



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

• SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS •



Summer Splash

From the head's desk

Dear parents

The media places much emphasis at the start of the school year on choice of school and academic results. I have had a number of conversations in the past few weeks with journalists who want to know what the ideal is in education, and what distinguishes one school from another.

On reflecting and thinking about these questions, I had to disappoint the journalists. I believe that independent schools in Johannesburg are expected to achieve good results. Our schools all have good teachers, resources and scholars who want to achieve, and thus we should produce good academic results. Obviously, the achievements may vary year on year but the expectation is for consistent achievement. What really distinguishes one school from another is the broader context of achievement, experience and the soft skills that are learnt at school.

The development of intellect is enhanced

and complemented by character development. More important than ever before, is how individuals choose to use their intellect. At St Mary's we believe that the co-curricular programme is an important part of the curriculum, and it contributes to character and moral development. Sport, cultural activities, community service and time for spiritual reflection all contribute to your daughter's personal growth and the person she will become.

My answer for the journalists was, therefore, along the lines of: choosing a school is a personal matter and, I believe, one that should be based on the ethos of a school and whether or not it fits the values of the family making the choice.

Yours sincerely

Deanne King
Head of school

Dates to Diarise

Fri 29	08h00	AISJ U19 basketball tournament
	11h30	National Aquatics Festival
	15h00	Squash (home and away)
Sat 30	07h00	VLC Sprints regatta
	08h00	AISJ U19 basketball tournament
	08h30	National Aquatics Festival
	09h00	Peer counsellors' training
	10h00	Play practice
Sun 31	07h00	VLC Sprints regatta
	17h00	Confirmation group
February		
Mon 1	07h30	Peer counsellors' assembly
	16h00	SRC meeting
	18h00	Elevate workshop: time management (FI and FII)
Tues 2	14h45	Tennis (home and away)
Wed 3	07h30	Senior class reps' meeting
	15h00	Auditions for Battle of the Bands
	17h30	Rowing meeting
Thurs 4	15h30	Gala (away)
	18h00	Theatre outing
	18h00	eParent workshop
Fri 5	15h00	Squash (home and away)
Sat 6	07h00	Rock the Boat regatta - Rooedeplaat
	07h00	IEB National UGC
	07h00	B inter-high tennis
	09h00	Equestrian at Eaton Farm
	09h00	Peer counsellors' training
	10h00	Diving competition away
	10h00	Play practice
	16h00	Buskaid Soweto String Ensemble performance
Sun 7		Equestrian at Eaton Farm
	17h00	Confirmation group
Tues 9		Shrove Tuesday
	14h30	Tennis (home and away)
	18h00	Old Girls' networking evening
Wed 10		Ash Wednesday
	05h30	Selborne/Buffalo regattas (opens) depart
	15h00	Water polo away
	18h00	Parent information evening: "Where angels fear to tread: you, your teenager and the years of miracle and wonder"
Thurs 11	15h30	Gala away
Fri 12		Civics red and white day
	12h00	St Mary's tennis festival - St Mary's
	13h00	Senior squash festival - St Mary's DSG
	13h00	U15 tennis festival - St Mary's DSG

From the chaplain

Imagine blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52) surrounded by that big, noisy crowd, yet desperate for Christ to hear him and to heal him. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" he cried out, again and again, until Jesus heard, turned and called Bartimaeus to him. As we lead such busy lives, our headspace can be like that noisy crowd - so many daily experiences, so many demands on our time and so much to remember to do. Our source of wholeness is in Christ alone. Let us persist each day in crying out to him: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!", stilling the noise in our crowded headspace until we are left face to face with Christ our healer.

Revd Claudia Coustas

Chaplain

From the head girl

Wednesday 13 January was a significant day for the matric leaders. Our final first day of school began with a chapel service, where we pledged allegiance to our offices and to the school before God. We then moved into The Edge for the induction assembly, where we received our badges and I addressed the school. Afterwards, we enjoyed a lovely tea with our parents and the staff. I should like to share an excerpt of my speech, in which I explained the ideals I wish to instil within the school and the aspirations I have for this year:

"Girls - we need each other. Ms King has emphasised in the past the importance of women supporting each other in school, the workplace and beyond. Sheryl Sandberg, the CEO of Facebook and successful businesswoman, also acknowledges the strength women obtain and the heights they can reach by building each other up.

