



The Junior School fun day was a huge success

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

A little more than a week ago, as described in Ms King's newsletter, the school celebrated its 130th birthday with our Patronal Day Eucharist and whole-school picnic. The day before the event, the Junior Primary attended its weekly chapel service at which Revd Claudia discussed the meaning behind the day and gently tested the children's knowledge about the school and its traditions. In answer to her question about which birthday we would be celebrating on Tuesday, one of the Grade 0s responded boldly that St Mary's was "1 000 years old". The extravagance of the number startled us all into laughter and left me thinking about the school in different terms: how young we are, and how much scope there still is for us to learn, to grow, and to adapt.

The recently convened South African Girls' Schools Association conference (*Isivivane – Shades, Stones and Stories*) held in Durban brought together girls' schools from across the country – several from the Western Cape much older than St Mary's – to engage broadly about girls' education in South Africa and the challenges and opportunities demanding our attention. Seasoned journalist, columnist, editor and author, Marianne Thamm, set the tone for the conference with her upbeat and irreverent opening address on her experiences of living and working in South Africa, and why she would not choose to live anywhere else in the world. Among other thought-provoking remarks she made was her observation that, despite the controversial nature of the news stories she investigates in her capacity as assistant editor at *The Daily Maverick*, she has never been threatened with censorship or any other kind of retribution by the subjects

of her stories, or the South African state – something worth reflecting on at a time when press freedom is under attack internationally.

Similarly, Dr Lisa Damour, director of Laurel School's Center for Research on Girls and author of the highly readable *Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions into Adulthood*, offered us a fresh take on the subject of girls and anxiety by remarking on an aspect of education we have come to take for granted: schools are places of change. We send our children to school to be educated and socialised, which involves exposing them to concepts and ways of thinking and speaking and being that, in addition to what they experience at home, shapes the kind of adults they will become.

With change, any change, comes a degree of stress and anxiety. This is not to say that all stress and anxiety are good, but it does make us review our idea of stress and anxiety as entirely pathological and all bad. In other words, we need to guard against making the girls in our care anxious about being anxious when the anxiety they are feeling may be a perfectly healthy marker of someone in the process of negotiating necessary change. Dr Damour's message was not that we trivialise anxiety, but that we take our mandate to guide girls through change seriously by learning to differentiate between the anxiety that we can use as a resource to propel us forward, and the anxiety that will inhibit us and hold us back.

DR SARAH WARNER
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

³¹ [Jesus] told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." -Matthew 13:31-32 (NRSV)

A seed, when planted, remains in one place – unmoving yet changing and changed by the water and nutrients in the soil that is its resting place. As it grows into a seedling and then a young tree, it continues to stay still, albeit in dynamic relationship with its surroundings.

So too with us: to be changed within the kingdom of heaven here on Earth, and for God to co-create this kingdom in and through each of us, we are called to "be still in the presence of the Lord" (Psalm 37:7). As we spend time in God's stillness, so we are changed by God and by the circumstances in which God places us – God in all – to become who God would have us be.

In that stillness, we encounter other people, as a tree encounters the birds, sent by God: God's presence manifest as beauty in God's creation. For some, we are shelter and a sense of home. For others, their presence is essential for our continued being – a gift to us. Albeit that we remain still in God's presence, we and others are changed by our meeting, in the presence of God.

**REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN**



FROM THE HOPE COMMITTEE

As we transition from autumn to winter, we encourage you to reflect on the many changing seasons that our beautiful country has passed through and where we find ourselves today.

As the HOPE committee matric parents prepare to exit, we are delighted to introduce Refiloe Zephyrine as our new chairperson. A warm welcome is also extended to Nnema Chibwe and Sarah Cairns who are the first of the new parents joining the committee. Sarah will be supporting Refiloe as our new deputy chairperson and we look forward to the new insights and energy they all bring to HOPE.

In this article is a link to a TED talk by two Princeton High School graduates who are travelling around the US collecting stories and experiences on racism and intersectionality. Their purpose? To gain greater understanding of what it means to be "racially literate". In their own words, they are using their findings "to equip every American with the tools to understand, navigate and improve a world structured by racial division".

This talk feels so relevant to our South African story.

By using the connection between "head" and "heart" space, Priya Vulchi and Winona Guo manage to connect people across different cultures and age groups making their stories relevant to today's challenges around diversity.

To enjoy this inspiring talk, please click on the link below:
Priya Vulchi and Winona Guo: What it takes to be racially literate
<https://go.ted.com/Cvid>

Yours in conversations.

THE HOPE COMMITTEE

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Saints Factor

Wow, wow, wow! I have been blown away by this years' showcase of talent. We had a wide range of talented singers, dancers and wild card enthusiasts.

Well done to all the girls who entered. Taking that first leap of handing in your entry can be daunting, so I am proud of everyone who auditioned in the preliminary rounds. All the girls can be very proud of their performances. A big thank you is extended to everyone who supported the girls throughout the process, and to all the teachers who helped behind the scenes.

This year's adjudicators were Claire van Niekerk (St Mary's dance teacher) and Sean Jacobs (St Mary's vocal coach). They gave the girls constructive feedback and helped them to grow their talents from round to round. Thank you to these special role models for making the tough decisions while enjoying every unique performance.

Special congratulations to the finalists who performed at the Junior School fun day and, of course, to the overall winners of the *Saints Factor 2018*. Well done to all of you!

Finals (Grade 4 and 5): overall winners

Solo singing Ava Milligan
Group dance Ella Meyer, Maya Marsden and Olivia Kirsch

Finals (Grade 6 and 7): overall winners

Duet dance (special mention) Ramadimetja Montjane and Venus Chow
Solo singing Chiedza Mupita
Wild card Heather Welchman and Tenjiwe Sithole
Solo dance Venus Chow
Group dance Sofia Bollo, Jasmin Vermeulen and Michaela Lotto

CAROL SHUTTE
HEAD OF MUSIC: JUNIOR SCHOOL



The Saints Factor winners



Grade 4 and 5 finalists



Grade 6 and 7 finalists

GRADE 4 POETRY

Butterfly poems

The Butterfly

A ruby red and tangerine butterfly.
 How its silent wings flicker
 in the springtime.
 Gentle sounds and peaceful smells,
 perfect wings.
 Her graceful wings make me
 wish I could fly
 in the big, beautiful sky.
 Ruby red and tangerine
 butterfly.

by Amy Morrison

Butterflies

Butterflies are the most
 lovely insects. They fly slowly
 and gently. Butterflies are beautiful.
 They make you stop in your tracks.

They float here, there and everywhere.
 Butterflies are God's way of
 showing that He cares.

by Sarah Bernardo

The Vibrant Butterfly

The vibrant butterfly's wings
 are purple, yellow, pink and blue,
 they are flimsy, fuzzy and velvety.
 His body is squishy.
 When he flies, his wings crunch
 and the air whooshes.
 He hovers and flutters away.
 The beautiful butterfly lands
 gently on an orange flower.

by Gabriella Anastassopoulos

CHRISTI LAWLESS
TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY

LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

Saturday 26 May was exciting, with the Little Saints' sports day culminating in the Junior School fun day. All of the children were stars on the field and had fun while completing the eight stations. Their excitement and joy were pleasing to observe; as was the pride they took in wearing their medals afterwards.

The fun day was entertaining and enjoyable and I would like to thank our class representatives for organising the stalls and all the parents who helped make it such a success.

CELIA DIANA
HOD: LITTLE SAINTS



CHESS NEWS



The St Mary's chess team and Mrs Murewa in anticipation of the chess game on Monday 28 May



St Mary's girls take on St John's boys



St Mary's beat St John's 35-29

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



HOCKEY

We are about to embark on our Junior School Hockey Season. Our first round of fixtures take place next week. We wish our girls all the very best!!

