



St Mary's School  
Waverley  
Founded 1888

# JUST JUNIOR NEWS

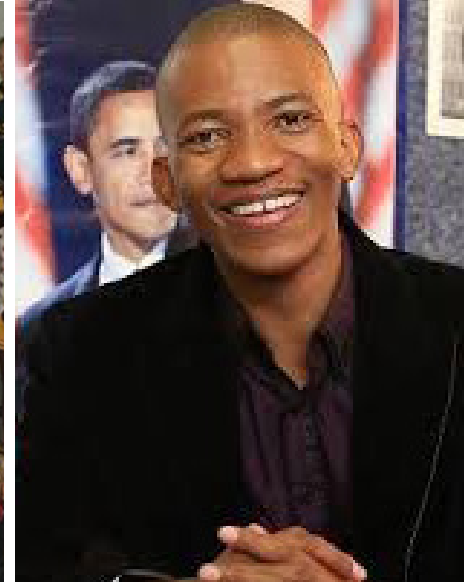
4 OCTOBER 2019



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Senior Primary Heritage Day assembly



Professor Thabo Msibi, Dean of Education at UKZN

## FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

Among the more thought-provoking presentations Deanne King and I attended at the recent ISASA SAHISA conference held in the Drakensberg was one given by Professor Thabo Msibi, Dean of Education at UKZN (and the youngest dean in the country at the age of 34) entitled "Mending the wounds: Transformative school leadership in times of uncertainty". Msibi began his address by recalling how his childhood, spent growing up in a township near Estcourt, exposed him to the harsher socio-economic realities of life from an early age. Describing his academic career, from township school to high school in Estcourt, to UKZN, a Fulbright scholarship to study at Columbia University and, finally, a Gates scholarship at Cambridge, Msibi was intent on acknowledging the vital role played by teachers in steering their students' careers by recognising and supporting potential wherever and whenever they see it.

Based on Msibi's own experience of active mentorship by Crispin Hemson, UKZN's Head of the School of Education, when Msibi was completing his degree in education, he is a fervent advocate of creating opportunities for students from different backgrounds through a critical re-evaluation of institutional culture and its damaging historical blind spots. At the heart of his far more complex presentation was an exhortation to heads to scrutinise daily practice at their schools and to work with their teachers intentionally to create a culture of true equal opportunity for their students. This could

be done by ensuring that everyone received the encouragement that would empower them at the outset to make the most of the opportunities on offer. Our mission, accordingly, as heads and teachers at independent schools, is to close gaps in student performance through a rigorous examination, and how it enables and disables performance among different students.

More specifically, at a girls' school like St Mary's, where most of the teachers are women, our mission is to empower each other and the girls we lead. It is not enough to gesture towards girl power vaguely or to demand assertive behaviour from every girl with whom we work: we must keep demanding changes to our culture, to the sometimes unproductive ways women and girls operate within it, and to commit to helping each other in practical, instructive ways. I am aware, based on my experience of asking questions in assembly, that girls (and some girls more than others) need encouragement to raise their hands and risk offering an opinion or sharing their knowledge. Despite all my misgivings about the British Royal Family, in assembly last week I could not resist repeating to the girls the uplifting words offered by Meghan, Duchess of Sussex to the women of Nyanga: "I am here with you as a mother, as a wife, as a woman, as a woman of colour and as your sister. I am here with you, and I am here for you." To be here with each other and for each other – that is our daily bread.

**DR SARAH WARNER**  
**HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL**

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Sunday 29 September marked the feast day of St Michael and All Angels, or Michaelmas – hence our third school term is called the Michaelmas term.

The term 'angel' is derived from the Greek word which means 'bringer of good news'. Similarly, the term 'gospel' (as in, the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) comes from the Greek word for 'good news'. Angels, referred to throughout the Bible, are messengers from God. Think, for example, of the angel Gabriel who brought Mary news that she was to be mother of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

In considering the implications of Michaelmas for us today, Linda Ryan (2012) considers Hebrews 13:2: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Ryan has the following to say, in an excerpt from an Episcopal Café article [https://www.episcopalcafe.com/feast\\_of\\_michael\\_and\\_all\\_angels/](https://www.episcopalcafe.com/feast_of_michael_and_all_angels/)

*Heaven knows, I've had experience with angels in my life who have borne me up when I was falling, gave me a word when hope was flagging, and even now and again pulled me out of messes I'd gotten myself into. Those angels, very human angels, didn't preach good news, they lived it and showed it. They weren't awe-inspiring, haloed, winged beings shining brighter than the sun, they were regular recognizable human beings who, I am convinced, God sent at that moment when I needed them most. Knowing God is there is powerful and wonderful, but sometimes a human pair of arms is what I need.*

*In thinking of implications of angels in my life, I wonder if I'm really tuned in to spotting the work of angels, even and especially incognito ones.*

*Small random acts of kindness can be angelic, as can giving a word of encouragement or warning. Simple things, but nonetheless things that point not to the person but to the God beyond the person. I wonder, where can I look for angels, not just for me but for others and the world itself?*

*What if I could pass on one bit of good news today, what would it be and how could I do it? Would I even recognize the opportunity when it came?*

**REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN**



## ANDY GRIFFITHS

On Friday 20 September, Australian author Andy Griffiths spoke to our Grade 3 to 6 girls. Andy and Terry Denton have collaborated on more than 30 best-selling books. He spoke about the popular *Treehouse* series.

