



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

27 JANUARY 2017

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www.stmarysschool.co.za



First day in Grade 1

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Dear parents

The theme for my first assembly with the girls from Grades 1 to 7 and the Junior School staff was, admittedly, predictable. I chose to speak about being new, and the experience of newness, mostly owing to the fact that it has been a while since I have felt new at school, or thought about the experience of newness, and how conspicuous and disoriented it can make you feel. People respond differently to change: some, like the Grade 7 girls (whose preoccupation with the odd smell in the Junior School hall made the laying of the new carpet a decidedly qualified success), seem suspicious. Others, like the Grade 1s, are optimistic, gamely denying any discomfort caused by scratchy new uniforms and unyielding shoes.

Also new in the Junior School hall, besides me and a freshly painted portrait of my much-respected predecessor, Des Hugo, were members of staff and girls, who we welcomed with curiosity and genuine warmth. The new girls are: Rachel Smith and Cayla Midlane in Grade 1;

Nobuhle Khumalo in Grade 2; Ella McCormack in Grade 3; Amanda Wilford and Olivia Krige in Grade 4; Muyamari Sambaza in Grade 5; Holly-Rose Brady and Taylor Hagen in Grade 7. We wish them and their families a long and happy association with the school. Some of the new staff appointed by Des were mentioned in her final newsletter; it is my pleasure to introduce those whose names and faces remain unfamiliar to you: Taryn de Winnaar takes over as our head of sport; Lauren Howden is in Grade 1; Mokone Ramulifho is teaching in the Senior Primary; Grace Banda joins us as an intern in the Senior Primary; Rosie Crisafulli joins us a locum in Grade 7; old girls Katie Shepherd and Julia Standish-White are helping out in the Sports and Psychology departments respectively, and Cecile Murray is coaching tennis.

In her last newsletter Des also spoke about the imminent birth of Kerry Gibbons' son, which took place in January. I know you will join me in congratulating Kerry and her family on the arrival of Kayden Tyler. The girls responded most animatedly to the news of staff pregnancies this

year: we wish Miss M (Miss Mbongwa), Mrs Cacioppo, and Carmen Whitfield happy and healthy pregnancies in the coming months. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate those teachers whose daughters wrote matric last year: the results were uniformly pleasing and the Junior School staff as a whole shares in the accomplishments of the girls, many of whom they nurtured and encouraged early in their school careers.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to say thank you to the St Mary's community – staff, parents and girls – who have extended a warm and sincere welcome to me over the past few days. A few highlights from my introduction to the school: convincing a Little Saints girl that I was *the* Sarah for whom she was peevishly waiting; showing the discerning Grade 0s around my office; falling in step with some Grade 7 girls as they trooped down to the Aquatics Centre for their swimming trials making the kind of frank and light-hearted conversation we hear too rarely among adults; listening to the Senior Primary choir sing at my installation service, as well as

walking from the chapel to the Junior School amphitheatre along a path lined with Grade 3s tethered to bobbing red and white balloons; being greeted in Rosebank on the weekend by a little girl who looked like she was bursting to say so much more than, "Hello." I know the feeling ...

I so enjoyed meeting you all on Tuesday evening at our annual Meet the Teachers event. Thank you for attending this evening.

SARAH WARNER
HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Mark 10:46-52: The healing of Blind Bartimaeus

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." 52 Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Lord, as we begin this New Year, please open our eyes so that we can see you, Lord Jesus, in each person around us. Give us a nudge so that we notice and reach out to those on the margins of our perception so that no one feels left out. Remind us, loving Lord, that should we ever feel anxious or at a loss, we need only call to you, and you will answer us and help us.

Amen

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

NOTICES

Chapel kneelers

Chapel kneeler kits are available at the Senior School reception. They cost R120 each and include the tapestry fabric and a pattern of your choice (two patterns are available). You would still be required to buy the tapestry wool at an approximate cost of R1 000. There are detailed instructions included, but if you need help or have any queries, please contact Jeanette Dingle on 082 686 7878 or dinglevj@telkomsa.net.

