Alexandra Breckenridge (M) scored a triumph in the 55th High Schools’ Public Speaking Festival, when she won the Individual Speaker Trophy Event.

Alexandra’s prepared speech was on freedom of speech, and her exact topic was a quotation from John Milton’s Areopagitica: “Let truth and falsehood grapple. Who ever knew truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?”

The adjudicators acclaimed both Alexandra’s prepared speech and her impromptu, and her victory is a superb achievement!

Siba Dlamini (MV) has been chosen for the Gauteng Central Provincial Under 15B team.

Hayley Tsuen (LV) has been chosen to represent Gauteng in the Under 15A Team at the SA High Schools Interprovincial Tennis Tournament in Pretoria from 30 March to 3 April.

Megan Stoger was invited to play in the S.A. Schools “Closed” Tournament held at Parkview Squash Club in Johannesburg from 18-21 March. The top three girls from each province were invited to participate in the tournament. Megan is currently number 1 in Gauteng. She finished 8th in the tournament and now ranks in the top 10 in South Africa.

Jade Lightfoot has been selected as a player and captain of the U16 Southern Gauteng Action Netball Team that will play at the Annual Inter-Provincial Tournament in Johannesburg from 31 March to 3 April.

Logan Bate has been selected as a player for the U16 Southern Gauteng Action Netball Team that will play at the Annual Inter-Provincial Tournament in Johannesburg from 31 March to 3 April.
Dear Parents

This newsletter is rich with news about the variety of activities and many successes that have characterized a very busy term. I would like to thank all the girls and their respective teachers and coaches for their commitment and hard work. In a few weeks, we should all be able to enjoy a well-deserved break to indulge in more leisurely activities.

At the beginning of February, I attended the 2016 Global Forum on Girls’ Education in New York. The conference was excellent, dealing with current challenges in education generally, and the education of girls in particular. The focus on curriculum development was less prominent in this forum than it had been in previous years. Those areas in which presentations were given and discussions held concentrated specifically on the integration of the Arts/Design curriculum with Mathematics and the Sciences. The development of a curriculum to teach Ethics is being significantly promoted in many of the American Schools, in particular. These initiatives are similar to the Cognitive Skills Curriculum that we are continuing to design and build here at Roedean.

The main focus of this forum was on the emotional and physical well-being of girls and the development of personal leadership, beginning at an early age: i.e., entry level Grade 0 - Grade 12. There is a growing concern in girls’ schools that the determination by girls to achieve ‘effortless perfectionism’ is resulting in an unprecedented level of anxiety and the treatment of depression, OCD, self-harm tendencies, and eating disorders, in many countries. There was significant debate about solutions to the problem. It is a complex issue and there is no single solution to this multi-faceted problem. The solution, it was widely felt, lies in the development of self-leadership and building a capacity for self-reliance, resilience, and independence in girls and young women.

During our stay, I also had the privilege of visiting the Nightingale-Bamford Upper School, the Klingenstein Center for Independent School Leadership, and The Spence School.

At the conference, I attended a talk by Lisa Damour, a psychologist, whose area of expertise focuses on some of the challenges of the developmental journey of adolescent girls. She was outstanding, and I am including for you, at the end of this newsletter, two excellent articles, written by her. I trust you will find them interesting and that they will give you pause for thought.

We were also privileged to be addressed by Arianna Huffington, who spoke at length of the dangers of our enslavement by the world of Information Technology.

I remain convinced that many of the initiatives at Roedean, governing curriculum and pastoral care, are comparable to the top global standards and practices.

On Friday, 11 March, Professor Lena Green visited the school for the day to conduct the assessment of our readiness to be accredited at LV and MV by the University of Exeter as a Thinking School. Professor Green interviewed staff, girls, and their parents and attended a number of lessons. She was most complimentary about her experience. It is anticipated that we will receive feedback on the application status in May.
On Tuesday, 8 March, we celebrated the formal opening of the newly refurbished Sciences Laboratories. The opening took place in the presence of the donors. Mr. Siya Xuza was the guest speaker, and he provided an inspirational address to the girls. Once again, I would like to thank the members of the Trust and the Board for their support of this project.

I wish you a blessed Easter weekend. If you are travelling, please do so with care.

Warm regards

Mary Williams

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www.roedeanschool.co.za
We have been overwhelmed by positive feedback from users who have downloaded the App, and we would encourage everyone who has not downloaded the App to please do so.

The App is available in the **Apple App Store**, the **Google Play Store**, and as a **Web App**. It is compatible with IOS & Android smart phones, android tablets, and iPads. Find it by searching for **The Roedean School** in your smart device’s app store or by clicking on the following links:

**Click here for Android and Apple App, as well as the scaled down Web App:**


The code to open the app is **ROED112**

**Personalising the App**

It is really important that you personalise the App to meet your specific needs. Personalising the App ensures that you receive notifications that are relevant to you. If you have misplaced the email with your log in code:

- Click on My Profile;
- Select *Forgot my access code*;
- Enter your email address;

The system will send you your access code.

If, for some reason, you are not registered, your email address will not be recognised. Please email Brenda Caplen, at brenda@myappzone with your name, and request a code.

If you have your personal code:

- Enter the code and log in;
- Add your access code;

Enter your code and click *Ok*.

Once you are logged in, please set up your profile by clicking on account settings:
**Account Settings**

Click on **Account Settings** in the **My Profile** tab and tick the privacy information that you would like displayed to others. This information can be changed/updated at any time. Please see visuals below:

Please select your notification settings to ensure that you get the messages that you want to receive. NB: If you do not make selections here, you will not receive the correct messages from the school. Also, if you are not logged in, you will receive all messages that are sent to all categories.

Select the categories that apply to you and click on Save.
**Bookmarking**
You will be able to customise your child’s sports schedule, staff contact list, and school contacts.

**Schedule**
- Click on Sports;
- Choose which school fixture is applicable to your child/children;
- Choose the sporting discipline;
- Tick the bookmark of the fixture. The fixture will not only be in your personal schedule, but it also allows for the event to synchronise with the calendar on your device.

**Staff Contact List**
- Click on Staff Profiles;
- Choose the person you want on your contact list;
Tick bookmark, and the staff member will appear on your personalised list.

