



Head girls 2020-elect: Isabella (deputy head girl), Tlou (head girl), Simone (deputy head girl)

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Daily Maverick's, Burn after Reading newsletter in association with *The Reading List* caught my attention last week with the following introduction:

The novelist Ian McEwan, talking about his new book said, with the world falling apart around us, what is a writer to do, he asked? "There is only one answer: write."

The cognate for those of us on the other side of the coin is – "read". It seems like the right kind of magic that is needed for our times: reader, meet writers on the page and change the world.

Reading opens our minds and our hearts. It gives us access to people's stories, to places and it helps us to make sense of the world around us. An exploration and understanding of our planet, our environment and even of ourselves is greatly enhanced if we have literacy and numeracy skills. This is the true gift of education.

As we prepared this week for our annual prizegiving, I found myself reflecting on the core value of what we do at St Mary's. The daily routine of school, which includes lessons, assignments and assessments, is often the barrier to experiencing and reflecting on the sheer joy of education. I fear that, with our attention firmly set on the outcome of school, we forget to teach our children simply to enjoy and revel in their learning, which should unlock potential and present possibility. Let this be the message for our children: each of us has a unique journey of learning and it is so much more than marks and awards; it is a magical and never-ending experience of discovery.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

NOTICE BOARD – PLEASE SEE PAGE 12 FOR ALL OUR IMPORTANT NOTICES

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

– 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NRSV)

Christ's Spirit within us is made manifest in a variety of ways, and we can see the outworking of Christ's Spirit in each other, in the service of each to each other. We may not be aware of how the Holy Spirit is manifest in ourselves, and perhaps we become used to the expression

of God's Spirit in others. We are all called to serve one another, in the power of the Spirit. Let this, therefore, be the focus of our prayers, this week:

Christ our Lord,

Create in us a desire to be more aware of your Spirit moving within ourselves and

in those around us,
noticeable in our acts of service to one another.

Help us to notice, acknowledge and praise you for the presence of your Spirit as we reflect at the end of each day.
Amen.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

HONOURS BLAZERS

The following girls were awarded Honours blazers at final assembly last term.

Sports Honours



Back row: Catherine, Sarah
Front row: Helen, Caitlin

Service Honours



Alexia, Nina, Nokuthula

Cultural Honours



Elliott, Khanyisile, Justine

FORM II BUSH SCHOOL: 8 TO 21 SEPTEMBER 2019 @ WAGONDRIFT CAMP



Bush School is a unique learning opportunity that is firmly entrenched in the St Mary’s curriculum. Our girls live in a busy and complex world which seldom allows opportunities for our young people to reflect on their existence and build an appreciation for all that it entails. The two weeks spent at Bush School bring enormous personal growth for each girl, all the while developing an increased awareness for the value of others.

The routine of each day, as well as the activities in which the girls participate, encourages the girls to engage with one other to develop a solutions-oriented mindset that, hopefully, leads to discernment and good judgement. But mostly, the girls have incredible fun and build memories in an environment devoid of the stressors experienced by many urban children.

The Form II girls of 2019 are a remarkable group who know their own minds and who have learnt to be grateful for their many blessings.

Both the Form II parents and I are grateful to Mrs Bradfield for her efforts in developing and updating a secure website which allowed the parents to glimpse into their daughters’ experiences. In addition, my heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Nkuna, Mr Ndimande, Sr Leigh and Ms McMurray for their time and commitment to the care of our pupils while on camp. The St Mary’s teachers who shared this experience with the Form IIs consider themselves privileged to have been able to observe the individual success of each girl as she navigated the programme.

PENNY MULLAN
DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS

DANCE



Demi’s dance group, *Team Elevate*, entered the World Dance Challenge two weekends ago. They placed first and earned the title of Highest Scoring Group, which offers them a place to compete in the World Dance Challenge Championships in Portugal in 2020.

Team Elevate are also part of Team SA after receiving gold in the South African Championships of Performing Arts for their dances and have been invited to Los Angeles to compete in the World Championships of the Performing Arts.

It is the first time they have entered these competitions and the girls are excited to have done so well and to represent South Africa internationally.

DEBATING



Marubini, Folasade and Nyasha

Two weekends ago, the Junior team placed second in the province in the Gauteng Schools' Debating Board Junior Provincial Competition. We lost the final to Parktown Girls. The team is made up of Marubini, Folasade and Nyasha.

Folasade placed seventh in the province for best speaker and has

been selected to the Gauteng Delegation for 2019. She will be a member of the team representing Gauteng at the South African National Schools' Debating Championships in December.

