

Principal's Weekly Update: Monday 25 November 2024



Dear Parents, Guardians and Grandparents

**ST CHARLES COLLEGE**  
S O U T H A F R I C A

### **Probably the most dangerous sport in the world**

I get to be a guest at all the year-end functions, and I think that The Nativity Play ranks as the activity requiring the most courage. Delivering a message through the variables of Scrummies' boys with fledgling concentration spans and unpredictable excitement at being in a costume, is something to behold. The energy our teachers need to deliver an element of order into the chaos of hay bales, angels, shepherds and an assortment of stable animals is immense. I am sure you are excited that it is almost time for us to deliver your Christmas play stars back into your care. This will be the last weekly update of the year, and we wish all our families a safe and peaceful holiday period.

### **Perspective**

When we finally get to push the stop button for 2024, the year will be recorded as a significant turning point for our country, our city and the College. The past eleven months have delivered unexpectedly positive escapes from disaster – the depth of which we may never know – but we do know that when politicians put aside institutional pride to work together, the situation must have been dire. This year, the promised end to loadshedding actually happened, but not before large sections of the South African private sector declared their independence from Eskom. In the background, the economic dominance of the US Dollar continues to batter emerging market currencies – and yet the Rand continues to regain ground; a positive signal that the country is fighting back.

In 2025, interest rates will be slightly lower, inflation will have subsided and some of our N3 frustrations will be overshadowed by the emergence of a connected provincial economic ecosystem that gives the Capital city and KZN interior access to bigger markets and brings an injection of life to our city. At St Charles College we will celebrate 150 years of history, and no matter what happens, or what the new year holds in store for us, we will continue to fight for the best-case scenario.

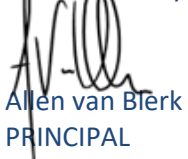
### **God's emergency room**

If you have ever been to an emergency room, you will probably have been disturbed by how calm everyone is. At the height of your anxiety, there seems to be a universal emergency room tactic of making you fill in forms as though that will somehow calm you down; and in the background, trained people go about their business at a pace that is hopelessly below the urgency levels you expect.

This year you may have had occasion to be in God's emergency room, presenting Him with imminent disaster and impossible situations that may have engulfed your mind with waves of worry and fear. This is probably a common experience for us all and reminds me of the story of Jesus in the boat sleeping through the storm. The Christmas story can equally confound the seeker: At a time when the world was desperately devoid of peace, God's solution was to send a baby – a pretty underwhelming solution, given the treacherous political era into which He was born. It would take a further thirty-three years for the baby to deliver the peace that God had promised, first on a cross in shame and humiliation, and then in the triumphant defeat of death as his resurrection confirmed His power over sin and death. The scriptures tell us that God's urgency is not the same as ours, which means we may also underestimate the outcome He is seeking:

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. " Isaiah 9:6*

Yours faithfully



Allen van Blerk  
PRINCIPAL