

Mr Javu was quite shy; he preferred us to take photographs of the garden rather than of him.

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Last week, the St Mary's community grieved the sudden passing of Mr Masibonisane Javu, a member of our support staff. Mr Javu was a familiar face and figure in the Junior School: he spent many hours working in our section of the campus, his tall form bent over the well-maintained environmental garden in the courtyard outside the Art room. In a recent edition of this newsletter (29 September) the Junior School diversity committee paid tribute to Mr Javu's "diverse talents and passions" making special mention of his "green fingers", his unerring ability "to coax life from the soil" and grow everything "from sunflowers to prize-winning radishes".

On our return to school from half-term last Tuesday morning the Senior Primary girls, teachers and other staff members from the Junior School attended an impromptu prayer service for Mr Javu led by Revd Rakgadi. The girls observed a minute of silence, and we asked them to remember Mr Javu, his mother, Mom Kate (who looks after Mackenzie boarding house) and his family, in their prayers.

I spoke briefly about what the loss of Mr Javu meant to our community and Mr Jansen van Vuuren and Mrs Smith read from The Bible. Mr Potgieter accompanied our singing on the piano. The mood in the hall was sombre but the feeling was one of collective grief and togetherness. Later that evening, I was glad to receive a mail from one of our parents confirming my impression of the gathering and its significance for the girls.

This is such sad news. I had not caught up with emails and therefore heard the news from the girls during dinner. Mr Javu (and his mom) were in [my daughter's] prayers as she prayed for our meal this evening. It was so moving but so good to see that the kids see themselves as part of a community.

St Mary's hosted a memorial service for Mr Javu in our chapel last Friday, which was attended by his colleagues across the whole school, a small group of our matric leaders for next year and some members of his family. The eulogies spoke of a man who was a willing team player and a hard worker who took his responsibilities as a son and a father seriously.

Mr Javu was described by his colleagues and family as a sociable young man with a wry but generous outlook on life - everyone mentioned his extraordinary height. Along with other members of the community, I heard for the first time that his nickname was

“giraffe”, and Ms King remarked on the aptness of the epithet in her tribute as we all pictured Mr Javu’s graceful, diffident presence on campus. She also spoke, poignantly, about the human tendency to carry on seeing someone long after they are gone. I encounter Mr Javu still in the staff parking and the Junior School gardens. I find myself pausing at the vegetable garden to discuss the progress of the seedlings and his plans for next season’s crop while we commiserate about the unexpected cold weather and his troublesome shoulder.

In words chosen by Revd Rakgadi and read at Mr Javu’s memorial service: [...] *we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* (2 Corinthians 4: 16-18)

We do not lose heart.

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

This week we experienced the joy of celebrating with girls in the Senior Primary, who were admitted to Holy Communion. This is an important step for young children to take in their faith journey, when they begin to think through and wrestle with their faith for themselves.

We say congratulations to:

Letlotlo Mogopodi

Lesedi Madonsela

Mothibi Mokhatla

Thank you to the parents and other family members who joined the celebration.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



FROM THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Meet the three incredible staff members who look after and keep Little Saints working.

Nathaniel Mokoka is originally from Pretoria but now lives in Alexandra with his six-year-old daughter, Michaela. He has worked at St Mary’s since 2010. In addition to helping at Little Saints, he looks after the rose garden at our entrance as well as tending the gardens near the two AstroTurfs. Nathaniel claims that he enjoys working at St Mary’s because “the people are amazing; they all love each other and the children respect me”.

Zandile Ngobese comes from Nquthu in Kwazulu-Natal but she stays in Katlehong with her 15-year-old son Mvelo while her daughter, Ayanda, who is 12, lives with her great grandmother in Kwazulu-Natal. Zandile has worked at St Mary’s since 2017 and “she loves the school” and observes that “the people here are wonderful”.

Enock Baloi, known as “Uncle Enock” keeps the gardens at Little Saints looking beautiful. Enock comes from Mozambique but has been in South Africa since 1986. Enock’s wife and six children, Niliza (24), Fernando (22), Ronaldo (19), Pedro (16), Valencia (6) and Revaldo (3) still live in Mozambique. Enock reflects that he is

“really good with our gardens. I know the gardens and I am proud of the gardens and I know how to manage them”.