"I am reminding you of this today as we have grown up in a society that has placed us in a constant state of competition with each other on the basis of beauty standards, cultural backgrounds and historical

privileges, and so often we feel compelled to separate ourselves from one another in order to achieve great things.

My deputies, Sasha de la Rey and Mutsa Danha, and I want you to think about how much more you can achieve in a positive environment with a good team, as we intend to do in leading the school this year."

My motto for the year is SMILE. While it seems like a simple and casual instruction, it is intended to be a memory trigger about the attitude with which we approach all endeavours. I have encouraged the matric leaders to be friendly and approachable, and I hope our positivity will inspire all the girls.

My full speech can be found on the school website, at <http://www.stmarysschool.co.za/news/entry/head-girl-induction-speech-2016>.

Shayna

Head girl

Form I camp

On Tuesday 19 January, 114 Form I girls embarked on their first Senior School camp. The purpose of this tour is to root all the Form I girls firmly in the culture of St Mary's and instil in them our core values of community, love and integrity, while giving the girls wings of courage and resilience to tackle some of life's more challenging obstacles.

Consequently, the fun-filled camp days sped away with an array of activities such as strategising over

obstacle courses, building trust through a "Giant Finger" task and patiently balancing the entire group on an unstable see-saw for more than 40 minutes. Whether the girls were collaborating as chefs in a potjiekos competition, courageously zip-lining above a river bed or comically performing a dry synchronised swimming routine, they certainly got to know one another and recognise the importance of working as a team.

Form I team



Girls relieved at completing the challenging obstacle course



Success at the end of a tricky team challenge



A group of girls pleased about getting their entire team through the giant spider web without touching the sides



Working as a team

Senior School annual photography competition

All Senior School girls are encouraged to enter the Senior School photography competition.

This competition is essential for school colours in photography. Colours are a requirement for the cultural honours blazer, as well as for the Certificate of Excellence from the Photographic Society of South Africa. The best photographs will be printed in the school magazine.

Prizes

There are five prizes of R500 each for the five best photographers. These will be awarded at final assembly at the end of Term I.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday 16 March, and no late entries will be accepted.

Every pupil who enters will be given a mention. You may submit your entries to me in the Wantage Resource Centre at any time. Please ensure that you add your name to the competition entry list in my office to get a mention.

The photographs may be black-and-white or colour prints on any

subject. Photographs may be enhanced with computer manipulation. Each competition finalist is required to submit her original photograph in .jpg format to me for final judging.

The minimum size of each photograph is 15cm x 21cm and the maximum size is 30cm x 40cm.

The photograph must be neatly mounted, with a 5cm border, on a single, clean, black piece of stiff cardboard. Each photograph must have a title. Your name, form, photograph title and full description of the camera used must be clearly printed on the back. No writing may appear on the front.

All photographs must have been taken by you personally but printing, processing and mounting may be done commercially. There is no entrance fee. There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit. The photographs become the property of St Mary's and no responsibility is accepted for loss or damage. The judges' decision is final.

Anneli Silvennoinen
Senior School librarian

Digital and print libraries

St Mary's Senior School is very lucky to have a digital as well as a print library. Both libraries may be searched at <http://oliver.stmary.co.za/oliver>. All pupils and staff are encouraged to register for this integrated library. Thereafter, when you log in, you will be able to manage your account. Digital items are downloadable onto mobile devices with Internet access. Print items have a facility whereby the item can be emailed to the resource centre staff, who will then keep the book for you. The username for each pupil is her account number followed by the first three letters of her surname. You will receive an approval email from the school library, and then you are ready to go.

The advantage of this integrated library is that you will see a list of all items issued to you. You will also see overdue items on your devices, which is a timely reminder to return or renew print items.

The digital library consists of ebooks and audio books for adults and teenagers. Please download the free app called Overdrive to your device and sign up.