SEIPATI MOHAPI
HEAD OF DEBATING

OLD GIRL NEWS

We have been informed by the admissions officer from Drew University in New Jersey, that St Mary's Old Girl and past head girl, Bongwiwe (2015), apparently walks all over campus with her St Mary's bag! Bongi is doing well and has been awarded an internship at the United Nations in New York.



St Mary's Old Girl and past head girl, Bongwiwe

KWAZULU-NATAL SERVICE TRIP



On Friday 9 August, we were given the opportunity to travel to Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal. Our motivation was to help disadvantaged students at Nyanyadu Primary School by building them a library. We constructed the library using eco-bricks made on Mandela Day. Many members of our community donated books, stationery and uniforms. Furse House made a tremendous donation of new books. Phelps House made a valuable contribution in the form of shelves and paint. The resource monitors created beautiful letters for the shelving of the books.

For some of us there was a language barrier but, with help from Ma Sithebe and Ma Ngobese, communication was made possible.

While half of us were teaching the students, the others worked on organising donated books in alphabetical order. Ms Douglas accompanied us to assist with the correct way to set up the library.

We had the assistance of an enthusiastic team of men, led by Mr Northmore, who helped us to mount the shelves.

This trip has taught us to appreciate the facilities we are blessed with at St Mary's. We bonded across forms when we were given different tasks.

A big thank you to Mrs Northmore for organising an amazing and beneficial service trip as well as Mrs Jenny for donating money to finance the transport for the service trip.

NANDI
FORM III

THE KAPOK TREE IN THE STOP-AND-DROP



The kapok tree (or silk floss tree as it is also known) in the stop-and-drop has been laden with exploded floss pods for a number of weeks now and has caused quite a bit of interest. Many visitors to the school have been fascinated and, on arrival, have asked questions about the tree. This was the also the case at Old Girls' Day. I was then informed by a prominent Old Girl how kapok came to South Africa. The story goes that a young bride-to-be came to South Africa to marry a gentleman in White River. She brought with her a pillow and found a seed in the filling of the pillow. As she was an avid gardener, she planted the seed and she grew the first kapok tree in our country.

Kapok (*Ceiba pentandra*) is a large deciduous tree, best known for the fibre produced by its fruit. Kapok has a broad straight trunk and almost horizontally spreading branches and some varieties are covered with rounded spines. The tree drops its leaves before it puts on an autumn display of five-petalled flowers. The flowers vary from pale pink to rose or purple at the tips and grade into a white or ivory towards the centre.

The flowers are then followed by pear-shaped pods filled with many seeds embedded in silky-white floss. Kapok fibre has a low density and a high insulating property which make it suitable for a large number of uses, including filling for pillows, mattresses and clothes, as well as thermal and acoustic insulation. Kapok wood is a light and resistant timber useful for plywood and packaging. In addition to fibre, kapok seeds contain 20% to 25% of oil, very similar to cottonseed oil, which can be used for cooking, to make soap and as a lubricant. Kapok flowers are an important source of pollen for honey bees.

Learn more at <https://www.feedipedia.org/node/48> and http://www.softschools.com/facts/plants/kapok_tree_facts/1858/ >Kapok tree Facts

QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

ATHLETICS



Rachel doing long jump

Last week, we had most girls available to participate in the weekly meeting. Although we are still far from ready to perform our best at inter-high, there were some outstanding individual achievements. Jemma, Holly-Rose and Holly all did superbly in the high jump and Clio and Jade both ran under 13 seconds in the 100m. I hope that some consolidation in the next 10 days will help us to be the best we can be in this short and very disrupted season. The score sheet indicates that we won the event but we can take nothing for granted as all schools are still working on their teams.

QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

ROWING



The St Mary's rowing club developed and hosted a brand new format of racing in South Africa. The inaugural Match Race Championships was well supported by schools across Gauteng.

The format of racing was set up in over five events; all boats with eight rowers against one another in eights and octuples, four rowers against one another in fours and quads, and lastly the doubles and pairs in the same event. These five events were run as a heads race to determine

speed. Then, the next phase of racing started: this knock-out style racing.

Congratulations to all our winners on the day. Well done and thank you to all our parents, sponsors and supporters over the weekend.

CAITLIN
HEAD OF ROWING

SQUASH

Central Gauteng Junior Squash

The awards presentation along with a very quick AGM was held at Roedeaan on 18 September.

St Mary's was, once again, awarded with the Castle Aggregate Trophy for the best league results for the 2019 season.

