



Junior Primary Mothers' Day service combined with charity drive "slipper day". Thank you to all the girls and moms for supporting this charity. What fun for the girls to come to school in their slippers with their mums!

## FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

"Ordinary Mary was so very ordinary that you'd never guess she could change the world. This ordinary kid? She did! She changed the world!" So begins the picture book *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed*, which was recommended to me by a Grade 1 pupil in our first assembly of the term. What was startling to me about the little girl's spontaneous contribution to the assembly was not only the agile transfer of ideas from picture book to abstract discussion that it demonstrated, but also its foregrounding of a child's ability to engage with dense material on a level that was meaningful to her.

My topic for the assembly a day before elections was, loosely speaking, the value of history from below and the telling of more inclusive stories, especially women's stories, from the past; the challenge I faced, and which I negotiated with mixed success, was how to enlarge on my theme in a way that an audience of Grade 0 to 7 girls would find stimulating or, at the very least, mildly diverting. Unsurprisingly, the girls and I improvised a solution together.

I began with an anecdote: many years ago, when I was a bit older than the Grade 7s, I entered a school history competition which required all contestants to prepare a speech on an aspect of history relating to the theme "Resistance and revolution". I entered with a friend (who is now my sister-in-law) and we chose the South African women's movement as our topic. What made our topic different from many of the other entries was its relative obscurity (other speeches I remember from our first round were on Italian nationalist, Giuseppe Garibaldi, and The Renaissance) and the attendant scarcity of research material on it, including images, in those pre-internet times.

Among the books we consulted, and that would change my ideological presumptions about what made for interesting history for ever, were two of the three volumes on the formation of the South African working class by social historian and founder member of the Wits History Workshop, Luli Callinicos. I pored over the books' pictures (selected from hundreds of rare photographs of varying quality by Callinicos, with the expert assistance of David Goldblatt) and

became completely absorbed in the historical narrative (drawn from interviews, personal anecdote, and other, more official sources) that offered a richly textured account of how and why events unfolded the way they did in 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century South Africa.

The girls and I spoke about how this approach to history differed from more mainstream research, which tends to focus on the words and deeds of powerful, influential men; the story Callinicos tells reminds us that ordinary people (like the millions of South Africans who would vote, or not vote, the next day) make history. We likened history to a story book and Callinicos's research to writing that shouts from the margins to draw attention to what has been left out or relegated; we spoke of the incompleteness of stories with certain characters removed from them. One Grade 6 observed that it was like trying to tell a well-known fairy tale while excluding one of the main protagonists. I pushed the analogy further by suggesting that what Callinicos did was teach us to reread the fairy tale with a radically new idea of who or what qualified as a protagonist in the first place. Lastly, we spoke of why it mattered to bring other characters back into the story, whether we needed to keep on looking for opportunities to tell stories differently, and what would happen if we gave up on the work that people like Luli Callinicos began.

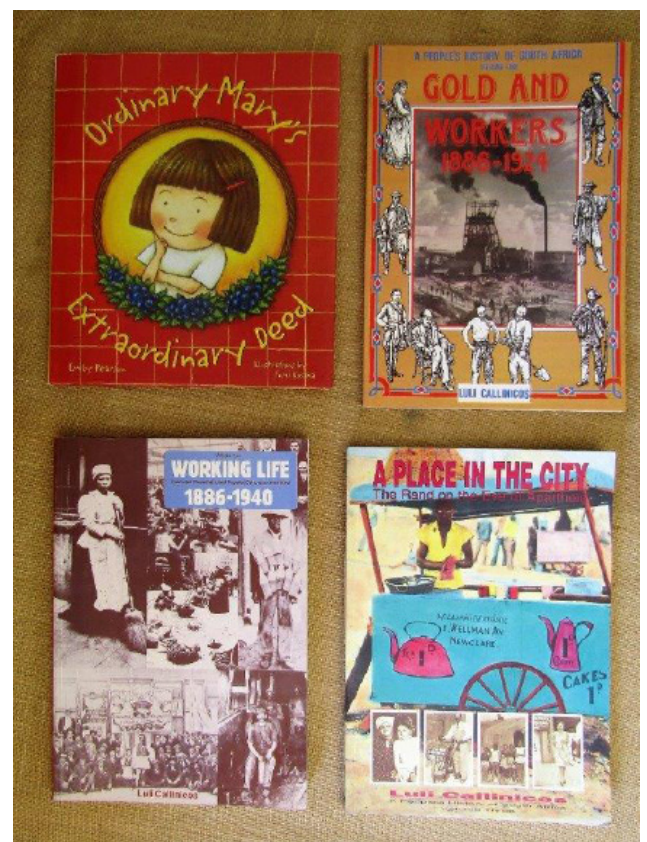
We agreed that the world had not changed nearly enough for us to stop actively seeking out other stories: the story of how women came to vote in South Africa, which was different for white women and black women; the story of women all over the world who have been granted the right to vote but are prevented from exercising it; the story of the tiny population of women in the Vatican City who still cannot vote at all.