He is a stand-up comedian and a self-proclaimed prankster, which came through in his presentation. The girls were delighted when he took out a water pistol and proceeded to spray some of them.

Well done to Molebogeng Pitje and Alexandra Kobus for the lovely introduction they gave to Andy's talk.

I thank Pan Macmillan and Exclusive Books for giving us this opportunity to host Andy Griffiths. A special thanks to Andy for being such an inspiring speaker. We hope to see him again.

**ROBYNNE DUNKLEY  
DEPUTY HEAD ADMINISTRATION AND LIBRARIAN**



## FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### Suzuki violin concerts

The second term was a very busy one for many of the young violinists in the Junior School. It began on the morning of Saturday 20 July with approximately 35 violinists from Dainfern College joining our St Mary's girls to enjoy a morning of violin playing. The children were split into three groups and worked with various teachers in different venues to play the pieces that they had all been learning over the year. All the children learn the Suzuki violin method which teaches them the same pieces and makes it easy for them to play together. As an extra item on the morning, the girls learned the English Canon, which is a combined piece with different parts. This gave the players a chance to discover what it is like playing with other musicians who are playing something different. The parents joined us for a short concert at the end of the morning and it was lovely to see such enthusiasm from both the violinists and the audience.

The morning with Dainfern College was followed two weeks later by the Annual National Suzuki Concert at the Linder Auditorium. This concert brings together all the trained violin and cello Suzuki teachers' students to showcase what they have learnt the previous year. The age of the performers ranged from three- and four-year olds to 40- and 50-year-olds and it was wonderful to see this mix of ages on the stage at the end of the concert playing the most famous of all Suzuki pieces, *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*. It is also a great learning experience for the girls and their teachers: they need to have prepared their pieces before they can play, they need to have settled their nerves before facing an audience of 650 and, most importantly, they have to enjoy themselves. None of this would happen without the hard work and dedication from the girls and their parents. Well done everyone for a wonderful Term II.

**LOUISE FRAHM-ARP**  
VIOLIN TEACHER



# GRADE 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB



Look out for our signs. How many have you seen?

# HERITAGE DAY



Celebrating Heritage Day

# FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



## TENNIS

### BNP Paribas RCS Rising Star tennis tournament

St Mary's entered two teams of four Grade 6 girls in the first round of the Rising Star tournament. The tournament is a platform to develop junior tennis sponsored by BNP Paribas and endorsed by Kevin Anderson.

The two St Mary's teams played some very competitive matches and ended 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. Well done to all the players and a special congratulations to the B team who played against A teams from other schools and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. The A team lost in a tight match against Trinity House who were the overall winners.

St Mary's A and Trinity House go through to play in the next round. We wish our players Moroesi Tuoane, Ilana Buck, Nicole Ledlie and Kathryn Franck every success in the next round.

Thank you to Rene Plant who is involved in the running of the tournament and made it possible for our girls to participate and gain valuable tennis experience.

### Junior tennis league results

St Mary's C team beat APPS A 33-32  
 St Mary's B team beat APPS B 60-18

The Grade 4 players won their first match against APPS 27-17.

Well done to all the players who excelled on the courts.

**TEENA LOWNDES**  
**TENNIS COACH**



Rising Stars tennis tournament



Toyin Adetunji, Jayden de Bruin, Sarah Silcock, Megan Macfarlane, Jasmine Apps and Caitlyn Dube

## SQUASH

Central Gauteng Junior Squash held a fun tournament for U11 and U13 girls on 28 September at St Stithians. Six girls from St Mary's entered and excelled on and off the court.

**JENNIFER FOX**  
**HEAD OF SQUASH**



**U13 Girls**  
Adoare Mbanefo 6<sup>th</sup>, Emma Impey 8<sup>th</sup> and Megan Saunders 1<sup>st</sup>



**U11 Girls**  
Georgina Pearce 5<sup>th</sup> and Sportmanship Award, Charlotte Bowden 3<sup>rd</sup> and Amy Saunders 2<sup>nd</sup>

## RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Lebone Tshetlo (Level 9) and the St Mary's ball group of Valentina Giuricich, Katherine Deacon, Zama Hlongwane and Clarissa Papperitz all placed first at the Gauteng Championships at the beginning of September. St Mary's gymnasts won a number of medals and place ribbons at this championship. Eleven gymnasts represented Gauteng at the South African Gym Games in Durban at the end of September. The team at the SA Games won 11 bronze, silver and gold medals.

**LINDA GIURICICH**  
**RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS COACH**



Molebogeng Pitje at Gauteng championships



Zamangwane Hlongwane, Katherine Deacon, Valentina Giuricich and Clarissa Papperitz at the Gauteng championships

## RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS CONTINUED



SA Gym Games 2019  
Cape Town 24 - 29 September  
[WWW.ONSITEIMAGE.CO.ZA](http://WWW.ONSITEIMAGE.CO.ZA)



Zeinab Kone at the SA Gym Games

**Book now for the  
St Mary's PTA Golf Day  
Proudly sponsored by Absa**

Friday 18 October

Parkview Golf Course



R4 400 per four-ball or R1 250 per single player.

Staggered T-off from 11h30.

Price includes arrival drinks, goody bag, halfway house, loads of awesome prizes, and our annual auction dinner hosted by the brilliant Nico Kritsiotis.

Go to the app (under Alerts) or  
[www.stmaryschool.co.za](http://www.stmaryschool.co.za)  
for more info and to book your place.