



Grade 6 girls at Konka camp

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

I won't lie to you, the last two weeks, however enjoyable, have not been easy. We have hosted and participated in several events, including, grandparents' day, choir festivals, an inter-school quiz, and an information morning for Grade 0 2024. As I write, the Grade 6s are away on camp (their first in three years), the Little Saints children are rehearsing daily in The Edge for their annual performance, Little Saints Sings, and the athletics team is preparing to participate in the Prestige event on the weekend. All this while temperatures continue to soar, allergies and assorted ailments do the rounds, and some of the girls fuss and fixate on what may or may not await them in 2023.

This time of year is, inarguably, exciting and demanding and, as the building project gathers momentum, thoughts of change and renewal are on all of our minds. The teachers and I spend time now planning for the new year as well as trying to bring this one, the old one, to a happy, wholesome close. It is second nature to our teachers to observe and document our children as they exert themselves inside and outside the classroom, learning, playing, negotiating and performing, and very little of what they do goes unremarked and unrecorded.

When our Senior Primary choir participated in the Ridge Choir Festival at the Linder Auditorium alongside four other school choirs (the Ridge orchestra accompanied the combined items)

earlier in the week, I found myself watching our girls closely - not, as they believe, for any sign of aberrant behaviour, but more to see how they responded to different demands and input in a relatively unfamiliar environment. Emerging from years of isolation is a clumsy business, and mass choir events are a good test of how we are adapting to situations involving co-operation and mutual consideration and endeavour.

While I was quietly and conscientiously scanning our choir and the others for signs of social progress and potential strain, my attention wandered onto the audience momentarily, and I noticed a row of our teachers sitting on the far left, near the front. What drew my eyes to them, I think, was the intensity of their engagement with what was happening on stage. Their connection to the performances, most pronounced when our girls were involved, was, to put it mildly, compelling.

Watching them, you would think there were invisible threads running between them and our girls: they moved with them, clapped with them, almost sang with them. They seemed - and this really is the only word I can use to describe what I saw - enraptured by their performance. Like proud parents, but with a scope that was so generous it included every child, their facial expressions and bodies responded to every action and utterance on stage.

I wish I had an image to show you what I saw; as usual, my words will have to stand in for pictures and try (and fail) to convey what was spellbinding about our school that night. Not the performance, not the girls only, but the undivided attention given to them by teachers who were willing them, wishing them, wanting them, to do their very best. If children's author,

Katherine Rundell is right about attention being the thing we most owe the world, our teachers live up to her standards and recognise "You are such a marvel that to do anything other than to live focused and alert is a denigration of that which we should be."

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

October is the start of the 2022/23 summer crop production season for South Africa. This week we had our first outdoor chapel service with the Junior Primary girls. The theme of the service was "Harvest". The reading was from Deuteronomy 24: 19-22.

The environmental club girls, together with Mrs Naicker, shared with us some of the small things we can do to contribute to creating a harvest for the world. They challenged us to keep our campus clean with the following slogans:

- Clean school, green school, my dream school
- Slam dunk the junk
- Stop littering, Love the earth
- Do you want a better world, pick up litter of course

The tradition of praying for a good harvest and having your tools blessed at the start of the planting seasons go back centuries. Rogation services are a time to pray for planting and for those who work with the land. In this service, we celebrate God's wonderful creation. We remind ourselves of how much we depend on the crops in the fields and farm animals for our food, as well as remembering so many other blessings. As the 2022/2023 summer crop season starts, we pray for all those involved in growing food.

*Almighty God  
It is your will that the earth and the sea  
Should bear fruit in due season:  
Bless the labours of those who work on land and sea  
Grant us a good harvest  
And the grace to always rejoice in your Fatherly care  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO  
CHAPLAIN



## CAMPUS SECURITY

The welfare of all children, staff and visitors on our St Mary's campus is a priority and informs our planning and decisions relating to safety and security arrangements.

The school makes use of a security company, 24/7, which is registered with the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA). Appropriately graded security officers provide 24-hour guarding. Guarding activities are monitored through a formal guard track software system. This guarding presence is augmented through the presence of a dedicated armed response vehicle, radio connectivity is available both on campus and to an offsite control room, and fixed and mobile panic buttons link to armed response, medical and fire services.

