



We would like to thank the Senior Primary girls for their very generous donations of chocolates and treats for the residents at Waverley Gardens. A huge donation of linen from Rovos Rail was also distributed to the residents at Waverley Gardens and Kids' Haven

## FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

### Dear parents

Last Friday the school celebrated Valentine's Day, two days late, with a dress code of pink, white and red, and a Grade 7 cake and candy sale. I was attending a funeral that morning, which accounted for my more sombre attire; my heart and mind, however, were light with thoughts of love.

Schools are founded in love and kept alive by the mutual affection and loyalty of the pupils, staff and parents who inhabit and maintain their classrooms and corridors and, in privileged environments like ours, well-tended grounds. A mutual love of learning, often hard won, binds pupils to their teachers and sustains them both, if they are lucky, over a lifetime of indeterminate experience.

The funeral I attended, of a much-loved teacher and headmistress, was well timed: the girls were cheerfully restless, and their hearts were open, as they often are on the brink of a weekend (choir camp and a Saturday picnic, weekend water polo, play dates and other social arrangements loomed). We spoke of what we loved about our teachers. The girls mentioned sense of humour, kindness, fashion sense and endearing quirks.

I told them about my teacher: the woman who taught me to offer an opinion articulately and who challenged me, always, to defend what I

thought or believed. The woman who had such high expectations of her pupils and spoke with candour – something we had to forgive her for on occasion – and who had an unshakeable belief in the ability of girls to do anything to which we set our minds. A woman who loved laughing and who enjoyed performances of every kind (and who could forget her performance in a Mathematics class when demonstrating the concept of infinity? She drew a line across the blackboard before walking across the classroom and throwing the piece of chalk out the window!).

This same woman also happily awarded us more than 100% on work she thought superb, taught us to admire and take pleasure in the talents of others, to respect the power of words, to love reading and to be vital: "Alive's a lovely thing to be ..." I thought about her and the effect she had on so many lives when speaking at the Grade 0 assessment morning on Saturday. Looking out at the faces of the parents as we spoke under the tree in the Junior Primary playground I felt their expectation and their willingness to trust the school and its teachers with their daughters. It is a profound step we take when we agree to raise them together, which is why we should work hard at trusting and respecting each other always.

**DR SARAH WARNER**  
**HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL**

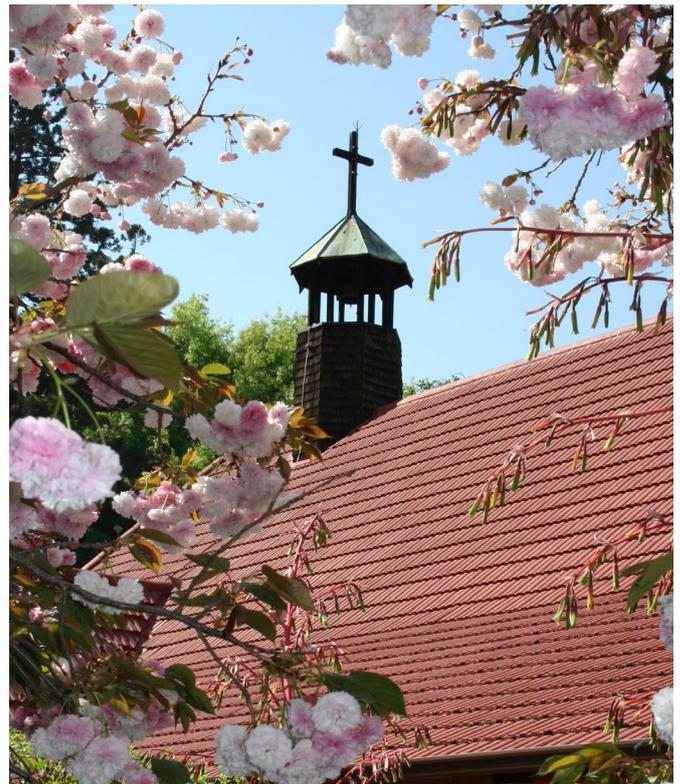
# FROM THE CHAPLAIN

*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. – Mark 1:9-13*

This Lent, we continue to follow Christ in the wilderness, which for us is the space that we consciously create around ourselves as individuals and as communities. We remove, from this space, that which might otherwise tempt our thoughts and actions away from God.

