



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

7 APRIL 2017

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Thank you very much to all the Junior School girls who donated second-hand books. We made our target to the top of the beanstalk. The books will be distributed to HA Jack Primary School and various, less privileged nursery schools in our community and surroundings.

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

When I addressed the parents at the Grade 0 information morning, I spent some time introducing the staff to them and describing a little of what each teacher does. Afterwards, one of the mothers thanked me politely for my efforts, smiled awkwardly, and asked, "And who are you?" I like to think that it's a good sign that I forget sometimes how new I am to St Mary's, a tribute to the warmth of the community I have joined rather than any sense I might have of knowing the school well.

One of the more demanding aspects of welcoming new parents to the school is conducting the interviews that follow on the Grade 0 information morning and Little Saints

@ Home, two occasions that the school hosts spectacularly well. Over the past two Saturdays, the Grade 0 classrooms and Little Saints have been occupied by children engrossed in all sorts of activities (painting, pattern-making, building, dressing up, music-making, obstacle course navigation, coding, balancing, climbing, hiding, handling, holding) while their parents stumble good-naturedly after them.

The mornings offer families an exciting glimpse into the classroom, reconfigured Reggio-style, as studio and laboratory; it is also an opportunity for the casual observer to marvel at the teamwork (involving teachers, assistants, public relations, catering and service staff, and Senior and Junior School girls) that gives these events their energy and direction.

Back to the interviews and my original point: prospective parents ask questions that are predicated on deep institutional memory (like, what accounts for the school's remarkable success over the years? What is the one characteristic of a St Mary's girl that parents, past and present, would identify as definitive? How has the Junior School changed in the past 20 years?); responding to them is not easy. The authenticity of the process makes demands on one to think critically, to be resourceful, and to be willing to treat what can seem like a pressured encounter as an opportunity to learn. It was only over the past few days that I realised with something like delighted surprise why the above list seemed so familiar to me: it includes some of the attitudes we value most and try to instil in the girls we teach every day.

As the first term draws to a close, I thank the St Mary's community for giving me its support as I learn, alongside the girls, what it means to be part of a school that achieves, and continues to achieve such an enviable balance of tradition and innovation – a balance that keeps newcomers like me humble and, at that same time, open to good change.

I wish our families a restful Easter break and a safe journey for those who are travelling.

I commend all the staff and the girls on a busy and enriching term, in and outside the classrooms: on stage, in the swimming pool, participating with skill and enjoyment in singing, dancing, rhythmic gymnastics, tennis, netball, hockey trials, horse riding, chess, coding club, arts and crafts, and for taking part in our social service programme visiting retirement homes, orphanages and the SPCA with Mrs Maishman. The astonishing fact is that

this list of activities cannot even pretend to be comprehensive!

Lastly, I should like to join the whole school in commending the Grade 7 girls who were invited to sit the St Mary's scholarship paper; our special congratulations go to Robyn Stainforth on being awarded the Wantage Scholarship for 2018.

God bless and happy holidays!

DR SARAH WARNER
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

In the week gone by, political events in South Africa have made Lent that much more real for each of us: a cry for our country and its leaders to rend their hearts, to strive for economic and political stability in our nation and thereby to priorities the poor. (If you have not already done so, please read Archbishop Thabo Makgoba's statement released 31 March 2017, on our St Mary's App.)

As a community, we remember that after Lent comes Easter - by Christ's resurrection, we have hope and we are called to be a people of hope. May God help us each to discern how we may bring hope to others and to our nation, to realise Easter in our country.

Let us continue to pray for our country: that together we may die to sin, and rise again anew, in Christ:

God bless Africa
Guard our children
Guide our leaders
And give us peace
For Jesus Christ's sake
Amen

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Waverley Girls' High School

Over 200 Waverley girls attend tennis, art, dance and rhythmic gymnastics at St Mary's on weekday afternoons. One group also plays tennis on the two courts that have been re-surfaced by St Mary's, using charity donations.

LINDA GIURICICH
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



COMMUNITY SERVICE

MARIA KLOPPER CHILDREN'S HOME

A group of Grade 7 girls visited the Maria Klopper Children's Home in Observatory, on Wednesday 22 March. The girls were delighted to spend the afternoon playing with the babies and toddlers. The highlight of the day was definitely being given the chance to hold and cuddle baby girls who were only three and four weeks old. Thank you to all the families who donated clothing, toys, games and Easter eggs for the children.

KIDS HAVEN

The Grade 5s visited Kids Haven in Benoni, which is a shelter for street children. We visited the shelter as part of the Grade 5 English curriculum. Our class reader this term has been *Mellow Yellow* by Jenny Robson – a story about a child living on the streets of Cape Town. The girls have been encouraged to empathise with the plight of street children and to support the people who are helping them.