CERI GUNNING
JUNIOR SCHOOL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBER



Nathaniel Mokoka, Zandile Ngobese, Enock Baloi

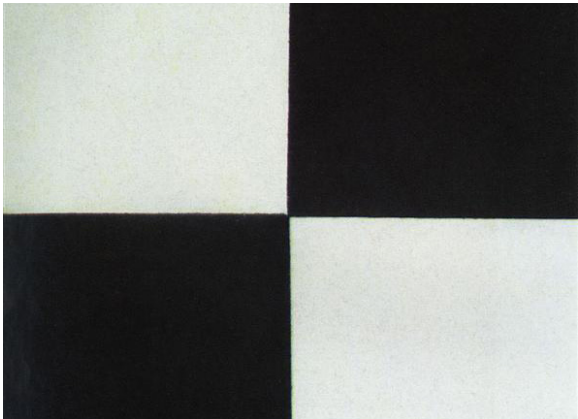
LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

Since half-term, the Grades 000 and 00 children at Little Saints have been looking at the use of black and white in artworks. The children can tell you with confidence that black and white are not colours, but shades, and when white is added to another colour it is called a tint. Drawing inspiration from artworks such as *Four Square* (1915) by Kazimir Malevich and *Thirty* (1937) by Wassily Kandinsky, the children have been creating eye-catching works dominated by black and white squares. Kandinsky's paintings were often inspired by music and for the completion of their works this week, the children listened to different songs and made marks in paint in each block according to how the song made them feel and move.

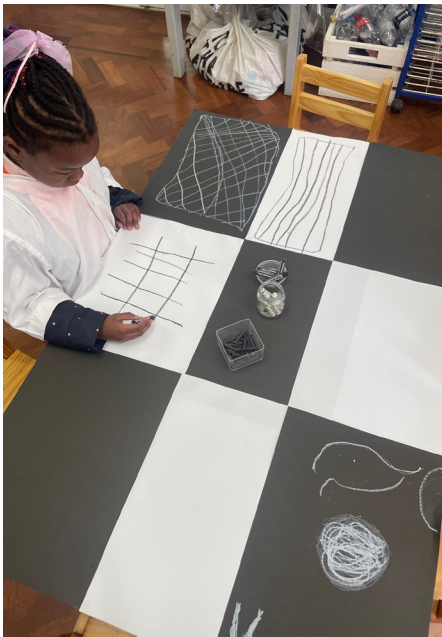
ADELE OLDFIELD-SAMMONS
ATELIERISTA



Thirty (1937) by Wassily Kandinsky



Four Square (1915) by Kazimir Malevich

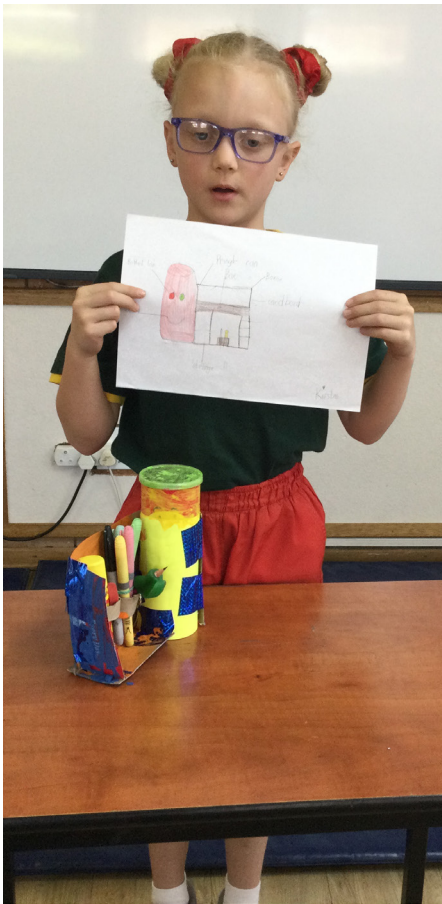


GRADE 2 NEWS

Transformations

The Grade 2s used recyclable materials to create something useful. They participated in the planning, design process, execution and evaluation of the final product. They drew inspiration from different resources. They also assessed whether or not the product matched the original design and adjustments made. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the technology project.

THE GRADE 2 TEAM



GRADE 3 NEWS

Exploring capacity

The Grade 3s have been experimenting with different units of measurement. This week, we have delved into capacity, using different measuring tools such as spoons, jugs and syringes.

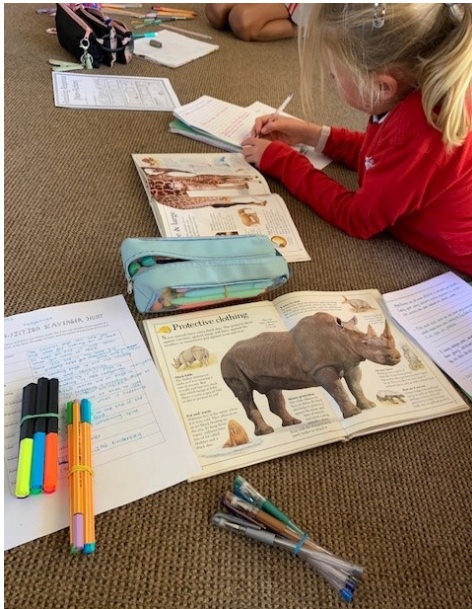
THE GRADE 3 TEAM



GRADE 5 NEWS

In Library Sciences, the Grade 5s have been learning about the textual components and conventions used in non-fiction books and their purposes. They have enjoyed exploring some of the wonderful non-fiction books in our library, intermittently reading each other facts while they search for the glossary, table of contents or index.

