



St Mary's School  
Waverley  
Founded 1888



# JUST JUNIOR



Iphutheng shared learning day

## From the headmistress' desk

Dear parents

Welcome back after half-term. Twenty-five 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

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	11h00	Junior Primary gala (rain date)
	07h30	Peer counsellor and Grade 7 assembly
	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 interviews
	16h30	Foundation meeting
Tue 17	07h15	Muse morning – Wantage auditorium
	13h00	Little Saints parent interviews
	13h30	Junior Primary parent interviews
	14h00	FinCom meeting
	16h30	Board meeting
Wed 18	08h00	Grade 4 LO workshop
	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	Choir camp departs for Wag-'n-Bietjie
Sun 22		Choir camp returns
Mon 23	08h30	Little Saints Easter hat parade
Tue 24		Grades 6 and 7A netball tour to Camp Discovery
	07h30	Grade 2P assembly
	08h00	Grade 6 LO workshop
Thur 26	10h18	Grade 7 tea with headmistress
	14h00	Cross-country
Fri 27	07h30	Junior Primary Easter service
	08h00	Grade 7 LO workshop
	08h30	Pre-Primary Easter service
	10h18	Grade 3 market day



## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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	Kingsmead	14h00	Bus	Mrs Samson
		B team	Roedean	14h00	Bus	Mrs Hallendorff
		C and D team	St Mary's	14h00		Miss Wood

Junior School change to winter sport on Monday 16 March

## Swimming

The inter-house gala was a great success and it was so wonderful to be back in the St Mary's swimming pool. The girls were in high spirits as they swam and cheered for their team members. The Lions are congratulated on winning the swimming overall, and the Springboks on winning the spirit award.

Results from the galas over past weeks are as follows:

13 February

A team:

St Peter's Boys A	118
St Andrew's A	107
St Mary's A	95
Kingsmead A	60
Roedean	42

B team:

St Mary's B	80
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St Peter's Boys B	67
Kingsmead B	60
Roedean B	35

C and D teams:

The Ridge B	101
St Stithians Boys B	87
St John's B	67
St Mary's C	56
St Peter's Girls C	34
St Mary's D	9
St John's C	6

Friday 20 February

A team:

St Mary's	107
St John's	78
Kingsmead	66
Apps	63
Roedean	46

B team:

The Ridge A	135
KEPS A	98
St Katharine's A	97
St Mary's B	89
St Andrew's B	65
Assumption	28

C and D teams:

St David's C	135
St Stithians B	110
St Mary's C	95
St Teresa's	69
St Katharine's B	57
St Mary's D	33

*Jane Samson*

HoD: Junior School sport

## 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 off 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":

<b>AWESOME</b>	<b>COOL</b>	<b>GROSS</b>
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**

Creative parenting expert, inspirational speaker and co-author of *Future-proof Your Child* (Penguin, 2008), and *Easy Answers to Awkward Questions* (Metz Press, 2009) [nikki@nikkibush.com](mailto:nikki@nikkibush.com)  
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# ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S ENSEMBLE CONCERT

THE EDGE,  
ST MARY'S SCHOOL

MONDAY  
9 MARCH  
18H30



St Mary's School  
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ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

