



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUST JUNIOR



The B team at the Prestige Gala

From the headmistress' desk

Dear parents

Staff news

Daniel Hutchinson will be leaving us at the end of June to open his own Grade 0 facility. We wish him well in his decision and we have advertised the position.

Sport and activities

The end of the summer sports season is upon us and we see autumn approaching rapidly. I congratulate the teams and coaches on a superb swimming, water polo, diving, squash and tennis season! On Friday, our girls recorded outstanding victories, winning the A, B and C Prestige galas. The new sport and co-curricular schedule is available to the girls as we move into the winter sport season. Please support your daughters in managing their schedules and not over committing, as once the season begins they will be expected

to participate for the full season.

The ISASA schools have committed to managing the behaviour of parents at all sports events. There have been occasions where parents have been vociferous and abusive to coaches and children on the field of play. Please keep the ethos of St Mary's at the forefront of your mind and support us in developing a respect for coaches and umpires, thereby growing a love of the game in the children. If you do have concerns, please raise these with the coaches after the scheduled matches.

The girls in our teams are expected to remain until the end of the afternoon's matches, support all St Mary's teams, tidy their spaces and thank the coaches. We look forward to the season of winter sport.

Dates to diarise

MARCH

Fri 18	14h00	Junior School co-curricular activities end School closes for Easter holiday week
Sat 19	10h30	Tennis at St Stithian's Prep Easter Festival
Tue 29	07h20	School opens
	07h30	Grades 2 and 3 piece playing
	09h00	Grades 0 to 3 Hooked on Books
	11h00	Grades 4 to 7 Hooked on Books
	12h30	Grades 4 and 5 piece playing
	17h30	Little Saints storytelling evening
Wed 30	09h00	Little Saints Hooked on Books
	12h12	Junior School HoD management meeting Senior School hockey festival
Thu 31	07h30	Grade 3 instrumental demonstrations - The Edge
	10h18	Grade 7 tea with headmistress
	12h30	Grade 6 and 7 piece playing

APRIL

Fri 1		Senior School hockey festival
	07h15	Little Saints book character dress-up day Senior Primary reports go home
Sat 2		Senior School hockey festival
Sun 3		Senior School hockey festival
Mon 4	07h30	Junior Primary end-of-term service
	14h00	Senior Primary parent interviews
	18h00	Junior School Singing Sistas - The Edge
Tue 5		Eye assessments
	10h18	Grade 7 tea with headmistress
	14h00	Senior Primary parent interviews
	13h00	Little Saints parent interviews
	18h00	Junior School Singing Sistas - The Edge

Collaborative learning week

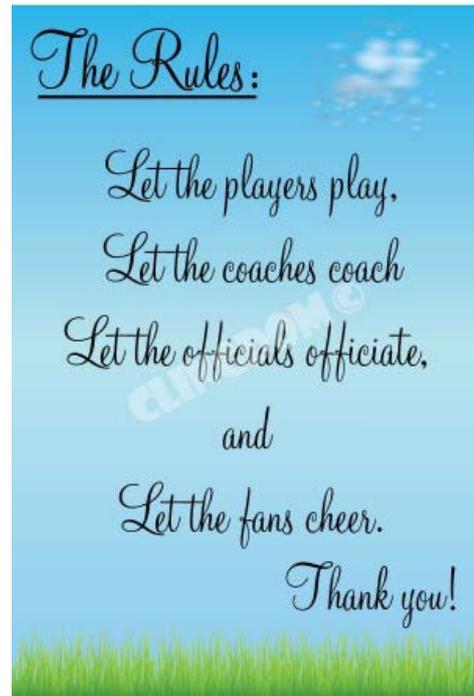
The teachers in the Senior Primary have been hard at work preparing for the collaborative learning week, which commenced on Monday 14 March. The varied learning opportunities on offer heralded a closer alignment with enquiry and project-based learning. The many new skills the girls encountered and experimented with during their explorations and planning, are skills we anticipate are needed in the future of work. It was of great interest to me to witness challenges with collaboration and decision making, and how problem solving was used effectively in many instances to meet the demands of the requirements for the different focused studies. As seen by the documentation, which is available via blogs, artefacts and visible thinking displays, the learning was immense and exciting. I thank Sally James, Robynne Dunkley and the Senior Primary teachers for their contribution to the week.