A comprehensive camera system is accessible from multiple device platforms. Proactive offsite CCTV monitoring and videoed alarm systems link through to the armed response control room.

Alarmed electric fences are positioned on the perimeter of our campus. Vehicle access onto the campus is monitored through access control scanners and software. Specific areas on the campus are fitted with biometric and coded access control.

A dedicated crisis management team is in place. This team is responsible for formulation, practice and review of emergency and response plans. Response plans include the use of emergency sirens and dedicated channels allowing for swift emergency communication.

The school maintains close links into the broader Waverley community through our support of CAP patrols, involvement in community WhatsApp groups, road closure and other security initiatives, and through the review of monthly crime statistic reports. Security breaches are thoroughly interrogated and external risk assessments and reviews are undertaken on a bi-annual basis.

ROGER YOUNG  
OPERATIONS MANAGER



## GRADE 0 NEWS

### Grandparents' day

After two years of postponement, we were delighted to welcome so many grandparents to the Grade 0 grandparents' day. The Grade 0 girls enjoyed spending time with their grandparents and showing off all the fun things that they get up to. The lovely spread went down a treat as well, and the Grade 7 girls served tea and coffee with charm and good manners. While enjoying their tea, the grandparents were entertained by the Singing Angels, drumming circle and the Junior Primary ensemble.

This is a truly heartwarming event.

AGOTHA CLARKE  
ACTING HoD: JUNIOR PRIMARY





## GRADE 0 NEWS CONTINUED

### Learning to count in two's

The Grade 0s had some fun outside, learning to count in twos using their shoes.

JACKY CACIOPPO  
GRADE 0 TEACHER



## GRADE 2 NEWS

*Hola amigos!* The Grade 2s are celebrating Mexico! Our Reggio theme of festivals and celebrations has left sunny South Africa and arrived on the continent of North America.

Mexico is one of the most bio-diverse countries on earth and the Grade 2s have been learning about the fiestas, food, dress,

music, and traditions. They were entertained by a video on a mariachi band and were amazed to learn that the wood from the mariachi tree is used to make the guitars. Whilst about musical instruments, the girls were also interested in the maracas, which led us to making a craft and creating music in a group. Time to explore more of Mexico. *Adios amigos.*

THE GRADE 2 TEAM





## GRADE 3 NEWS

We are learning about different units of measurement. We used fun, practical ways to measure various objects in and around the classroom. The girls measured items with handspans, arm and foot spans. We then learnt to use millimetres, centimetres and kilometres and used thinking strategies to solve problems related to everyday life situations.

THE GRADE 3 TEACHERS



## GRADE 5 NEWS

### Cloud games

The Grade 5s designed card games where the characteristics of the ten cloud types were the theme. The competition was tight! They also had to work in groups to produce a cloud movement routine. Here is the link for one of the routines: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yFa0L\\_9YSalshjvGKz-leqFL\\_3T-WEpg/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yFa0L_9YSalshjvGKz-leqFL_3T-WEpg/view?usp=sharing)

ANGIE JENNETT  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

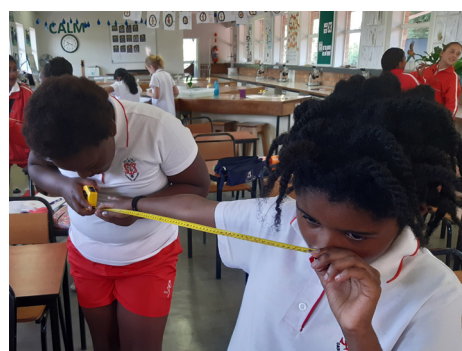




## GRADE 5 NEWS CONTINUED

### Measurement

The Grade 5s having some fun with measurement, with a focus on being accurate!



ANGIE JENNETT  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

## INTERSCHOOL TRIVIA QUIZ

On Monday 10 October, we hosted our first interschool trivia quiz, and the final quiz of the interschool league. Mevrouw Grobbelaar was our effervescent quiz master and guided 14 teams (from seven schools) through seven gruelling, challenging, and contentious rounds. Well done to St Mary's Team One for coming first!