TARYN DE WINNAAR
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



Junior School district and provincial representatives:
 Back row: Ava Economakis (U12 D9), Annabel Hardie (Southern Gauteng U13), Lwazi Mhlanga (Southern Gauteng U13), Tayla Gibbs (U12 D9)
 Front row: Samara Mayet (U13 D9), Zalika Methula (U12 D9)

NETBALL

On Thursday 17 May, the netball teams played against Kingsmead College and St Andrew's School. The results were as follows:

St Mary's teams	Kingsmead	St Andrew's
Grade 4A	Won 3-0	Won 5-4
Grade 4B	Won 5-3	Won 2-5
Grade 4C	Won 4-0	Won 0-5
Grade 4D	Won 3-0	Lost 1-8
Grade 4E	Lost 0-3	Won 0-4
Grade 4F	Lost 3-7	---
Grade 5A	Won 9-5	Lost 4-7
Grade 5B	Won 13-2	Won 8-4
Grade 5C	Lost 6-1	Won 4-2
Grade 5D	Won 10-2	Won 4-2
Grade 6A	Won 8-2	Won 13-3
Grade 6B	Won 6-0	Won 8-3
Grade 6C	Lost 1-7	Won 3-1
Grade 6D	Won 5-3	Won 7-1
Grade 6E		Won 4-2
Grade 6F		Lost 1-3
Grade 7A	Lost 8-6	Lost 1-7
Grade 7B	Won 6-4	Lost 1-7
Grade 7C	Drew 3-3	Won 1-0
Grade 7D	Lost 0-7	Won 5-3

On Friday 18 May, the netball teams played against Auckland Park Prep School (APPS) and St Teresa's School. The results were as follows:

St Mary's teams	APPS	St Teresa's
Grade 4A	Won 11-1	Won 13-4
Grade 4B	Won 7-0	Won 6-3
Grade 4C	Won 4-0	Won 1-0
Grade 4D	Won 14-0	Won 7-0
Grade 4E	Lost 4-0	Won 5-0
Grade 5A	Won 21-3	Won 12-8
Grade 5B	Won 12-0	Won 7-5
Grade 5C	Won 9-2	Won 4-3
Grade 5D	Won 10-2	Won 14-0
Grade 5E	Won 7-2	Lost 1-4
Grade 5F	Won 6-0	Won 4-3
Grade 6A	Won 13-9	Won 9-3
Grade 6B	Won 10-3	Won 5-0
Grade 6C	Lost 6-1	---
Grade 6D	Won 5-0	Drew 1-1
Grade 7A	Won 11-3	Won 7-4
Grade 7B	Won 15-6	Lost 7-4
Grade 7C	Won 2-0	Won 5-1
Grade 7D	Drew 4-4	Won 4-0

This netball season was a short but successful one where a few of our teams were unbeaten. All the teams played with determination and enthusiasm. Well done to all the players. On Friday 25 May, the teams played their final league matches and the results were as follows:

St Mary's teams	Assumption Convent	St Katharine's
Grade 4A	Won 7-0	---
Grade 4B	Won 9-0	---
Grade 4C	Won 11-0	---
Grade 4D	Won 5-1	---

NETBALL continued

St Mary's teams

Grade 5A
Grade 5B
Grade 5C
Grade 5D

Grade 6A
Grade 6B
Grade 6C

Grade 7A
Grade 7B

Assumption Convent

Won 8-4
Won 7-1
Won 5-1
Won 6-4

Won 15-0
Won 6-1
Won 11-1

Lost 4-5
Won 6-0

St Katharine's

Won 7-4
Won 11-1
Won 17-1

Won 11-1
Won 11-0

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
NETBALL COACH



The Grade 6 A and B netball team at the Holy Rosary netball festival on Saturday 19 May