May you and your family celebrate a blessed Easter, and we remember the journey of Christ over this time.

Warm regards

Des Hugo

Headmistress: Junior School



From the chaplain

On the morning of the day we have come to call Easter Sunday, a couple of days after Christ's death on a cross, the darkness hides a lone figure, come to visit a tomb in which the man who changed her life was now buried. In her sorrow, Mary Magdalene nears the spot where she knows the huge stone covers the entrance ... and stops in horror. The tomb so carefully sealed stands open!

She goes no closer - instead she flees in panic back to the upper room, to tell Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved. They run towards the tomb and find the stone rolled away from the entrance, just as Mary had described. John, who arrives first, stands just outside the entrance, too much in shock to enter. Simon Peter, so true to the spontaneous person he is, runs straight through the tomb entrance. John follows, and together they see the grave clothes that once dressed Jesus, lying folded to one side. Both men leave immediately, their only thought in this continuing nightmare on what must happen next: tell the others, the body is gone.

Mary had run behind Simon Peter and John, back to the tomb. Now that she has raised the alarm, there is nothing more for her to do. She has witnessed the men go into the empty tomb and feeling a little braver than before, she too goes in. The sun now risen, light from the doorway illuminates the dim scene before her. So deep is her grief and shock at the morning's events that she does not fully register the presence of the two angels she finds sitting where the body should have been. "Why are you weeping?" they ask. Mary answers honestly, yet numbly, "They have taken the body of my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him".

Something causes her to turn and face the doorway again - a sense of a presence behind her? There stands a man, his shape outlined by the morning light behind him, his features hidden in shadow. Now he asks the question, "Why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Mary, startled to the present by the stranger (a gardener?) blocking the exit replies, her panic rising, "Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him away".

"Mary!" Only one can ever say her name moved by such love - limitless in its speaking, worth more even than the gift of her life to follow his steps and love in return. "Teacher!" She cries as she runs to him and clutches onto him, tears coursing down her face. Gently, comforting her, Jesus says to her, "Do not hold on to me. I am still here a while - I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go now - tell the other disciples: 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

After a moment, able now to trust that by letting go of him she was not losing him, Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Paraphrased from John 20:1-18 by Revd Claudia.

Revd Claudia Coustas

Chaplain

Meet the staff at Little Saints



Mirka Glyptis (marketing assistant and secretary), Gladys Mswane (nursery assistant), Candice Gardner (atelieriste and teacher), Amy Kay (Grade 00 teacher), Angela Mortimer (Grade 00 teacher), Brigitte Taylor (Grade 000 teacher), Maria Masisi (area assistant), Celia Diana (Little Saints co-ordinator and Grade 000 teacher), Phumzile Mswane (nursery assistant)

Peer counsellors 2016

We are the Peer counsellors for 2016 and are currently in FIV. Our role is to offer support and also empower our peers, both in the Junior and Senior School. The peer counsellors have had three training workshops with Deborah Ashdown to ensure that we are equipped to offer support to our peers.

Our first initiative in the Senior Primary was the Upstander assembly that we had with the Grade 4 to 7 pupils this week, as a follow-up from last year's Upstander campaign and the workshops that the Grade 3s had on being an upstander. The aim of the assembly was to reinforce these values. It was also to give the Grade 4 girls their TOBI badges and the opportunity to sign the Upstander pledge. This will give every girl who signs the pledge, the privilege to wear the TOBI badge (donning the mascot for the message: T for Trustworthy, O for One heart, B for Brave and I for Integrity).

The Upstander campaign is about the camaraderie and support of one another as we stand together against the bullying and ostracising of others that is often so prevalent among girls and young women. We, the peer counsellors, strive to be a support structure for our peers who are being affected, but more importantly, to encourage the stamping out of bullying.