Senior School Girls' League:

U19 winners: Tayla, Emma, Megan, Rebecca, Tannah

U19B winners: Tannah, Hannah I, Sarah, Rachel Shannon, Alexia

U19C runners-up: Alayna, Megan, Hannah H, Renata

Winners: Josie, Roxanne, Erin, Emma

U19D runners-up: Rachel, Jade, Nokuthula, Julia, Rebecca, Sayuri

U16A winners: Ghita, Dominique, Sarah, Emma, Julia Y

U16B runners-up: Kerry-Lynn, Jaime, Hailey, Saige

U16C runners-up: Kim, Kutloano, Talsia, Kelly, Mieke

U15A winners: Sasha, Stephanie, Mpho, Caroline

U14 runners-up: Mia, Olivia, Megan Y, Tanaya, Shannon



St Mary's squash girls



Emma receiving her medal and certificate as SA No 3 U14

St Mary's were invited to the Johannesburg Country Club to play squash, racketball and doubles against the Jester's Club on Wednesday 25 September followed by a dinner. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the evening and learned much about aspects of the game.



St Mary's vs Jesters

JENNIFER FOX
HEAD OF SQUASH

PARKTOWN SPORTS FESTIVAL 2019 – 5 OCTOBER 2019



Water polo



Tennis



Hockey



Netball



Sasha (hockey captain) and Simone (netball captain)

Several of our sporting teams participated in the annual Parktown Sports Festival. We entered two hockey and two netball teams, a tennis team and a water polo team. A festival such as this provides an ideal opportunity for younger players to participate in a tournament-type competition. They

benefit from working with the more experienced players and develop a greater understanding of the demands of competition by playing against stronger opposition.

HOCKEY

Our two hockey teams produced good results in the pool stages. Team 1 won their section and Team 2 finished second in theirs. This resulted in the two St Mary's teams playing each other in the cross-pool playoffs. Team 1 won and went on to play against a strong team from Brescia in the final. At fulltime the scores were even. Ultimately the result was determined by penalties which our girls went on to win. This meant

Team 1 were the overall tournament winners. Team 2 did very well to win their playoff and finish third overall.

NETBALL

This was the second year that we participated in this festival and we had the privilege of entering two teams.

St Mary's 1 won all their pool matches and ended first in their pool, while St Mary's 2 lost one match against Jeppe Girls' High and ended second in their pool. The two St Mary's teams qualified for the semi-finals and, unfortunately, played each other. St Mary's 1 narrowly beat St Mary's 2 to go through to the final against Jeppe Girls' High.

At full time in the final, the two teams had even scores which led to extra time of one minute per side. At the end of extra time, the two teams still had even scores which then led to sudden death. The team to score the first goal would win the match and win the festival. St Mary's 1 won the toss-up, scored the first goal and won the festival.

Congratulations to all the girls who competed in the festival this weekend

St Mary's 2 played Parktown Girls' High for the bronze medal and, unfortunately, lost the match and placed fourth in the festival.

TENNIS

Seven schools participated in the tennis section of the Parktown Sports Festival. Congratulations to the Form III team who competed well and

ended third. All the players obtained valuable match experience and enjoyed participating in this well-organised festival.

WATER POLO

The 2nd/U15 team took part in the Parktown Sports Festival where they competed against other 1st teams from various schools. They placed fifth in a very exciting match against Dainfern College where Olivia Haselau scored a vital goal in the last six seconds of the match. The tournament was tough for the young team, however, the girls gained

lots of exposure playing against stronger opposition. Well done, water polo!

TARYN de WINNAAR
HEAD OF SPORT: SENIOR SCHOOL

TENNIS



Lilitha participating in the prestigious Growthpoint Masters in Potchefstroom



The St Mary's team that competed in the Hilton/St Anne's doubles tournament: Lilitha, Annika, Sarah M, Amukelan, Hannah, Sarah R, Julianne and René Plant

It has been a busy few weeks on the tennis courts for all the St Mary's players. The league is in full swing and St Mary's tennis teams participated in two festivals.

The St Mary's A tennis team once again participated in the annual Hilton College/St Anne's Invitational Doubles and Mixed Doubles Tournament. The St Mary's team did extremely well beating St Anne's, St Mary's DSG and St Andrew's to reach the finals of the doubles event. In the doubles finals the St Mary's players lost to a very strong team from Helpmekaar. In the mixed doubles event St Mary's teamed up with St Stithians to beat St Anne's/Hilton, St Andrew's/St David's and St Mary's DSG and Westville to reach the final. The combined team of St Mary's and St Stithians beat the team from Helpmekaar Kollege in a very exciting and nail-biting final, by four matches to two.

Doubles Results

- 1 Helpmekaar Kollege
- 2 St Mary's Waverley
- 3 St Andrew's School
- 4 St Mary's Kloof
- 5 St Anne's Diocesan School
- 6 Roedeane School
- 7 Durban Girls' College
- 8 St Mary's DSG

Five Form III girls also participated in the Spring Festival which was held at Parktown. Seven schools participated in the event and St Mary's Waverley placed third. All the players competed well and gained valuable match play experience.