It seemed fitting for me to give the last word to poetry, the repository, in all languages, of some of the most marginal stories on earth.

### Famous

The river is famous to the fish  
 The loud voice is famous to the silence,  
 which knew it would inherit the earth  
 before anybody said so.  
 The cat sleeping on the fence is famous to the birds  
 watching him from the birdhouse.  
 The tear is famous, briefly, to the cheek.  
 The idea you carry close to your bosom  
 is famous to your bosom.  
 The boot is famous to the earth,  
 more famous than the dress shoe,  
 which is famous only to floors.  
 The bent photograph is famous to the one who carries it,  
 and not at all famous to the one who is pictured.  
 I want to be famous to struggling men,  
 Who smile while crossing streets,  
 Sticky children in grocery lines,  
 famous as the one who smiled back.  
 I want to be famous in the way a pulley is famous,  
 or a buttonhole, not because it did anything spectacular,  
 but because it never forgot what it did.

*Naomi Shihab Nye*



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

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

*During supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"*

*Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."*

*Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."*

*Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"*

*Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean.*

- John 13:2b-10a (NRSV)

Christ's washing his disciples' feet was an act that shocked even his disciples, as can be observed by Peter's responses. It was customary for each to either wash their sandalled feet, or to have a servant assist with the same, upon entry to another's house prior to a meal. However, for

the rabbi to wash his disciples' feet was not custom. Christ's washing his disciples' feet – our feet – though shocking, is an act typical of our humble Saviour, and typifies the servant leadership which we are encouraged to follow. It is uncomfortable: just as we balk at making ourselves vulnerable by allowing another to view, touch and wash our feet, so the disciples did that day.

At the end of each day, where have my feet travelled, and where have yours trod? What can the dust that has gathered on our sandalled feet tell of the story of our days and our lives? Unraveling those stories, including how we have felt and loved, at the end of each day in the gentle and loving presence of God, is akin to dusting off our feet, and gingerly allowing Christ to tenderly wash each. Perhaps also, our taking the time, with Christ, to listen to each others' stories in this regard, and to receive each in Christ's love and hold each with tender care, is to wash each others' feet, as Christ would have us do.

**REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN**

## MUSE MORNING ALL PARENTS WELCOME

**Date:** Tuesday 28 May

**Time:** 07h15 to 08h30

**Venue:** Wantage auditorium

**Topic:** A developmental approach to talking to your child about sex

**Speaker:** Jessie-Anne Bird - an educational psychologist

Jessie-Anne is an educational psychologist with a history of working in both mental health-care and education. Her practice is based at The Children's Therapy Centre in the Petervale/Bryanston area. She works with children, adolescents, individuals, and families with the aim of improving psychological, emotional, and educational functioning. She is also strongly invested in increasing access to mental health care in South Africa and does so through work with the Johannesburg Parent & Child Counselling Centre, and as a member of the executive committee of the Educational Psychology Association of South Africa.

Jessie-Anne believes that the best way to support a child's growth and development is through the involvement of the parents. She therefore works closely with parents and caregivers, and offers sessions dedicated to assisting parents with developing strategies related to discipline, schooling, motivation, emotional support, as well as other concerns.

Jessie-Anne's services are diverse; she offers psycho-educational assessment, individual play therapy for younger children, psychotherapy for older children, parent guidance and counselling, workshops and training. She is often asked to take part in talks on radio and television.

Jessie-Anne acknowledges that talking to your kid about sex can be daunting and her presentation *Talking to Your Child About Sex - a Developmental Approach* will explore how and when is the right time to talk to your child about sex.

Refreshments served from 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30.