It is comforting to know that Christ, too, was tempted. Christ's journey into the wilderness was preceded by that wonderful, and probably much-needed, affirmation from God: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Similarly, as we allow God to show us the ways in which we are tempted away from God, we do so in the gaze of God who loves us beyond our comprehension.

**REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN**



# IKUSASA LETHU



Disebo Mapole and Ayabulela Pinana, our top achievers who each achieved five distinctions



Pupils who registered for the 2018 Ikusasa Lethu Programme

Our class of 94 matriculants achieved a 98% pass rate, with 61 distinctions and 80% Bachelor degree passes. Fifty five boys and girls from this group are enrolled to study at universities and colleges in South Africa.

**LINDA GIURICICH  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

## FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### Choir camp

This past weekend, the Senior Primary choir girls had a sleep-out at school. On Friday 16 February, the girls arrived in waves to set-up their sleeping arrangements, build forts out of library furniture and stack beanbags as make-shift mattresses.

So what exactly is a choir camp? Well, just like any sports team that needs to work together and practise their technical skills and build relationships in order to be a better team, so too, as musicians and singers, we need to learn to work together and develop our skills to make us a happy choir team.

The girls had intense rehearsals where they perfected repertoire, learnt new songs, added actions to enhance their performance and worked toward the goal of a picnic-performance for the parents at lunch-time on Saturday 17 February. Between rehearsals, there was much laughter and happiness with the girls engaging in outside games including skipping challenges and four-square tournaments.

The camp culminated in a relaxed picnic performance in the Junior School amphitheatre where parents brought their own picnic baskets and blankets and settled under the trees to listen to the choir.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this camp a success – many happy girls did not want the camp to end. A special thank you to Mrs Smith and Mrs Jennett for their support in looking after the girls between rehearsals and also to my musical team, Ms Dunne and Mr Jacobs.

I look forward to the year ahead with the 2018 Junior School choir.

Yours in music

**CAROL SHUTTE**  
HEAD OF MUSIC: JUNIOR SCHOOL



## FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

### WATER POLO

On Saturday 10 February, our junior squad participated in the St Stithians tournament. We took 16 players and rotated them, which provided an ideal opportunity for the younger girls to gain valuable tournament experience and learn from the older, more experienced players. We won one match, drew one and narrowly lost two.

The younger players showed great promise and we look forward to watching them progress in the future.



**TARYN DE WINNAAR**  
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL

# SWIMMING

Results 9 February

**A team at The Ridge**

St Mary's	97
St Benedict's	86
The Ridge	65
St Peter's Boys	64
KEPS	49
Roedean	38

**B team at St Stithians**

St Mary's B	123
St Andrew's B	106
St Peter's Boys B	81
St Stithians Boys B	79
Assumption B	71
KEPS B	42

**C and D teams at St Mary's**

St Mary's C	128
St Benedict's C	107
St Stithians C	84
The Ridge	70
St Benedict's D	64
St Mary's D	60
Kingsmead C	38

