



It was lovely to see the enthusiasm of the Junior Primary parents and their daughters at the reading morning

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

This is the last *Just Junior* we shall publish before the first term draws to a close. By the time you read this, the St Mary's Investec Hockey Festival will be in full swing and all Junior School activities should be winding down. We have enjoyed another busy and enriching term and I thank you all for the support you have given your daughters and their teachers and for your interested attendance at school events.

One of the more recent and instructive evenings the school hosted this term was the Little Saints and Grade 0 information evening at which the educational support team (the Open Door psychology department, physiotherapists, OTs and speech and hearing therapists) addressed parents who are new to St Mary's. A powerful aspect of the talk, evident in both the presentations and the answers to questions afterwards, was its recognition of the relationship between therapists, teachers and parents, and how the effectiveness of this relationship contributes critically to the effectiveness of therapeutic intervention for the child.

None of this, as the popular expression makes abundantly clear, is rocket science. In fact, the sensible and modest nature of the observation (that we all need to work together to support the progress of our children) is, possibly, one of the reasons it is often disregarded. And now seems an opportune time, just before we go on holiday, to consider simple and practical ways in which we can support and extend our children in their innate desire to explore, engage, think critically and empathise: play with them, read with and to them (or encourage, cajole and coax them to read

on their own), talk to them (besides issuing instructions) and ask them questions.

At the risk of repeating myself, reading lies at the heart of so much that we try to achieve at school with your children, and there is plenty of credible research on the benefits of reading in and beyond the classroom. For example, in a comprehensive and sobering report for the National Endowment for the Arts in America, poor reading skills among graduates correlated heavily with lack of employment, lower wages, and fewer opportunities for advancement. The report also reflects that deficient readers are less likely to become active in civic and cultural life, which means they involve themselves less with community projects and do not vote in elections. While it is not surprising to be told that readers attend more concerts and theatre than non-readers, the fact that they also play more sports, no matter what their educational level, is startling news. The findings of the report confirm, in some unexpected ways, that reading changes lives for the better.

Before closing, I should like to commend the St Mary's Grade 7 girls who were included in the interview process for this year's Wantage scholarship, and to extend our congratulations to Clare Keegan, a St Peter's candidate, on being awarded the scholarship for 2018. I wish all our families a restful April holiday and a safe journey for those who are travelling.

DR SARAH WARNER
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Happy Easter! No, that is not a belated statement: after the 40 days of Lent (47, if you count the Sundays), we enter into the Great 50 days of Easter. Our Lord appeared to his disciples for 40 days after his resurrection (Acts 1:3), and the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples at "Pentecost" – literally, "50" (Acts 2:1). Besides, what an anticlimax it would be if Christ's resurrection were to be celebrated in but a day: blink, and you miss it. Moreover, as the first disciples did, do we not need several days for the full impact of Christ's resurrection to hit home and take effect in our lives?

There are general, yet profound, implications: that death is not the end; that God's kingdom that begins here on Earth wins, always; that we, the disciples of today are called to be agents of God's work in realising that kingdom for all, ever more each day; that always there is hope, no matter how dark the darkness. Equally profound, there are also the personal, specific implications of Christ's resurrection for our country, our communities and for us as individuals: what part of our old self died with the crucified Christ that we need to keep letting go of? What part of our new self is God revealing to us – what change in who we are and how we think, speak and act do we need to cling onto to allow it to become a habit? Such implications take many days to come to terms with, and such habits may take at least 50 days to form.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Durand family, particularly Siobhan and Pascale, as they lost their beloved Andre, Pascale's (Grade 4) father, on Thursday 5 April. This season of Easter, we know in our hearts that because Christ arose from the dead, death is not the end. We know also the enormity of the loss of a loved one for a family.

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

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN



FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Kingsmead Ensemble Festival

On Wednesday 28 March, the Junior orchestra and marimba showband performed at the Kingsmead Ensemble Festival. This was a lovely concert and ended the music ensemble co-curricular activities on a high note. The other schools performing at this wonderful event were Cornwall Hill, Saheti and St Andrew's School for Girls.

The St Mary's girls performed last and played their songs musically and confidently. The orchestra and marimba band combined to end the evening by performing our school anthem *When the Saints go Marching In*. Well done to all the girls involved.