I'll leave you with a question to ponder over....  
Which planet is the densest?  
(and I don't mean their IQ!)

ROSA ELK  
LIBRARIAN

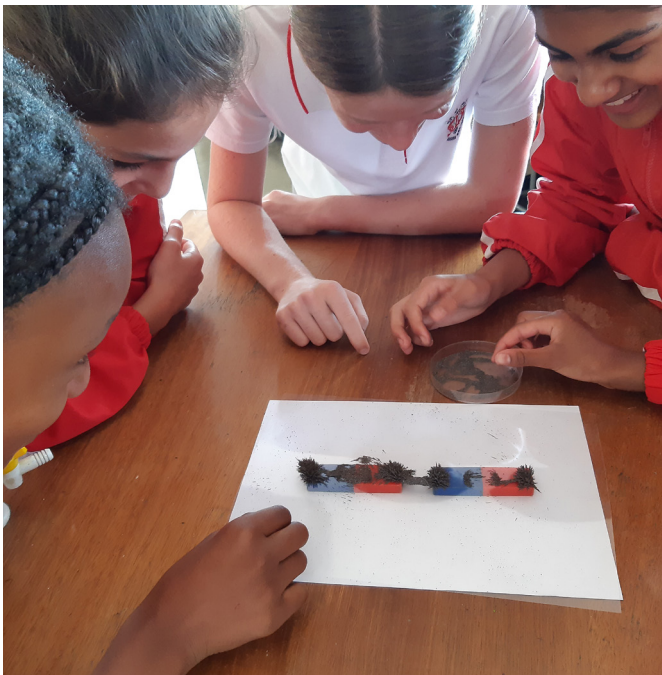
We bid farewell to our Grade 7 quizzers, look forward to what the Grade 6s have to offer next year and are excited for our future Grade 5 members!



