

JUST JUNIOR



Iphutheng shared learning day

From the headmistress' desk

Dear parents

Welcome back after half-term. Twentyfifteen certainly is rushing by and we look forward to a busy remainder of our first term

I am pleased that our Grade 5, 6 and 7 tours returned with good reports on the experiences the girls had at Lapalala and Kloofwaters. I thank the teachers who accompanied them and looked after them all so well.

As we entered the Lenten period, marked by the traditional pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and our Ash Wednesday Eucharist, we were reminded of the 40-day journey of Jesus in the desert. The children were encouraged to consider their spiritual journey as they chose to "give up" something for this time leading to Holy week.

The presentations and discussions held

last week with board members, staff and parents on the educational philosophy of St Mary's were well attended. Many of these conversations have initiated valuable thinking and discourse in and beyond the classroom. I thank the Junior School parents and staff for their participation and feedback.

Mrs Linda Maishman and her team must be commended on the outstanding community service initiatives continuing this year. I must highlight the Iphutheng shared learning day, where the children and teachers collaborated and enjoyed academic and leisure time in each other's company. We look forward to a similar opportunity with HA Jack School early in April.

Our Little Saints team presented their work with the children at Little Saints to parents this past fortnight. I was in awe of

Dates to diarise

MARCH

T 40		
Tue 10	07h30	Grade 3D assembly
	13h30	Grade 7 buddy reading
	17h30	iPad parent/daughter
	171130	irau parent/daugnter
		workshop
Wed 11	16h00	Junior Primary inter-
		house gala
Thur. 12	14h00	
Thur 12		Tennis matches
Fri 13	11h00	Junior Primary gala
		(rain date)
	07h30	Peer counsellor and
		Grade 7 assembly
	4.41.00	
	14h00	Galas at home and
		away
Mon 16		Junior Primary and
		Senior Primary
		change-over to winter
		sports
	13h00	Little Saints parent
		interviews
	13h30	Junior Primary parent
	131130	
		interviews
	16h30	Foundation meeting
Tue 17	07h15	Muse morning —
		Wantage auditorium
	13h00	Little Saints parent
	131100	•
		interviews
	13h30	Junior Primary parent
		interviews
	14h00	FinCom meeting
	16h30	Board meeting
Wed 18	08h00	Grade 4 LO workshop
wed to		
	09h00	Little Saints puppet
		tales
	14h00	Grade 7s visit Maria
		Klopper Home
Thur 19	14h00	Cross-country
Fri 20	08h00	Grade 5 LO workshops
	10h18	Grade 7 cake and
		candy
	13h00	CI · I ·
		Choir camp departs
	131100	Choir camp departs
Sup 22	131100	for Wag-'n-Bietjie
Sun 22		for Wag-'n-Bietjie Choir camp returns
Sun 22 Mon 23	08h30	for Wag-'n-Bietjie Choir camp returns Little Saints Easter
		for Wag-'n-Bietjie Choir camp returns
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Mon 23		for Wag-'n-Bietjie Choir camp returns Little Saints Easter hat parade Grades 6 and 7A
Mon 23		for Wag-'n-Bietjie Choir camp returns Little Saints Easter hat parade Grades 6 and 7A netball tour to Camp
Mon 23	08h30	for Wag. 'n-Bietjie Choir camp returns Little Saints Easter hat parade Grades 6 and 7A netball tour to Camp Discovery
Mon 23	08h30 07h30	for Wag-'n-Bietjie Choir camp returns Little Saints Easter hat parade Grades 6 and 7A netball tour to Camp Discovery Grade 2P assembly
Mon 23 Tue 24	08h30	for Wag. 'n-Bietjie Choir camp returns Little Saints Easter hat parade Grades 6 and 7A netball tour to Camp Discovery
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the exciting projects and creative work being produced by our youngest children.

The documentation of the children's thinking and learning, as well as the detail in the drawings, is reflective of a thorough and sound approach to the Reggio early years education programme. I congratulate the team of teachers being ably supported by Mrs Meabh Gilbert.

The sports teams continue to perform well and with confidence - our squash, equestrian, rhythmic gym, tennis and swimming seasons have seen the participation of many girls in social and competitive arenas. The co-curricular schedule changes from Monday 16 March; please keep an eye out for the

new schedule to ensure your daughters are prepared and collected at the right time.