Grade 6 and 7 piece playing

Piece playing

The piece playing performances began with the Grade 6 and 7 girls on Thursday 29 March. This was a special showcase of talent as the girls were extremely well prepared and performed at a very high standard. It was a joy to see so many girls perform with confidence in the younger grades. The girls performed on a wide range of instruments and I look forward to seeing them develop their musical skills in the future.

CAROL SHUTTE
HEAD OF MUSIC: JUNIOR SCHOOL



Junior orchestra and marimba showband

GRADE 5 TOUR TO LAPALALA

At the beginning of March, 55 excited girls boarded the bus, armed with sleeping bags, old clothes and bug spray. They were so excited for their adventure to Lapalala Wilderness School. Their days were filled with investigations, team-building activities, physical challenges and lots of fun. The girls learnt new skills such as canoeing, how to spit impala poop and how to identify a termite mound. They could be heard laughing happily as they floated in the river, rolled in the mud and solved the problem of how to

fit their teams through a spider's web. The night game drive was a highlight and the girls were privileged to see rhino in the wild. They returned home happy, exhausted and dirty – all good signs of an enjoyable time had by all.

CHRISTI LAWLESS
TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY



CHATTERBOX EVENING

On Monday 26 March, girls from Grades 4 to 7 participated in a speech evening hosted by St Mary's Junior School. The girls enjoyed presenting and listening to a variety of speeches. The participants were congratulated on the high standard of their content and delivery. Thank you to all the teachers and girls who were involved in organising this enjoyable evening.

Grade 4
Alexandra Kobus gold
Luyanda Mshengu silver
Hayley Wise gold

LINDA SMITH
TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY

The following girls participated and were awarded certificates:

Grade 7
Georgie Latter gold
Elizabeth Lonmon-Davis gold
Paige Milligan silver

Grade 6
Sophia Babaya gold
Vuyisa Kahla gold
Kate Williams gold

Grade 5
Emily Jennett silver
Kganya Kodisang gold
Isabella Shaw gold



The Grade 6 Chatterbox participants

GRADE 6 KENNINGS

The Grade 6s explored metaphorical language and wrote kennings. Kennings originate from Old English and Norse poetry where something is described without using its name. Here are two examples.

Library

Imagination creator,
Story narrator

Book keeper,
Paper heaper

Knowledge container,
Silence maintainer

Noise neglecter,
Word collector

Magic maker
Dream awakener.
Giana Govender

The Aeroplane

Cloud soarer
Sky flyer
Expert explorer
Forever higher

Vacation taker
Child thriller

Excitement maker
Joy filler

Destination finder
Air swinger
Machine grinder
Home bringer

The Aeroplane
Sophia Babaya

LINDA SMITH
TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



HOCKEY

The following girls have been selected for their respective provincial and district hockey teams:

Southern Gauteng U13 team

Annabel Hardie
Lwazi Mhlangu

U13 D9 Team

Samara Mayet

U12 D9 Team

Ava Economakis
Tayla Gibbs
Zalika Methula

TARYN DE WINNAAR
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



Annabel Hardie and Lwazi Mhlangu

TENNIS

Our congratulations are extended to Aashi Madhu who was selected for the U13 Gauteng Central tennis team. Aashi will be taking part in the Bloemfontein Nationals tournament from 4 to 9 April. We wish her good luck for the tournament.

CECILE MURRAY
TENNIS COACH



The **S** Factor



The **SAINTS** Factor welcomes talent from the Senior Primary girls.

Come and enter the competition and show us your talent!

Categories include: **DANCE**, **SINGING** and **WILD CARD**

What is the **ENTRY** process?

Fill in an entry form, pay the entry fee, check your song lyrics with an authorised teacher and get practising for the auditions early in Term II.

All entries must be posted in the *Saints Factor Box* in the Junior School reception.

Parents, family and friends are welcome to come to watch the live auditions in the Senior Primary hall

Entries close on Friday 4 May

The **AUDITION** dates

Grade 6 and 7 **DANCE**: Tuesday 8 May 13h45-16h00

Grade 4 and 5 **DANCE**: Wednesday 9 May 13h45-16h00

Grade 6 and 7 **SINGING**: Tuesday 15 May 13h45-16h00

Grade 4 and 5 **SINGING**: Wednesday 16 May 13h45-16h00

WILD CARD: Video entries only by 16 May

Semi-finalists **PERFORMANCE**: Monday 21 May 13h45-16h00

The **S** Factor **FINALS**:

12h30 on Saturday 26 MAY
in conjunction with the PTA FUN DAY