



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

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Little Saints Sings, an evening of music and movement in The Edge

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

The past few weeks have been busy ones for the Junior School: the girls competed in the Junior and Senior Primary sports days, Little Saints staged an evening of music and movement in The Edge in Little Saints Sings, Grade 1D entertained their parents and the rest of the Junior Primary with an assembly celebrating uniqueness, and our U13 water polo players participated in a festival in which they were placed second. I have my doubts that the few days away from school, over half-term, fulfilled the purpose for which they were intended, that is, to give our families time to catch their breath and enjoy each other's company before the race towards the end of year begins; I hope it worked out that way for some of you.

A couple of my more ambitious half-term plans, like taking my daughter to the zoo, fell away; we made it to Exclusive Books though, and a matinee performance of Snow White, the ballet (which my daughter attended in full Snow White costume, but that is a story for another day). I mention the outing to Exclusive Books because it gives me the opportunity to hammer home a message about the value of reading to and with your child, which I cannot pass up, and also because it made me think about something I have thought about very little in the recent past, and which was an integral part of my own childhood: public libraries.

When my daughter shows an interest in accompanying me and my husband to the shops it is always with one motive in mind: to visit Exclusive Books. This weekend, with its luxurious 24-hour extension into Monday, slowed and lengthened my attention span so that I could really observe my

daughter and how she conducted herself at the bookshop. I stood by as she selected and gathered a pile of books, all the while keeping her eye on the much-coveted, outsize beanbag, occupied by a child too tall and self-absorbed for her to negotiate with; I took turns with my husband reading to her on the floor, leaning against some shelves, and I continued to sit there aimlessly, with a few other parents, while she socialised with other children over books they had chosen, but also could not read. She and another little girl paged through some books together, and alone, glancing over at each other companionably at intervals, and exchanging books when they were done.

What was happening was something I recognised from my own early experiences of libraries, the kind of casual, unrushed and secure encounter that I associate with the ever-diminishing public spaces of South African towns and cities. And no, the kind of public space I have in mind is not the fenced-in variety offered by housing estates and faux pedestrian malls after the style of Melrose Arch – but I'll take what I can get for now. Watching my daughter interact with other children through a shared curiosity about books and the space in which they were operating semi-independently, and with little regard for the consumerist agenda of the shop itself, made me long for an adjustment in our attitudes: away from our obsessive interest in privacy, and towards the reimagining of truly public space.

DR SARAH WARNER
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

¹² Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.' ¹³ Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." [...]

¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹ And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

- Exodus 33:12-14; 17-23

I am struck by how Moses beseeches God – how desperately Moses wants to walk in God's ways in going about what God wants Moses to do. It is not enough that God has already said: "you have found favour in my sight" – Moses wants nothing more than to continue to find favour in the sight of God. There is more to Moses' beseeching though: Moses yearns to come as close as he can to a tangible presence of God, drawn ever deeper into a relationship with God. God has affirmed to Moses that God knows Moses intimately – this is what is intended by "I know you by name", and "I [...] will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'".

So awesome and holy is the Lord that the people of Old Testament times believed they would die if they saw the face of God – the only response to God's presence was to fall on one's face, bowing before the God of glory (see Exodus 34:8). Yet the Lord of all the Earth has compassion and is tender, willing no harm to come to Moses: "I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by."

Moses' relationship with the Lord has a magnetic quality to it. How could we not want what Moses has? How can we not yearn for God to show us

God's ways so that we may walk in them, and to be drawn ever deeper into relationship with God who knows us by name?

Moses' face shone after he had spent time talking with God (Exodus 34:34-35) – he was transformed by God. Can others sense God's transforming each of us?

(Did you know: the name, "The Lord" is YHWH, or Yahweh, in Hebrew. When we say "Hallelujah", we are saying, "praise Ya" – or "praise God")

Our hearts go out to Anabel Britz (Grade 1) and her mother, Lezelle, as well as her two sisters Kaylyn and Alayna, as they mourn the loss of their father, Cobus, on Thursday 26 October.

