



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUST JUNIOR



Congratulations to Lara Moschides and Jaide-Maree Pastoll, winners of the St Mary's scholarship

From the headmistress' desk

Dear parents

The end of the first term of any school year is often a time for reflection on New Year's resolutions, and plans for the remainder of the year. Time does rush by and more often than not, we catch ourselves saying this. It is the many memorable moments in between the rush that we need to remember. The precious time with family and loved ones cannot be recreated nor regained once past, the learning opportunities in any classroom pass at the end of that lesson, too. Do we rush in anticipation of the next - or do we slow down, acknowledge and appreciate as many of these moments as possible?

Reports

As parents and as teachers, we watch children grow and learn - the reflection of the term's learning in the reports offer but a glimpse into the daily routines and lives of children at school. Our new report format reads with ease, is more streamlined and

acknowledges the environmental issues we strive to teach. Detailed conversations with specific teachers support the learning community of teacher, parent and child, and the two parent afternoons provided time for parents and teachers to connect in discussion. The results of the term reflected solid teaching and learning programmes, as well as guidance for future learning.

Scholarship awards

We are delighted with the achievements of our Junior School in the recent St Mary's scholarship exams. Five of our Junior School girls were selected to write the assessments, along with 15 girls from various junior schools, and we have won both the scholarships offered by the Senior School. Jaide-Maree Pastoll won the Open Scholarship and Lara Moschides won the Wantage Scholarship. We congratulate the girls on their significant achievements

Dates to diarise

MAY		
Wed 6	07h20	Girls return in winter uniform Junior School co-curricular activities begin
Thur 7		Sport and class photographs
	10h18	Grade 7 tea with headmistress
	14h00	Netball at home and away
Fri 8	07h30	Junior Primary Mothers' Day service
	08h30	Little Saints Mothers' Day service
	14h00	Hockey at home and away
Sat 9		Netball Grade 4-7 A at St Stithians
Mon 11	07h30	Senior Primary Mothers' Day Eucharist
Tue 12	10h18	Grade 5 and 7 buddy picnic
	14h00	Squash at home and away
Wed 13	08h00	Grade 4 tour departs to Oppieberg
	08h00	Grade 1 outing Yebo Goggo
	18h00	Reggio workshop for Little Saints parents
Thur 14		Ascension Day Junior School class reps' meeting in the Junior School auditorium
	07h30	Grade 3 outing to Wits Planetarium
	08h15	Grade 7 tea with headmistress
	10h18	Grade 7 tea with headmistress
	14h00	Netball at home and away
Fri 15		Grade 4 tour returns from Oppieberg
	08h00	Grade 0 outing Yebo Goggo
	14h00	Hockey at home and away
Sat 16		Junior School equestrian qualifier 3 at Eaton Farm
	07h30	Netball away Rhythmic gymnastics St Mary's invitational

and I thank the teachers across the Junior School for their commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

Professional learning

The teachers themselves were afforded the opportunity of learning with two days of professional engagement with Laura Manni and Quil-li Ruiz Comellas, who walked alongside teachers on engaging with Harvard University's Making Thinking Visible routines. This was a follow-up from last year's work and I am in awe of the exciting work the teachers have extended into their classrooms. Two staff members are participating in the Reggio Children international study group and we look forward to learning about recent developments in teaching and learning, that they will share on their return.

New learning spaces

A renovation and extension of the Junior School art room will commence as school closes. This renovation will open up new learning spaces and is due for completion in July. Once this space is ready for occupation, the Little Saints children will move in until the refurbishment of Little Saints is complete in September. I thank the school for the work being done to ensure the Junior School children have superb facilities.

Social media

Early next term we are holding a social media workshop for the Senior Primary children,

hosted by Emma Sadleir and supported by the PTA. A parent session will follow later in the term. Technology is not going away; your children will engage on social media platforms and as parents, it is important to understand this new landscape - to educate, support, follow and care for our children as they negotiate their social engagement in this way. I have included an article by Fr Russell Pollitt, of the Jesuit Institute, on social media and the responsibility of parents in ensuring their child's safety. (See page 5)

Sport

Once again, much sport and activity have kept the children engaged in co-curricular activities. The winter sport schedule has been active and preparation for the winter term fixtures is well under way.

The ethos of a school such as ours is embedded by the church and our predecessors and sustained by our present community. The values of community, love, compassion and care are some of what we stand for and what we as community members should remain cognisant of - we endeavour to impart this at school and teach the children to live these values. We encourage the children and community to remember these in their interactions with others, especially in their relationships and behaviour on the sports field. Competitive sport is exciting and teams are inspired by being victorious, but team selection and

success go hand-in-hand with humility and acceptance. Thus, by being humble in winning and accepting of a coach's decision in team selection, and being gracious in losing, we reflect the value of real sportsmanship. It is the love of the game and being part of a team that motivates future success of all the teams. I look forward to seeing many of you alongside the sport fields, supporting all team members and coaches in the busy winter sport season.

We congratulate our hockey teams who participated in the annual St Mary's Investec Hockey Festival on their great performance, both on and off the field. The Junior School took great pride in supporting their red teams!