App

Please remember to download the St Mary's app.

- The app is available from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. Search for it by using "St Mary's School"
- Once you have located it, click "download" or "get icon". When the app has downloaded and been opened, a window will pop up, which requires an access code to be entered. Enter the access code `stmary16` and click "OK"
- You will then be taken to the loading screen, and to a screen that will ask about push notifications. Please allow for push notifications to be sent through
- In the menu you will see an icon button that reads "My school profile". Email kathy.mittendorf@stmary.co.za for your unique, personalised access code. This will allow you to bookmark pages, create a personalised schedule and lots more. Remember also to click on "Notification settings" to select the areas of the school that are applicable to you

This will ensure that you only get urgent notifications that are relevant to you and your daughter.

Admissions 2018

The admissions department is in the process of finalising the 2018 waitlist. If you have a sibling you want to be enrolled into the Junior School in 2018, please ensure she/he is on the waitlist. For queries and confirmation, please contact Leigh-Anne Verster via email on leigh-anne.verster@stmary.co.za or 011 531 1810.

DANCE

The dance and drama project offers Royal Academy of Dance ballet training, Dance Mouse/Madness (modern styles) and Drama to the Junior School.

Jaydene Adolf will be teaching Dance Mouse to Grades 000 and 00, and Willemien Jerling and I will teach Dance Mouse/Madness to Grades 0 to 7. Michelle Emslie teaches RAD ballet and Kyle de Boer is continuing with Junior Drama.

All the information you need to know regarding timetables, fees and teacher information, as well as how to register for these co-curricular activities, can be found on the website www.5678productions.co.za.

BALLET

Ballet girls will be able to do their RAD exam work, as well as badge tests, through Michelle. They will also perform in a concert this year.

DANCE

All junior modern dance from Grades 0 to 3 will be instructed in the Dance Mouse syllabus, and Dance Madness from Grades 4 to 7. This will allow the girls to experience a diverse programme and expose them to many different

forms of dance through a fun and age-appropriate syllabus. There will be a fun assessment in October for medals and certificates, and the girls may enter into the annual Barnyard Festival for a full performance experience.

DRAMA

We aim to develop self-confidence, concentration, language and communication skills in fun and creative ways. Drama encourages the children to co-operate, supports numeracy skills, assists physical and emotional development, and helps them to understand the world around them. It will aid them in all future experiences in the St Mary's cultural arena. They will also get an opportunity to perform on stage, and choose to enter into the national Eisteddfod.

CLAIRE VAN NIEKERK
DANCE TEACHER



For more info:
call 083 226 2871



FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



Water polo

Our Junior School water polo tournament was cancelled on Friday evening owing to the storm. We did, however, make up for it on Saturday morning, with a successful two-hour training session with the Grade 5 to 7 girls.

This is a very talented group of players and we look forward to seeing their progress during the season.

TARYN DE WINNAAR
HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT



The group and their coach Matt van Rooyen



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
– Nelson Mandela

Appeal for volunteers
Literacy and numeracy at HA Jack Primary school

Join our dedicated group of volunteers with this weekly literacy and numeracy programme for Grade 2s.
No teaching experience necessary – just the wish to make a difference.
Fun and incredibly rewarding!

We follow government school terms.
We welcome scholars who wish to do community service in their school holidays.

Literacy: Wednesdays or Thursdays 8-10am
Maths: Thursdays 10.15-11.45am
HA Jack Primary school
Jauncey Road, Waverley
(around the corner from St Mary's)

Contact Lee-Ann, Katinka or Jeanette for more information:
Lee-Ann: zweigenthal@telkomsa.net 083 450 2072
Katinka: daves@discoverymail.co.za 082 821 4298
Jeanette: dinglevj@telkomsa.net 082 686 7878