**School Contacts**
- My Contact;
- Choose the person you want on your contact list;
- Tick bookmark and the people you have identified will appear on your personalised list.

We will constantly provide you with updates on the latest features, as it is vital that the App. is viewed as a relevant and user-friendly communication tool.

We encourage everyone in the Roedean community to download the App., and make it his/her primary everyday information tool for all of his/her school related-communication requirements.
Our hosting of the Round Square Africa Regional Conference was a great success, and, by all accounts, the visiting schools and the MVs who represented Roedean left enriched and energised.

There were numerous outstanding successes:

The service day at our Flying Children partnership afforded each delegate the opportunity to engage with a pre-school learner.

Guest speaker, Shaka Sisulu, inspired each delegate, and many adults, to become a superhero for service and change.

Zahra Abba Omar and her team inspired a fashion show from recycled material. This sparked very creative outfits, and the boys entered into the spirit of the event enthusiastically.

Justice Edwin Cameron addressed us in the Constitution Court, and we left with a firm conviction that there is much to be done to ensure that justice and dignity is secured in our country. Rachel Swart and her team ran a Democracy Game which challenged our perceptions of privilege and success.

The young people enjoyed a social evening with Drum Café and with Ms Avril Cummins who ran an inspiring interactive event.

The Amazing Race at the Zoo inspired both adventure and interesting discussions about environment. Thanks are extended to Jo Theron, who worked tirelessly to create a most imaginative and worthwhile race.

Sonja Kruse, our final guest speaker, spoke about her experience of Ubuntu and inspired all of us to engage with all South Africans.

The conference owes its success to many people who gave of their time and expertise. Thanks are gratefully extended to the staff who ensured the smooth running of the conference. Particular thanks to Charlotte Hulley for her significant role with Flying Children, to the guest speakers, and to Tamara Nel, who ensured that First Aid was available, and that the risk assessment was adhered to, and that the logistics and events ran timeously.
Our Baraza leaders, most of whom are in Matric, planned events for months and gave up their Half Term to guide and nurture our young visitors. Many schools commented on their leadership, which, for a conference of this nature, is the core to its success.
Our photographers gave up their Half-Term, and they have produced a most amazing iMovie of the conference—[http://bit.ly/1RqyhQd](http://bit.ly/1RqyhQd) (please download first).

Thank you to: Dhrutika Patel, Olivia Olsson, Jessica Bachelor, Casey Main, and Robyn Apollus for their hours of dedication both in taking the photographs, and in creating the iMovie. Ms. Rabies’ support in this regard is most appreciated.

Layla Li supported Ms. Nel with First Aid. Thank you Layla.

Thank you, as well, to the helpers who supported the Baraza leaders and staff in duties from packing goodie bags and, welcoming delegates to running events, such as the Fashion Show, Democracy Game, and the Amazing Race.

**Round Square Reflection - Cassie Nussey**

Who can forget the excitement of opening our hotel rooms with fancy keycards, running around the school, taking selfies everywhere, eating morning breakfast with everyone, and the anti-climax of leaving the hotel on Monday morning?!

One of the biggest realizations I had was that nobody knew me. They didn't know my name, my origin, my culture, my traditions, my beliefs, and where I came from. I thought I was going to feel as if I were in Grade 0 again, awkwardly walking towards a stranger and introducing myself. But, when waiting in reception and when the St. Constantine's delegates walked in through the door, all it took was a “Hello” and soon I was making friends from all over the continent, one after another.

When I was in my Baraza group, I became aware of how many different opinions and ideas there were. I learnt how important it is to listen to other people's perspectives and how one small idea can change the world. We grew together and had fun, as if we had known one another for years. Nobody judged and we accepted one another. I was open to say anything, speak my mind, try to dance, play the Jemba drum, and ask questions about anything and everything.

When listening to all the speakers, I realized that I don't need a following and expensive resources to be an activist, that I didn't only need to study law to fight for my rights, and don't need money to have an adventure, but a good spirit. I've probably met the first female president and that is an incredible thought!

The Round Square Africa Regional Conference for 14-to-15-years-olds was one of the most life-changing experiences I've ever had. Not only because of meeting new people and enjoying my half-term, but because I grew so much as a result of it!
Exchange News

Danielle Henwood reflects on a most successful exchange with her host sister, Andrea Jury:

I wanted to come on exchange because I had never been overseas before and it seemed like the perfect opportunity to immerse myself in a completely different culture from that which I am normally accustomed to, and it has been one of the best decisions I have ever made.

At Roedean I’ve enjoyed so many things, from being a part of the tennis team, the UV camp to Babanango, participating in Community Service, to taking subjects I normally wouldn’t take. Also listening to all the Aussie-accent impersonations was quite interesting, but there are quite a few people I reckon have got the hang of it now!

What I’ve learned from being at Roedean is to be grateful for the time my school back in Australia starts at. I thought starting school at 9 was early, little did I know, I would be expecting a 5:30 a.m. wake-up call every morning when I came here. I also remember, on my first day, sitting in on a period of Afrikaans for the first time. Now that was an interesting experience! I’m sure it would have been good if I could have just understood one word of what Mrs Le Roux was saying! Since then, though I’ve come far in my knowledge of the Afrikaans vocabulary, I can safely say that my time here has been pretty lekker.

South Africa overall has been absolutely amazing, and I’m so lucky to have gone to all the places I’ve been to. From Cape Town, to Durban, to a game reserve, I really have seen it all, and am grateful to my host family for giving me all the wonderful opportunities to explore this country. So, thank you so much to the Jury Family: Nicola, Brett and Michael, you have been so accommodating and I really have started to feel as if I’m at home. Thanks, Andrea, for being a great host sister, and I can’t wait for you to come to Australia soon!

Of course I have to thank the UV’s as well. Every single one of you has contributed to making my time here an experience to remember. Your friendliness is something I will cherish and I will miss you all so much when I leave! I’d also like to thank Sarah Martinson, because you were a familiar face around the school. When I first arrived, you answered any questions I had, so thank you for that!

