



Our annual fundraiser, the Little Saints and Grade 0 wheelathon was a huge success. The children thoroughly enjoyed zooming around the tennis courts on their bikes and scooters

## FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

The widely publicised and much regretted death last week of internationally renowned physicist, Stephen Hawking made me think of another intellectual whose untimely death in 2010 from motor neuron disease still seems somewhat unreal: Tony Judt – history teacher, author, polymath, and founder and former director of the Remarque Institute in New York.

I first came across Judt's writing in *The New York Review of Books* to which he was a frequent contributor; it was not long before I was reading anything of his I could lay my hands on, most notably, *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945* which, "In an African context," as a recent *Daily Maverick* op-ed observed, "offers a remarkable how-to guide of how transformational political leadership can overcome even the most destructive of events." The title of Judt's last volume of essays, *When the Facts Change*, edited by his wife Jennifer Homans (an author in her own right) comes from "a (probably apocryphal) quote from [John Maynard] Keynes that was one of Tony's favorite mantras: 'When the facts change, I change my mind – what do you do, sir?'" Judt's ability to move on from previously held ideas when confronted with a more convincing argument was, in his wife's words, "An astounding and admirable quality. It gave him a kind of clarity of thinking – he wasn't wedded to his ideas or, as I later discovered, to his prose."

Distinct from intellectual opportunism, which sees thinkers expediently swapping their own ideas for trendier ones as new orthodoxies or pressures

emerge, Judt's commitment to reviewing his conclusions in the face of new evidence attests to his desire to write "in good faith", that is, to produce writing that was "free of calculation and maneuver, intellectual or otherwise. A clean, clear, honest account." More than a bold statement on intellectual rigour, then, Judt's writing in "good faith" presents us with a moral challenge: to accept that we may at times be wrong and to do something about it.

It is this aspect of Judt's intellectual legacy, together with his tireless insistence on the teaching of history as vitally important to providing nations "with past references for present experience" that I thought of most last week. Human Rights Day in South Africa commemorates the Sharpeville massacre of 1960 – its confusion on social media platforms with Youth Day, which marks the Soweto uprising of 1976, demonstrates what Judt most feared about contemporary society, that is, that "we wear the last century rather lightly". He continues: "To be sure, we have memorialised it everywhere: shrines, inscriptions, 'heritage sites', even historical theme parks are all public reminders of 'the past'. But the 20<sup>th</sup> century that we have chosen to commemorate is curiously out of focus." It seems to me that teachers and parents owe it to the children in our care to bring the past clearly into focus, to review and reconsider our ideas, and to engage with each other in good faith.

DR SARAH WARNER  
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

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Over the past couple of weeks, I have been keeping an eye out for children's Bibles for Junior Primary ages. Specifically, I have been looking for children's Bibles that draw children into the stories of God, are age-appropriate and that also, particularly in the artwork used, reflect the diversity of God's children and God's creation.

In addition to the Bible resources our Junior Primary teachers already use, I have purchased three more, which I have listed here should you be interested in purchasing resources for your family. (Note: the list below is certainly not intended to be comprehensive. Please do let me know should you come across an interesting resource not mentioned here – especially if you come across a locally-produced resource.)

- Kevin DeYoung. (2015). *The Biggest Story: How the Snake-Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden*. Crossway Books.

- Sally Lloyd-Jones. (2013). *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*. Zondervan: Michigan.

- Desmond Tutu. (2010). *Children of God: Storybook Bible*. Lux Verbi.BM: Wellington.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN



## IKUSASA LETHU

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The Sizanani Mentorship Programme, a registered NPO, assists pupils on the Ikusasa Lethu Programme. New mentors from the St Mary's community are needed to help on this project. Mentors assist pupils with career choices, tertiary study applications and job shadowing. Combined outings are arranged and mentors are also asked to arrange outings to places of interest in and around Johannesburg.

Please contact Valerie Hirsch on 083 7507725 or [valou.hirsch@gmail.com](mailto:valou.hirsch@gmail.com) should you like to be a mentor or require further information.

LINDA GIURICICH  
DIRECTOR: COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

## MUSE MORNING

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Parents of children from all ages are encouraged to join us at our next Muse Morning on Tuesday 27 March.

Time: 07h15 to 08h30

Venue: Seminar room, The Edge

Speaker: Pierre Brouard and Judith Ancer are clinical psychologists and popular speakers. They will be in conversation regarding gender issues.

Topic: "LGBTQIA+: a confusing alphabet soup or an appropriate reflection of human complexity and variation?"

Coffee is served from 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30. Refreshments will be available at the back of the Seminar room.

Space is limited in the Seminar room so please remember to RSVP.

