



Grade 0 girls celebrating Mandela's 100th birthday with their sandwiches and socks for a person in need

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

To misquote Harold Wilson, a week is a long time in a school, and occasions, even those we prepare for painstakingly, pass quickly and the opportunity to comment on them is fleeting. To say that we have been busy in the Junior School over the past few weeks is an understatement: in addition to attending play rehearsals and commemorating Mandela Day, we have been directly or indirectly involved in several other school activities of greater or lesser significance, including, playing sport, going on outings, hosting parent interviews and other events, and preparing class assemblies. The day this edition of the *Just Junior* is published, we will be joining the rest of the school in celebrating Ms King's 50th birthday, the same evening that St John's College is offering the public "A once in a lifetime astronomical opportunity" to see the deepest lunar eclipse this century under the expert guidance of Dr Philip Calcott – clearly, an auspicious day to be marking a half century: happy birthday, Ms King!

My opening comments on the ephemeral nature of school days notwithstanding, I would like to return our attention to an event that has already passed and that I wish I had spoken more about at the time, namely, Grandparents' Day. On Friday 13 July, our two Grade 0 classes invited their grandparents to spend the morning with them at school. The girls entertained their grandparents with a gym and music display, which they had been preparing for most of the term, before meeting them back in their classrooms for tea, cake and photographs, and animated discussion. Excited granddaughters showed their grandparents where they sat in class, pointed out the work they had on display and guided them around the Junior Primary playground, while Grade 7 girls weaved in and out of the closely packed crowd delivering cups of tea and coffee and clearing plates over the heads of their much younger and seemingly irrepressible peers.

When I welcomed the grandparents earlier in the morning, some of whom are Old Girls or fathers of Old Girls, I missed the opportunity to tell them what a valuable and significant role they play in their granddaughters' lives. Research shows that the companionship and love provided by grandparents have a measurable effect on the wellbeing of their grandchildren. Those children fortunate enough to live close to their grandparents or other extended family suffer less from anxiety, experience fewer emotional and behavioural problems and enjoy easier relationships with their peers. Simply by being there, grandparents can share some of the burden parents carry for socialising their children; their presence in a child's life can reduce the adverse impact on a child of unstable family situations or difficulties at school and complement good quality relationships between children and their parents.

Despite the weight of credible evidence pointing to the value of older people in the lives of children, I think there is a tendency, evident in the popular press, to underestimate or demean the contribution grandparents make through the use of sentimental labels or reductive generalisations (every time I hear an adolescent refer to an older person as "cute", no matter how well-meaning her intentions, I cringe). It is my wish that, through occasions like Grandparents' Day, we continue to honour the older people in our children's lives and the profound contribution they make to their education, understood in the most expansive terms.

On that note, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday with your families: travel safely, play, and read every day!

DR SARAH WARNER
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

In Mark 6:30-44, we are told of how Christ multiplied five loaves and two fishes in order to feed a crowd of 5 000 men – a number unlikely to include the women and children who must also have been present – such that 12 baskets full of leftovers were collected. This took place in Galilee, near the Sea of Galilee, where much of Jesus' ministry took place.

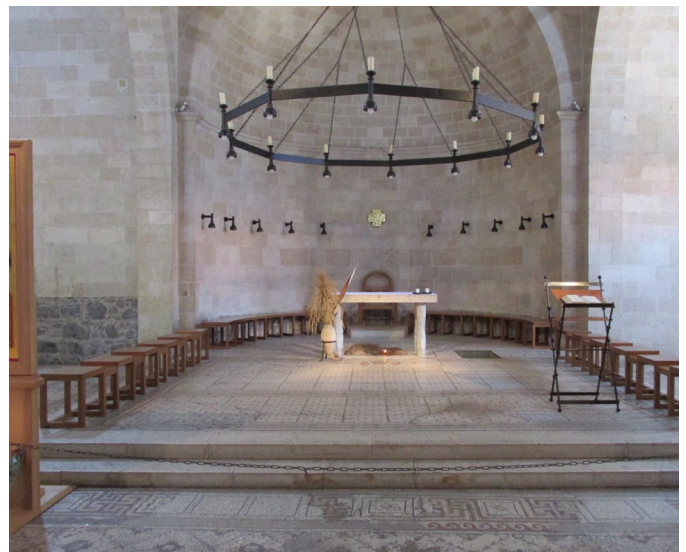
From 2 to 11 July, I had the privilege of going on a pilgrimage to Egypt, for one day, and Israel for the remainder of the period. Among the many holy sites we visited, we spent time in Tabgha, traditionally the site where Christ fed the 5 000 men. In Tabgha, there is a stone church with unusual alabaster windows, the Church of the Seven Springs (called such because the site has springs), built on that site. Underneath the altar is a stone where Christ is said to have stood, blessing and breaking the bread.