ROSA ELK
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER AND LIBRARIAN



QUIZ CLUB

We hosted the last inter-school quiz of the year just before half-term. Both our girls and the pupils from other schools really enjoyed our sense round which was co-ordinated by our wonderful Natural Sciences teacher, Ms Scully. The participants had to decipher Braille, identify specific scents and clear liquids and correctly name objects in a touch box.

Well done to our St Mary's team 1 who tied for third place with The Ridge.

A huge thank you to Ms Panyane who hosted the quiz, and to all my fellow Senior Primary colleagues who suggested questions or were markers on the day. And a special thank you to the quiz captains of 2023 - Oluwashola Adebule, Tshireletso Mmusi and Mothibi Mokhatla - who have guided our quiz team with confidence, passion and commitment over the entire year.

ROSA ELK
TEACHER IN CHARGE



COMMUNITY SERVICE

During the April holidays, we launched our inaugural sponsored Readathon for community partnerships and house points. In total we raised R49 842, which through the generosity of teachers, we rounded up to R50 000. We donated almost R33 000 of this to The Link, an NPO that develops literacy and numeracy skills for second language English students. The Link has centres at three schools in our vicinity, at H.A. Jack, Norwood Primary School and Orange Grove Primary School. We hope that this donation will help them continue their mission - to build "a solid foundation for future learning."

For now, the remaining R17 000 is in our reserve and we hope to use it to assist our own community partnerships.

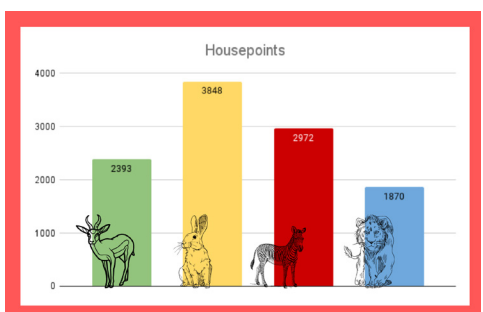
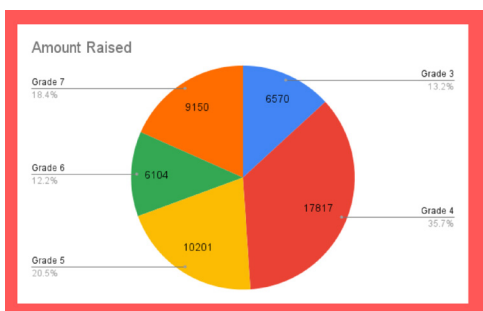
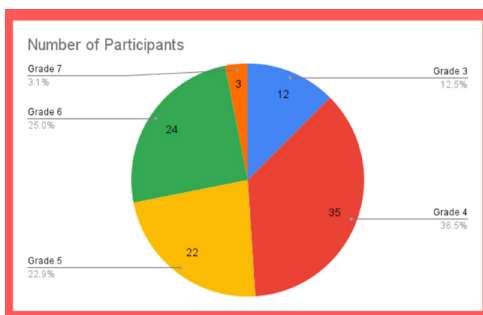
I would personally like to thank all of you - parents, guardians, grandparents, extended family, friends and even colleagues - for

sponsoring this initiative and supporting us in building a culture of reading, and a love of reading in our school and our broader community.

I look forward to your continued support of this initiative, not only as a fundraiser but also as an opportunity to keep our girls reading. Whether to fund community partnerships, or to win house points, every page counts!

Frederick Douglass, renowned abolitionist and social reformer, wrote that "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." Let us exalt in that privilege, that freedom and extend it to those around us.

ROSA ELK
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER AND LIBRARIAN



6th November 2023

Dear St Mary's Junior School

On behalf of The Link Literacy and Numeracy Project, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of R32 937.00 to the Link Trust.

As a Public Benefit Organisation, we rely solely on donations from companies, individuals and associations like yourselves to continue doing our work to help underprivileged children learn to read and develop their basic numeracy concepts. The focus of our programme is to try to ensure that the children have a solid foundation for their future learning.

It has been stated by the Department of Education that learning losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt in the Education sector until 2030. With this in mind, we realise that we will be needed more than ever.

We like to encourage our donors to visit one of our centres to witness our learners and volunteers interacting in practice. Please contact me if you would like to visit a Link Centre.

Thank you for believing in us and supporting us again.