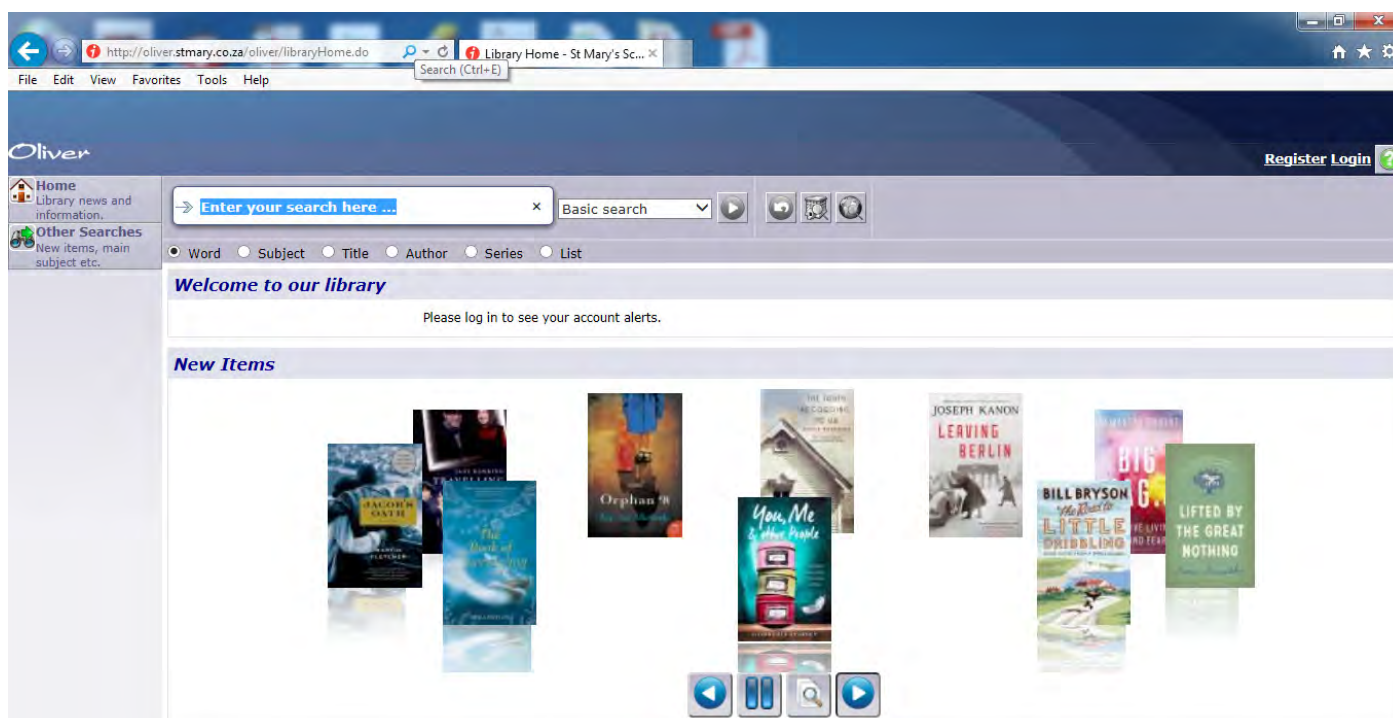
Then verify your account via the email sent to your address. Thereafter, browse all libraries to select St Mary's Waverley.

Now you are ready to use the digital library as well. You manage your own account. The advantage of the digital library is that there are no overdue books, as books are automatically returned to the library on due date unless renewed by the account-holder.

Parents may also use our digital library by using their daughter's login. The library staff are very happy to get your daughter started. She is encouraged to bring her device to the Wantage Resource Centre and we shall aid her through the process.

Welcome to the 21st century, and wishing you many hours of reading pleasure. Remember, readers are achievers.

Anneli Silvennoinen
Senior School Librarian



New library home page

Staff news

Jeff Wolf, our Senior School Latin teacher, celebrated his 80th birthday on Thursday 21 January. He spent the afternoon with his twin brother at King David School, where he was headmaster for a number of years. Jeff, you are an inspiration to us all and we wish you many more happy, healthy years!



