



12 November 2021

Dear Clifton Parents,

Clifton is an incredible community with a rich history of nearly 80 years. This week I am so privileged to share a remarkable story written by Mr Peter Quinn regarding one of our unsung heroes which contributed to our rich history.

“Jimmy Ellapen is a legend. Not in the way that some may define legends nowadays, though. Jimmy Ellapen is a Clifton legend. Humble, hard-working, an exemplary man of integrity and dignity, he was a man devoted to his family. He was also the Clifton chef from 1945 to 1982.

We recently were graced with a visit from Jimmy's family to discuss arrangements for a memorial service for David Ellapen, one of the 8 of Jimmy's children born at Clifton. David spent many happy years on campus, wooing his wife to be, Madhu Jeena, under the Cork Tree (also called a Cork Oak tree) in Headmaster's Woods. Having followed his father's example and lived a life of service to others, ultimately becoming Headmaster of Newton High School in Pietermaritzburg, David regretfully passed away in January 2021 due to COVID19 complications. While the reason for the family's visit to Clifton was shrouded in sadness, it was also an opportunity to connect with and celebrate the past.

There are many fondly-related stories of Chef Jimmy. One such story that has been told was that it was widely agreed that whenever the boys had fish for dinner it was because of Jimmy's fishing prowess in what was to become known as 'Jimmy's Dam', sited below where our current dam is.

Aside from Jimmy's Dam, there was also a Jimmy's Gate and many 'Jimmy' recipes! Madhu Jeena has very kindly supplied us with a copy of one of Jimmy's famous desserts – Nottingham Road Trifle, which Mrs Kalika will be adding to our menu soon! When Queen Elizabeth visited Nottingham Road in 1947, Jimmy made this trifle for the Celebratory dinner. The Ellapens recalled that Jimmy always said, “This trifle is fit for the Queen.” He also baked a cake for this historical event. Reuben Ellapen recalls making a template of the crown for the icing of the cake.

Another of the Ellapen memories:

If you ever had a conversation with Jimmy about his culinary skills, he would ask if you could make grilled ice-cream. He would laugh at our disbelief, but would then go on to tell you exactly how he made grilled ice-cream.

The mists of time seem to have the very unfortunate habit of preventing us from staying in touch with our past... and our heritage. Clifton needs your help to roll those mists back. If you have any stories or anecdotes of Jimmy, or, indeed, Clifton in the early days, please do forward these to Pete Quinn ([peter.quinn@cliftonprep.org.za](mailto:peter.quinn@cliftonprep.org.za)). Another of Jimmy's descendants, Reuben Ellapen, is hopefully going to supply us with a little more insight into what Jimmy, and perhaps Nottingham Road, experienced in Clifton's early days.”

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**Champions of Childhood**





Herewith a copy of our: [weekly news: https://youtu.be/qYP19qE4mMM](https://youtu.be/qYP19qE4mMM)

This is what you can expect over the next two weeks:

- Monday 15 November:** Gr 6V Tutor Assembly  
Gr 6 & 7 Exams commence 08.00 – 10.00am
- Tuesday 16 November:** JP Assembly at 7.30am  
Gr 6 & 7 Exams commence 08.00 – 10.00am  
Gr 1 & 2 mini cricket festival vs Cowan House & St Charles
- Wednesday 17 November:** Gr 00 + 0 Nativity play dress rehearsal at 10.30am in the Chapel  
Basketball vs Cowan House
- Thursday 18 November:** Gr 1 Trip to Berg Venture departs at 8.00am  
SP "My House has Talent" at 11.00am  
Gr 00 + 0 Nativity Play 5.00 – 6.00pm  
Compulsory Grade 6 Information evening re High Schools at 6pm

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**Friday 19 November:** Gr 1's return at 12.30pm  
SP Art Exhibition (Cancelled)  
Championship Gala at 11.00am  
Cricket vs Cowan House

**Saturday 20 November:** Cricket vs Cowan House

**Sunday 21 November** Glengarry Adventure Day

Kind regards

**Eswee Prinsloo**  
Headmaster

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