I would also like to thank Mr Hanlon, the Exchange coordinator at Ballarat Grammar, and everyone else who assisted me back home, such as my parents and my trusty travel-agent. I would also like to thank all the teachers at Roedean, as you have all helped so much, and I’m entirely grateful for that. Special thanks to Mrs Murray for all your help with getting me here. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Mrs Williams for giving me the opportunity to come to Roedean. Thank you, Roedean as a whole, for making my experience such a memorable one.
Outgoing students:
We wish the following girls an exciting and successful exchange:
Kirsten Boyce: Salem, Germany
Nathatisi Mota: Hotchkiss School, USA
Ana Trninic: Pririodoslovno-Tehnicka Srednja Skola, Croatia

The President’s Award
Sandy Murray: The President’s Award, Award Leader for Roedean

Challenging young people everywhere

January: Drakensberg Silver hike: Emmanuelle Capatos
Waking up to the magnificent Drakensberg mountains and to the mooing of brown-eyed cows was just one of the special memories from the Silver President’s Hike. On our five-day journey between 4 and 8 December, 2015, when we weren’t sweating it out like Bear Grylls climbing up the mountain, we were swimming in stream pools and joking to take our minds off our dead legs. Between figuring out how to pitch a tent, managing the weight of our bags, and cooking our own meals, the hike managed to teach us more than a skill or two. We left base camp (after a long bus ride the previous day) to begin our walk, and we spent two nights sleeping out on the mountain. The views from the top were well worth the exercise. Although many found the hike challenging, we were all glad that we didn’t give up, and eventually, conquered the Drakensberg!

The President’s Award Silver Hike: 7—10 January, 2016
Nthatisi Mota reflects on the hike at Kaapsehoop, Mpumalanga
The President’s Award Hike in Kaapsehoop, Mpumalanga, was a truly rewarding experience. It was filled with both exhaustion and utter exhilaration. I, along with twelve other students (five, of whom were from Roedean) embarked, on what seemed an extremely arduous task of hiking over 20 kilometres in four days! But we did just that.
The hike not only tested me physically, but mentally as well. It was a physical test in that I came to the conclusion that walking is a sport within itself— even without all of the rocky and wet terrain we encountered! And mentally it tested me, in that I had to push myself to keep going.

Being able to say that, “I completed this hike”, is completely gratifying, and I cannot wait to embark on the Gold Adventurous Journey!

I encourage everyone to get involved with what TPA has to offer, as you are pushed beyond your comfort zone, forced to set goals, and rewarded by achieving goals you may have thought to be unobtainable. In all, nothing beats the feeling of finally reaching your destination, knowing that you achieved, yet another goal.

Bronze hikes:

Well done to the MVs who completed the prehike at the Roodepoort Botanical Gardens. Hikes are being planned for three weekends in May.

Chameleon Adventures ensured the safety and success of our girls on their Adventurous Journeys. Parents and girls can plan ahead for the Silver and Bronze adventures for 2016.

Please book directly with Chameleon for Silver and Gold Adventures and Residential Projects.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>TPA Level</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<td>Silver Adventurous Journey</td>
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<td>Magoebaskloof</td>
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<td>Gold Adventurous Journey</td>
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<td>Gold Adventurous Journey (if you have already done Magoebaskloof)</td>
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<td>Gold Residential Project</td>
<td>Community Service at animal rehab centre</td>
<td>Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre</td>
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<td>2-6 July 2016</td>
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<td>Drakensberg – Monks Cowl</td>
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<td>Kaapsehoop</td>
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<td>Community Service at animal rehab centre</td>
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<td>9-14 Aug 2016</td>
<td>Gold Residential Project</td>
<td>Community Service at animal rehab centre</td>
<td>Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre</td>
<td>open</td>
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<td>30 Aug- 2 Sept 2016</td>
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<td>Kaapsehoop</td>
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<td>21-24 Oct 2016</td>
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<td>Hiking Adventure</td>
<td>Magoebaskloof</td>
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<td>Mkomazi River</td>
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Social Responsibility
Charlotte Hulley: Social Responsibility Coordinator/Manager

On 15 March, Yusuf Abramjee addressed the senior pupils on Operation Hydrate. He discussed the background of the organisation; to conceptualisation of the project; the strategies and procedures to establishing a campaign; and water as a basic human right, and what this mean in terms of the South Africa Constitution in the context of Human Rights’ Day. Pupils were encouraged to donate a sealed five-litre bottle of water by 18 March.

On 18 March, Aleksandra Plesko from the United Nations Human Rights Regional Office addressed the pupils on Women’s Rights, as this is the theme for Human Rights’ Day, 2016. Pupils were encouraged to participate in various UNHR campaigns via social media.

The Flying Children Work Day to commemorate Human Rights’ Day on 19 March, will see volunteers working alongside community members in building a bottle-brick bench at one of the Flying Children Schools in Slovoville. Ms Tiso Chobokoane from Qala Phelang Tal (www.startlivinggreen.co.za) will travel from Bloemfontein to assist with the build. The Roedean pupils have been responsible for making 1000 bottle-bricks. The bench will be built in a communal park area in Slovoville. The Flying Children School took the initiative to clean and tidy the area so their children could use the ground for outside play. A bench in the park will encourage community participation and create awareness around waste and sustainability.

Round Square Conference Service Day Feedback

Roedean’s community partner, Flying Children, hosted 180 Round Square delegates on 19 February. The young delegates implemented educational activities in eleven of the Flying Children Schools, located in Tshepisong, Slovoville, and Swannerville on the West Rand.

The Siyakhana Food Garden Project in Bezuidenhout Park hosted 17 delegates, who participated in a Food Security and Sustainability workshop, had the opportunity to experience the different techniques of permaculture, and worked in the garden.

The Link School is one of Roedean’s community partners, and our Monday volunteers make use of The Link resources.

