



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUST JUNIOR



First day in Grade 1: Georgia Plagis, Omphile Makaqa, Bronte Dashwood

From the Junior Primary department

Dear parents

How wonderful it is to see happy and enthusiastic little girls coming into the school grounds each morning. Many girls are walking independently to the classroom and are happily ensconced in a variety of co-curricular activities. Please encourage morning independence as much as possible. Encourage your daughters to give the teachers verbal messages on their own, be it about something that is sore or something that the teacher needs to know.

The girls are wearing their uniforms with pride and most are remembering to wear their blazers on a Tuesday and Friday. A reminder please that the girls may not wear nail polish or glittery earrings, even if they are in Grade 0!

The reading room has opened, and interesting and exciting books continue to

make their way home each day.

Reading aloud is a skill that requires daily attention if your daughter is expected to improve her fluency, expression and comprehension. Alongside this goes the reading of sight words and revision of sounds. If your daughter does not manage to complete the entire reading book, please indicate the page to which she read. It does nothing to improve reading, or the love thereof, if incomplete books become the order of the day.

Bedtime stories improve vocabulary and comprehension.

Playdates should be encouraged as it is during these times that the girls learn valuable socialisation skills and techniques.

Dates to diarise

FEBRUARY

Mon 09	07h30	St Mary's Grade 7 entrance assessments
	12h20	Little Saints normal closing begins
	17h30	Grade 6 iPad workshop for parents and daughters
Tue 10	17h30	Grade 7 parent info session – The Edge
	08h00	Grade 7 tour departs for Kloofwaters
Wed 11	09h00	Eyetek screenings
	13h30	Grade 6 buddy reading
	09h00	Eyetek screenings
Thur 12	14h30	EXCO meeting
	14h00	Tennis matches at home and away
Fri 13	18h00	Old Girls' networking evening – SMOGS
	13h00	Grade 7 tour returns from Kloofwaters
	14h00	Galas at home and away
Sat 14	10h00	Reggio workshop St Mary's Grade 0 2016 open day
Tue 17	07h15	Shrove Tuesday Muse morning – Wantage auditorium
	16h00	Senior Primary inter-house gala
	09h30	Ash Wednesday Senior Primary Eucharist
Wed 18	12h12	Junior School HoD management meeting
	12h12	lphutheng shared learning
Thur 19	10h18	Grade 7 tea with the headmistress
	14h00	Tennis at home and away
	14h00	Grade 7s deliver chocolates to Waverley Gardens Retirement Village
	18h00	Little Saints information evening – Junior School auditorium
Fri 20	07h30	Senior Primary reading with parents
	10h18	Grade 7 cake and candy sale
	14h00	Galas away

The Grade 0-3 parents' afternoon takes place on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 March. The booking sheets for appointments will be placed on the noticeboard between the Grade 0 and 1 classes closer to the time. Should you require a longer appointment please liaise with your child's teacher.

The Grade 0-2 girls will be visiting the People's Theatre on Friday 10 March. They will be transported by bus and will return to school before the end of the school day.

We look forward to class assemblies from 3D on 9 March, 2P on 24 March and 2S on 31 March.

The Grade 3 market may will be held during the school morning on Friday 27 March. Both hearing and visual screenings will take place during February.

A new addition to the first term is book fortnight. This takes place from Wednesday 1 April to the end of term. Storytelling evening takes place on Wednesday 1 April. The girls are encouraged to come to

school dressed in their pyjamas to listen to stories. Just before they go home at 18h45 they are given hot chocolate and a biscuit. There will be a guest speaker for parents.

The book character parade takes place on Friday 17 April. Girls from Grade 0-3 are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character. Great fun is had by all, and the creativity of the parents never fails to amaze us!

Lice continue to visit the Junior Primary section of the school. I urge all parents to check their daughter's hair regularly as without this methodical checking, the dreaded little creatures continue their cycle and revisit the girls who have made such an effort to eradicate them in the first place!