As we continue to debate and explore future learning strategically, I am reminded of a story shared by Professor David Perkins of Harvard University, when discussing what's worth learning in school. He shares this story: Mahatma Gandhi was getting on a train. One of his sandals fell to the ground. The train was moving and there was no time to go back. Without hesitation, Gandhi took off the second sandal and threw it toward the first. Asked by his colleague why he did that, he said one sandal wouldn't do him any good, but two would certainly help someone else. According to Perkins, in his new book, *Future Wise*, people cherish this story as a

marvellous example of a charitable act, but he also points out, it was more than that: it was a knowledgeable act. By throwing the sandal, Gandhi had two important insights: he knew what people in the world needed and he knew what to let go of - an interesting insight as we negotiate the future of learning in our context.

http://www.gse.harvard.edu/faculty/david-perkins

Warm regards

Des Hugo

Headmistress: Junior School

From the chaplain

What have you decided to do for Lent this year? So often we focus on giving something up. It almost becomes negative rather than something positive.

Instead, this year perhaps look at committing yourself to 40 acts of generosity or kindness. Some questions to ask ourselves:

- · Have I given away something I no longer need?
- Could I go without something today so that someone else might be able to enjoy a meal?
- Have I hugged someone today?
- Is there a need I could meet today?

A Franciscan Benediction for Lent

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world so that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Revd Gill Lee

Chaplain



Meet the departments



Grade 2: Jenny Saunders, Sallie Pettit



Grade 3: Jacky Cacioppo, Fungayi Dendere

Kloofwaters camp news

The Grade 7s' wonderful camp

The Grade 7s' camp was held at Kloofwaters in the Magaliesberg from Tuesday 10 February to Friday 13 February. The weather was great and we had an amazing time. This camp's theme was leadership and teamwork. We were split into groups of 8 to 12 girls, and each group had a leader.

Some of the activities we did were: bum sliding, obstacle course, water volleyball and frisbee.

We went to the bush camp for the day, hiked to the waterfall and jumped off the 2.5m rock into the natural pool below. It was awesome! We were well supervised. On the shallow side there were quite a lot of fishes nibbling away at the dead skin on our

feet — a free beauty treatment on camp. It was very ticklish for me. In the deep end was the waterfall where we could swim and play.

One activity we did at night was tree climbing. We had to climb and touch certain points on a tree in order to gain points for our team. The tree was very tall so we each had to wear a safety harness.

In another night activity we were blindfolded and we had to follow a rope, step over small and big rocks and avoid the trees. Here, we had to use teamwork because the person in the front had to tell the people behind them where the obstacles were. After that we made a poster with magazines in order to express our creativity.

We did an exercise on settlement geography by visiting the local homestead. We interviewed the inhabitants about their food, their family members, and where their nearest schools, shops and hospitals were. We also had to ask about their electricity and water.

On Friday we were all sad to leave and wanted to stay for another day. This camp was awesome.

Thank you to everyone — especially the teachers and co-ordinators — that made it as fantastic as it was.

Kaitlyn Why Grade 7



Setting off on the river challenge



Bum sliding

Kids' Lit Quiz

On Friday 20 February, 39 schools from Johannesburg participated in the annual Kids' Lit Quiz. This annual competition is run by quizmaster Wayne Mills and it aims to encourage the "sport of reading". The quiz has heats in a number of countries, and the finals are hosted by a different country each year.

This year we entered two teams and the girls enjoyed working collaboratively to answer literature questions on 10 categories, ranging from insects to monsters in literature. The teams were challenged to read more widely and attentively. Congratulations to the girls who took part in the event. We are proud of

their achievements and look forward to next year's quiz.

Linda Smith

Grade 6 teacher



Erin Kersten, Caitlin Breytenbach, Erin Parkes and Esmé Thornhill-Davis came 6th overall in the quiz

Grade 6 poetry

The Grade 6s have been exploring the use of similes in poetry. Michelle Henning wrote this poem about a dragon.

The Dragon's Gold

Where the eyes cannot see in the misty mountains tonight lies a dragon with eyes that shine like marbles. He soars high; the prey cannot blink before he catches it.