Jeff Wolf

Dance

The programme offered at St Mary's provides opportunities for girls to experience the joy of dancing and to learn how to use their bodies safely. Dance develops skills such as co-ordination, strength, flexibility, stamina, endurance and control, all of which require regular practice.

We offer modern dance, latin and hip hop classes.



In the dance studio



Practising hard!

Open Drama

On camera modules include acting for film, television and commercials. The actor is encouraged to make decisions and to take responsibility in a creative way. Training is offered in performance techniques, communication skills and service excellence.

Trinity Drama examinations

Trinity College London offers an unrivalled choice of qualifications for students of drama and speech subjects, at all levels of experience and ability.

The syllabuses provide a structured framework designed to encourage the progressive development of integrated performance and communication skills over time. The solo and pair-graded examinations and diplomas are fully accredited in the UK, and recognised internationally in many countries.

Individuals, pairs or groups can take examinations. Study strands include speech and drama, individual acting skills, group performance, Shakespeare, choral speaking, communication skills, musical theatre and performance arts.

Candidates enjoy an entirely free choice of repertoire in all examinations, and we actively encourage girls to explore the literature and drama of their own culture. Our teacher is Craig Morris, who has had much success with the girls in past years.

Claire van Niekerk



Drama social

The Drama department held a social last Friday which was a great deal of fun. The Form III girls enjoyed interacting with the seniors. Fiona Ramsay, St Mary's Old Girl, addressed us. She was inspirational and gave us a reality check about life in the theatre. We especially liked the fact that she had worked with Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon and Idris Elba. The matric

Drama girls encouraged and motivated us to be confident. Lastly, the dancing and pizza at the end of the evening made the event special.

Mufaro
Form III



Drama girls having fun

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

2016

Entry fee: R200/ band

Applications: 29 January

Audition date: 3 February

Final 17 February 18h00

Tickets: R100

The Edge, 55 Athol St, Waverley

Prizes sponsored by:



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

For more info, entry forms and tickets
battleofthebands@stmary.co.za

From the Music department

Congratulations to the following girls who passed their music examinations at the end of 2015:

ABRSM

Aphelele	Jazz Piano	Grade 5	Merit
Indira	Violin	Grade 8	Distinction

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON

Jaide-Maree	Piano	Grade 3	Pass
Victoria	Piano	Grade 5	Merit
Natasha	Theory	Grade 7	Merit
Angela	Piano	Grade 1	Distinction
Anqi	Piano	Grade 6	Distinction

TRINITY ROCK AND POP

Bridget	Vocals	Grade 3	Pass
Shevaun	Vocals	Grade 3	Pass
Dominique	Bass	Grade 5	Merit
Daniela	Guitar	Grade 4	Merit
Megan	Keyboards	Grade 4	Distinction

ROCKSCHOOL

Dominique	Vocals	Grade 3	Pass
Ancke	Vocals	Grade 5	Merit
Lorena	Vocals	Grade 1	Merit
Meg	Piano	Grade 5	Merit
Megan	Vocals	Grade 5	Merit
Veneka	Vocals	Grade 4	Merit
Mutsa	Vocals	Grade 5	Distinction

ABRSM THEORY

Nathalia	Grade 4	Pass
Romy	Grade 5	Pass
Jessica	Grade 5	Pass
Lucy	Grade 5	Pass
Lorena	Grade 1	Merit
Maxine	Grade 2	Merit
Fiona	Grade 5	Merit
Yashmiri	Grade 5	Merit
Amy	Grade 5	Distinction

Dudley Trollope

Director of Music

From the Sports department



Tennis

The tennis season is in full swing and the school tennis championships have been extremely well attended. Forty players participated in the Forms I and II singles and doubles championship, held on Saturday 19 January. It was great to see the new Form I girls in action.

Congratulations to Maja on her outstanding results in the December tennis tournaments. Maja won the women's event in the Border tournament and came third in the Eastern Province leg of the circuit. These outstanding results certainly helped her be selected as the number one player in the South African U16 tennis team. The South African team participated in the ITF CAT Southern Africa Tennis Championships which was held in Pretoria from 9-16 January. The South African U16 team won the team event, and Maja placed 5th in the singles and lost in the finals of the doubles.