If you or your business would like to send volunteers to assist with literacy and numeracy development at The Link on a weekly basis please see details below. It is professionally run and will offer you and the child you work with great value.
The Link Literacy and Numeracy Support Programme in need of volunteers
The Link is a literacy and numeracy support programme for children, from underprivileged backgrounds, in Grades 2 and 3.
We use volunteers to work with the children on a 1-on-1 or 2-on-1 basis. We need helpers at all 9 schools in which we operate, in both reading and maths. It only takes 2 hours a week to make a huge difference in a child’s life.
Come and join our team of committed volunteers for 2016. Training will be given.
For further information please visit our website: www.the-link-literacy-project.co.za or contact: megan.maynard31@gmail.com

Maths Department
Roger Bourquin and Madeleine Brown—H.O.D. Maths

MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD
On 9 March, 268 pupils wrote the first round of the South African Mathematics Olympiad. The paper consisted of twenty questions with multiple-choice answers; no calculators or Mathematical instruments were permitted. We are very proud to announce that 50 Juniors (LV and MV) and 69 Seniors (UV – M) have qualified to write the Second Round, which will be held on 11 May. We wish our talented mathematicians all the best for the next challenging stage.
The Roedean Geography department was treated to a very informative and inspiring presentation recently. Dr Charles Warren, a Senior Lecturer in the Geography Department at St Andrew’s University, Scotland, was in South Africa for a short period, and he generously agreed to come to talk to the Ante-Matric and Matric Geography girls about his latest research. We were delighted to be joined by the Matric Boys from St John’s College, and four of their Geography teachers.

Dr Warren is a leading scientist in the field of Climate Change, and his special field of interest is Glaciology. For those of us who have never seen a real glacier, the photographs were mind-blowing. He showed us a video of glaciers calving, and the explosive sound made by the breaking ice-mountains was terrifying. Dr Warren has travelled from Scotland, to Alaska, to Patagonia, and to New Zealand, in the interest of furthering his investigation into the rate of glacier melt. The results paint a very sobering picture of a world that could soon be several metres under water, and several degrees warmer. Numbers of environmental refugees are predicted to exceed 50 million people, as those from inundated or inhospitable regions are forced into already-crammed countries. Think the Syrian-crisis, multiplied thousands of times!

Dr Warren is, nevertheless, optimistic; he has faith in the potential of human being to work across political boundaries, and to unite to combat one of the greatest threats ever, to our species, since the dawn of mankind. His talk was visually exciting, and our girls...as well as the teachers...were enthralled by the pictures of the intrepid scientists perching on the edge of ice-sheets that faced imminent collapse. Dr Warren had plenty of tales to tell, many involving episodes of grave danger to him and his fellow researchers! Certainly, the traditional view of scientific discovery being conducted in dry, boring laboratories was dispelled, and many of the pupils were inspired to emulate Dr Warren.

We enjoyed the collaborative learning experience with our brother school, and we hope that it will be the start of many more such occasions. We are grateful to Mrs. Mary Williams for initiating the event.
House Plays:

The Interhouse Play competition took place on Thursday, 10 March in Founders’ Hall. It was an evening of celebrating and challenging South African culture: all three plays were written for, or adapted to a South African context. Under the guidance of Ms. Dorianne Alexander, the directors, casts, and crews had so much to accomplish over the 6 weeks they had to prepare; from auditioning, tight rehearsal schedules, sharing the use of Founders’ Hall, creating sets and costumes and delivering a final performance that needed to live up to the expectations of demanding Roedean audiences.

The three plays performed were:

Kats House: Junior – A Boy, an adaptation from the popular musical Oliver!, directed and adapted by Faa’timah-Tuz-Zahraa Mayet

Bears House: Sipho!, written and directed by Ama Adu, workshopped by the cast and co-director, Tsitsi Chalumbira.

Lambs House: A Coloured Place, written by Lueen Conning (Malika Ndlovu), and directed by Katelin Khojane

The adjudicators, Jaques de Silva and Avril Cummins, were very impressed by the standard of the work and gave the girls very useful and overwhelmingly positive feedback on the evening of performance.

The award winners were:

- Best Actress in a Cameo Role: Zahra Abba-Omar
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Brittany Vinncombe
- Best Actress in a Lead Role: Kago Motlhabani and Althea Janse van Rensburg
- Best Director: Ama Adu
- Best Set: Kats House
- Best Costume: Kats House
- Best Play: Sipho! for Bears House

Congratulations to every single girl involved in the productions. We are so very proud of your directorial visions, brave performances, and slick technical and backstage work. Thank you to the parents for allowing the girls the opportunity to participate in this process, and for patiently dealing with the late-night rehearsals.

Well done on an evening of thought-provoking theatre! Look out directors of 2017, the bar has been set very high.
The Society has had a busy First Term, starting off with Interhouse Debating, both Senior and Junior, and various friendly debates against schools, such as St John’s College and Fourways High School. Meetings are vigorous affairs and are well attended. Current affairs are discussed, strategies and argumentation presented, and then the girls put their theory into practice. Juniors meet on Mondays from 15:00-17:00 and the Seniors on Thursdays from 15:00-17:00. Our dedicated coaches, Irene Mpofu and Mu’azzam Takolia, both law students at Wits University, ran an Introductory training workshop in February to explain the ins and outs of debating for newcomers to the Society.

Our major competition is, of course, the hotly contested SACEE Debating League. Testimony to the depth of the Society and the enthusiasm and commitment of the girls, we have, once again, two Junior teams and two Senior teams.

On Sunday, 28 February, the senior girls participated in the first rounds of the 2016 SACEE DEBATING LEAGUE Central rounds, hosted at King David, Linksfield. Overall, the girls did well, and showed great insight and analysis.

SACEE LEAGUE Preliminary Rounds 1 - 3 (SENIOR COMPETITION)

Debate 1: THW ban all contact sports in schools

Proposition: Kingsmead College

Opposition: Roedean 1 (Alexandra Breckenridge, Zahra Abba Omar, Zoë Coleman, Julia Kinghorn, & Ella Dougherty)

Opp 1: Ella Dougherty
Opp 2 (+ Reply): Zahra Abba Omar
Opp 3: Julia Kinghorn

Kingsmead opened the debate arguing that there is harm in contact sports such as rugby and that these harms hinder the growth and development of children. They went on to show that it is unjustified to subject children to such harms when the role of the school is to protect young developing minds. Roedean 1 argued that the nature of schools is to provide an avenue for children to succeed, even if it is in rugby. The girls further argued that there are no immediate harms in the sports, as there are rules and regulations that prevent harms from happening.