Rest eternal grant unto Cobus, oh Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

**REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN**



GRADE 5 NEWS

The Japanese tanka is a 31-syllable poem. Tanka translates as "short song," and is better known in its five-line, 5/7/5/7/7 syllable count form. This term, the Grade 5 girls explored their own tanka poems to describe winter.

Peaceful Winter - Atlehang Magongwa

A frozen forest.
Sky-blue crystal snowflakes fall
to silky soft snow.
The golden sun is gleaming,
reflecting on icy ponds.

Winter Wonder - Emma Impey

Trees stand like soldiers,
chalky snowflakes fall softly.

Mountains are violet.
Willows weep til Spring approaches.
Golden sunset through the frost.

Winter - Gabriela De Toledo

A bitter breeze blows,
velvet ice trickles softly.
Soldier trees beckon.
Silver mounds huddle closely
as grey grass peeps out the snow.

**CHRISTI LAWLESS
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER**

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Ridge Choir Festival

The annual Ridge Choir Festival took place on Tuesday 10 October at The Ridge School. The Senior Primary choir girls made St Mary's proud with their musical showcase of *It Don't Mean A Thing* and a unique performance of *True Colours*. The girls learnt some sign language for their song *True Colours* which added a special touch to their performance.

The evening included performances from St Andrew's, Auckland Park Preparatory, Pridwin, St Katharine's and The Ridge. All the schools performed combined items, beginning with *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* culminating with the parents performing with the choirs to sing *Siyahamba*.

This festival has been an important one in our calendar for more than a decade and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of such an event. There are exciting changes taking place for this festival in 2018 and we look forward to seeing the continued growth of music in our schools and in our city.

CAROL SHUTTE
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD OF MUSIC



DANCE

Sofia Bollo in Grade 6T competed in the Gauteng National Performing Arts Championships at Wits University in September. She placed first and received a gold medal for her solo in the 12 to 15 Championship Female Jazz solo section as well as first place in the 12 to 15 Championship Duo Jazz section. Congratulations, Sofia.

This term, the girls have showcases in ballet, modern dance and drama. Our Dance Mouse (Grades 0 to 3) and Dance Madness (Grades 4 to 7) girls will be performing at the annual Dance Mouse Festival at Rivonia Barnyard on 28 October, affording the girls an opportunity to perform outside the school in a competitive environment alongside about 800 other dancers from across three other franchises of Dance Mouse and Dance Madness.

Our annual Dance Mouse fun day and assessments will take place on Saturday 18 November in the studio at The Edge from 08h00 and this includes our dancers from Little Saints Grade 000 through to Grade 7.

Our junior drama showcase took place in the AV room on Tuesday 24 October and highlighted what the girls had been working on.

Finally our ballet concert will take place on Saturday 25 November on stage in the Senior School hall.

Any information about these co-curricular activities, including how to register, can be found at www.5678productions.co.za



CLAIRE VAN NIEKERK
5678 PRODUCTIONS



Congratulations, Sofia Bollo



Grade 0 Supergirl costume fittings



Grade 1 and 2 girls having costume fittings



Grade 4 and 5 girls having costume fittings

MUSE MORNING

All parents are welcome to join us at the Muse Morning on Tuesday 14 November

Time: 07h15 to 08h30

Venue: Senior auditorium, resource centre

Speaker: Dr Ela Manga

Topic: "The Energy Code – sustained vitality"

Coffee is served from 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30. Refreshments will be available at the tennis pavilion, outside the auditorium of the resource centre (Wantage).

RSVP: sharon.san@stmary.co.za

St Mary's Talk

Energy management for families

In a world of exponential technological advances and information overload, more demands are being placed on children in terms of performance and achievement than ever before. Are we equipped enough to support our children to adapt rather than maladapt to these demands? As parents, how do we manage our own energy to deal with the physical and emotional demands of highly functioning children? In this discussion, Dr Ela Manga will unpack the basic principles of energy management, how to support body, mind and heart to support authentic energy vs "adrenalised energy". She will leave you with some simple and practical take home tools that can be integrated into your family life.