LINDA MAISHMAN
JUNIOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR



The Grade 7s visited the Maria Kloppers Children's Home

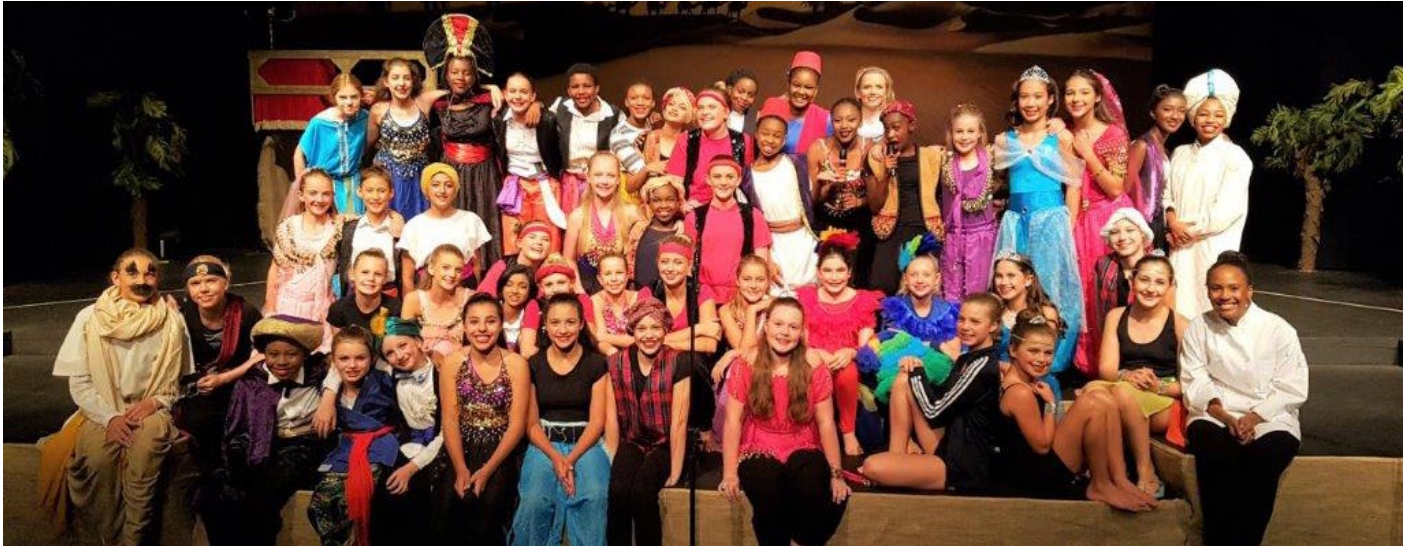


The Grade 5s visited Kids Haven

ALADDIN JR

Many hours of preparation ended in an entertaining, magic ride of exciting choreography, enthusiastic singing and colourful costumes, as audiences experienced the adventures of a street rat who became a prince and the princess who taught him the importance of being true to oneself, during performances of *Aladdin Jr*. All the girls in the Senior Primary enjoyed the performances and valuable skills were developed during the process of staging the play. We would like to thank the Senior Primary staff members for helping with the production of the play and the parents for all the support. Congratulations to the girls – their hard work and commitment made this play a great success.

LINDA SMITH
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



The Grade 7s took on the lead roles of *Aladdin Jr* with great enthusiasm

READING WITH PARENTS



Last Friday, Senior Primary parents were invited to spend time reading with their daughters; a special and beneficial time spent together

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

At the beginning of March , the Senior Primary choir and chamber choir went on a choir camp weekend to Wag-'n-bietjie campsite in Irene. The girls put in a lot of hard work and effort, polishing songs for the Singing Sistas festival, as well as learning new songs for upcoming events.

Highlights included a singing session with Mrs Nomvula Mehlomakhulu, teaching traditional African songs, a talent show, good food and fun times.

The girls showed dedication and enthusiasm throughout the weekend and gave a great performance on Sunday morning for their parents. Thank you to Mrs Smith, Miss Banda and Ms Dunne, who accompanied the choir. We are now looking forward to the Singing Sistas choir festival at the end of term. This will showcase the Senior Primary choir, orchestra as well as the chamber choir. We look forward to seeing you there on Monday 10 April.

CAROL SHUTTE
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD OF MUSIC



Choir camp 2017



Choir camp highlights

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



TENNIS

There was a flurry of activity in the Junior School during the last few weeks of the tennis season.

The St Mary's C and D tennis teams posted a good win over the St Peter's A and B teams.

Four Grade 4 players participated in the Grade 4 tennis festival at Roedeaan, and enjoyed the morning of tennis. Well done to Lucy Viljoen,

Ilana Buck, Nicole Ledlie and Kyla Grobbelaar on their good play throughout the morning.

Well done to all the players on their commitment that they have shown this term. Thank you to Mrs Lowndes for all her help and assistance.

**CECILE MURRAY
TENNIS COACH**



Grade 3 friendly match against the players from Beaulieu



Nicole Ledlie and Kyla Grobbelaar



Nicole Ledlie, Kyla Grobbelaar, Lucy Viljoen and Ilana Buck

HOCKEY

The 2017 U12 and U13 district and provincial hockey teams have been selected. The selection process is a gruelling one, during which the girls attend several rounds of lengthy trials. Naturally, the competition is fierce and we congratulate the following girls on their selection for the various teams.

U12 D9 team:

Annabel Hardie
Lwazi Mlhanga

U13 D9 team:

Josie Apps
Ella Babaya
Danielle Grobbelaar
Samantha Pearson
Janet Walters

U13 Southern Gauteng team:

Georgina Hector
Nyakallo Kodisang

SWIMMING

On Friday 10 March, the B, C and D teams competed in the A25 and B25 galas respectively. The B team finished in a credible 3rd position. The C team ended their season on a high note winning the B25 and the D team finished 6th. We extend our congratulations to all swimmers and thank them and their parents for their support.

TARYN DE WINNAAR
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL

CRAZY PANTS / SKIRT GOLF DAY
PLEASE WEAR YOUR LOUDEST,
BRIGHTEST AND MOST FANTASTIC PAIR OF
GOLF PANTS / SKIRT.
PRIZE FOR THE BEST DRESSED
FOUR-BALL.



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Please join us for the St Mary's
rowing club golf day

19 May 2017
Parkview Golf Club

Time 10h30 for 11h30
Shotgun tee off

Email Cindy Jackman on
cindjackman@gmail.com (NO Y)
to book your four-ball and carts.
R4000 per four-ball.

*Price includes 4 caddies, half-way house
and dinner (cash bar).*

Please book golf carts for your own account at R300 per
cart, to be paid with your four-ball booking.
Booking on first paid basis.

We look forward to seeing you!