Result: Win

Proposition: Roedean 2

Opposition: St. David’s

Prop 1(+ Reply): Afia Akosah-Bempah
Prop 2: Sara Steedley
Prop 3: Dhiya Matai

The debate revolved around two issues: the value of contact sports, and the mandate of schools with regard to protecting the interests of pupils. The debate was called in favour of the opposition, who showed that the value of contact sports and the opportunities which are offered through playing these sports are more valuable than the potential harm caused by overly aggressive or violent behaviour by pupils. The opposition also showed that the mandate of a school should be to create and allow learners to choose any sport which the school feels has value for its learners.

Result: Loss
Debate 2: THW directly elect the head of public prosecutions

**Proposition:** St John’s College

**Opposition:** Roedean 1

Opp (+ Reply): Zahra Abba Omar
Opp 2: Zoë Coleman
Opp 3: Alexandra Breckenridge

St John’s argued that the issue in the current status quo is that the president has absolute power in determining who heads up the NPA; this has resulted in the massive inefficiency in the justice system. Roedean successfully argued that the public lacks understanding regarding the processes of the NPA and prosecutions, that it is an entrenchment of presidential power, and further, that the removal of this power delegitimises the voting process and harms the NPA as there is not enough of a buy-in to this system.

Result: Win

**Proposition:** Roedean 2

**Opposition:** King Edward VII School

Prop 1: Dhiya Matai
Prop 2: Afia Akosah-Bempah
Prop 3: Sarah Martinson

The debate was a weigh-up between the protection of children on social-media platforms and the rights of children to express themselves this way, and the value of this expression. The Roedean debaters claimed that the expression of the children is not as important as the potential dangers of social media, dangers which extend to cyber-bullying and sexual predators. The team argued that the need for parents to intervene is not only their duty, but also their mandate, to ensure that children are not subjected to the harms of social media. The opposition argued that the freedom of expression of the children is what should be valued above all else and that, in implementing this policy, children would not be able to express themselves with the same level of freedom, and that this is a direct contravention of the right to privacy which should also extend to children.

Result: Win

Debate 3: THW give parents the right to have access to their children’s social media account

**Proposition:** Roedean 1

**Opposition:** Jeppe Girls 2

Prop 1: Ella Dougherty
Prop 2(+ Reply): Alexandra Breckenridge
Prop 3: Julia Kinghorn

Roedean argued on two levels of analysis. The Roedean speakers, firstly, examined parental rights and responsibilities and how a parent should be allowed to intervene on social media where the children are actively harmed by inappropriate behaviour. Secondly, the girls proved that, in most instances, the children who need parental intervention are children who are often ignorant or likely to get up to mischief, and, in this instance, the children are in need of this protection. Jeppe argued that children have the right to privacy, and that this policy is a form of censorship on children.

Result: Win
On Sunday, 6 March, the junior debaters participated in the first preliminary debating rounds of the SACEE LEAGUE, hosted at King David Linksfield. Overall, the girls performed very well and showed a great deal of growth and insight as the day progressed.

SACEE LEAGUE Preliminary Rounds 4 - 6 (SENIOR COMPETITION)

On Sunday, 13 March, the seniors participated in the last regional SACEE rounds at King David, Linksfield.

Debate 1: THR the decision by some student organisations to restrict membership to black students only

Proposition: Roedean 1 (Alexandra Breckenridge, Zahra Abba Omar, Julia Kinghorn, Zoë Coleman, & Ella Dougherty)
Opposition: Bophelo Impilo

Prop 1(+ Reply): Alexandra Breckenridge
Prop 2: Zahra Abba Omar
Prop 3: Julia Kinghorn

In a very controversial and heated debate premised on the position of the Rhodes Must Fall movement to exclude white students, Roedean argued the debate on three levels. Firstly, the speakers argued that the reality is that we still need the influence of white people to enact change, as they possess the social capital we need in the movement. Secondly, the girls argued that the only way you can get the understanding we need from white people to achieve social change is by allowing them to stand with the people who are being oppressed. Lastly, the girls argued that the job to fix social injustices does not only fall on the people who have been oppressed, and that it is a societal issue. Bophelo Impilo argued that white people do not have the incentive to help black people, and, even if they do, it is not a pure intention, as they can never understand the plight of black people.

Result: Win

Proposition: Roedean 2 (Julia Hope, Aliyah Bulbulia, Lumengo Mngomezulu, Sara Steedley & Sarah Martinson)
Opposition: St Mary’s 2

Prop 1(+ Reply): Aliyah Bulbulia
Prop 2: Julia Hope
Prop 3: Lumengo Mngomezulu

Roedean 2 argued that a protest is more credible, when you have the voices of all parties, as social issues are not just racial issues. The girls maintained that inclusion of all races gives more credibility to the struggles and makes protests more effective. St Mary’s contested this, by saying that black people are the only people who fight for black issues, and, even if white people can sympathise with them, it harms the movement.

Result: Win

Debate 2: THW prohibit the private ownership of artwork that is historically and culturally valuable

Proposition: Roedean 1
Opposition: St. David’s Marist Inanda

Prop 1: Ella Dougherty
Prop 2(+ Reply): Zoë Coleman
Prop 3: Alexandra Breckenridge

Roedean began the debate by arguing that art has a very important and intrinsic value to the community from which it comes. They further contended that the current system means that rich people trade art privately at extremely high prices, and this does not show appreciation for the art. St David’s stated that an artist’s autonomy is most important, and, if the artist sold the art, he clearly did not value it and intended for it to be privately owned.

Result: Lost

Proposition: St. John’s College
Opposition: Roedean 2

Opp 1: Julia Hope
Opp 2(+ Reply): Sara Steedley
Opp 3: Lumengo Mngomezulu

Result: Win
The debate began with the proposition arguing that the artworks in question are a representation of society and that, owing to private ownership, they do not fulfil their educational and inspirational purposes. They went on to argue that, when these artworks are not immediately accessible to the public, they hinder people from their own expression, identity, and education.