Dr Ela Manga, author of **The Energy Code**, is a medical practitioner who is committed to bringing heart back into medicine. "**The Energy Code**" tackles the challenges of mastering health, vocation and meaningful relationships, guiding us to an authentic life of inner change and sustained vitality. It is the crystallisation of Ela's experience and insights gained in the cutting-edge science of mindfulness based energy management. Dr Manga will have her book on sale at R250.

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



ATHLETICS

Junior Primary inter-house athletics day

The girls had spent a lot of time practising for this special day, trying their very best to get their skills right for the different techniques that are needed in the field and track events of athletics. Along with trying to improve their skills and getting the idea how things should be done, they also needed to enjoy and have fun while performing all of this in front of their parents. There were also events for those who wanted to show off their expertise in speed in the sprint races. The different houses walked down to the field singing their war cries with great spirit. The girls went from station to station trying their very best. Well done to each and every girl who took part. One of my favourite things that I heard on Saturday from some of the girls was, "We are having so much fun, this is awesome and it is great." I asked them what makes it so awesome and great?" They answered, "We do, it's us!" I couldn't agree more.

The Junior Primary inter-house athletics results were as follows:

1)	Springboks	-	330
2)	Lions	-	293
3)	Hares	-	284
4)	Zebras	-	234

Victrix Ludorum - Georgia Plagis

Well done to each and every girl who took part.

TRACEY WOOD
HOD: JUNIOR PRIMARY SPORT



Di Gordon giving the trophy to Georgia Plagis who was the Victrix Ludorum at the Junior Primary **inter-house athletics day**



Tracey Wood handing the trophy to the winning house Springboks at the Junior Primary **inter-house athletics day**

Senior Primary inter-house athletics day

On Thursday 12 October the girls participated in the following inter-house events, leading up to sports day: 800m race, long jump and high jump. At end of those events, Zebras were first with 154 points, second were Lions with 153 points, Hares were third with 142 points and fourth were Springboks with 81 points.

Sports day took place on Saturday 14 October and all the girls were able to participate in races. Well done to Zebras who won with 491 points, Lions in second place with 450, Hares third place with 385 and in fourth place was Springboks with 326 points. The Spirit Cup was awarded to Lions for their enthusiasm and continuous high spirit. Well done to all the athletes and congratulations to all the prizewinners.

These were the prizewinners:

- Overall prizewinner - Grade 4 Kyla Grobbelaar
- Overall prizewinner - Grade 5 Zalika Methula
- Overall prizewinner - Grade 6 Annabel Hardie
- Grade 7 Victrix Ludorum - Janet Walters

800m

- Grade 4 – Kyla Grobbelaar
- Grade 5 – Kate Macfarlane
- Grade 6 – Annabel Hardie
- Grade 7 – Janet Walters

Long Jump

- Grade 4 – Zeinab Kone
- Grade 5 – Siphoesihle Makwe
- Grade 6 – Annabel Hardie
- Grade 7 – Danielle Grobbelaar

High jump

- Grade 4 – Kyla Grobbelaar
- Grade 5 – Zalika Methula
- Grade 6 – Sofia Bollo
- Grade 7 – Tamsyn Parkes and Holly Rose Brady

On 13 October, St Stithians hosted an athletics meeting and the results were as follows:

1st place – St Stithians	576	
2nd place – St Mary's	479	
3rd place – St Peter's		472
4th place – St Andrew's	383	
5th place – Holy Rosary	266	

**ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
ATHLETICS COACH**



Janet Walters, winner of the Victrix Ludorum



Kyla Grobbelaar overall Grade 4 winner



Tamsyn Parkes and Holly Rose Brady winners of Grade 7 high jump



Captains of the winning house, Zebras, Anna Patricios, Samantha Pearson and Ntando Mofokeng