RSVP: [lynsay.young@stmary.co.za](mailto:lynsay.young@stmary.co.za)

# MEET OUR LEADERS

## Little Saints monitors

These girls read to the children at Little Saints every morning from 07h00 to 07h20. They welcome and settle the children into the school. It is imperative that the girls are on time and are reliable.



Back row: Kathleen Young, Velisa Kahla, Alice Thiel, Donna Cloete, Rebecca Anderson, Gabriela De Toledo Filho  
Front row: Vuyisa Kahla, Emily Nurse, Georgina Setzkorn, Sophia Babaya, Nalina Naidoo, Amelia Granig

## Tennis

Natasha Jenkins and Taylor Gibbs are our tennis captains. Their role is to assist teachers with administrative tasks at practices and matches. They encourage the teams to represent our school well and to show good sportsmanship.



Natasha Jenkins and Taylor Gibbs

## Chess

The chess captains are Amelia Granig and Heather Welchman. At matches, these girls lead the chess team in supporting one another, welcoming visiting schools and showing gratitude to the schools who host. They also carry out administrative tasks for the teachers.



Amelia Granig and Heather Welchman



For more info:  
call 083 226 2871

## DANCE

### Ballet

During Term II, the ballet girls from Grade 0 to Grade 6 will be working towards their Royal Academy of Dance Ballet exams.



Tumelo Masithela, Nicole Wang, Kayla Smith

### Modern Dance

Our Grade 000 Dance Mouse children learning the moves to a cowboy dance routine (picture below).



Grade 000 Dance Mouse

### DRAMA

Pictured below: the Grade 4 to 7 co-curricular drama class performing in the amphitheatre at tea break, entertaining the Junior School girls.