The opposition team had a nuanced line: the speakers argued that the status quo allows artworks to be owned privately and still allows people to access these artworks through replicas and through other means, such as writings or online information. Along with this, the team ran the line that it is the autonomy of the artist or creators of the works of art to determine the purpose and function of the artworks.

Result: Win

Debate 3: THW require the USA to fund Madrassas in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Proposition: St David’s Marist Inanda

Opposition: Roedean 1

Opp 1(+ Reply): Alexandra Breckenridge
Opp 2: Zoë Coleman
Opp 3: Zahra Abba Omar

St David’s argued that madrassas are instrumental in terms of the education of Islam. They further showed that the West is primarily responsible for the collapse of Afghanistan and Pakistan which have seen the rise of extremism; it is the mandate of the West to teach the right doctrine. Roedean argued that the world needs to understand that the imposition and intervention of the USA is very harmful to Islam; further it is more harmful to the progression of these nations post USA intervention.

Result: Win

Based on the first 6 Rounds of the Senior SACEE League, both our Senior teams will go through to the next stage of the competition, the SENIOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS, debating against other Gauteng regions. We are very proud of Roedean 1 which broke 2nd, with 5 out of 6 wins. Our Roedean 2 team also goes through, breaking in 10th position, with 4 out of 6 wins.

Our congratulations go to all those who have debated thus far.

Our very special wishes go to Daisy Whitcutt (MV), who will be participating in Slovenia, in the Bratislava Schools’ Debating Competition with the Gauteng Schools’ Debating Board delegation, from 30 March to 4 April. We are very proud of you, Daisy!
Model UN has started with a bang this term!

Desiree Kosciulek, the Youth Development officer from the Wits Department of International Affairs, phoned me this term to compliment me on the role that Roedean Old Girls are playing in SAIIA Model UN world-wide. Franci van Rhyn represented SA Youth at a world forum on the environment, from Harvard, and Rabia Abba Omar started MUN at Stellenbosch, entered a team in the inter-Varsity debate, and won best position paper and was subsequently offered an internship from DIRCO when she leaves University. In November/December we had a Youth delegation at the Climate Change talks in Paris and Afia Akosah- Bempah and Aliyah Bulbulia tweeted this delegate throughput, feeding her ideas and information.

On Saturday, 12 March, two Roedean teams took part in a debate looking at constitutions in Africa, and how one can best protect Human Rights in the constitution. The debate was held at Wits University. The girls did very well. There were 12 teams in all, some from the University of Pretoria, and some schools had Matrics as delegates.

Well done to Roedean girls: Afia Akosah-Bempah, Aliyah Bulbulia, and Nthatisi Mota, who took first position, representing Algeria. This team includes two AMs and an UV.

The other team I entered consisted of MVs and an UV, and I was very proud of their performance too: Shanleigh Govender, Siba Dlamini and Sebabatso Madibu – who represented North African Human Rights Institutions.

Justice Edwin Cameron spoke at the beginning of the debate about the importance of diplomacy and tolerance across cultures and religions, to avoid the war we have on our continent. He spoke of the need to work together for a more equitable society and the need to redistribute our resources more fairly. We also had a speaker from the Canadian High Commission, who also emphasised the protection and celebration of diversity and multilateralism as important for international peace.
“Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don’t quit”: Conrad Hilton

The beginning of the term has certainly been very busy—full of action and movement. Our main focus has been in Aquatics, with special emphasis on preparation for the Inter High 2016. The Diving team finished 7\textsuperscript{th} and the Swimmers 6\textsuperscript{th}, which meant an overall 6\textsuperscript{th} position. The Water Polo team reached the Final of the Old Mutual Prestige Cup. So, we can honestly say, that Roedean gained success with very commendable performances from the entire Aquatics team.

The A and B Tennis Team won the A2 League and were promoted to the A1 League in Term 3. The C team finished 2\textsuperscript{nd} to Helpmekaar in the C league and the D and E teams finished 4\textsuperscript{th} in the D League. The Inter High A team came 13\textsuperscript{th} out of 28 schools, and the B team 9\textsuperscript{th} out of 24 schools.

Congratulations to Hayley Tsuen, who made the U15A Central Gauteng Provincial Schools’ Team and to Siba Dlamini, who was selected for the Central U15 B Provincial Schools Team.

Well done to all our Tennis players!

The Squash players continue to do well in their league and we look forward to the final results and the selection of Provincial teams.

The Rock Climbers are participating in local competitions and are performing well.

As we start the winter season’s activities, the U15 Hockey and U14 Netball teams depart for Eunice this weekend, whilst the 1\textsuperscript{st} XI Hockey team plays matches in Pretoria and also participates in the upcoming St Mary’s Investec Festival.

All in all, we are in the midst of a very busy first term with lots of enjoyment and exciting sporting events still to come.

Let us persevere, show determination and passion for sport, and follow this motto: “keep moving, make mistakes, but never give up!”
We have a good supply of everything the girls need for the swimming/diving/water-polo season. We also have wonderful warm jackets that the girls can wear when they get out of the pool. The waterproof sports pods come in very handy for keeping the girls' wet costumes & towels from making everything else in their bags wet.

**PAYMENTS**
Don't forget we now accept payment by SnapScan. It's a simple and easy way to make payment which will then be debited to your credit-card account. You simply need to download the App. to your phone, scan the SnapCode displayed in SAORA, and enter the amount you wish to pay.

**NEW STOCK**
We have just received some wonderful new 'hair twisty bobbles'. They are great for girls with long hair. We've also got an amazing new 'wet brush'. This is great on wet or dry hair, and I can personally vouch for these.

**CURRENT STOCK**
Don't forget we also now stock a small, junior rucksack and smaller tog bag aimed at Grade 0 girls upwards. These are much easier for the younger, smaller girls to manage and are the perfect size for their school work and sports kit.

We also now stock new junior checked tunics, blazers, and jerseys in all sizes. Remember, Grade 0 parents, your daughters come back in January in the full Roedean summer uniform, so don't forget they're going to need blazers, checked tunics, and short-sleeved shirts. Why not benefit from the convenience of the SAORA shop to try them on for size after school one lunch time and charge them to your school accounts. We sell them at very competitive prices. We are, regrettably, currently out of stock of second-hand junior summer tunics and short-sleeved shirts.