"Taking the five loaves and two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them ..." (Mark 6:41)

The church is kept by women religious, and in our time there, there were no other pilgrims visiting the church – when our group was still, only the sound of the women religious gently sweeping the church floor could be heard. The church, in which parts of the original Byzantine-era floor is still visible, is a testament to hundreds of years of pilgrims who have come to the site to pause and be still, as we did. The simplicity within the church renders the altar and the stone underneath it an invitation to those who enter, to come to Christ who multiplies the bread and the fish, to sit in the stillness and receive.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN



The altar within the Church of the Seven Springs, with the stone beneath it

IKUSASA LETHU

Sunninghill Hospital visit

Grade 11 and 12 pupils from the Ikusasa Lethu programme visited Sunninghill Hospital in their holidays in order to experience the working environment of a hospital. "I learnt that it does not matter if your career has a fancy name, it's all about loving what you do, being dedicated and respecting your job. It also takes hard work for people to be what they want to be," says Thulisile Moloi.

The Grade 11 and 12s also visited a number of commercial companies and a farm in their school holidays.

LINDA GIURICICH
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



GRADE 5 POETRY

The Grade 5 girls used personal photographs as inspiration to create a poem about their memories of the snapshots.

Happy Family

Crash
the waves breaking
on the soft sand,
the cold, wet water swirling
around our ankles.

My dress being blown by
the wind.

I remember
the raging sun
burning my face
while I swam
in the warm water.

I remember
the aquamarine sky above us,
the grass rustling and waving
in front.

I remember
the sound of laughter
around me as the camera went
click.

by Emma Shuttleworth

That Snowy Day

I remember ...
The joy and excitement of building
our first snowman,
my sister wanting to take control.

Cold, icy snowflakes falling from the sky
touching our noses as we went by,
following my sister round and round the garden.

I remember ...
A huge, round looking tower of snow
with ebony stone eyes, a carrot nose,
woolly hat, pink scarf and two branches as
arms.

Crunch, crunch
my boots stomped through the slushy snow,
Swish, swish went my arms as
I made an angel.

I will always remember
that cold, magical winter.

by Kganya Kodisang

Wave Racer

Whoosh
The wave collapses,
I'm surrounded by a billion bubbles
I am a wave racer

Sea salt spray
Breeze blowing
Fringe flopping
I am a wave racer

Tightly clutching
Zig-zagging
Heart thumping
I am a wave racer

As the shore approaches,
the wave's energy begins to ebb,
my board slowly scrapes into the sand
I finish my ride with a grin

I want to go again
I am a wave chaser

by Kayla Smith

CHRISTI LAWLESS
TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY

MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS



The Grade 3 girls made goodie bags for a person of their choice, in need of an act of kindness, on Mandela Day

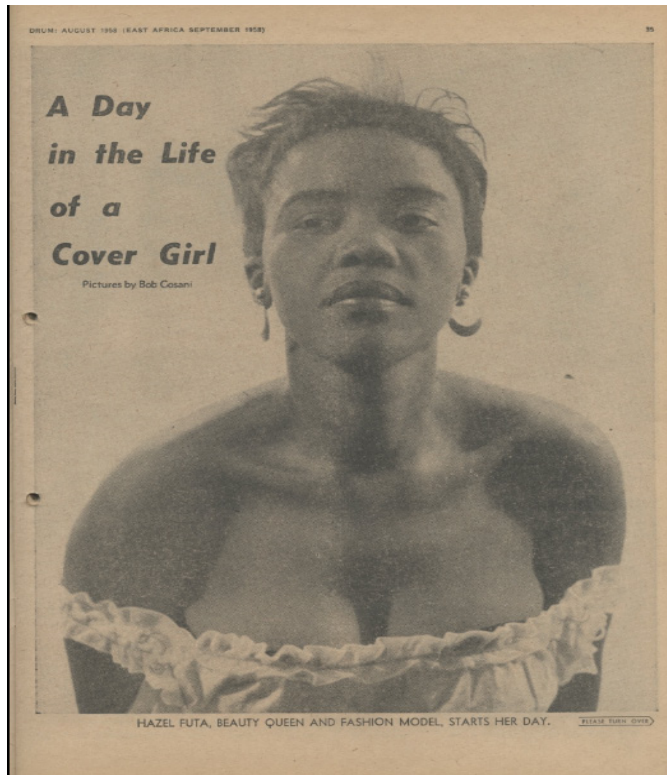


Senior Primary girls delivered Mandela Day packs to HA Jack School



Little Saints children visited Pioneer Home for the elderly. They sang songs and handed out biscuits to the residents for Mandela Day

DRUM MAGAZINE AND THE BAILEYS AFRICAN HISTORY ARCHIVE



We are currently hosting an exhibition in the foyer of The Edge. The aim of the exhibition is to share the “untold” or sometimes forgotten stories of African women. St Mary’s was given the opportunity and privilege to utilise Drum magazine and the Baileys African History Archive as a starting point.

the magazine elevated women to powerful, beautiful and aspirational figures. In addition to creating a platform for writers such as Can Themba, Henry Nxumalo and Casey Motsisi or photographers like Bob Gosani and Jurden Schadeberg, it enabled women to engage in conversations – whether they were domestic, frivolous or political.

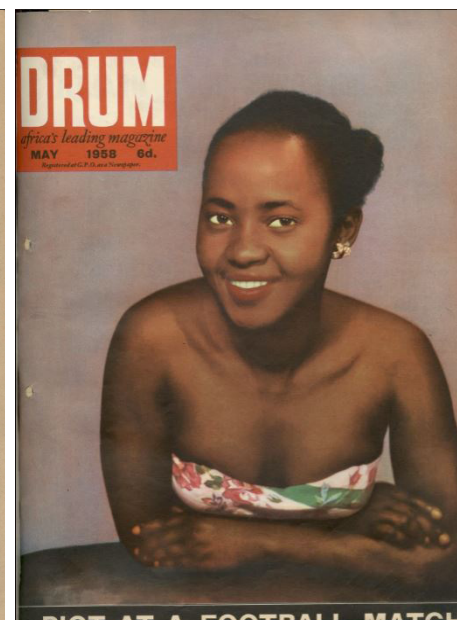
Not only is Drum magazine a truly African publication with readers spanning the continent but it has also become an iconic South African symbol. In particular, Drum was able to capture the zeitgeist of urban culture during apartheid. Our exhibition focuses on the year 1958, looking back 60 years at the position and portrayal of women. We ask what has changed and what remains the same?

In a collaboration between the Art, Drama, History, Sesotho and Zulu departments we have created an installation providing a snapshot of the past and more importantly, celebrating women.

This exhibition will remain in the foyer of The Edge until the end of this term.

ALISON ANDREW
HISTORY TEACHER

What is unique about Drum is that it opposed the typical apartheid narrative of black women being merely victims of a system. Rather,



FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



HOCKEY

Junior School hockey festivals

Over the past two weekends, several Grade 4, 5, 6 and 7 teams participated in their respective festivals. St Mary's hosted the Grade 4 and Grade 6 B and C festivals, St Andrew's hosted the Grade 5 festival and St Stithians hosted the Grade 7 B and C festival.

These festivals serve as an ideal opportunity for all teams to play several matches in one day. More often than not, the girls show a marked improvement by the end of the festival as they have more contact time with their coaches, and more playing time which allows for more contact with the ball.

Our aim is for the girls to learn more about team structures, positional requirements and to focus on developing solid basic skills. Playing more than one game in a morning, allows the coaches more time to focus on subtle improvements throughout the day, which become easier to reinforce by having more time with the girls.

Results vs Roedean and Brescia

On Friday 6 July, our teams played matches against Roedean. St Mary's won 10 matches, drew two and lost two. On 13 July, we played matches against Brescia. Again our teams did very well – winning nine matches, drawing three and losing only one.



Grade 4 A hockey team



Grade 5 A hockey team



Grade 5 B hockey team



Grade 5 C hockey team

HOCKEY CONTINUED

Junior School provincial and pistrict hockey results

Several Junior School hockey players have recently been involved in their respective provincial and district tournaments.

Annabel Hardie and Lwazi Mhlanga played in the U13 inter-provincial tournament in Pietermaritzburg. The team had a successful week finishing second overall, five points behind eventual winners, Southern Free State.

Ava Economakis, Tayla Gibbs and Zalika Methula were selected for the U12 D9 team that played in the Northern Region U12 hockey tournament

in Krugersdorp. The team performed consistently well throughout the week and went on to win the tournament. Congratulations, girls!

Samara Mayet was selected for the U13 D9 team that played in the Northern Region U13 hockey tournament in Tzaneen. This team also had a successful week, finishing second overall.

TARYN DE WINNAAR
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



Southern Gauteng D9 U12 team



Southern Gauteng D9 U13 team



Southern Gauteng U13 A team

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS



These girls participated in the South African North Zone Rhythmic Festival at Klipriviersberg Recreation Centre on 22 and 23 June. The gymnasts represented Gauteng.

TENNIS



Mom/Dad and daughters' social tennis afternoon for Grade 4 to 7
Date: Saturday 8 September
Time: 13h45 to 16h45
Venue: St Mary's School
 Please email Ms Murray at cecile.murray@stmary.co.za to confirm your entry



NOTICES

ST MARY'S APP

Please look at the app on a regular basis to keep abreast of everything that is happening at St Mary's. We suggest that you consult the calendar at least weekly, to ensure you don't miss out on any events.

SCHOOL MAGAZINE

An amount of R300 per family, will be charged to your school account in August for the school magazine. If you would like more than one copy or do not wish to have a school magazine, please contact Pritha Chetty via email at pritha.chetty@stmary.co.za.