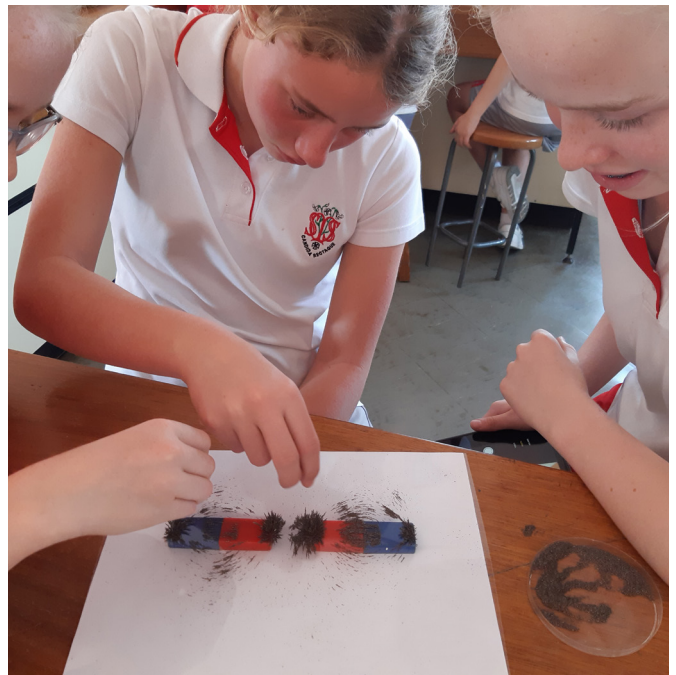


## GRADE 6 NEWS

Magnets and magnetism in the Science laboratory



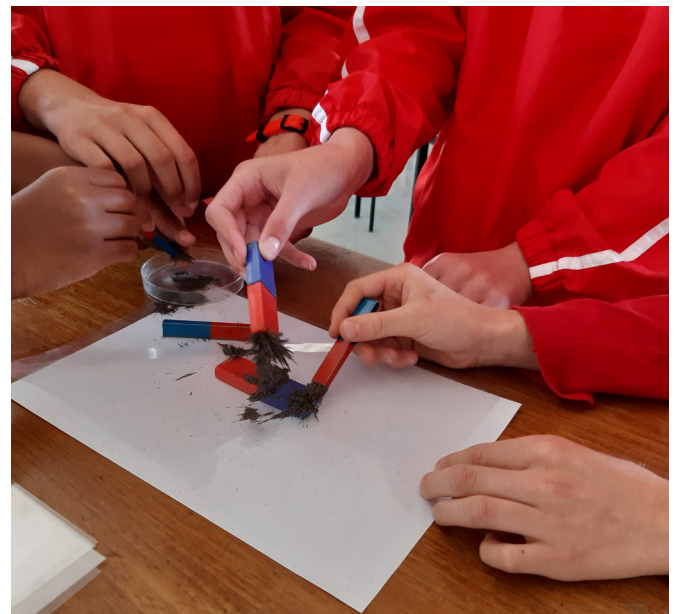
Opposite poles attract



Like poles repel



Filming a demonstration to explain magnetic fields



Investigating magnetism



Magnetism group work



## GRADE 6 NEWS CONTINUED



Every week, the Grade 6s sort lost property. They return labelled items to the girls and send unlabelled items to the Clothes Cupboard. Please help them by making sure that all school attire and stationery is clearly marked.

## GRADE 7 NEWS

*"Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon 'em..."*

*Twelfth Night, Act II Scene 5*

The Grade 7s certainly had greatness thrust upon them as they bravely performed sections from *Twelfth Night* for the inaugural St Mary's Art's Festival. The girls have been reading the play in their English lessons with Dr Warner and they have shown that they are capable of bringing the text to life on multiple occasions. As they compare and contrast film and theatre renditions of the play, their understanding of the characters and themes explored have deepened. Dare we say it, but the girls have learnt to play the fool in the process and learnt to appreciate some of Shakespeare's skill and wit?

THE GRADE 7 ENGLISH TEACHERS





## GRADE 7 NEWS CONTINUED

### Can virtual reality enhance learning in the History classroom?

The Grade 7s have been learning about the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the experiences of enslaved people on their journey from West Africa, through the Middle Passage to the Americas.

VR Classroom, presents an opportunity for the girls to be immersed in historical content and to visualise certain events more clearly. The possibility exists that well-chosen VR experiences could enhance the teaching of History, as well as other subjects. The Grade 7s will have several lessons in the next few weeks where they will give feedback on an Introduction to Colonial America and Life aboard a Cargo Ship. We look forward to the girls' insights and as we explore how best to integrate this technology into their learning.

LAUREN HOWDEN AND DANIEL JANSEN VAN VUUREN





## NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### Choir festivals

The Singing Angels were invited to perform at *Let the Children Sing* at the Linder Auditorium on Tuesday 27 September. Being one of five schools, the excitement was tangible. The evening started with a combined rehearsal with all the choirs and a small live orchestra. The well-known conductor, Richard Cock, combined the talents of over 300 singers to create a magical sound. The Singing Angels shone as they performed their own items, *Candle of Hope* and *Children of the Light*.

The Senior Primary choir was invited to perform at The Ridge Choir Festival held at the Linder Auditorium on Monday 10 October. Our girls sang beautifully and can be very proud of their magnificent performance. We sang combined items such as *Better Together*, *What Tomorrow brings* as well as *Singabahambayo thina* with St Peter's Girls Preparatory, St Stithians Preparatory, St Andrew's Junior School as well as St Theresa's. As St Mary's, we performed *Lift up your Voice* and now a choir favourite, *Skierielek*. Well done, girls! You held the St Mary's name high. We ended the evening with all choirs and audience members singing the national anthem in full voice.

### The St Mary's Arts Festival

The St Mary's Arts Festival proved to be a magnificent event all round. The day started early with our marimba bands entertaining our Old Girls in a spirited fashion before their chapel service.

As St Mary's held our first arts festival, the Junior Primary was represented by the Singing Angels, Junior Primary string ensemble and the drumming circle. On a hot spring day, at the beginning of October, the girls performed on the stairs outside The Edge to a large, lively and enthusiastic audience. It was a lovely opportunity to showcase our Junior Primary girls' hard work and musical talents.