I wish you all a happy and fruitful first term. Thank you for your support. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Di Gordon

Deputy headmistress: Junior Primary

From the chaplain

Whilst tidying up my desk recently, I came across the *Desiderata* poem. It is perhaps too long to quote here but over the next few weeks I will reproduce sections of it. It contains a lot to challenge us at the start of 2015.

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,
and remember what peace there may be
in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender,
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even to the dull and the ignorant;
they too have their story.
Avoid loud and aggressive persons;
they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others,

you may become vain or bitter,
for always there will be greater and
lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your
achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your own career, however
humble; it is a real possession in the
changing fortunes of time.

Revd Gill Lee

Chaplain

Meet the staff at Little Saints



Back row: Brigitte Taylor (Grade 000 teacher), Angela Mortimer (Grade 00 teacher), Amy Kay (Grade 00 teacher), Méabh Gilbert (HoD: Pre-Primary), Gladys Mswane (nursery assistant)
Front row: Mirka Glyptis (marketing assistant and secretary), Candice Gardner (atelieriste and teacher), Maria Masisi (area assistant), Celia Diana (Grade 000 teacher)



From the Music department

The Junior Music department is now in full swing. Music can be heard across the school campus, with Junior Primary music echoing from the Junior School hall while the marimbas, choirs, orchestra and individual music lessons permeate the atmosphere in The Edge.

The Senior Primary choir has their annual choir camp at Wag-'n-Bietjie campsite in Irene, which will take place on the weekend of 20 to 22 March. People often ask what we do on these camps, so here is an idea of what the girls can expect: we sing, have fun, sing, do team building, sing, have chapel and sing some more. There will be a concert on the Sunday to end off the busy weekend and this will take place at the Wag-'n-Bietjie campsite. This is always a great way to showcase the hard work and see what the girls have accomplished on camp.

The St Marys' Singing Sistas festival is the musical highlight of this term. I am excited to report that this festival has become so popular that we have extended the Junior School festival to two evenings.

The Senior Primary choir will be hosting the first night of the festival on Monday 13 April.

The Junior Primary Singing Angels were invited to perform at the opening event of the Singing Sistas festival five years ago. This year the Singing Angels will be returning to showcase their talents on the second night of the festival, on Tuesday 14 April.

The Junior School orchestra will also be a very important part of this event, as the girls will be performing and accompanying the massed choir items on both evenings of the festival.

I encourage the girls to give of their best in all their cultural activities, while learning and having fun in the different ensembles.

Carol Shutte

Junior School: head of Music

Parent Corner



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SANITY SAVER #1

Getting the family back into a regular routine is the biggest sanity saver of all. After being on holiday for so many weeks, children need to get back to normal going-to-bed and waking-up times, meal- and bathtimes.

While it has been fun to be a little more relaxed about these things for a few weeks, they make an enormous difference when it comes to getting your family back into "the zone" and getting their minds "back on the job", so to speak.

Routines create predictability for children, which in turn helps them to feel safe and secure. It is the same at school, where the day follows a predictable pattern, taking chaos out of the equation. Teachers can spot a child out of routine a mile away.

Believe it or not, this feeling of safety and security enables children to learn far more easily as it lowers stress levels. When a child feels

stressed or anxious, it impacts on their brainwave patterns/frequency ratios. When you look at an EEG of a child who is highly anxious or panicked, it looks like a bird's nest - messy, jumbled and knotted up, as opposed to free-flowing wave forms which enable learning to take place far more easily.

If you want to reintroduce a sense of calm and sanity in your home, and within your child, bring back routine and you won't just see the difference, you will feel it too.

Nikki Bush

Creative parenting expert, inspirational speaker and co-author of *Future-proof Your Child* (Penguin, 2008), and *Easy Answers to Awkward Questions* (Metz Press, 2009)

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From the Sports department

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK AHEAD: 9-15 February 2015 (Week Ahead 5)

Date	Sport	Teams	Venue	Time	Transport	Teacher
Thursday 12 February	Tennis	Grade 4 and 5 friendly matches	St Mary's	14h00	Bus	Mrs Plant
		C team vs St Peter's C	St Mary's			Mrs Plant
		D team vs St Peter's D	St Peter's		Bus	Mrs Lowndes
			St Peter's		Bus	Mrs Lowndes
Friday 13 February	Swimming	A team	St Andrew's	14h00	Bus	Mrs Samson
		B team	St Mary's	14h00		Mrs Hallendorff
		C team	St Stithians	14h00	Bus	Miss Wood

Swimming

The Junior School started off the season extremely well, with the teams winning or losing only to the boys' schools. It was a good warm-up for the Summer Splash festival which followed on Saturday morning, 24 January.

