



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUST JUNIOR



The Grade 00s exceeded all expectations with their first foray into the swimming pool

From the Pre-Primary department

Dear parents

According to the British journalist and writer, Ian Leslie, "Curiosity is stimulated both by understanding and by the lack of understanding. As soon as we know something about a subject, we start to become aware of what we don't know and that makes us want to close the gap." Nowhere is this truer than with the youngest of our learners. Little Saints is buzzing with curiosity. Children are delving deep into topics, discovering new information, developing fascinating theories and uncovering more questions.

The children in Yellow class have been fascinated with dinosaurs. They have been browsing non-fiction books and excitedly sharing the information they have learned. "Look, baby dinosaurs. I see eggs. The mummy lays eggs!" The children viewed an image depicting dinosaurs on the interactive whiteboard and were asked to interpret what they were seeing, and

soon began to construct more questions. They have had quite robust discussions as to where fossils might be found, and have showed the depth of their understanding by making their own fossils using moulding clay and model dinosaurs.

Lizards have captured the imagination of the Red class, thanks to two lizards that have been sunning themselves outside the classroom. The children have been discussing what they know about lizards and what they want to know. The ability to form questions is a sophisticated skill and to observe it emerging at such an early age is quite astounding. They have observed the lizard and recreated it in several forms, including drawings and clay.

The brinjals that are growing in our garden have intrigued the Blue class, thanks to one inquisitive learner who brought one to Mrs Mortimer to inquire what it might

Dates to diarise

FEBRUARY

Sat 21		Reggio workshop
Mon 23		Auditory screening
Tue 24	10h18	Grade 6 and 7 buddy picnic
	18h00	Board presentation to parents
Wed 25	18h00	Auditory screenings Board presentation to parents
Thur 26	08h30	Little Saints and Grade 0 wheelathon
	10h30	Little Saints closes for half-term
	11h00	Junior School closes for half-term

MARCH

Tue 03	09h00	Pre-Primary and Grade 0 - Wild and Earthy incubators arrive
Thur 05	14h00	Tennis at home and away
Fri 06	09h00	Wild and Earthy incubators leave
	14h00	Galas at home and away
Sat 07	10h00	Little Saints at home for 2016
Tue 10	07h30	Grade 3D assembly
	13h30	Grade 7 buddy reading
	17h30	iPad parent/daughter workshop
Wed 11	16h00	Junior Primary inter-house gala
Thur 12	14h00	Tennis matches
Fri 13	07h30	Junior Primary gala rain date
	14h00	Peer counsellors and Grade 7 assembly
Mon 16	13h00	Galas
	13h30	Junior Primary and Senior Primary change over to winter sports
	16h30	Little Saints parent interviews
	13h30	Junior Primary parent interviews
	16h30	Foundation meeting – boardroom
Tue 17	07h15	Muse morning – Wantage auditorium
	13h00	Little Saints parent interviews
	13h30	Junior Primary parent interviews
	14h00	Fincom meeting – boardroom
	16h30	Board meeting

be. A journey of exploration began and soon the children were smelling it, feeling it, observing it, both as a whole and when it was halved. The children noticed the inside of the brinjal begin to change colour, and soon a discussion around why this might be happening arose. The culmination of the exploration was, of course, the cooking and eating of this delicious vegetable.

The Green class has been captivated by the magic of the rainbow, sparked by the children spotting a rainbow after a storm several weeks ago. They have been wondering how rainbows are made and have developed and drawn several fascinating theories. The children have also begun spotting rainbows in what seems to be the most unlikely of places; the water from the sprinklers and inside the light projector. The children's theories will continue to evolve as the discussion deepens.

All of this learning is scaffolded and deepened by our atelierista and our music teacher. Candice Gardner works with small groups in the atelier, ensuring they are exposed to other media while continuing to discuss their theme, opening up new avenues of exploration and expression. This too happens with Daniel Hutchinson, our music teacher, who has already taken the children on a thrilling musical journey.

As you may know, documentation is a huge

part of the learning at Little Saints. This documentation is displayed in the entrance foyer and is changed on a weekly basis. If you have a few moments, do take the opportunity to read it as it gives quite an insight into the children's thinking and learning.

Swimming

The Grade 00s have exceeded all expectations in their first foray into the swimming pool. The children broke up into small groups and joined either one of the sports teachers or our very own Miss Kay in a lane. Each group waited patiently while the teacher took one child at a time into the water. After each child had their first dip, the nerves had all but vanished and were replaced with palpable excitement. Both Mrs Mortimer and I stayed at the pool's edge and were incredibly proud as we watched almost every single child, from the confident to the very unsure, get into the pool. The ability to swim is a lifelong skill and one St Mary's encourages all children to master.

Coding

With computer-related jobs growing at a rate estimated to be twice as fast as any other type of job, coding is becoming an important literacy for students to have and a more integral part of education and curricula. With this in mind our ICT coordinator, Linda Bradfield, will be spending time in Little Saints with her "Bee-bot".

Bee-bot is an interactive software program that provides an excellent starting point for directional language, teaching control and programming to young children. Once again, it is exciting to see St Mary's at the forefront of educational innovation.

Wheelathon

The wheelathon for children in Grades 000 to 0 will take place at 08h30 on Thursday 26 February, just before we close for half-term. The children will ride tricycles, bicycles or scooters, or push prams, around a short course as a fundraising event. Please start collecting the sponsors for the wheelathon as soon as possible. Sponsorship forms have been emailed and hard copies are available from Mirka. If you would rather make a donation, that is also most welcome. Please return the completed sponsorship forms to school by 23 February.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there for a fun-filled morning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am only too happy to try to help.