The Senior Primary choir teamed up with the Singing Angels to perform a fabulous rendition of the isiZulu favourite, *Singabahambayo thina*. Thereafter, the chamber choir delighted our community with their lively performance of *Rolling in the Deep*. Our Junior School orchestra ended our set with *African Marketplace*, composed by South African artist, Abdullah Ibrahim and the much loved classic, *Over the Rainbow*. The orchestra ended the Junior School set with *Man in the Mirror*, originally sung by Michael Jackson. The orchestra looked very cool with their sunglasses on!

The St Mary's Got Talent show proved a massive success with performers and audience members alike. It was wonderful to see so much (and some hidden) talent being brave and to perform so beautifully. Well done to all our performers!

The results were as follows:

#### Dance category:

First place:	Tayla Benade
Second place:	Noluthando Mshengu
Third place:	Deepal Bhoola and Emma Home

#### Music category:

Best Grade 4 solo:	Rawan Shabne
Best Grade 5 solo:	Thikho Marageni
Best Grade 7 solo:	Uphiwe-Lukhanyo Dlwati
Best Own composition:	Emily Adelaar
Best ensemble:	The Golden Rings

Congratulations to all.

GEORGE POTGIETER, SELMARI QUINN, LOUISE FRAHM-ARP  
THE JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT



The Ridge Choir Festival



## NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONTINUED



Junior Primary drumming circle



Junior Primary string ensemble



Junior School orchestra



Singing Angels



Junior School orchestra



Marimba band



## RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

The following gymnasts qualified for Central Gauteng teams in August:

Laurel Kelly and Mothibi Mokhatla - Level 5

Caelen Buchanan, Emma Home and Kgalalelo Pitje - Level 6.

These gymnasts competed in the Gauteng competition and Laurel, Emma and Kgalalelo went on to compete in the South African Gym games in October.

Congratulations to Laurel Kelly who won a bronze medal for the free dance U11 competing against 47 other gymnasts from different parts of South Africa.

LINDA GIURICICH  
HEAD OF RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS



Caelen Buchanan



Laurel Kelly



Mothibi Mokhatla



Kgalalelo Pitje



Emma Home



## WATER POLO

### U13 St Mary's Water Polo Championship 2022

The junior water polo players had a fantastic weekend of water polo at the U13 St Mary's Water Polo Championship. The team won two matches, drew one and lost two of their round robin stages. They placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall with their last match being an exciting goal for goal match where they drew to the Jozi Thunder club team.

Captains, Jayden de Bruin and Reabiloe Kodisang, donated the first ever trophy for the championship "The De Bruin-Kodisang Trophy" which was awarded to St Dominic's who won the event.

Next up for the team will be the Junior St Stithians Invitational Tournament to take place from 28 to 30 October.

**KELSEY THOMSON**  
HEAD OF WATER POLO



Jayden de Bruin, Reabiloe Kodisang, Kelsey Thomson with the De Bruin-Kodisang trophy



Jayden de Bruin U13 team



Oagile Tema U13 team



Reabiloe Kodisang



Scarlett Bruwer

## TENNIS

### Junior tennis league

The tennis league matches have been going extremely well. St Mary's AB beat both St Andrew's and St Peter's AB and St Mary's CD beat both St Andrew's and St Peter's CD. The results were as follows:

#### 29 September

St Mary's AB bt St Andrew's AB 71- 41

St Mary's CD bt St Andrew's CD 82-16

#### 06 October

St Mary's AB bt St Peter's AB 64-54

St Mary's CD bt St Peter's CD 64-47

Our Grade 4s played their first match against St Peter's Grade 4s and lost 13-9 in a very close match.

Well done to all our players who have been working hard on the court this term.