Summer Splash was an outstanding success. A combined effort with the Senior School saw our A team take the honours for the first time in a number of years. The girls in both the A and B teams swam with absolute guts and determination, and are congratulated on their outstanding swimming. The Junior School was complimented on their contribution to the success of the gala. Well done, girls.

Results Friday 23 January

A team:

St Mary's	118
St Stithians 1	115
St Peter's Girls	81
St Teresa's	80
St Dominic's	73
St Stithians 2	37

B team:

St Davids' B	157
Pridwin A	112
St Mary's B	84
St Peter's Girls B	4
St Katharine's A	73
Kingsmead B	39

C and D teams:

St David's C	136
St Stithians Boys	112
St Mary's C	79
St Peter's Girls C	76
St Katharine's B	54
St Mary's D	40



Jane Samson

HoD: Junior School sport

Tennis

The junior tennis league and tennis practices are in full swing despite the very hot weather, rainy conditions and lightning disruptions.

The players are aware of the challenges ahead and, despite having lost 11 of the top 12 players, have proceeded to rise to the occasion and have played well in the first few league matches. Keep up the good work!

Results 22 January

St Mary's A beat St Peter's A 22-15
St Mary's B beat St Peter's B 19-1

Results 29 January

St Mary's A lost to Holy Rosary A 35-28
St Mary's B beat Holy Rosary B 33-30
St Mary's C beat St Andrews C 42-21
St Mary's D beat St Andrews D 48-15

Rene Plant

Tennis coach



The Grade 7 team that participated in the festival: Roxanne McRobert, Julianne Klingenberg, Clío Patricios, Emma Roberts and Rene Plant

This term, St Mary's moms' Bible study asks and answers some TOUGH QUESTIONS over a cappuccino...

1. Has science buried God?
2. Isn't the Bible just fairytales and myths?
3. Jesus : Son of God or just a really good man?
4. How can a loving God allow suffering?
5. Do heaven and hell exist?
6. Why are Christians the biggest hypocrites?
7. Abortion – who decides?

**Join us on Monday's at 07h30 in the Pitt Block
Call Rosy for more info on 082 414 1762**

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a St Mary's Rose

*Butterfly kisses and chocolate hearts, the joys of love that always lasts
The quite whisper that speaks so loud
The dreamy feeling of floating on a cloud
The magic of love, the heart that glows
To say I love you so the whole world knows.
Support our gorgeous valentine fairies,
Buy a red rose at St Mary's.*

The **St Mary's Rose** was propagated to celebrate the school's 120th birthday. The rose is a red hybrid tea which produces an abundance of medium to long stemmed, shapely blooms in bright velvet-red.

The PTA is proud to offer you the opportunity to pre-order the rose in time for **Valentine's Day**. The St Mary's rose is selling for R90. Our Valentine's stock will be sold on a first come, first served basis, so please place your order by completing the order form below and handing it to the school reception offices by the end of this week, 6 February 2014. The roses can be collected on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 February in the St Mary's car park (stop-and drop).



ORDER FORM

Parent full name	
Child's name	
Child's class	
Contact number	

Item description	Quantity	Total	Payment method	Parent's signature
St Mary's rose (R90)				

Payment options:

1. Exact amount cash - handed into the school reception office
2. Direct deposit/EFT into ST MARY'S SCHOOL PTA ACCOUNT:

BANK	Standard Bank
BRANCH	Bramley
BRANCH CODE	44005
ACCOUNT NO	002988143
REFERENCE	"Your child's name, Grade and Rose"

Please e-mail proof of payment to Masemarag@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!