Warm regards

Méabh Gilbert

HoD: Pre-Primary

From the chaplain

What might we want for ourselves this year?

The final verses of *Desiderata* give us some ideas.

Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery.

But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be critical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

Perhaps in the business of the year we need to:

- Be ourselves
- Be gentle with ourselves
- Be at peace with God
- Be careful
- Be happy

Admission to Communion

Admission to Communion classes for girls in Grades 4-7 will begin on Wednesday 4 March at 07h00 in the chapel. Classes will last half an hour. Any girl who is interested should ask for an application form from either the Junior or Senior School reception office. These should then be returned to me as soon as possible.

The service for Admission to Communion will take place at the Senior Primary end-of-term Eucharist on Wednesday 15 April. For any further information, please contact me.

Revd Gill Lee
Chaplain

Meet the departments



Grade 0: Jayne Murewa (Grade 0 assistant), Agotha Clarke, Lynn Trollip, Nomsa Moyo (Grade 0 assistant)



Grade 1: Nancy Frick, Georgina Harris (Junior Primary support and reading room teacher), Philippa di Benedetto

Kloofwaters fun



The Grade 6s had great fun making bird feeders, creating art using our environment, looking for water creatures on a nature hike, rock climbing and problem-solving with the 2D spider web

The St Mary's Foundation changes lives

Changing lives is easy with the St Mary's Foundation – in fact, it's what we do.

The St Mary's Foundation has created an endowment aimed at building a capital base to support education for South Africa's girls and young women. This is done through various bursaries, scholarships, community development programmes and teacher development initiatives, all of which work to improve the state of education in our country.

Learn more about us at www.stmarysfoundation.co.za and change a girl's life today.

Gillian O'Shaughnessy
Foundation manager



Get with the programme

We live in an era of information overload, you've heard this before, but parents in particular are drowning in information, especially if they have more than one child. If you are not organised in the way you access and store information you run the risk of dropping a ball at some stage, which doesn't only have ramifications for you but for your child, too.

Everyone has their own system, from using noticeboards and magnets on the fridge door to files or using digital technology to keep track of everything. Here are some simple ideas that I find useful, but do email me with other ideas and systems that you think other parents should know about.

D6 Communicator

Many schools have adopted this free software that helps them communicate quickly and easily with parents - keep you updated with news, announcements, the school calendar, fixtures etc. If your school has it, do take advantage of the link they send you, download the software immediately and you will always know what's up at school. I check mine at least twice a day.

Social media

Most schools today have a website and many are turning to social media as a way to keep in touch with learners and the parent community. If you haven't already done so, go and like the school Facebook page and follow them on Twitter, now! And while you are at it, connect with the school via WhatsApp for instant messaging direct to your phone.

The diary

I will deal with time management and logistics around family organisation in a separate article, but suffice to say, you do need to keep a diary that includes your stuff and your children's commitments. Whether you do so on your smartphone, on some digital calendar on your computer, or in an old-fashioned diary - make sure that as a date crops up that concerns your child, you make a note of it immediately or it will slip through the cracks.

Email

Create a folder in your email with the name of your child's school,

and file all related emails in that folder for quick and easy access.

A real file

I prefer using a file than a noticeboard or the fridge door for pieces of paper. I have an old-fashioned file and as circulars come home or I print something school-related from an email, etc. I punch it and file it. My file has a general section that relates to both children (if they are at the same school), and then there is a section for each child. We all know this is the school file and it sits right next to my computer for easy access. In the middle of the year and at the end of the year, I go through the file and throw most items out because they are dated.

School newsletters

Whether your school sends home printed newsletters or a link to a downloadable version, read it immediately. Scan read over what doesn't apply to you or your child, and take note of sections that do. Schools try very hard to keep us parents informed; we need to respect that initiative by paying attention.

Read!

The bottom line is that as a parent, no matter how busy you are, you need to get with the programme and keep with the programme for your own sanity, as well as to role-model personal organisation for your children.

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to decide how you are going to deal with the mountains of information that will come at you from school this year. How are you going to ensure that you know what is going on, and where and how to access information, so that you are always on the ball?

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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Swimming

Albeit tired after camp, the Grade 5 and 6 swimmers swam exceptionally well in last Friday's galas.

Well done to everyone on the excellent results.

Results Friday 6 February

A team:

St Peter's Boys A 119,

St Mary's A 108,

St Andrew's A 93

Brescia A 75

Kingsmead A 56

St John's A 51

B team:

St David's B 91

Pridwin A 54

St Mary's B 50

Brescia B 31

C and D team:

The Ridge B 133

St John's B 107

St Mary's C 94

St Andrew's C 84

St Mary's D 41

St John's C 37

Congratulations to Tatum Lomax on being chosen for the Central Gauteng Triathlon team to compete in East London and the Gauteng Open Water - 3km team, which will be competing in Grabouw.

Jane Samson

HoD: Junior School sport

Tennis

Unfortunately the weather continues to affect the tennis fixtures. The friendly match against St Stithians was rained out on 12 February.

The C/D teams started their match against St Peter's on 12 February, but it was also suspended after one round of play.

Well done to all the Grade 4s who played so well in their first tennis match against St Teresa's C/D.

Results 5 February 2015

St Mary's A beat St Teresa's A 47-16

St Mary's B beat St Teresa's B 45-18

St Mary's C beat St Teresa's C 46-17

St Mary's D beat St Teresa's D 36-29

Rene Plant

Tennis coach



Natalie Simon, Jasmin Vermeulen, Elizabeth Lonnon-Davis and Megan Kench