Like a lightning bolt he strikes; his wings beating as he carries his prey away. His teeth go snap like a tree breaking in a gush of fierce wind. The gold he sits on gleams and glows like a shimmer in the shadows.

Michelle Henning

Grade 6S

From the Sports department



JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK AHEAD: 9-15 March 2015 (Week Ahead 9)						
Date	Sport	Teams	Venue	Time	Transport	Teacher
Wednesday 11 March	Junior Primary inter-house gala - compulsory event			16h00		
Friday 13 March	Swimming	A team B team C and D team	Kingsmead Roedean St Mary's	14h00 14h00 14h00	Bus Bus	Mrs Samson Mrs Hallendorff Miss Wood

Junior School change to winter sport on Monday 16 March

Swimming

The inter-house gala was a great success		St Peter's Boys B	67	B team:	
and it was so wonderful to be back in the		Kingsmead B	60	The Ridge A	135
St Mary's swimming pool. The girls were in		Roedean B	35	KEPS A	98
high spirits as they swam and cheered for their				St Katharine's A	97
team members. The Lions are congratulated		C and D teams:		St Mary's B	89
on winning the swimmir	g overall, and the	The Ridge B	101	St Andrews B	65
Springboks on winning the spirit award.		St Stithians Boys B	87	Assumption	28
		St John's B	67		
Results from the galas o	ver past weeks are	St Mary's C	56	C and D teams:	
as follows:		St Peter's Girls C	34	St David's C	135
		St Mary's D	9	St Stithians B	110
13 February		St John's C	6	St Mary's C	95
A team:				St Teresa's	69
St Peter's Boys A	118	Friday 20 February		St Katharine's B	57
St Andrew's A	107	A team:		St Mary's D	33
St Mary's A	95	St Mary's	107		
Kingsmead A	60	St John's	78	Jane Samson	
Roedean	42	Kingsmead	66	HoD: Junior School sport	
		Apps	63		
B team:		Roedean	46		
St Mary's B	80				

Tennis

Congratulations to the C and D teams, who have won all their matches convincingly this term. Unfortunately the A/B teams lost to very strong teams from St Andrew's. Hopefully, with some hard work, the players will be able to reverse this result in the third term.

Results 19 February

St Mary's A lost to St Andrew's A	41-22
St Mary's B lost to St Andrew's B	37-26
St Mary's C beat Kingsmead C	46-17
St Mary's D beat Kingsmead D	60-3

Rene Plant

Tennis coach



Parent Corner



AND ANOTHER WORD FOR THAT IS ...?

Have you noticed how our children seem to be using shallow, sweeping and often exaggerated statements to describe events, experiences, objects or even feelings? Here are some of them:

- It was so awesome!
- That's gross!
- It's so cool!
- It's the best!
- I'm never going to ...!
- I'd rather die than...!

These statements, that seem to come off a very limited list, just roll of their tongues with barely a thought instead of more specific words that might just provide a better description of what they are trying to convey.

Next time your child falls into the limited statement trap, perhaps drill down a bit to find out what they really mean and help them to build their own descriptive vocab instead of exaggerating with shallow adjectives to describe how they feel.

Varied and rich vocabulary can add enormous colour to conversations, as well as to a child's writing. People who use a wide range of descriptive words are often perceived as being more eloquent, articulate and emotionally intelligent.

Here are some alternative words to the all-too-common "awesome", "cool" and "gross":

AWESOME	COOL	GROSS
Alarming	Good	Awful
Amazing	Nice	Dreadful
Astonishing	Interesting	Disgusting
Awful	Fine	Horrible
Breathtaking	Kind	Hair-raising
Daunting	Pleasant	Hideous
Imposing	Accurately done	Unpleasant
Overwhelming	Acceptable	Terrifying
Impressive	Agreeable	Nasty
Magnificent	First class	Unkind
Wonderful	Super	Repulsive

See if you can encourage your child in this area of their development. Make it a fun family game to call out, "And another word for that is...?" Our kids often have the words but just don't bother to use them, taking shortcuts with extreme vocabulary instead, thus avoiding having to expend any additional brainpower thinking of a more suitable word.

Nikki Bush

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