We will also be running a refresher workshop with the Grade 6 and 7 girls on Wednesday 30 March, as a follow-up to the Emma Sadleir

talk last year about the importance of safe social networks usage.

Although we do believe a small group of people can have a big impact, there is no greater impact on a teenager than the influence of parental figures. Thus we, encourage parents to regularly communicate with your daughters about the significance of proper and appropriate use of social media.

As a very diverse year group, the peer counsellors of 2016 hope and strive to have a positive impact on our peers. We endeavour to encourage love rather than intolerance, kindness instead of bullying, and acceptance of others over all else. Though we may face obstacles along the way, as a team we are determined to ensure the triumph of pride in one another, as well as immense pride in ourselves.

The peer counsellors 2016

From the Music department



The **S** factor



The **SAINTS** factor welcomes talent from the Senior Primary girls.
Come and enter the competition and show us your talent!
Categories include: **DANCE, SINGING, INSTRUMENTAL** and **WILD CARD**

What is the **ENTRY** process?

Fill in an entry form, pay the entry fee, check your song lyrics with an authorised teacher and get practising for the auditions early in **TERM III!**

Parents, family and friends are welcome to come and watch the live auditions;
final details to follow.

ENTRIES CLOSE ON 1 APRIL 2016

The **AUDITION** dates

Grade 6 and 7 **DANCE**: Monday 9 May 13h45 to 16h00
Grade 4 and 5 **DANCE**: Tuesday 10 May 13h45 to 16h00
INSTRUMENTAL: Video entries only by Friday 13 May
Grade 6 and 7 **SINGING**: Monday 16 May 13h45 to 16h00
Grade 4 and 5 **SINGING**: Tuesday 17 May 13h45 to 16h00
WILD CARD: Wednesday 18 May 13h45 to 15h00

The **S** factor finals:

12h30 on Saturday 28 MAY
in conjunction with the PTA FUN DAY

Senior Primary reading with parents



Grade 5 girls reading with their parents

The Grade 7 leadership camp at Kloofwaters

We started our year feeling very excited about the upcoming leadership camp. The day finally arrived after an anxious weekend of packing in anticipation of a fun-filled week. After a long drive amid games, singing and laughter, we finally arrived at our destination.

On arrival, we were split into our facilitator groups that would lead us for the rest of the week. The week was filled with a number of different tasks and challenges that related to leadership skills and teamwork. We were taught, "to listen to understand" and not "to listen to respond". Through our teamwork we learnt to consider others and their feelings. In short, we developed better leadership skills. During the course of the week we were surprised by a visit from Mrs Hugo and Mrs Dunkley.

Some of the highlights for most of the girls were the river challenge, star gazing at night and, not to forget, the steaming hot chocolate which we all looked forward to every night before bedtime.

Sadly, our fun-filled week came to an end and we returned home not just grateful for our simple comforts but also with improved self-confidence, tolerance, enhanced leadership skills and, most importantly, new and stronger friendships.

Theaya Palanee

Grade 7 R





Parent Corner

YOU DON'T NEED TO RECORD EVERY SECOND OF YOUR CHILD'S LIFE

Teachers and school heads are used to seeing children raise their hands in class to answer a question. It must be rather amusing, if not daunting, when parents attend school events to see hundreds of arms in the air brandishing smartphones and tablets, recording every moment of their precious little darlings' lives.

With the plethora of gadgets at our disposal today it's easy to fall into the trap of living behind the screen/camera. And, if you are in a school hall, especially during awards ceremonies and school play performances, you are invariably sitting too far away from the stage to take any footage or photos with sufficient clarity that they will make it into the family photo album! While taking sub-standard footage you are also missing out because you are not fully engaged in the moment. I am as guilty of this as the next parent, and there have been times when I have wished I had just allowed myself to simply enjoy what I was watching without multi-tasking all the time.