**KAREN CORBETT**  
TENNIS COACH



Madison Dunnett, Megan Arnold, Tayla Benade, Sophie Forbes, Grace Nienaber, Sienna Silcock



## GOLF DAY

Congratulations to the winning four-ball: Bruce Main, Mitchell Morrison, Laverne Kersten, Malcom Harris. Thank you to everyone who supported and contributed to making the St Mary's golf day a success. A special thank you to our parents Vicky Harris, Karien Alberts and Kate Rodrigues for all their help in organising the golf day.



### St Mary's Golf Day 2022

A BIG thank you to our sponsors:



ASSET  
MANAGEMENT

Reciprocal  
wine company



GINOLOGIST

bizcash

OLIVES & PLATES

L'ORÉAL

TORTELLINO D'ORO



## NOTICES

### APPEAL TO PARENTS

#### Arrival and collection times in the Junior School

At the termly class reps meeting, we raised the importance of punctuality for the girls in relation to arrival and collection times. Children thrive when they follow a predictable routine, and the teachers use the time in the morning before lessons to give their pupils the emotional support and practical guidance they need to enjoy a productive day on campus.

In addition to appealing to you all to ensure that your children are at school on time, we also ask that you fetch your children

when their day on campus is done. We take your children's safety on campus seriously; if they are not occupied in prep or the co-curricular programme, please enrol them at aftercare. Otherwise, your child needs to be fetched promptly from school. The school receptionist, teachers and teacher assistants are not available to supervise your children.

Thank you for your co-operation.



## MUSE MORNING - TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER

---

Please join the Open Door for a morning of conversation with Coralie Trotter

This muse morning will explore various themes in an attempt to understand how best to motivate children and adolescents to achieve their potential.

Topic: True self-esteem

Date: 18 October 2022

Time: 07h30-08h30

Venue: Seminar room

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

True self-esteem (as opposed to pseudo self-esteem) arises from a core, underlying image of oneself as worthy and deserving of respect based on one's ordinariness, uniqueness, potential and humanity.

Holding babies in high regard is their birth-right. Perfection is NEVER EVER the goal - self-esteem is based on acceptance of a whole, real person with all the different, contradictory parts, some

of which work and some of which don't.

For a parent it demands loving, respecting and valuing a real child not a dream child. Perfectionists strive for high standards and goals, but regardless of the outcome, nothing is ever good enough and so the unrealistic expectations become tyrannical and persecutory

Coralie Trotter

Coralie Trotter has a BA (Dramatic Art), BA Honours (Applied Psychology) and an MA (Clinical Psychology). She is also a psychoanalyst with SAPA (IPA) and practises psychoanalysis fulltime in Johannesburg. She has extensive clinical experience in various settings focusing on crisis and trauma interventions particularly for the Detainees Counseling Service and the Trauma Clinic of the Centre for Violence and Reconciliation. She was a facilitator for racial conflict resolution groups leading up to the dissolution of apartheid. The supervision and teaching of other mental health professionals constitutes an important part of her work and she has facilitated several reading groups (GRASP) for the last 20 years. Coralie was the recipient of the IPA Community Award for the Law and Psychoanalysis in 2019.

## ED-ADMIN PARENT PORTAL

---

St Mary's uses a school management information system called Ed-Admin to distribute termly school reports and to provide parents with an opportunity to inspect and amend personal information recorded in our database.

Below, please find details as to how to access this Ed-Admin St Mary's portal:

- You will require a Parent ID whenever signing into the parent portal. If you are unsure of your Parent ID, please email [portal@stmary.co.za](mailto:portal@stmary.co.za) with both your and your daughter's names and surnames for assistance.
- To access the St Mary's portal, please click on the link below or visit the school website on [www.stmarysschool.co.za](http://www.stmarysschool.co.za) and click on the portal login on the top right of the page. <https://stmarysw.ed-space.net/pparentportal.cfm>
- Enter in your Parent ID and choose forgot password. Please ensure that you enter the email address that St Mary's has on record and enter in the CAPTCHA code.
- You will then receive an email. Once received, click on the link in order to set up your password. Choose a secure password; you will then receive another email to confirm your password has been changed. You can now proceed to log into the portal.

If you experience problems logging into the secure portal, please contact [portal@stmary.co.za](mailto:portal@stmary.co.za).