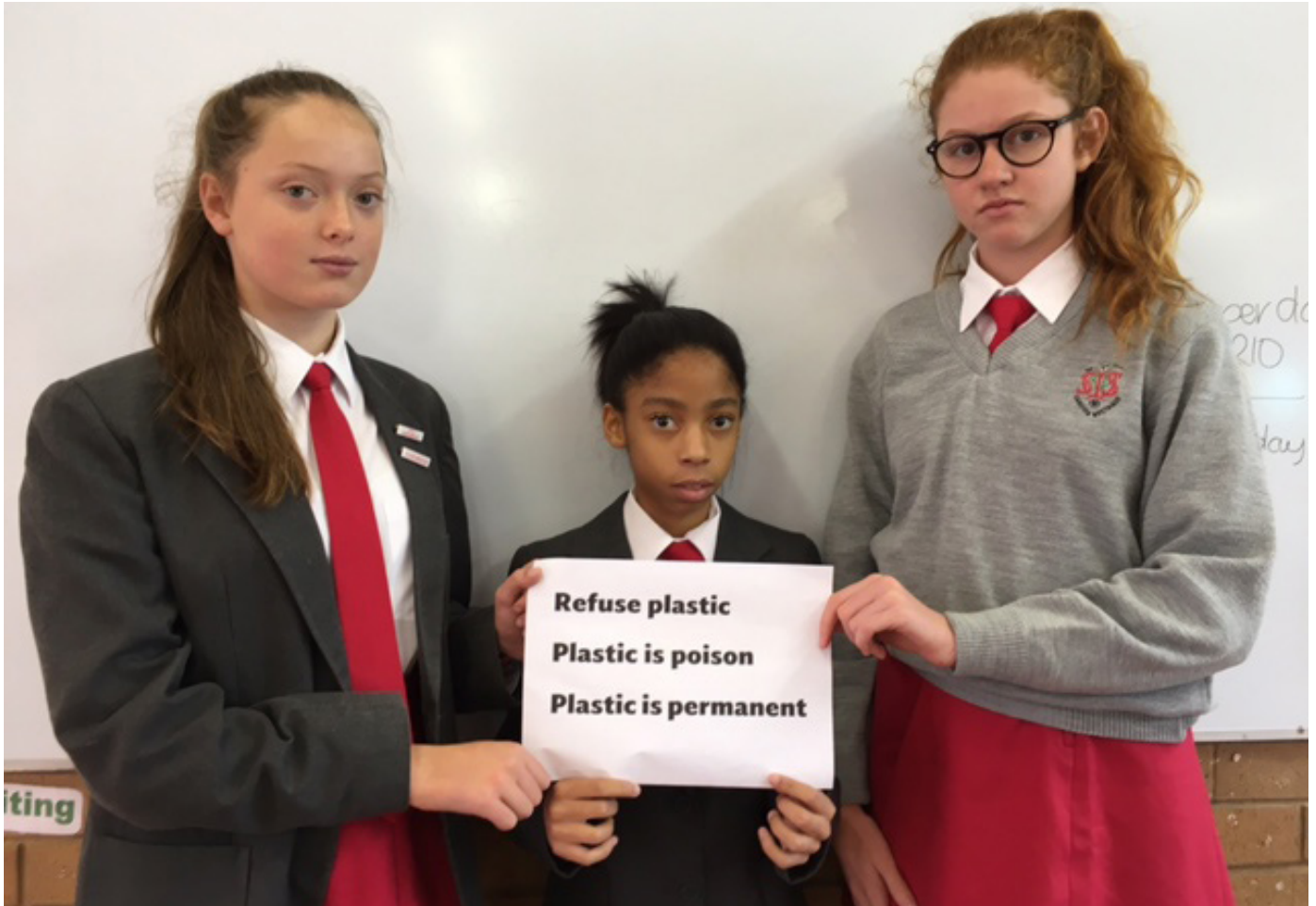


All the information you would need to know regarding these co-curricular activities can be found on the website [www.5678productions.co.za](http://www.5678productions.co.za), including timetable, fees, teacher information and how to register.

**CLAIRE VAN NIEKERK**  
COORDINATOR: DANCE AND DRAMA

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

# RETHINK PLASTIC



The environmental club has harvested their first veggies from their vegetable garden, beautiful radishes. Keep an eye out for our peas, beans and carrots. The girls are loving getting their hands dirty and watching their plants grow.

# MAXEKE-MGQWETHO

Later this month St Mary's will be hosting the inaugural Maxeke-Mgqwetho Annual Lecture.

**Details:**

Thursday 23 May  
The Edge  
18h30

This initiative created by the Asinukathula Collective seeks to celebrate and share the untold stories of South African women. The Asinukathula Collective is a group of teachers and researchers who seek to counter the erasure of African women from history and public discourse. By using the legacies of Charlotte Maxeke and Ntonizi Mgqwetho, the initiative aims to acknowledge and commemorate the achievements of South African women both past and present.

The annual lecture this year will feature the keynote speaker the renowned Dr Gcina Mhlophe (pictured below).

Gcina Mhlophe is an author, poet, playwright, director, performer and

storyteller. Influenced by her grandmother's tales when she was a child, Mhlophe's written and performance talent has transported her from South Africa to South and North America to Europe, Greenland and Japan. She has performed her stories in theatres like Royal Albert Hall, the Kennedy Centre in the US and she has collaborated with Ladysmith Black Mambazo on a children's CD.

Mhlophe's countless accolades as well as her charisma and talent, make her an apt keynote speaker for the first ever Maxeke-Mgqwetho Annual Lecture.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Tickets for the event are available through Quicket. Please find this link below, on the St Mary's website and as well as on our app.

Please join us for an evening of storytelling and discovery in celebration of South African women.

**ALISON ANDREW  
TEACHER: HISTORY**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
The first Maxeke-Mgqwetho Annual Lecture

Date: Thursday 23 May  
Time: 18h30  
Venue: The Edge, St Mary's School  
Keynote speaker: Dr Gcina Mhlophe

[Click here for more information and to book your tickets](#)

# FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



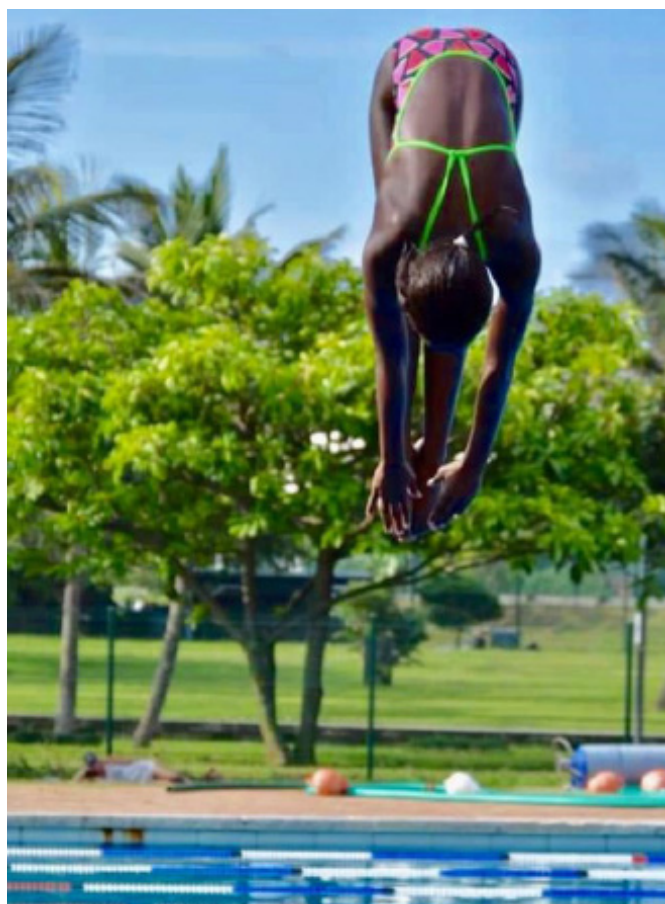
## DIVING

During March, Zalika Methula took part in the Central Gauteng Aquatics diving competition where she qualified to compete for the Gauteng U16 age group at Junior Nationals. This is an incredible achievement.

Junior Nationals took place in Durban from 10 to 14 April. Having qualified for this competition, Zalika represented Gauteng on both the one metre and three metre boards.

We congratulate Zalika on her performance at this prestigious event. She placed seventh on the one metre board with a score of 235,25 and placed sixth on the three metre with a score of 252,25.

**KATE SHEPHERD**  
**HEAD OF DIVING**



## HOCKEY

Congratulations to the following girls who were selected for the Southern Gauteng hockey team:

Zalika Methula  
Emily Nurse

The following girls were selected for the D9 hockey team:

Kganya Kodisang  
Kyla Grobbelaar

Nokukhanya Mthombeni  
Ria Ruby Raad  
Ava Economakis  
Tayla Gibbs  
Abigail Rigby  
Clare Stewart- Selvan

**ANTOINETTE MSHENGU**  
**HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL**



# ST STITHIANS FESTIVAL

## Tennis and netball

The tennis and netball teams competed in the St Stithians Easter Festival from 11 to 13 April. The tennis consisted of doubles and mixed doubles with St John's and Umhlali. Excellent tennis was played by the girls and they enjoyed taking part in the tournament. Thank you to Mrs Lowndes and Mrs Plant for helping at the festival.

The netball teams participated in this festival for the first time. The teams played three matches a day, however, on Friday they played only one

match owing to bad weather. All the teams played exceptionally, winning the majority of their matches. Well done to the Grade 5 team who were unbeaten.

**ANTOINETTE MSHENGU**  
**HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL AND**  
**CECILLE MURRAY**  
**TENNIS COACH**



Grade 6 A team: Coach Veli Mtshali, Lucy Viljoen, Nokukhanya Mthombeni, Kyla Grobbelaar, Jocelyn Appel, Katie Franck, Emily Tew, Ilana Buck



The girls in action



Gabriela De Toledo Filho, Ava Economakis, Natasha Jenkins, Tayla Gibbs, Moroesi Tuaeone, Sarah Hewat, St John's Boys



Abigail Rigby, Nicole Ledlie, Clare Selwan-Stewart, Umhlali Boys, Amy Pringle, Georgie Setzkorn, Grace Faber



Nicole Ledlie, Abigail Rigby, Clare Selwan-Stewart, Amy Pringle, Georgie Setzkorn, Tayla Gibbs, Ava Economakis, Natasha Jenkins, Gabriela De Toledo Filho, Moroesi Tuaeone, Grace Faber, Sarah Hewat

# NOTICES



**Transforming our schools**  
**Conversations with Bongani Bingwa**  
*A panel discussion with St John's College, Sacred Heart College, Crawford Schools and St Mary's School*

**SAVE the DATE**  
**Thursday 27 June**  
 18h00  
 at St Mary's School

**The HOPE Committee**  
 Hearing Other People's Experiences  
 A sub-committee of the PTA to encourage parent conversations around diversity  
[hope@stmary.co.za](mailto:hope@stmary.co.za)