Being the official recorder of all the official stuff your kids do can actually become a burden - remember, you also have to download the stuff, edit it and forward it on to lots of other people. Maybe at school events we should rotate the responsibility of being photographer between parents. If the school has arranged to have an event videoed the chances are that it will be a better recording than the one you create, so perhaps you should cough up and allow yourself to just be a member of the audience for a change.

Regardless of the importance of having a record of all the "official"

happenings in your child's life, as someone who enjoys taking photographs, the ones I love the most and that my children have spent more time poring over, are those that have captured simple everyday moments in their lives such as: their first experiences with pasta or dripping ice cream; moments when they have been engrossed in building with Lego or concentrating on some artistic creation; capturing them in action cleaning the car with dad or standing on the roof, cutting back foliage from the chimney; their blanket forts; playing dress-up; and kicking through piles of autumn leaves in the garden. These are the types of things children marvel at most, saying, "Remember when ..."

One of my all-time favourites is a photograph of my son and his cousin when they were 12 years old, mounting a simple cellphone on a contraption above their cricket wickets in the driveway. They wanted to film themselves batting from overhead, just like the cameras do on TV! Photographs like this really do capture thought in action.

So, by all means shoot away, but don't miss the moment of being in the audience either.

Nikki Bush

Creative parenting expert, inspirational speaker and co-author of *Tech-Savvy Parenting* (Bookstorm, 2014), *Future-proof Your Child* (Penguin, 2008), and *Easy Answers to Awkward Questions* (Metz Press, 2009)

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Grade 7 community service



Linda Maishman and a group of Grade 7 girls visited the residents at Waverley Gardens on Thursday 3 March. We collected and distributed chocolates for Valentine's Day



From the Sports department

Swimming

The swimming season is coming to an end and all the teams have done exceptionally well. Thank you to Mrs Zumpt, Miss Wood and Mrs Hallendorff for their tireless efforts in training the girls to be the best that they can be.

Friday 26 February

A team: St David's 138, St Mary's 107, Brescia 85, St Peter's Girls 79, KEPS 48, St Dominic's 46

B team: St David's 138, St Katharines's A 92, St Mary's B 81, St Andrews B 78, Kingsmead B 72, Assumption A 43

C and D teams: St John's B 130, St Mary's C 109, St Andrew's C 86, KEPS B 67.5, St John's C 62.5, St Mary's D 49

Friday 4 March

A team: St David's 106, St Mary's 87, St Stithians A 72, St Peter's Boys 71, St Stithians B 34

B team: St David's B 138, St Katharine's A 92, St Mary's B 81, St Andrew's B 78, Kingsmead B 72, Assumption A 43

C and D team: St David's C 97, St Mary's C 88, St Andrew's C 82, St Katharine's B 54, St Mary's D 39

Prestige galas

Congratulations to the A, B and C swimming teams on winning all the Prestige galas last Friday 11 March. It was a nail biting afternoon of extremely good swimming by all the teams and a lot of courage and determination shown by all the girls with a large percentage of them swimming personal best times.

Water polo

St Mary's entered three teams in the Kingsmead festival of which one was made up solely of the new Grade 5 players and two Grade 6/7 teams. The Grade 5 girls dominated against their opposition and went home exhausted but full of enthusiasm and excitement for their new found sport! Well done to the older girls who for some, this was a first, playing against girls from other schools and a great opportunity to learn.

Jane Samson

HoD: Junior School sport



A team gala at St Peter's



C and D swimming teams

Tennis

Unfortunately, the final play-offs for the tennis league had to be called off because of lightning and inclement weather. All the teams fared exceptionally well this term and were playing off for the top position in their respective leagues. Well done to all the players for their hard work and dedication this term. I would like to extend a big thank-you to Mrs Lowndes for all her help and assistance.

Good luck to all the players who will be participating in the St Stithians Easter Prep Festival, at St Stithians from 17 to 19 March.

Results 3 March

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

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

St Mary's C beat St Andrew's C 30-15

St Mary's D beat St Andrew's D 41-4

René Plant

Tennis coach

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