Please ensure your children are registered with aftercare. If they are not collected at the close of school and the end of activities, they will be sent to aftercare for supervision.

School reopens on Wednesday 6 May and the girls return in winter uniform.

Best wishes for a peaceful holiday, and travel safely if you are on the road.

Yours sincerely

Des Hugo

Headmistress: Junior School

From the chaplain



*Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again!*

Familiar words from the Eucharist but as we finish the term and enjoy a well-deserved holiday, may we remember them and live as resurrection people of God.

Revd Canon Gill Lee

Chaplain

Meet the IT department



Margie Fussell, Janet Wells

Congratulations



We extend our congratulations to our chaplain the Revd Gill Lee, who has been awarded an honorary canonry by the Diocese of Christ the King for long service in that diocese. Gill is the longest-serving woman priest there, having been ordained in 1994. As chaplain at St Mary's in the diocese of Johannesburg she is also in the unusual position of being licensed in two dioceses, and therefore has to "pay canonical obedience" to two bishops!

St Mary's Foundation educating girls

The St Mary's Foundation hosted a bursary programme cocktail function recently. The evening provided an opportunity to extend sincere thanks to those who so generously contribute to providing an opportunity for young girls to develop to their full potential at St Mary's. Furthermore, it provided an opportunity for funders to interact with the girls, as well as their parents and guardians.

There are currently seven girls on the St Mary's Foundation bursary programme, each with different talents, who are embracing their dreams of becoming active members of South African society.

These young girls have individual talents and gifts and utilise the St Mary's facilities to full advantage. Panashe Sithole, in Form II, is a very talented squash player who recently won an U19 squash tournament. Panashe's goal is to represent South Africa in future. Karabo Makgamathe is a talented hockey player who plays provincial hockey and is an exceptional young athlete, too. Mmampe Khumalo was

placed 4th in the country in the IsiZulu Olympiad, and was elected to be head of the choir, marimbas and traditional choir. Phumzile Hlongwane has been elected as a school leader. Andindedwa Lebona plays an active role in the chamber choir and Senior School choir. The two Form I girls are new to St Mary's and are still finding their feet in their new environment. We look forward to witnessing their talents unfold as they journey through Senior School.

Giving to the Foundation bursary programme provides a tax benefit for individual donors, and BBBEE benefits for business.

Should you wish to contribute to the St Mary's Foundation bursary programme, email Gillian O'Shaughnessy at foundation@stmarys.co.za.

Gillian O'Shaughnessy
Foundation officer



Bronwyn Crawford and Nozizwe Vundla, SMOGS Class of 1993, with Phumzile Hlongwane



Herman Mashaba (left) with Mr and Mrs Khumalo and Mmampe Khumalo

ICT in the Junior School

This term saw the introduction of iPads to the Grade 6 girls. To facilitate the transition to a more technological style of learning, we have held two parent/daughter workshops; one to learn how to back up and synchronise Apps on the iPad using iTunes, and the second on security settings on the iPad. To round off this workshop, some of the girls presented some very creative work they had done on poetry using their iPads. To further assist the iPad implementation the girls have been taught to master Popplet, a mind-mapping App and Explain Everything, a presentation App, in their IT lessons with Mrs Wells. In addition, they have added support lessons on alternate Tuesdays to familiarise the girls with their email and the note-taking App.

The Grade 3D class is involved in a global digital storytelling project with children in schools on six continents. Each of the six schools has created a "Flat Stanley" carrying their country's flag. These "Stanleys" are displayed in each classroom and the children are creating stories to share across the

continents of the "Stanleys" adventures in their country. For photographs and more information visit <http://farawaypals.wikispaces.com>.

A very successful ISASA ICT cluster meeting was held this term titled "Coding - the new literacy?" The meeting was well attended by teachers from neighbouring ISASA schools. The focus of the meeting was that teaching coding allows us the opportunity to address many important thinking skills in a fun-filled way. We have used little robots called "Bee-Bots" to introduce the concrete aspect of coding, and then the girls have moved on to using the Bee-Bot App on the iPads. The children at Little Saints have had a brief introduction to coding, and it looks to become a regular activity in their school day.

Watch this space for further exciting ICT projects and initiatives.

Linda Bradfield
ICT co-ordinator



The children at Little Saints have had a brief introduction to coding

Grade 7 community service



A group of Grade 7 girls visited the Maria Klopper Children's Home in March.

The girls spent some quality time with the babies and children – the youngest being four days old!

The home was thrilled with the items that were donated, and the older children enjoyed an Easter egg or two.

The remainder of the Easter eggs were given to Mrs Colleen Frost, who distributed them to children through the Baragwanath Care Comforts Committee.

Linda Maishman
Junior School community service co-ordinator



Parents: be safe, not fashionable

by Fr Russell Pollitt, S.J.

This week's story of a Cape Town teen that was allegedly being recruited by terrorist group ISIS (Islamic State) has shocked her local community and made news headlines. The State Security Agency has launched an investigation and Minister Brian Dube has promised that details of what happened will be made public when the investigation is complete. There is, however, another much more important investigation that needs to be made: one by parents.