**APOLOGIES**
I would like to apologise for the lack of stock of short brown socks again this term. We now have a new supplier who is busy with our order. We'd like to thank you for your continued patience.

**HELP US PLEASE**
We are in desperate need of more short sleeved shirts, Junior & Senior School tunics, and djibbahs, so, please, have a look in your cupboards for any outgrown items and consider donating them to SAORA.

We would dearly love to see some more kneelers in the Chapel, so, please, consider buying one to embroider and donate to the Chapel. They are available from the SAORA shop at a cost of R600. It's a permanent legacy from your daughter to Roedean, because you embroider your daughter’s name on it. They come in two designs: a cross and the Roedean logo. If embroidery isn't your specialty, we can put you in touch with someone who can embroider the kneeler for you for an additional R600.

We are in desperate need of more volunteers to assist in the shop. Apart from Cleo and me, all the ladies in the shop are volunteers, so, please, consider helping us. Both the morning and lunch-time shifts can get very busy, especially on match days, so extra volunteers would be most welcome. Full training will be given. We're looking to fill slots on Tuesday and Thursday mornings: 7:00 to 8:00, and Thursday and Friday lunchtimes: 13:00 to 14:00.

Should you wish to contact the shop, please e-mail me at saorashop@roedeanschool.co.za.

Our opening times are Monday - Friday 7:00 - 15:00 (term time only).
PTA Cocktail Party

The PTA’s annual cocktail party took place on Friday, 15 January, in Founders’ Hall. It was wonderful to welcome and host so many parents - to the background noise of a very welcome Highveld thunder-storm. The PTA depends on the support and generosity of the entire Roedean community for the success of its activities, and we enjoy showing our gratitude by hosting this event at the beginning of each year.

Thank you, again, to Julia Thompson for organising the event and to the Roedean catering staff and facilities team under the leadership of Karla Brice and Willie Roos respectively, for the significant role you play in making this event such a success.

Textbooks

The supply of textbooks in the Senior School is always an enormous task! It demands great dedication and commitment from Vida Saayman and her textbook team. All outstanding textbooks have now been delivered by suppliers, barcoded, scanned, and issued to girls. We have a significant number of accounts which are due and payable and have not been settled, and we appeal to you to settle the same as a matter of urgency, or, otherwise to contact Vida to make arrangements for payment.

PTA AGM

The PTA’s annual AGM took place on Monday, 14 March at 19:00 in the Auditorium. Our chairlady reported on the activities of the PTA over the past financial year, and our treasurer on the finances of the PTA. A report from the Board of Roedean on the finances of the school, as well as the Senior School Report and the Junior School Report, were presented. We elected new members to the committee, with Lizelle van Huyssteen as Chairperson, and Paula Morley and Lucy Montague as Deputy Chairs for the Senior and Junior Schools respectively. Congratulations to all new members and office bearers.

Matric Parents Cocktail Party

This cocktail party is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 31 March, at 18:00 in the D&T Centre. Mr Digby Ricci will be the guest speaker.

Current Projects

The refurbishment of the auditorium was successfully completed, and we celebrated this project on 14 March by having our AGM there. Thank you to Lucy Montague and Dina Maree for overseeing the project, and for its timeous completion within budget.

New air-conditioning units have been installed in the Rene and Fred England Math Centre in the Senior School.

Work on the renewal of the Grade 0 communal reading room has commenced. The room will be repainted, a new carpet will be fitted, and new bookshelves and multi-purpose storage for musical instruments will be supplied, as well as soft furnishings and new lighting.
Houghton Project

Roedean, St Johns, KES, and the Upper Houghton Residents’ Association are involved in a project to maintain and develop the area. Along with St John’s the PTA makes a monthly contribution to a cleaning project, which arranges for litter management on Joe Slovo Drive and the Roedean block of Carse O’Gowrie. The area is currently cleaned twice a week. The winners of the anti-litter art competition included in the campaign are Hannah Essop, Shivali Chanderpaul, and Makindye Ketley. Congratulations! Each winner will receive a R300 voucher sponsored by the PTA. Look out for the winning artwork posters, which will be put up outside the Roedean boarding house on Joe Slovo Drive.

The Project Club and My School Card projects continue to raise funds for the school and the total amount raised for 2015 by the My School Card project is an amount of R172 357,27. Thank you to all our supporters! If you do not have a card yet, please join this worthwhile project by applying online at www.myschoolcard.co.za. Should you be new to the school, please remember to switch the beneficiary from your daughter’s previous school to Roedean.

Mother and Daughter luncheon and fashion show: Saturday, 14 May

This popular event sees the Matric girls model their Matric dance dresses much to the delight of young and old attending. Keep an eye out for more information to follow.

Have a lovely long weekend and travel safely, if you are going away!

From left to right Paula Morley (PTA Deputy Chair - Senior School), Lizelle van Huyssteen (PTA Chairperson), Lucy Montague (PTA Deputy Chair - Junior School)
General Notices

WIN BACK THE WILDS
Join the St John’s Foundation to
Walk/Run in the Wilds

Date: Sunday 3 April 2016
Time: 7:30am to start at 8:00am
Venue: Park and meet outside the OJ club at St John’s
       College, St David Rd, Houghton
Route: About 5km through St John’s and The Wilds
RSVP: 24 March to pier.myburgh@stjohnscollege.co.za

This is an informal event. Please bring your own water.
The OJ Club will be open for breakfast after the walk.
Entrance is free, but we welcome any donations to support the Foundation’s
Wilde Precinct Upgrade Project.
Don’t Make Your Children the Exception to Every Rule

By LISA DAMOUR

While teaching at a Midwestern university about 15 years ago, I came across a clear case of plagiarism in a student paper. I invited the young woman who had turned in the paper to meet with me to discuss the university’s policies on plagiarism and my concerns about her work. The meeting was pleasant enough until I turned my attention to her paper. She promptly soured, grabbed her bag, left my office and could hardly have been out of the building before my desk phone rang. It was her father, calling from New York, threatening legal action.