Congratulations to Lilitha who was chosen to participate in the elite U14 Masters event, which was held in Potchefstroom from 4 to 6 October.

Results

17 September 2019

- St Mary's A Bye
- St Mary's B Bye
- St Mary's C lost to Kingsmead A 28-35
- Mary's D beat Kingsmead B 33-30
- St Mary's E lost to Randburg A 22-41
- St Mary's F beat Randburg B 40-23

01 October 2019

- St Mary's A beat Roedeane A 50-13
- St Mary's B beat Roedeane B 45-18
- St Mary's C lost to Linden A 19-44
- St Mary's D beat Linden B 40-23
- St Mary's E lost to Bryanston A 29-34
- St Mary's F beat Bryanston B 38-25
- St Mary's G beat St Andrew's C 25-22
- St Mary's H beat St Andrew's D 29-16

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS



Lesedi



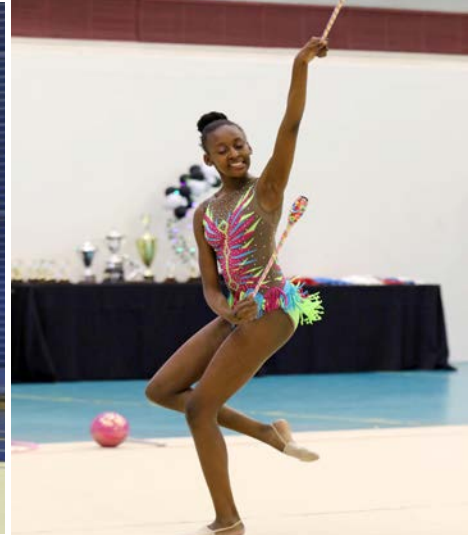
Reece



Romy



Jessica



Lebone

The 2019 South African Rhythmic Gymnastics Games took place in Durban from 23 to 29 September. The Fred Crookes Sports Centre, at the Durban University of Technology, was transformed into a kaleidoscope of colour. Beautiful leotards, twirling clubs, serpentine ropes and ribbons, and iridescent hoops and balls filled the arena.

St Mary's is the only school in South Africa to offer rhythmic gymnastics as an official sport. The Senior School has five gymnasts who all excelled in the competition. Level 10 gymnasts Romy and Jessica achieved their best scores of the season. Reece was awarded a bronze medal for her Level 5 ribbon routine. Lesedi claimed gold medals for her polished Level 6 free dance and ball routines. Lebone achieved a third-place overall podium finish when she collected a Level 9 gold medal for ball and a bronze medal for hoop. Well done to all the girls

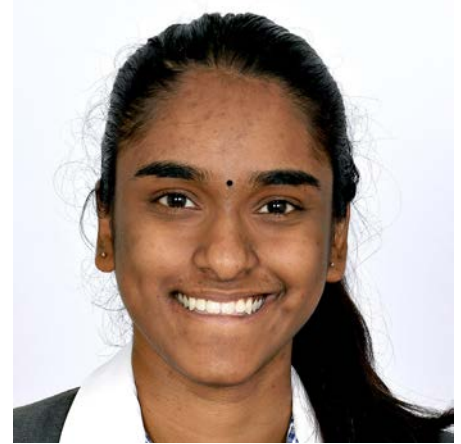
who have proven that hard work, dedication and St Mary's resilience are a winning combination.

These amazing achievements are owing to the exacting tutelage of international coaches, Natalia Paizakis and Batbagana Buyantsogt. Special thanks are extended to Linda Giuricich who has been the driving force behind rhythmic gymnastics at St Mary's. Her vision has resulted in the St Mary's Invitational, which takes place in May, becoming a sought-after competition to attend in the build-up to provincial and national selection.

BELINDA WILLIAMS

KARATE

Our congratulations are extended to Nivia who was awarded her Black Belt for karate on 31 August. This is a superb achievement and we are so proud of you!



NOTICES

**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 for more info and to book your place.




INTERNATIONAL STUDY OPTIONS



REGIONAL INSTITUTE
Sub-Saharan Africa 2019

International ACAC College Fair
To be held at: African Leadership Academy,
Johannesburg, South Africa
Saturday, October 12, 2019
11:30-1 PM



This fair will have representatives from top United States and International colleges and universities.

The fair is free of charge and open to students interested in attending college abroad, as well as their parents and high school counselors.

For more information, please contact:
Lois Peters, African Leadership Academy, +27 11 699 3000,
or email: RegionalInstitutes@InternationalACAC.org

For a list of registered colleges and universities, and to sign up, please go to InternationalACAC.org/SSASStudentSignUp

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