RSVP: [Sharon.san@stmary.co.za](mailto:Sharon.san@stmary.co.za)

# FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## International Sing Up Day

International Sing Up Day, hosted on 14 March, is an initiative started by a music resource programme called SingUp to encourage children from all over the world to use music to bring people together and change our world. On this day, schools from all over the world participate in singing a song written especially for the initiative, and this year's song, *Be the Change* urges children to "Be the change they wish to see in the world" (Ghandi).

St Mary's Junior and Senior Primary choirs took part in International Sing Up Day and, like the other choirs from all over the world, we submitted a video of our performance in the hopes that we will be featured in the Sing Up Day Digi-choir.

My thanks are extended to our choir captains, Lauren Henning, Langelihle Molefe and Chiedza Mupita for hosting the assembly at which they presented all the information about Sing Up Day to the school.

## Piece playing

Piece playing performances for the different grades in the Junior School will be held towards the end of the term. This is an opportunity for girls taking individual music lessons to play a musical instrument in front of an audience and showcase what they have been working on during the term. In order for them to participate, they must have a book or music from which to play and the piece they choose should be polished and well rehearsed. There will be sign-up sheets on the notice board upstairs in the music department in The Edge and on the cultural notice board in the Junior School.

We invite parents to these events, so please feel welcome to attend on the relevant days. These will all take place in the Junior Primary hall.

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

Dates to diarise	Time	Event	Venue
Thursday 29 March	07h30-08h30	Grade 6 and 7 piece playing	Junior Primary hall
Tuesday 3 April	07h30-08h30	Grade 2 and 3 piece playing	Junior Primary hall
Thursday 4 April	07h30-08h30	Grade 4 and 5 piece playing	Junior Primary hall



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

The environmental club has been focusing on recycling this term. We would like to encourage our community to recycle wherever possible. We are waging war on plastic in particular and would like to encourage everyone to use alternative, more environmentally-friendly materials. Join our April challenge and try to reduce your use of plastic.

PLASTIC FREE APRIL – Will you take up the challenge?

Be kind to your environment.

ROBYN RICHMOND  
TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY



## FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

### SWIMMING

Junior Primary inter-house gala

The Junior Primary girls marched down to the pool singing war cries with dark clouds hanging over the school. The girls were excited to take part in the gala and once it started, the clouds disappeared and the sun smiled upon the girls. Each and every girl tried her best and showed off her skills and talent. Many thanks to all those who helped out with the gala and to the Grade 7s who were kind and caring to the girls, making sure they went to the correct places and helping them in the pool. Very well done to Springboks who won the gala and to Reabiloe Kodisang who was our best swimmer overall, winning the *Victrix Ludorum*.



# SWIMMING

Results Junior Primary inter-house gala:

- 1) Springboks - 146
- 2) Lions - 135
- 3) Hares - 115
- 4) Zebras - 109

*Victrix Ludorum:*  
Reabiloe Kodisang

**TRACEY WOOD**  
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: JUNIOR PRIMARY SPORT



## Prestige galas

The Junior School ended the swimming season on the highest possible note with the A, B and C teams all winning their respective Prestige galas.

The A team swam at St Andrew's and the results were as follows:

St Mary's	120
St Andrew's	97
St Stithians	87
Brescia	73
Kingsmead	64
St Peter's	63

The B team swam at Kingsmead and the results were as follows:

St Mary's	199
St Andrew's	174
Brescia	146
Kingsmead	142
St Peter's	119

The C and D teams swam at St Mary's and the results were as follows:

St Mary's C	184.5
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St Andrew's C	148.5
St Stithians C	138
Brescia C	116.5
St Peter's C	115
Kingsmead C	108
St Katharine's C	97
St Teresa's	90.5
St Mary's D	82

The swimming season is always a grueling one, but the swimmers have remained dedicated and disciplined in their approach and they have reaped the rewards. The coaches, too, have worked remarkably hard this season and are commended on their commitment to the girls and to the sport.

As a school, we are incredibly proud of the swimmers and the staff and their success this term.

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



Winners of the A, B and C Prestige galas

## EQUESTRIAN

St Mary's is extremely proud of the two Junior School and 10 Senior School riders who participated in the first Jo'burg Metro South African National Equestrian Schools (SANESA) Qualifier. This qualifier was held at Eaton Farm in Midrand on 17 and 18 February.

Emma Frahm-Arp did extremely well in the aged nine and under category (off lead rein), obtaining top three placings in various disciplines including dressage, equitation, performance riding, working riding and show jumping. Riley Bate is congratulated on obtaining valuable school points in the disciplines of equitation, prix caprilli and show jumping.

Well done, girls!

**KRISHA WALUK**  
CHEF D'EQUIPE: SENIOR SCHOOL



Emma Frahm-Arp



Riley Bate