This story is distasteful from a number of obvious standpoints: the student’s refusal to acknowledge wrongdoing, the father’s blind defense of his daughter’s “innocence” and the reflexive effort to abuse power and privilege to avoid fair consequences. There is also something deeper here that unsettles me as a psychologist focused on parenting and as a parent myself. In rushing to the rescue, the father was most likely undermining what he was aiming to protect: his daughter’s future well-being.

Research on well-being – the outcome closest to happiness that psychologists will promise – centers on three core factors: health, relationships and a sense of mastery in one’s chosen pursuits. In other words, “happy” adults enjoy good emotional and physical health, have relationships that make their lives better (not worse), and have a sense of control and competence in their endeavors.

When we look at the research on the childhood precursors of adult well-being – the traits we see in children who go on to become happy adults – we find that the driving factor is childhood conscientiousness, not childhood happiness. Children who are industrious, orderly and have good self-control are more likely than their careless or undisciplined peers to grow into happy adults.

Like the father on the other end of the phone, none of us want our children to be unhappy, and we all hope our children will grow to be adults who enjoy an abundance of well-being. It turns out that adult happiness doesn’t arise from parents bending the rules to a child’s advantage; it comes from children learning the rules and conforming to them.

As with many findings in academic psychology, the connection between childhood conscientiousness and adult well-being simply proves common sense. Conscientious people enjoy better health as adults because they chose long-term payoffs over short-term gratifications. Most conscientious people would prefer a cheeseburger to a trip to the gym, but they know that – genetic factors aside – heart disease doesn’t care who your parents are.

In their relationships, conscientious people are unlikely to lie and cheat or, presumably, put up with that behavior in their friends and lovers. When it comes to having a feeling of mastery in one’s endeavors – whether one chooses to be a homemaker or a homebuilder – conscientious people come out ahead because they do good work even when no one is looking.

Of course, people who hold economic and social power enjoy more opportunities than most to operate around the rules: to bully coaches into a lineup change, to buy their way into a school, to help secure an undeserved job. But “exceptionalism” – my term for the belief that rules or conventions are to be observed only when convenient – is not limited strictly to the wealthy or influential. All parents share the instinct to protect their children, and a subset of parents in every tax bracket can be found exercising any leverage they have to have exceptions made on behalf of their children.

We all know irresponsible or dishonest people who have ridden favors, exceptions and connections into adult-hoods that seem to be pretty happy. Yet we often suspect that their joys are fleeting or superficial when compared to the contentment of adults who have earned their way, like trust funders who party away their 20s only to become depressed at 40 when they realize they will never share the professional pride of their agemates who are now reaping the rewards of two decades of early-career grunt work.
Raising conscientious children is definitely not the most fun part of parenting. If it were, we as parents would not struggle so universally to follow through on consequences, monitor chores and insist that children spend more time reading and less time playing Temple Run. As a parent, every time I dish out a “helpful reminder” (that would be what I call nagging), I am grateful for research linking childhood conscientiousness with adult well-being. My children may call it annoying, but I consider it a down payment on their future happiness.

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Why Teenage Girls Roll Their Eyes
By LISA DAMOUR

Many people can roll their eyes, but adolescent girls have practically monopolized the ocular gesture as a form of communication. Adults on the receiving end of an eye roll are often offended, and sometimes that’s just what the girl had in mind. But frequently, it’s not. Eye-rolling serves a variety of purposes, and the meanings behind the mannerism tell us a lot about what it’s like to be a teenager.

Adolescents usually hate being told what to do, and will reflexively resist even suggestions with which they agree. Imagine a girl who is planning to put on her warmest coat when her well-meaning mother urges her to bundle up. If the teenager is developing normally, not a cell in her body is inclined to respond with a sincere, “Great idea, Mom! I was just thinking the same thing.” (And her mom might be stunned, or at least wonder what her daughter was up to, if she did.) But the girl still wants to be warm. Enter the eye roll! One spin around the socket while donning the coat and the girl advertises her resistance while doing as she intended all along.

Given that the drive for autonomy is a central force during adolescence, taking orders can be especially annoying for teenagers. So how should a girl respond when her parents say she can’t go out for the evening until she unloads the dishwasher? She may see no point in fighting back, but still feel compelled to broadcast her objection. Again, ophthalmic calisthenics offer a useful solution. By rolling her eyes while putting away the plates, the girl establishes that she’s an independent state electing to yield, for now, to the regional power.

At other times, girls roll their eyes when adults poke at a sore spot. A teenager hurting over a fight with a friend might shoot a skyward look when a parent asks gently, “How’s Julia? She hasn’t come over for a while?” What seems to be a rude brush-off might actually be the girl’s valiant attempt to hold herself together. Teens can be easily overwhelmed by their own feelings, and they’re often ambivalent about leaning on parents for support. A girl might decide that irritating her dad with an eye roll beats dissolving into tears in his presence.

Girls also use eye-rolling to communicate that an adult has crossed a line. If parents hold irrational expectations, make arbitrary rules, or recruit shame when ordinary anger would do, girls sometimes stick up for themselves by rolling their eyes. Teens who appear to be disrespectful rarely spur adults toward self-reflection, but eye-rolling may be the best defense a teenager can muster in a heated moment. When girls in my practice tell me about their fights at home, I’m often moved by how carefully they weigh the decision to sacrifice something in their relationship with their parent so as not to sacrifice something in themselves.

Of course, girls occasionally use eye-rolling as an immature act of aggression. They attack one another and adults with the dismissive, demeaning gesture and can provoke reasonable people into retaliatory responses. When eye-rolling is clearly meant as an insult, parents can try to raise the relational bar by saying, “That’s rude. I’m trusting you’ll soon find a more mature way to let me know what you’re thinking,” or something along those lines. But more often than not, teenage eye-rolling serves as an efficient solution to the typical challenges posed by adolescence. And it presents adults with a choice: We can take the behavior personally, or we can try to see things from their perspective.

Lisa Damour is a psychologist in private practice in Shaker Heights, Ohio, a clinical instructor at Case Western Reserve University and the director of Laurel School’s Center for Research on Girls. She is the author of “Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions Into Adulthood.” Follow her on Twitter: @LDamour.