Well done, Maja!

Congratulations to Imaan, who reached the finals of the singles event of the U18 Gauteng North Dunlop tournament. I am pleased that both Tegan and Naima have recovered from their injuries. The tennis players at St Mary's welcome back Tamsin, who has recently returned from China. Tamsin participated in the prestigious Orange Bowl tournament in Florida in America and we are looking forward to having her on our tennis team at St Mary's.

Good luck to all the players. I hope you have a smashing tennis season.

René Plant
Tennis coach



Maja

Water polo

Water polo has started off with a bang this term. Both our 1st and 2nd teams competed in the Reef Cup Water Polo Tournament, hosted at St Mary's in conjunction with Summer Splash. Our 2nd team was able to gain game experience against 1st team-level players, and placed 3rd in its pool games. Our 1st team won all its pool and play-off games. The team played a close final against Roedean, and came away with the win. The final score was 5-4 to St Mary's.

Congratulations to Sasha, Lace and Kirsty (reserve) who have been selected to participate at the African Qualification Tournament for the FINA World Women's Youth Water Polo Championships 2016 in Zimbabwe from 12 to 14 February. Our congratulations are also extended to Courtney, who has been selected for the U16 SA Schools' squad.

Kelsey White
Water polo coach



Lace



Kirsty



Sasha



Courtney



Reef Cup winners



Water polo captains - Reef Cup trophy

Rowing news

Rowing camp was held from 5-10 January. We welcomed six new U14 rowers to our ranks. Camp was very hot, and our days started early and ended late. The coaches ensured the rowers rowed many kilometres during the camp.

This past weekend saw a successful regatta, hosted by St Mary's at Roodeplaats Dam. The opens and U16s arrived at 07h00 on Saturday morning, ready for a day of rowing.

We did well on Saturday, as we had at least one boat in the top five in every race and won most of the open races. In the first single sculls race, the four fastest boats were all from St Mary's and our fourth quad won the third quad race. The U16 B quad came 3rd in the A quad race but, unfortunately, the U16 A quad damaged their boat on a fishing line and so were unable to race.

Overall, it was an eventful day and we look forward to the next regatta, which will be held at VLC next weekend.

		1x	2x	2-	4x
U16	A	5 th , 9 th , 12 th , 15 th , 17 th , 18 th , 19 th	4 th , 5 th	-	3 rd
	B	4 th , 5 th , 6 th	4 th , 8 th	-	-
	C	5 th	-	-	-
Open	1 st	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th	1 st , 2 nd , 8 th	1 st , 4 th	1 st , 4 th
	2 nd	1 st , 3 rd , 5 th , 6 th	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 5 th	-	2 nd
	3 rd	3 rd , 4 th	-	-	1 st

If you have any questions, or would like to know more about the rowing club, please contact our head coach, Caitlin, on caitlin@cinet.co.za.

Emma
Form IV

Swimming

"Hell Week" began on 4 January. This meant, for those who could cope, two training sessions a day, but others came to either the morning or the afternoon sessions. There is a floating trophy for the girls who trained the hardest over these tough 10 days and the Senior girls were put to shame by a Grade 7, Hannah. Well done, Hannah, you were awesome.

Since the start of term, we have welcomed a number of Form I girls and we are down to the business of daily training. I know the early mornings are not easy, but it is a short season and we have to persevere if we are to attempt to compete with St Andrew's and St Stithians.

We tried hard to host the first weekly gala on Thursday 21 January but, after a delayed start owing to lightning, we managed to swim five events but eventually had to succumb to the

inclement weather.

On Saturday 23 January we hosted one of the most special events that we have at St Mary's: the annual Summer Splash. The water polo began on the Friday afternoon. The gala began at 08h30 on Saturday morning, and then the water polo continued and the diving was held from 11h30 onwards. The gods smiled on us, as dark clouds hovered for much of the two days but the lightning siren sounded minutes after both the polo and diving were complete.

It was a superb two days and St Mary's ended victorious in all three disciplines. We thank our Junior School for their contributions to the swimming. There is no doubt that, without their points, we would not have won the gala. Our proud policy of no sports bursaries makes for interesting debate around the performance of the Senior School teams.

