

Images from Lauren Howden's presentation

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

Last Thursday, Lauren Howden, our head of curriculum development, and I hosted an evening of directed conversation on diversity for the Junior School. We opened the event with Lauren's wonderfully rich and thought-provoking presentation on some of the remarkable work being undertaken with our girls. Her meticulous documentation of the girls' thoughts and responses featured images, video clips and written excerpts that demonstrated the value of pedagogically sound and developmentally sensitive interventions with primary school children. What follows below is a version of the introduction I gave on the evening.

Children, all our children, are at the centre of our thinking tonight to ensure that our process is guided by integrity and love. Our clear but unsentimental vision of child at St Mary's draws on the Reggio philosophy, the South African Constitution, and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. In the words of Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs:

If a child is to be constitutionally imagined as an individual with a distinctive personality, and not merely as a miniature adult waiting to reach full size, he or she cannot be treated as a mere extension of his or her parents, umbilically

destined to sink or swim with them. The unusually comprehensive and emancipatory character of Section 28 presupposes that in our new dispensation the sins and traumas of fathers and mothers should not be visited on their children.

Individually and collectively all children have the right to express themselves as independent social beings, to have their own laughter as well as sorrow, to play, imagine and explore in their own way, to themselves get to understand their bodies, minds and emotions and above all to learn as they grow how they should conduct themselves and make choices in the wide social and moral world of adulthood.

I want to remind you that we work *with* children, not *on* them. Interventions with children in questions of diversity, identity and affiliation are rarely linear; they take time and involve gains and losses and lots of repetition, some of which is joyous; despite the planning involved, mess and risk form part of the process; there is adventure and boredom, idealism, bravado, intent and distraction, resistance, fear and noise. Not unlike going on a bear hunt: **We can't go over it. / We can't go under it. / Oh no! / We've got to go through it!**

Our approach to teaching diversity is anchored in the school's policies on our educational philosophy, the Christian identity and ethos of St Mary's, our anti-bullying and anti-racism policies, and our statement on gender – all of which are available on the app or the school website. St Mary's is a school for girls with a stated interest in educating our students to respect and believe in themselves as women.

Increasingly, as more reliable evidence emerges, we find ourselves caught somewhere in the middle of polarised views on educating boys and girls: on the one hand, the seemingly progressive theory that there are no innate differences between girls and boys; on the other, the affirmation of innate differences between girls and boys and reinforcement of gender stereotypes.

Neither of these is workable. We need to engage, openly and critically, with research on how girls and boys enter the classroom so that we can be alive to their different needs and abilities in a way that is pedagogically and ethically sound.

Built-in gender differences relating to auditory discrimination, facial recognition, and neural development appear more pronounced in the developing brain. We have to think carefully about how to talk to girls, drawing effectively on their desire to establish close bonds with their teacher while at the same time gently redirecting their need to give the teacher the answer they think she desires. This is a delicate balancing act with real implications.

At the risk of being blunt, make sure, with us, that you are seeing your daughters. I am aware of a wistful tone inflecting conversations about

how girls socialise and play that compares them unfavourably with boys who are seen to solve everything with a good-natured punch or playground scuffle or who gather uncomplicatedly around activities that allow them to ignore their differences and bond silently through mutual endeavour. I am not saying this does not happen, but we need to stop wishing, however unconsciously, that our girls could be more like their brothers and join the mostly women teachers who inhabit primary schools in finding ways to use girls' observable strengths and inclinations to create sustainable change.

We want to be here this evening. The conversation the Junior School is hosting tonight should not be seen as something we are doing out of a sense of obligation. We spend a lot of time thinking and talking about how our girls experience diversity at school and how they might experience it differently – now we need to find more ways of communicating with you about these discussions.

Our decision not to make tonight's gathering into a curated event featuring a guest speaker with no knowledge of the school has to do with our desire to create conversation, listen to diffuse viewpoints and generate questions; we want to guard against the dangers of the single narrative, something Lauren and I have taken as our unofficial theme for this discussion.

We're going on a bear hunt. / What a beautiful day. / We're not scared.

Happy holidays!

DR SARAH WARNER
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

"After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).

- Mark 15:20-22 (NRSV)

Simon unwillingly takes up the cross. He is strong and Jesus is battling to carry the cross on His way to Calvary, weak and exhausted. The African influence is shown again in Simon's appearance. The figures at the top represent our journey through life towards Jesus. We diminish as He becomes greater.

- Joseph Capelle

In our journeys through life, if we choose to look at our experiences of suffering through the lens of Christ's suffering, we can only draw nearer to Christ, as depicted in the progression of figures at the top of this Station. However, we do so inexorably as who we are, as who God created us to be – which is why Simon's figure stands out so, for me. Simon's figure does not change, despite the progression in the figures at the top of the Station. Through Simon's journey with Christ, he is integrally who he is – with his accompanying emotions. So too, are we. In the Anglican Church, the colour green represents growth, regeneration, newness. To me, the green strip on the right of this Station represents the restoration that is to be found in Christ, through our drawing near to him even in his suffering.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN



The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross

IKUSASA LETHU

Mandela Day used clothing collection

Thank you to all those who donated clothing and linen for the pupils of our Ikusasa Lethu programme. Well done to Clayton House and Grade 5L who donated the most bags.

LINDA GIURICICH
DIRECTOR: COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

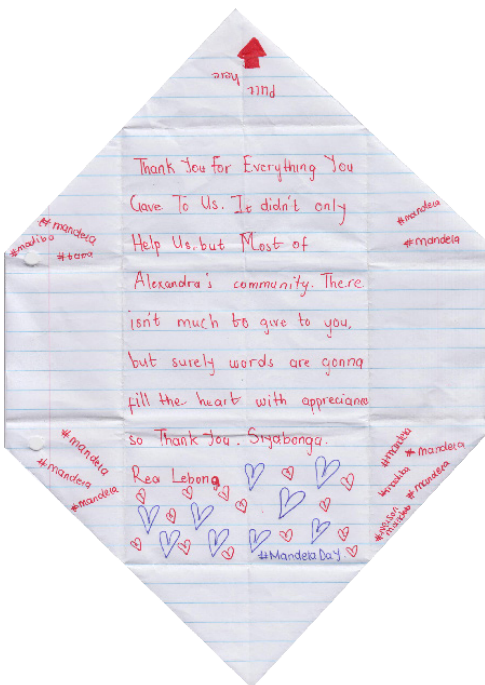
Maria Kloppers Children's Home

A very big thank you to all the families who donated clothes during our recent clothing drive. The children from Maria Kloppers Children's Home were thrilled with their new outfits. A group of Grade 7s spent the afternoon playing with and feeding the babies and toddlers. Ms Masilo, one of our interns, even braved a nappy change.

Charlotte Maxeke Hospital

After a successful book drive for Mandela Day, the books collected were donated to the oncology department at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital. The organisation, Live2 Give has set up a library at the hospital so that patients can read books while waiting to receive therapy. Thank you to those families who supported our collection.

LINDA MAISHMAN
COMMUNITY SERVICE: JUNIOR SCHOOL



Thank-you note



Mandela Day book collection



Maria Kloppers Children's Home donation

DIVINITY

The Grade 7 girls have been exploring their identity in Divinity lessons. Here they are using a realistic drawing of their eye as a symbol of their identity. The girls have been thinking about how they measure themselves and what it is that gives them a sense of self-worth. Whether it is their appearance, approval by others, sporting, cultural or academic achievements or wealth and affluence. They will also be reflecting on their value in God's eyes.



Grade 7 girls

The Grade 0 classes have been talking about God's Kingdom on earth. The girls picked up on the idea that God's kingdom is like a treasure chest. They used clay to depict this. Someone mentioned they had found their baby brother in the treasure chest of God's Kingdom! In the photograph below they have been inspired to write their own Bibles.

REVD JENNIFER MABIN-KRIGE



The Grade 0 girls

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to the following girls who have passed their music examinations recently:

ABRSM

Giana Govender	Piano	4	Distinction
Giana Govender	Flute	3	Distinction
Ramadimetja Montjane	Violin	3	Merit
Leah Govender	Piano	2	Distinction
Kimaya Shah-Naidoo	Piano	1	Distinction
Katherine Deacon	Piano	1	Merit
Siphoesihle Makwe	Piano	1	Merit
Victoria Tandy	Piano	1	Pass

TRINITY COLLEGE PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

Heather Welchman	Piano	3	Merit
Katherine Deacon	Singing	2	Distinction
Tumelo Masithela	Violin	2	Merit
Kayla Smith	Violin	2	Merit
Sienna Singaram	Violin	1	Distinction
Tshiamo Khoele	Piano	1	Merit
Claudia Cunningham	Piano	Initial	Distinction
Ella Mundell	Piano	Initial	Distinction
Astrid Blair	Piano	Initial	Merit
Phenyo Khoele	Violin	Initial	Merit
Valentina Passoni	Violin	Initial	Pass

ROCK & POP

Lucy Viljoen	Drums	1	Merit
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ABRSM Practical (150 marks)

Pass	100
Merit	120
Distinction	130

ABRSM Theory (100 marks)

Pass	66
Merit	80
Distinction	90

Trinity Rock and Pop and Trinity College Practical (100 marks)

Pass	60
Merit	75
Distinction	87

Rockschool (100 marks)

Pass	60
Merit	74
Distinction	90

DUDLEY TROLLOPE
DIRECTOR: MUSIC

GRADE 1 MARKET DAY



Grade 1 girls enjoying market day

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



HOCKEY

Grade 3 hockey festival at Roedean

The Grade 3 hockey teams participated in a late afternoon, early evening festival on Wednesday 24 July at Roedean. St Mary's had four teams and each team played three matches against various schools. The girls were so excited to play matches at night because it was the first time many of them played under flood lights. They all did exceptionally well and had a lot of fun despite the cold weather.