Do you know what your children are doing online? Although details are sketchy it has been alleged that the teen made contact with ISIS on social media and made payments to them online. It did not stop there. No doubt whoever was in contact with her also knew her precise location and so she, and those around her, could/can also be in physical danger. By trying to board a flight the girl had been lured, electronically, into actual contact – potentially deadly contact.

The world of electronic media has brought many benefits to us – the ability to keep in touch with family and friends, to shop, bank and source information. But there is a dark underbelly, which we all too often ignore. This incident should jolt parents into rethinking the online activities of their children. I wonder how many know what their children are really doing online? This is not a trust issue alone. The lure of social media and the tactics used by people with undesirable intentions manipulate young people and entice them unintentionally and, even, unbeknown to them.

I often hear people bemoan the availability of offensive material online. There are many anti-porn awareness campaigns, for example. There are electronic means of blocking access to potential dangers online, like NetNanny. These are all good in as far as they raise awareness and give us some insight into a world we may not necessarily be familiar with or assist in protecting children. There is, however, another elephant in the room that needs to be interrogated: should responsible parents allow their children to own smartphones and have unlimited online access?

I heard a story of a six-year-old child that was given a smartphone for her birthday. I wonder if the generous and well-meaning parent had carefully considered the dangerous gadget they had placed in their child's hand? I suspect not. Sometimes parents themselves can be victims. They do not want their children to be the "odd one out" and so feel the lure to make sure their kids have what everyone else has and are, therefore, fashionable too. Sometimes parents think that by giving their children smartphones they protect them - it is for "security purposes." Ironically, it can be the most unsafe gift a child is ever given. A call box card is more secure.

Please, parents, investigate what your children are doing online... over and over. Even better, don't be fashionable, be safe.

The Jesuit Institute now offers a workshop on the legal, practical and spiritual aspects of social media entitled "Living with integrity in the Digital World".

Follow Fr. Russell on twitter @rpollittsj

From the Sports department



Netball

From 24 March to 26 March the U13A and U12A netball teams went to Camp Discovery in Pretoria. At the camp there were 10 schools. The U13As played in a tournament where we played Krugerspark U13A, Lumiere U13A and we made it to the semi-finals, where we played La Hoff U13A. Sadly, the match for 3rd and 4th place against Kingsmead

was rained out. Well done to the U12s, who played against three schools and won all of their matches; they truly played magnificently.

While on camp, we learnt many valuable tactics and most importantly how to work as a team. Thank you to Mrs Mshengu and

coach Thuli for taking us on this an enjoyable and unforgettable camp. Well done to all the girls who participated, and good luck to all for what we hope will be a great season next term.

Lara Moschides
Netball captain

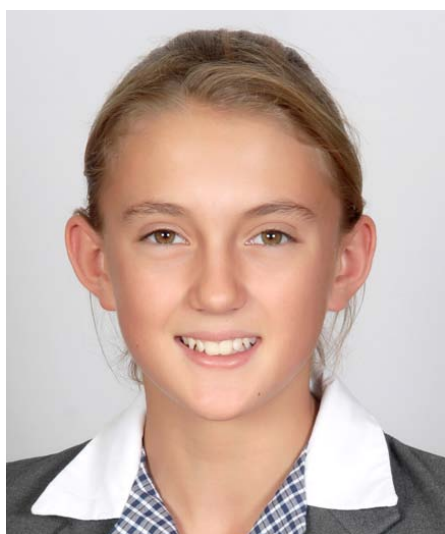


U13 netball team



U12 netball team

Congratulations



Our congratulations are extended to Abigail Milella, who made the U12 district netball team and will go on to compete in the Gauteng trials on 1 May.

MySchool card

By swiping your MySchool card, the St Mary's PTA received R242 000 in 2014! These funds were used to upgrade the hockey area and the dining room next to The Edge. We provided hymn books in the chapel and helped with heating the swimming pool. This year, for the months of January, February and March your swipes have already contributed R65 000! Please continue swiping at Woolies, Engen, Waltons, Toys R Us, McCullough & Bothwell and Kalahari.com.

To get your card, and a card for your spouse, grandparents, godparents and friends, please contact Lisa Grobbelaar at lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za.



**GAUTENG
BIG BAND
JAZZ
FESTIVAL
•2015•**

DATES: Friday 15th & Saturday 16th May 2015

VENUE: The Edge, St. Mary's Waverley, Johannesburg

TIME: 19H30

TICKETS: Adults R100, Seniors/Scholars/Students R50

PARTICIPATING BANDS:

FRIDAY 15th MAY
TUT Big Band
 St. Mary's Waverley Senior Jazz Band
 St. John's Big Band
 Pretoria Boys' High Big Band
 Cornwall Hill College Big Band

SATURDAY 16th MAY
 Pridwin P'zazz Jazz Band
 St. Alban's College Big Band
 St. Stithians Girls' College – Saxes of Note
 Johannesburg Youth Jazz Ensemble
 TUT Big Band

Standard Bank
Joy of Jazz
 Johannesburg 2015

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