



The Father's' Day service was well attended and the girls loved having their dads with them

## FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

### Dear parents

I have not been having the best week. I confused a couple of girls' names in the Senior Primary, nearly missed an early morning appointment with a parent, worried my daughter through what appeared to be swine flu, and misjudged spectacularly the gap left for my car (and scraped the backdoor panel) when only one half of the electric gate at the staff entrance was operating owing to a power outage.

When I tell you that I have also spent much of my time this week reading through reports in preparation for sending them home (posting them live) for the half-term, you might assume I would add this strenuous undertaking to my list of grievances. You would be wrong. I have been advised by several wise and clear-thinking people in and outside St Mary's to step back from the reports and hand them over to a wise and clear-thinking proofreader to check. I know this is sound advice. I recognise the soundness of the advice especially when I see some of the errors that creep into our reports every term and cringe at our fallibility.

I do also find myself wondering at the educational value of lavishing so much time and collective effort on a written document when what is happening in the classrooms and around the school daily seems so much more deserving of our undivided attention. At least I no longer have to anguish over the waste of paper – and, I have an admission to make: I enjoy reading the reports.

In the more junior grades, the narrative that emerges of the child's school day, along with the picture of the child, is quietly fascinating, with the documentary appeal of home movie footage. Read attentively, the reports, even those from the more senior grades, offer a curiously intimate view into a child and the life of the school she (or he) inhabits: you see her as she arrives in class, smiling, polite, tired, reluctant or eager to part from her

parents who hover at the edge of the scene. You watch as she progresses through her day, who she chooses to spend time with, the activities she becomes immersed in, as well as those she can barely tolerate, her awareness of, or obliviousness to the children around her, her voice as she reads or counts aloud, or shows that she remembers all the words to the song, the way she keeps her desk or locker.

The playground and school buildings are more visible in the Little Saints documents, but anyone who is familiar with the Junior School campus will sense the presence of classrooms and the outdoors in the other reports, too: the monkey bars and fairy garden and JD bikes make way for many-windowed classrooms offering all-day views on to the beckoning playground and the wide-open space of the Junior School Close. Only the auditorium, with its submarine-like remoteness from the outside, remains solely focused on the interior sounds of voices discussing the purpose of poetry over the creaking of foldaway chairs.

This is why we write reports and why they would continue to be valid documents without rubrics and marks: they are a record of how we see your child and how she moves through her day with all the social, emotional and intellectual challenges to be negotiated on the way. It might sound modest, but we believe that this whole picture is worth recording. When you access your child's report, please try to see it.

In the meantime, I wish you a happy half-term spent with your family – reading, among other things – and we wish the Grade 7 girls and teachers going to Grahamstown a safe journey and stimulating experience. See you soon!

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

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

In the lectionary for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, Wednesday 20 June marked World Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants.

Given recent news around the world, it does not seem an exaggeration to say that we are experiencing a global refugee crisis. In the United States (US), the Trump administration has come under fire for placing adults suspected of coming into the US illegally, in custody. One of the effects of this action is that parents are separated from their children for an indefinite period of time. Because of the ongoing civil war in Syria, Syrian refugees continue to flee their country in ships and boats, some of which are overloaded and not safe for travel. Many perish at sea, and the principally European countries to which many Syrian refugees flee struggle to find a humanitarian solution to the crisis with which we are all faced. These are but two examples from around the world – more could be cited.

Let us continue to pray for refugees everywhere, and also for all nations as we seek a solution to the crisis:

God of our Wandering Ancestors,

Long have we known  
That your heart is with the refugee:  
That you were born into time  
In a family of refugees  
Fleeing violence in their homeland,  
Who then gathered up their hungry child  
And fled into alien country.

Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:  
“Will you let me in?”

Give us hearts that break open  
When our brothers and sisters turn to us  
with that same cry.  
Then surely all these things will follow:  
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.  
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.  
Tongues will not be silences but will instead advocate.  
And hands will reach out -  
working for peace in their homeland,  
working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.

Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.  
May they find a friend in me  
And so make me worthy  
Of the refuge I have found in you.

Amen

– Catholic Relief Services (CRS): <https://www.crs.org>

**REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS**  
**CHAPLAIN**

16 June  
Youth Day

“No segment in society can match with the power, idealism,  
enthusiasm and courage of young people.”  
Kailash Satyarthi

In memory of the youth of 1976 who fought for our freedom.  
Lest we forget.



Photograph by Sam Nzima

**HOPE Committee - Hearing Other People's Experiences**  
**A sub-committee of the PTA for parents to engage around issues of diversity**

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

### Waverley Girls' High School Projects

Girls from Waverley Girls' High School have attended art lessons, dance classes and rhythmic gym training at St Mary's on a weekly basis. A group of 10 Waverley girls took part in the St Mary's Rhythmic Invitational in May. Three rhythmic gymnasts qualified for the Central Gauteng team. They



A group of Waverley Girls working with rhythmic hoops

have done well in these competitions, winning gold and silver medals. Senior girls and Rene Plant have assisted with tennis coaching. Pupils will be invited on 25 July to the annual St Mary's Careers Expo.

**LINDA GIURICICH**  
**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**



Waverley girls enjoy art lessons in the art room in The Edge with Sue Heydendrych

## GRADE 4 POETRY

### Colour poems

#### Sweet Treats

These are  
My colours  
One by one:

Red –  
Sweet sticky  
Strawberry ice-cream.

Blue –  
A sweet  
Sipping bubblegum milkshake.

Orange –  
Bursting like  
Flavoured, fizzy Fanta.

Brown –  
A munching  
Crunchy, yummy chocolate.

Pink –  
Biting and  
Screeching jawbreakers.

Sweet treats  
They make  
All together.

by Khumo Makgamathe

### Balloons

These are  
My colours  
One by one:

Red –  
As dark  
As blood.

Pink –  
fuchsia swirl  
Mouth-watering milkshakes.

Blue –  
The sea  
Splish, splash, splosh.

Gold –  
The hot  
Summer sun shining.

Balloons, balloons  
Bright beautiful  
Party fun.

by Alexandra Kobus

**CHRISTI LAWLESS**  
**TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY**

# FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Kimaya Shah-Naidoo in Grade 3C and Emma Frahm-Arp in Grade 3B achieved a diploma for violin at the Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of Music

## BALLET NEWS

A few ballet girls recently participated in the Gauteng Central Youth Dance Awards. This involved participating in a class where they were taught unset exercises which they then had to perform in front of two judges and an audience. The class was quite challenging, but all the girls held their own and made me and their parents proud. Well done to Micaela Hacker, Lesego Mapaya, Ella Mundell and Kathryn Breedveld.

**MICHELLE EMSLIE  
BALLET TEACHER**



Ballet girls getting ready to participate in a class

## CONGRATULATIONS

Thikho Marageni competed in a CMaths Japanese Soroban competition regionally. She received a champion trophy and a certificate for her junior level.



Well done, Thikho

# RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

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The Central Gauteng Level 1 to 3 team comprising 13 St Mary's Grade 2, Grade 3 and Grade 4s did well at the Gauteng competition winning six gold and seven silver medals.

This team will compete at the Zone Festival on 22 and 23 June against gymnasts from the Free State, Mpumalanga, North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo.

Akani Nkuna (Grade 2) won second place on free dance Level 1 U8.  
Kaylee Verster (Grade 2) won second place for rope in Level 1 U8.  
There were 54 gymnasts in the U8 section. This was an outstanding achievement.

Xena Zephine (Grade 4) placed fifth on free dance in Level 2 U10.

Oagile Tema (Grade 2) won second place for both free dance and ball and second place overall in level 3 U8.

Zeinab Kone (Grade 5) won the U11 Wierda competition in HP 2 beating gymnasts from around South Africa on 3 June.

**LINDA GIURICICH**  
**COACH: RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS**