



St Mary's School  
Waverley  
Founded 1888

# JUST JUNIOR NEWS

29 NOVEMBER 2019



Tel: 011 531 1880 | [smjunior@stmary.co.za](mailto:smjunior@stmary.co.za) | [www.stmarysschool.co.za](http://www.stmarysschool.co.za)



Grade 0 Nativity play

## FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

One of the reasons November is a disagreeable month at times for me (and my apologies to everyone, including my one-year-old daughter, who celebrates a birthday around about now) is that it is a month of seemingly relentless list-making and box-ticking. Neither activity is objectionable in itself; in fact, as a student of literature, I have nothing but admiration for the creative potential of lists and their presence in some of the most memorable prose and poetry you will ever read.

The act of ticking, also, is a hugely satisfying thing: the more flamboyant the upward motion of the wrist when noting our approval of something, the more conclusive the experience of despatching it from our immediate consciousness into the realm of the done, the altogether satisfactory, the smugly fulfilled. Interestingly, the origin of the tick (or swoosh as Nike reboots it) is debatable: unlike the redoubtable ampersand, visible on papyrus from as early as 45AD, the provenance of the tick is uncertain. It might be representative of the first letter of the Latin word *Veritas*, meaning true; it also might not.

My ambivalence in response to the drive to get things done and move on definitively at this time of year relates to the surprisingly provisional nature of the things that confront us as the year draws to a close: the measurement of

performance over a period of time, the recognition of achievement through the awarding of accolades, the reviewing of relationships that accompanies the act of leave-taking and valedictory ritual.

In other words, the problem with November is its tendency to monumentalise a moment in time as *the* moment, to offer the last word on a process or a relationship or a venture that truly, despite the appearance of a tick on a list, is far from over. And I say this not out of some sort of squeamishness about decision-making or assessment, but out of a fear of how outcomes, especially end-of-year outcomes, come to be viewed as the whole story instead of one episode in a story that continues to unfold.

For this reason, as we end our year in the Junior School with you and your daughters, I would like to offer a different image of a list and its purpose in our lives: in place of a column of neatly ticked-off items and the triumphant gesture of "done", I would like to propose a list of items finished, half-finished and not-yet-attempted – a list that reflects the truly process-driven nature of learning and teaching, with its curious collection of full ticks, half ticks, and ticks so ambiguous they come to resemble crosses. A list that does not pretend to fix everything, limit itself or celebrate the end of all endeavour, but which allows for something completely, stupendously otherwise: growth.

It is in this spirit that I invite you to join us in celebrating the efforts of the girls and staff at the various events that mark the end of another year in the Junior School: celebration evening and morning, the Grade 7 valedictory service and leavers' party, and the combined carol service. It is in this spirit, also, that we say farewell to the families who are leaving our care, and the teachers who are leaving our service: our heartfelt thanks for the time we have spent together and our continued interest in what happens next. Until

we meet again, enjoy holiday time spent together, travel safely, read widely, play and rest.

DR SARAH WARNER  
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

*When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them."*

- Matthew 11:2-5 (NRSV)

have foretold who this child – this Messiah – will be. John the Baptist, referred to in Matthew 11:2-5 above, was one such prophet, and familiar with the words of the Old Testament prophets, including the words of Isaiah 35:5 to which Christ refers in his response to John's disciples. Christ is indeed the fulfilment of this prophecy – and what good news this is indeed!

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN

Sunday 1 December is Advent Sunday, the first day of the season of Advent, a season in which we prepare to receive the Christ-child anew at Christmas time. Advent is a season of anticipation and excitement, for the prophets

## CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

On Wednesday 13 November, author Christopher Lloyd did a presentation to the Grade 3, 5, 6 and 7 girls. Christopher is a UK-based author, lecturer and non-fiction storyteller specialising in connecting knowledge using giant narratives and visual timelines. He is a graduate in history from Peterhouse, Cambridge and a former *Sunday Times* science correspondent.

Christopher's presentation was based on his book *Absolutely Everything!*, which the girls and staff enjoyed. He put on his graduation gown which had been "adapted": there were 15 pockets sewn on to the gown; each pocket had a number and an item in it. Some of the girls were asked to pick out the item. The first one was a glass bottle of tap water. With each item he told the girls a section of history of the Earth. All the items came from London, including a small roll of toilet paper! Sadly, he was unable to complete all 15 chapters in his hour-long presentation. I would like to encourage the girls to Google "Christopher Lloyd – author" to read more about his fascinating family and life. Some of his presentations are available on YouTube.

After thanking him for a fascinating presentation the girls performed their

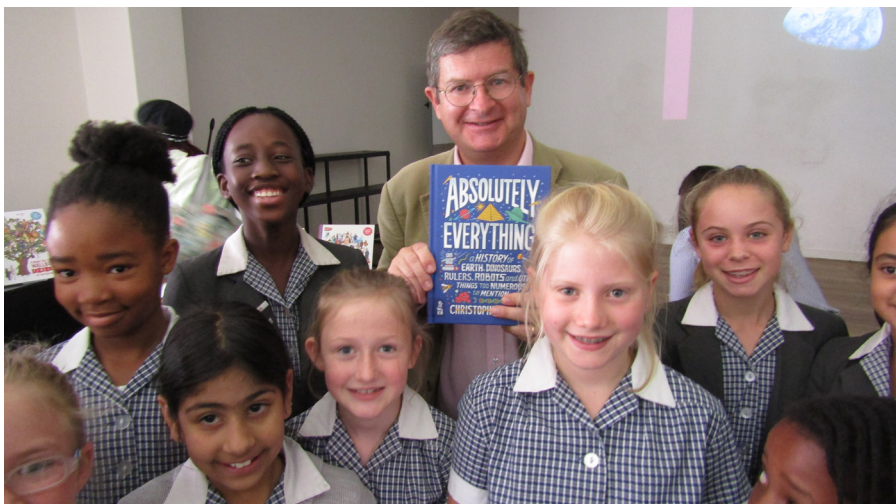
*Well Done* war cry of thanks. Christopher was totally blown away as he had never experienced this before. He asked the girls to repeat it so that he could record it for his family.

We were also very gracious hosts and did not mention the 2019 World Cup Rugby final!

I can understand why he is such a popular lecturer and in demand in schools and universities throughout the world. We are hoping that he will be visiting South Africa again in 2021 to launch his latest book.

I thank Jonathan Ball Publishers for giving us this opportunity to host Christopher Lloyd.

ROBYNNE DUNKLEY  
DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS: ADMINISTRATION  
AND JUNIOR SCHOOL LIBRARIAN





# SACEE ORIGINAL WRITING COMPETITION

On Saturday 16 November, girls from the Senior Primary who took part in the SACEE Original Writing Competition were invited to attend the annual awards ceremony. The girls were awarded certificates and prizes for their poetry and the adjudicators congratulated them on the high standard of their writing.

Chiara Bonorchis, Pascale Durand, Kayla Smith, Andi Kirchmann and Nia Nicolaou were awarded gold certificates. Bayley Lord, Clare Stewart-Selvan and Alice Thiel were awarded silver certificates.

The following girls were also awarded certificates for their poetry:

## Grade 4

Nobuhle Khumalo  
Owami Msomi  
Laila Fowler  
Emily Holmes  
Amy Dagut

## Grade 5

Charlotte Bowden  
Xena Zephyrine  
Clarissa Papperitz

## Grade 6

Lebone Ramokgopa  
Kayley Liebenberg  
Isabella Desfontaines  
Ilana Buck  
Charlotte Buss

## Grade 7

Giana Govender  
Heather Welchman

These are some of the winning poems:

## Grade 7

### A Portrait by Nia Nicolaou

A weary man dragging an overflowing recycle bin.

His back arched as he hauls it up a hill,

walking slowly but purposefully towards the recycle dump.

Exhausted from lugging the large bin along,

he stops to take a break wiping his glistening forehead. Gripping the bin, he continues along the road.

### Young Girl by Alice Thiel

An exhausted young girl  
Slumps in her sports kit,  
Her glasses slide  
down her nose  
Legs crossed beneath her,  
Takkies pressing against her skin,  
She searches  
For her lift home.

As she lowers her head,  
She pushes her fringe out her eyes.  
Sighing,  
She eyes her watch.

### Adrift by Clare Stewart-Selvan

The weary old man  
clutches his cigarette in gnarled knuckles.

In spasms his thumb jolts the lighter  
into flame.

Chapped lips press against his cigarette,  
he inhales.

Then dangles his withered arm  
out of the open window.

Smoke curls into the air  
drifting into the clouds.

He flicks his cigarette and drives off.

### A Portrait by Andi Kirchmann

A slight girl in floral  
pink top and pants,

small sprouts of hair bursting  
from her head,

crouching in the brown dirt  
focused intensely,

her finger weaving through  
the dust,

oblivious to the passing bus,  
continuing her activity.

An artist in the making.

## Grade 6

### The Bee Hive by Bayley Lord

Bees buzz and hover in their hive  
Returning heavy laden,  
Pollen – nuggets of gold,  
Dangly off of their tiny legs. Bees dance and  
waggle in their hive

Talking in their own unique way.  
Their dance is an ancient language  
Glowing in the light of the honeycomb.

Bees stay as busy as can be,  
Creating golden treasure,  
Sweet and sticky –  
Honey.

### Coral Reef by Kayla Smith

A coral reef is a canvas  
Covered in splodges of colour –  
Tangerine, mauve, scarlet.  
Sea anemone tentacles dab  
Like floating ribbons.  
Feel the rough rocks –  
Ancient sculptures  
Dispersed across the coral reef,  
Home to a paint palette  
Of wondrous sea creatures.  
Brush strokes of fish  
Streak by  
Eels hide in the shadows  
Created by sfumato,  
A coral reef is nature's masterpiece.

## Grade 5

### Assessment apprehension

### BOOM! by Chiara Bonorchis

Sorry about that,  
My classmates are  
Banging things about,  
On their desks.  
Chairs are screeching.

We are getting our assessments back!  
I just want to know  
What I got!

My friend is babbling,  
Boasting about how  
Great her mark might be ...  
Well, I don't care!  
I really want to know  
What I got!

The teacher is calling out names,  
For everyone to see what they got.  
Then ... "Chiara, please come here."  
I am going to see what I got!

Oh no! I think to myself.  
What if?  
What if it's bad?  
My mark I mean.  
What if?  
I am very nervous

# SACEE ORIGINAL WRITING COMPETITION CONTINUED

But,  
Then I see  
What I got...  
And I smile.

I remember ...  
The great noise of children around me  
The warmth of his hug  
The bliss of being with my dad.

I remember ...  
My dad's pride in me.  
Spur reminds me of the blissful times.  
I remember my dad.

## I Remember by Pascale Durand

I remember ...  
The crisp taste of sweet, fizzy cream soda  
The greasy smell of food  
The bliss of being with my dad.

I remember ...  
The pale pink ballet jersey  
My fingers clasping his soft face  
The bliss of being with my dad.

LINDA SMITH  
TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY

## FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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

### ABRSM

Joy Tao	Piano	Grade 5
Giana Govender	Flute	Grade 4
Heather Welchman	Piano	Grade 4
Xena Zephyrine	Flute	Grade 4
Tenjiwe Sithole	Piano	Grade 4
Kganya Kodisang	Violin	Grade 3
Heather Welchman	Alto Sax	Grade 3
Isabella Desfontaines	Clarinet	Grade 2
Katherine Deacon	Violin	Grade 2
Freya Pinnock	Clarinet	Grade 2
Kyla Grobbelaar	Clarinet	Grade 2
Victoria Tandy	Flute	Grade 2
Siphoesihle Makwe	Piano	Grade 2
Cara Corrigan	Clarinet	Grade 1
Obianaju Asuzu	Piano	Grade 1
Andisiwe Rodolo	Cello	Grade 1
Jennifer Pringle	Cello	Grade 1
Nadia Moosa	Piano	Grade 1
Emily Adelaar	Piano	Prep Test

### Trinity College London

Kayla Smith	Violin	Grade 3
Tumelo Masithela	Violin	Grade 3
Alice Thiel	Piano	Grade 3
Phenyo Khoele	Violin	Grade 1
Holly Cairns	Piano	Grade 1
Amy Ireland	Piano	Grade 1

Sasha Corrigan	Piano	Initial
Jessica Maher	Piano	Initial

### Trinity Rock & Pop

Lucy Viljoen	Drums	Grade 2
Pascale Durand	Vocals	Grade 1
Bontle Shuenyane	Vocals	Grade 1
Phenyo Khoele	Vocals	Grade 1
Katherine Quiding	Vocals	Grade 1

To become an all-round musician, students need a range of skills in performance, technique, notation, listening, musical perception, musical and contextual knowledge, understanding and creativity. To find out more about the various music examination boards that the Music department uses to further students' skills, please go to:

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM)  
<https://us.abrsm.org/en/our-exams/what-is-a-graded-music-exam/>

Trinity College London  
<https://www.trinitycollege.com/local-trinity/south-africa>

Trinity Rock and Pop  
<https://www.trinityrock.com/>

Rock School  
<https://www.rslawards.com/rockschool/>

DUDLEY TROLLOPE  
DIRECTOR: MUSIC

## PTA 100 CLUB WINNERS - TERM I 2020

Thato Tshotlhana	(100%)	Grade 000
Aanya Bagoon	(20%)	Grade 3
Georgia Alcock	(10%)	Grade 3



## COMMUNITY SERVICE



We had an amazing response to this charity drive and the gifts will bring joy to many children this Christmas season



A group of Grade 7 girls spent the afternoon of Tuesday 19 November at the Sandton SPCA. The girls worked hard - brushing the cats, feeding the dogs and playing with the kittens. A very big thank you to Wilna Lamb, educational consultant at the Sandton SPCA for always welcoming us and for all the amazing work she does to ensure the safety and security of the abandoned or hurt fur babies



Grade 6 senior citizens tea





# FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

## DIVING

The Junior School diving team competed in the annual inter-schools competition on 14 and 15 November hosted at Roedean School. Inter-schools is a prestigious competition which determines the winner of the diving league. The competition was split over two days: the Grade 6 and Grade 7 girls competed on Thursday and the Grade 4 and Grade 5 divers finished off the competition on the Friday.

The diving league rules require divers from Grade 4 to 6 to compete three dives and the Grade 7 girls are expected to compete a total of four dives. Girls diving in the B team are allowed to complete novice movements if necessary.

I commend the entire diving team on their outstanding performance this season. I also extend my congratulations to all the divers who competed at the final inter-schools event. Each and every one of them dived to the best of their abilities and they produced some excellent results.

The individual results were as follows:

A team divers:

Grade 4

3<sup>rd</sup> Jasmin Apps 79.00  
6<sup>th</sup> Emma-Jean Gilliard 74.74

Grade 5

1<sup>st</sup> Emma Campbell 103.50  
4<sup>th</sup> Nicola Faber 87.05

Grade 6

2<sup>nd</sup> Katherine Franck 102.95  
11<sup>th</sup> Lucy Viljoen 78.55

Grade 7

1<sup>st</sup> Zalika Methula 185.55  
4<sup>th</sup> McKenzie Coakley-Eager 116.70

B team divers:

Grade 4

1<sup>st</sup> Caitlyn Dube 84.45  
2<sup>nd</sup> Olivia Franck 81.65

Grade 5

1<sup>st</sup> Daniella van der Berg 90.80  
5<sup>th</sup> Luyanda Mshengu 73.05

Grade 6

8<sup>th</sup> Olivia Krige 67.20  
10<sup>th</sup> Kelly Hulett 51.90

The overall results are as follows:

A team results:

1<sup>st</sup> St. Mary's School  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brescia House School and St Stithians Prep  
4<sup>th</sup> Roedean School  
5<sup>th</sup> St Andrew's School for Girls  
6<sup>th</sup> Kingsmead College  
7<sup>th</sup> St Dominic's Catholic School

B team results:

1<sup>st</sup> St Andrew's School for Girls  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brescia House School  
3<sup>rd</sup> Roedean School  
4<sup>th</sup> St Mary's School  
5<sup>th</sup> St Stithians Prep  
6<sup>th</sup> Kingsmead College  
7<sup>th</sup> St Dominic's Catholic School

KATE SHEPHERD  
COACH: DIVING





# TENNIS

## Moms/dads and daughters tennis tournament

A very successful afternoon of social tennis was held with 32 couples participating in the event. A big thank you to the moms and dads who dusted the cobwebs off their rackets and played tennis with their daughters. The girls so enjoyed playing doubles or mixed doubles with their parents.

RENE PLANT  
COACH: TENNIS



# CHESS



Senior Primary inter-house chess challenge



We had a lovely turnout for the chess inter-house this Tuesday, with more than 100 girls signing up to participate! I would like to congratulate the Zebras on their victory as they were the house to beat. Well done, girls.

NADINE WHEELER  
CHESS



## Join the HOPE Committee:



Kick off December with the  
Mandela Remembrance Run/Walk

Calling all  
Runners,  
Joggers,  
Plodders  
and Walkers!

Sunday  
8th December  
5km walk/10km/21km  
Enter:  
[www.mandelawalkandrun.com](http://www.mandelawalkandrun.com)

Contact Sarah for info:  
[sarahe@csiafrica.co.za](mailto:sarahe@csiafrica.co.za)

### 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)

1 year  
4 seasons  
12 months  
52 weeks  
365 days  
8760 hours  
525,600 minutes  
31,536,000 seconds  
*Seasons of Love*

  
St Mary's School  
Waverley  
Founded 1888

A service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Monday 2 December 2019  
The Edge  
18h00

Entrance is free - unreserved seats