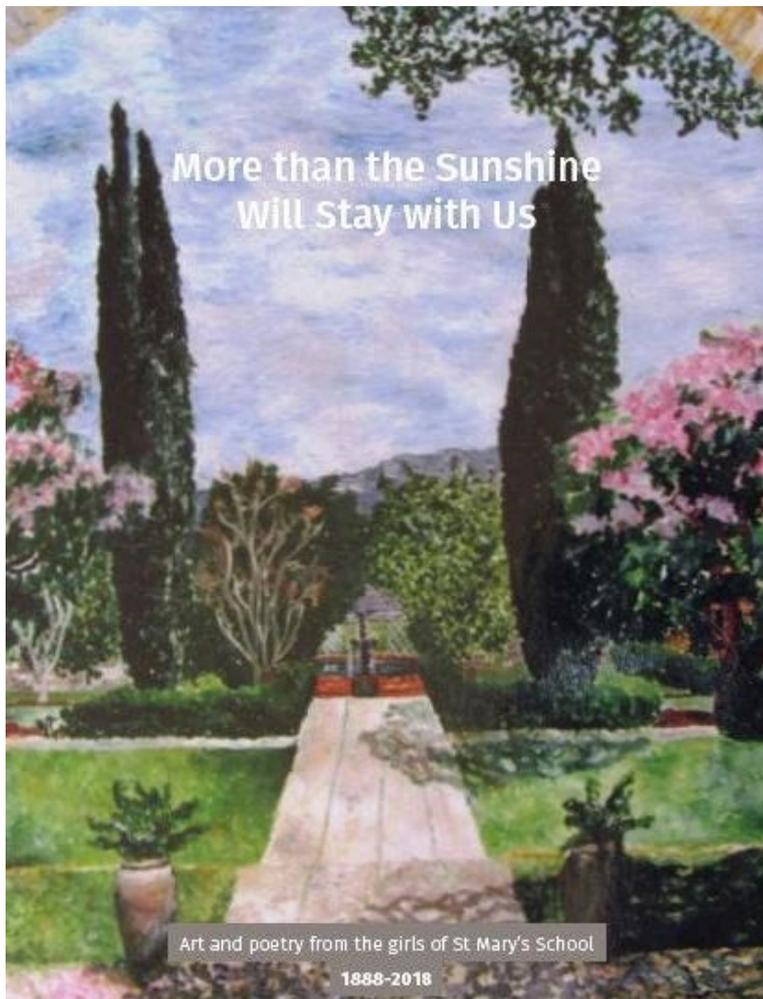
**TARYN DE WINNAAR**  
**HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL**



The C and D swimming team wait to start the gala at St Mary's on Friday 9 February

# More than the Sunshine will Stay with Us,

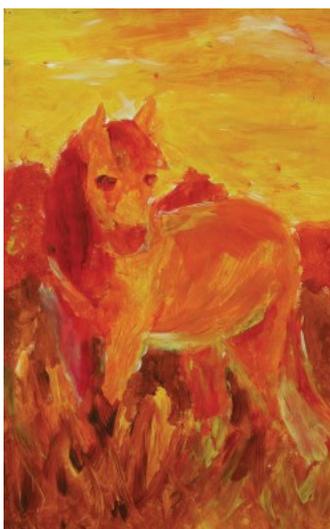
a collection of art and poetry from girls of St Mary's,  
was produced to celebrate our 130<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Contributors to the book include Bridget Pitt, Katherine Glenday, Lara Hood, Emily Stainer, Isabelle Smuts and Frances Howard.

Bridget Pitt is an author, and the daughter of Dodo Pitt, St Mary's head of school from 1973 - 1988. Katherine Glenday is a highly acclaimed ceramicist and Lara Hood is the sister of Gavin Hood, the film producer. Emily Stainer has had two portraits exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery in London. Isabelle Smuts is the granddaughter of Jan Smuts, and Frances Howard is a professor of philosophy in the USA.

One poem in the book was written when the school was still in Jeppestown.



Rachel Impey  
Grade 7  
2011

### Spring

Spring is colourful.  
The birds sing in trees  
Blossoms come on apricot trees.  
It gets warmer.  
The birds lay eggs,  
Then they hatch.  
The babies keep their Mum and  
Dad busy.

Susan Barron  
Grade 1  
1985



Allsa Mackay  
Grade 6  
2007

**More than the Sunshine will Stay with Us**  
can be bought from the St Mary's Clothes Cupboard for R200.