There is no doubt that we still have a great deal of work to do, but I congratulate all the swimmers on their performances, led by the competitive and determined Open age group.

Final results from the gala:

1 st	St Mary's School A	313
2 nd	St Andrew's School	296
3 rd	St Stithians	275
4 th	Holy Rosary School	186.5
5 th	Pretoria High School for Girls and Auckland Park Preparatory School	169.5
6 th	Brescia House School	168.5
7 th	St Mary's DSG	159
8 th	St Mary's School B team	136
9 th	Roedean School	117.5
10 th	Kingsmead College	103

Quix

Head of sport



Robyn kicking hard at Saturday training



Training during the holidays

Jade

Our congratulations are extended to Jade, Form III, who, in December 2015, won the FINA award at the South African Schools' Championships for the best female performance of the gala. Her time in the 50m freestyle was 27,16 seconds. This is a superb time. Well done, Jade.

Quix

Head of sport



Squash

Welcome back all "squashers" to a very busy Term I.

We completed all age group trials in the first week, and the girls have once again stepped up to accept all challenges.

The league match on Friday 15 January saw St Mary's U19 D beat St Mary's U19 E in a well-spirited match, with St Mary's D taking the honours with 13 to 6.

League matches on Friday 22 January:

U16 B played Bryanston and won 16-0

U19 D played Bryanston and won 16-0

U19 B played Parktown and won 16-0



U16 B



U19 D

On Saturday 23 January, a marking and refereeing course was held at St Mary's, which was led by Cecile van Rie of Gauteng Squash. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the course and learned many new rules. After the course, we held a St Mary's championships with 41 entries.



St Mary's Championships



Results of St Mary's 2016 championships:

Overall winner - Panashe

U14 winner - Megan and runner-up Demi

U15 winner - Cara and runner-up Jemma

U16 winner - Panashe

U19 winner - Francesca and runner-up Lara

Jennifer Fox

Squash coach

Diving

The St Mary's diving team had a very successful weekend at Summer Splash. They took gold in the team event, with strong dives from Aerin, Isabelle, Alexandra and Kerry-Leigh. In the highly competitive Open event, Aerin earned the bronze medal and Kathleen was not far behind in 4th place. In the U16 event, Emma gave a solid performance to land her in second place, with Isabelle earning the bronze. The U15 age group did a fantastic job in their first senior school competition. Alexandra and Romy came in 4th and 5th places respectively. The Saints divers had the highest overall score by a comfortable

margin, beating out Kingsmead and St Stithians, which trailed in 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

Chelsea Glinzman

Diving coach

2016 SRC REPS

HOUSE	FORM	SRC REP
Clayton	II	Lucy
	III	Thandi
	IV	Minenhle
	V	Layla
Furse	II	Kate
	III	Itai
	IV	Daniela
	V	Lara
Karney	II	Tayla
	III	Reatlilwe
	IV	Keitumetse
	V	Olivia
Phelps	II	Gabriella
	III	Ntsimedi
	IV	Abby
	V	Genevieve

From the Foundation

The St Mary's Foundation congratulates the matric class of 2015 on their excellent matric results. The first St Mary's Foundation bursary students were part of this class and we commend all the girls on receiving financial assistance on their achievements. These girls collectively achieved 14 distinctions and have been awarded Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Scholarships and Allan Gray Scholarships for their tertiary studies. Their hard work and achievements are testament to their appreciation of the financial assistance and opportunity provided to them to attend St Mary's Senior School.

Gillian O'Shaughnessy

Foundation manager



Two St Mary's girls spent the December break as shop assistants at McCullagh and Bothwell in Hyde Park, before beginning their studies this year at Wits and Rhodes Universities respectively

Parent talk

Date: Wednesday 10 February

Time: 18h00-19h00

Venue: The Edge

Topic: "Where angels fear to tread: you, your teenager and the years of miracle and wonder"

Speaker: Judith Ancer, Clinical Psychologist

Our condolences are extended to Troy Stead (St Mary's cultural secretary), whose husband, Michael, passed away last week. Please keep Troy and her family in your prayers.