – Their enthusiasm and commitment was immeasurable. Indeed, Chris and myself at a certain stage entertained the idea of darting them to allow ourselves time to catch up with them.

Again, I would like to make mention of the class mothers and fathers who gave so willingly of their time in assisting us on the day. And of course to all the parents and children who behind the scenes sold the raffle tickets for us. This alone brought in R76 500.00

The day was a phenomenal success. We were oversubscribed for both the golf and the evening function with certain golfers requesting their four balls reserved for the following year.

The total amount raised for the Golf Day was R165 500.00.

Our next project was what used to be the Food and Wine Fair. We felt that it was time to do something a little different and try and embody that old spirit of a Somerset House fun day with the emphasis on family. As I am sure you are all aware the day was an outstanding success and thanks once more go to Sandy Venter, Stephanie Forbes, Claire Hodge, Amanda Derksen, Megan Turner and Garth Whaits.

It was felt by the Committee that it was imperative that we include the class mothers and fathers in the planning and execution of the Fun Day and a special thank you to each and every one of you that made it possible. Your assistance and enthusiasm for the project knew no bounds! Also to those of you who so willingly gave up your time early on Sunday morning, particularly Russ Dalton who helped us in the clean up for school on Monday.

Again, thank you to all of you for the assistance in selling the raffle tickets – this alone brought in R17 200.00. Total amount raised on this day was R76 578.75.

Lastly and by no means least – thank you to all you parents who are always willing to attend these functions and make them the success stories that they turn out to be.

Recently the Guild has taken over the running of the Pavilion. We are planning a face lift in the future that is going to make it more attractive and versatile for ourselves as well as the many schools that visit our sports fields. I am indebted to Noleen Bam who has selflessly come forward, giving up much of her free time to control and run the facility along with Amanda Derksen.

I know that it is on many of your minds as to where the funds have gone having been raised to date.

In terms of the agreement between the previous Guild and the school, all money raised during the 60th birthday year would be paid over to the school for the new building venture. In terms of this, we paid over R165 000.00 to the school last year.

All money raised this year is in the Guild account and we are busy identifying a number of possible projects. These include the heating of the swimming pool, a wooden deck and braai area around the Pavilion, upgrading the after-care facilities and internal signage around the school grounds. As soon as a project becomes viable in terms of cost we will announce the venture.

Finally, a word of thanks –

To Mr Cod, the Vice-Head – to quote my little guy – “he is so strict but such a nice man.”

To our teaching staff - your endless dedication and commitment toward our children is invaluable.

To Kirsty and Noleen - operate behind the scenes and in the shadows but ever willing to assist us.

To Tracey - who keeps me on the straight and narrow, gently prodding me when I am late with the Board reports and ever so patient after the eleventh hour has passed.

To Robyn - our new caterer who keeps us nourished during the long meetings after hours where there are no witnesses to the fantastic job that she performs.

To Neil Fergusson – another force behind the scenes and always on hand for any function that requires assistance in setting up and taking down and ensuring there is electricity and lighting available.

To Chris Storey – it has been a trying and often difficult road that we have travelled and I am grateful to you for your strength and unwavering support for the Guild. But more importantly for your dedication and loyalty to the little people we place in your care.

To the Board – thank you for the guidance and particularly to Julia Dyssell the outgoing Chair who made me feel so welcome at the outset.