VICKI JONKER
HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL HOCKEY



Jessica Silcock, Gabriella Illgner, Isabella Landman, Elli Gerakaris, Oluwasola Adebule, Mia Smith, Indigo Woodburn, Anabel Britz



The Grade 3 hockey teams with Vicki Jonker

HOCKEY CONTINUED

Grades 6A and 7A hockey tour to St Mary's DSG Pretoria

The Grades 6A and 7A hockey teams travelled to St Mary's DSG Pretoria on Friday 19 July to participate in a hockey tournament. They started their fixtures on the Friday and both teams played two games on their first day. The Grade 6A team won one and drew one and the Grade 7A team won both their matches. The girls had an early start on Saturday morning but they started off well and both teams won their first games of the day. The Grade 6A team had a tough match later that morning versus Cornwall. They dominated the game but could not score, resulting in a draw. The Grade 7A team played some good hockey to win their second and third games convincingly. The girls played well in their last games and both teams won. On Sunday morning both teams had one match to play and performed exceptionally well. The Grade 6A team played a tough U13 Garsfontein team and lost 2-1. The Grade 7A team struggled to score against a strong defence in their last match which resulted in the final score being 0-0.

Hockey results

There were hockey matches for Grades 4 to 7 teams on Friday 12 July against Kingsmead. All teams played exceptionally well and the results were as follows:

4A won 3-1
4B won 5-0
4C lost 2-1

5A won 2-0
5B drew 1-1
5C won 2-1
5D won 1-0

6A won 1-0
6B drew 0-0
6C won 2-0

7A won 5-0
7B won 6-0

There were hockey matches for Grades 4 to 7 teams on Friday 19 July against St Peter's. All teams played well and the results were as follows:

4A won 3-2
4B won 5-2
4C lost 2-0

5A drew 2-2
5B won 5-1
5C won 3-1
5D won 3-1

6B won 1-0
6C won 2-0

7B drew 0-0
7C won 2-0

VICKI JONKER
SPORTS COACH



Gia-Ruby Raad



Katherine Franck

EQUESTRIAN

The SANESA Qualifier 4 was held at Kyalami Equestrian Park on 6 and 7 June. The St Mary's team consisted of Riley Bate, Katherine Franck, Astrid Blair and Emma Frahm-Arp.

The girls rode in many different disciplines including Dressage, Working Riding, Handy Hunter, Show Jumping, Equitation and Prix Caprilli. The girls achieved some outstanding results.

Astrid Blair		
Dressage (1)	Level 0	Placed 1 st and 3 rd
Dressage (2)	Level 0	Placed 2 nd and 4 th
Emma Frahm-Arp		
Dressage	Level 1:	Placed 2 nd in both
Working Riding	Level 1:	Placed 5 th
Equitation	Level 1:	Placed 1 st
Show Jumping	Level 1:	Placed 11 th
Prix Caprilli	Level 1:	Placed 1 st
Katherine Franck		
Equitation	Level 4:	Placed 12 th
Show Jumping	Level 4:	Placed 3 rd and 5 th
Show Jumping	Level 5:	Placed 2 nd and 3 rd
Handy Hunter	Level 3:	Placed 4 th
Riley Bate		
Dressage	Level 1:	Placed 8 th
Equitation	Level 1:	Placed 17 th
Show Jumping	Level 2:	Placed 2 nd and 15 th
Handy Hunter	Level 1:	Placed 3 rd

The girls had a successful weekend with many top five places. After the four qualifiers that have taken place this year, Riley Bate, Katherine Franck and Emma Frahm-Arp have made it through to the SANESA Regionals.



Emma Frahm-Arp

NICOLA DOUGLAS
CAPTAIN: EQUESTRIAN

TENNIS

Holiday Tennis for Grades 0 -7

Date: 19,20 and 21 August 2019
Venue: St Mary's School

Time: 08h00-10h00 Grade 0-2 Cost R400 or R150 per day
09h00-12h30 Grade 3-7 Cost R550 or R200 per day

Daily matches both singles and doubles, tactics, footwork and abc's

Please contact Mrs Plant on 082 442 6413 to book your place

Book now for the St Mary's PTA Golf Day

Friday 18 October

Parkview Golf Course

Price includes arrival drinks, goody bag, halfway house, loads of awesome prizes, and our annual auction dinner hosted by the brilliant Nico Kritsiotis

Staggered T-off from 11h30

R4 400 per four-ball or R1 250 per single player

Go to the App (under Alerts) or www.stmaryschool.co.za for more info and to book your place

Women's Day 9 August

"When women and girls rise,
their communities and their
countries rise with them."

Michelle Obama

The HOPE Committee

Hearing Other People's Experiences

A sub-committee of the PTA to encourage
parent conversations around diversity

hope@stmary.co.za