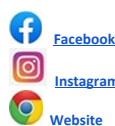
Kind regards

Maggie Fussell

Maggie Fussell
COORDINATOR
coordinator@thelinkliteracyproject.co.za
082 602 7828



THE LINK
Linking Community with
Literacy & Numeracy



DIVING

On 4 November, the St Mary’s diving team competed in their final weekly friendly competition against St Andrew’s. It was the last chance for our divers to practise their dives before participating in the prestigious inter-schools diving competition. Inter-schools will be happening tomorrow, 11 November, at St Dominic’s and the divers will be putting on a performance of their best dives from this season.

The results against St Andrew’s were as follows:

- Grade 4A
 - 2nd Shelley Gordon-Bennett
 - 3rd Amelie Stout
 - 4th Keira Gordon-Bennett
 - 7th Maya Bagoon

- Grade 4B
 - 1st Madison Coetzer

- Grade 5A
 - 1st Pakane Kekana
 - 2nd Jasmine Woodburn
 - 4th Alexia Watson

- Grade 6A
 - 1st Isabella Crawford

- 2nd Olivia Coetzer
- 3rd Juliette Van Barkenhuizen
- 5th Isabel Harris
- 8th Maryam Kaka

- Grade 7A
 - 1st Mia Diana

Congratulations to all the divers. We wish them the best of luck for their inter-schools competition tomorrow.



KATE SHEPHERD
DIVING COACH

SOCCER

On Saturday 4 November, our soccer teams played their first fixture of the season. The teams had only one week of practice, but they were all keen and excited to play. St Mary’s and St Andrew’s hosted a triangular with Holy Rosary and the results were as follows:

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL

	Holy Rosary	St Andrew’s
Grade 4A	Won 1-0	Lost 0-3
Grade 5A	Drew 1-1	Won 1-0
Grade 5B	Lost 0-1	Won 4-0
Grade 5C	-	Won 1-0
Grade 6A	Won 1-0	Won 2-0
Grade 6B	-	Won 3-0
Grade 7A	Lost 0-1	-
Grade 7B	Drew 1-1	-



WATER POLO

Well done to the following Grade 6 and 7 girls who have been selected to represent Gauteng at the SWPSA IPT tournament in Gqeberha from 9 to 13 December 2023.

U13 A team
Scarlett Bruwer
Megan Crossley
Oagile Tema

U13 B team
Cayla Midlane

Squad Reserve
Alison Frolich

U12 A
Cassiah-Jade Cabral
Isabella West

Squad Reserves
Sofia Ferreira
Kayla Sears

ANKE PIRIE
WATER POLO COACH



Sofia Ferreira



Alison Frolich



Cassiah-Jade Cabral



Cayla Midlane



Isabella West



Kayla Sears



Megan Crossley



Oagile Tema



Scarlett Bruwer

TENNIS

Well done to the Grade 3 and 4 players who participated in a friendly fixture against each other on Thursday 2 November. It was great match practice for our Grade 3 players who competed in the Grades 1 to 3 tennis festival at St Benedict’s on Saturday 4 November.

Owing to the extremely hot weather on Wednesday 25 October, our social girls had a quick swim and and were then revitalised to continue with their lesson.

Our players have been very busy competing in our school championships which are nearing an end.

Congratulations to all the players on their enthusiasm and hard work this term; you can all be proud of yourselves.

KAREN CORBETT
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



Grades 3 to 5 team photo



Social girls having a quick swim



A fun social afternoon of tennis was held at St Benedict’s this past weekend. The Grades 1, 2 and 3 players had a lot of fun on and off the court!



ROWING

This past weekend, the Grade 7 rowers joined the Senior School girls at the Gauteng Junior Rowing Championships, where St Mary’s won the overall points trophy! These girls raced brilliantly and claimed second overall in points for U14s.

Boat Class	Position in field
Scull (1 person boat)	7 th and 8 th
Double (2 person boat)	7 th and 8 th
Quad (5 person boat)	4 th , 6 th and 7 th
Octuple (9 person boat)	1 st and 4 th



U14 team

Our competition part of this half season has come to a close, however, we will continue to run sessions in the afternoons to allow girls to de-stress and fall more in love with the movement.

For more details on our rowing camp, visit the St Mary’s App - Senior School Sports - Rowing - January camp. If you would like to try a new sport before joining the Senior School, this is a fantastic opportunity to get to know some older girls and pave the way for an easier entry into the new year!

CAITLIN DACE
HEAD OF ROWING



Rowing club

“How often have I watched, and longed to imitate when I should be free to live as I chose, a rower who had slipped his oars and lay flat on his back in the bottom of the boat, letting it drift with the current, seeing nothing but the sky gliding slowly by above him, his face aglow with a foretaste of happiness and peace!” Marcel Proust

KHANYISA BUILDING PROGRESS

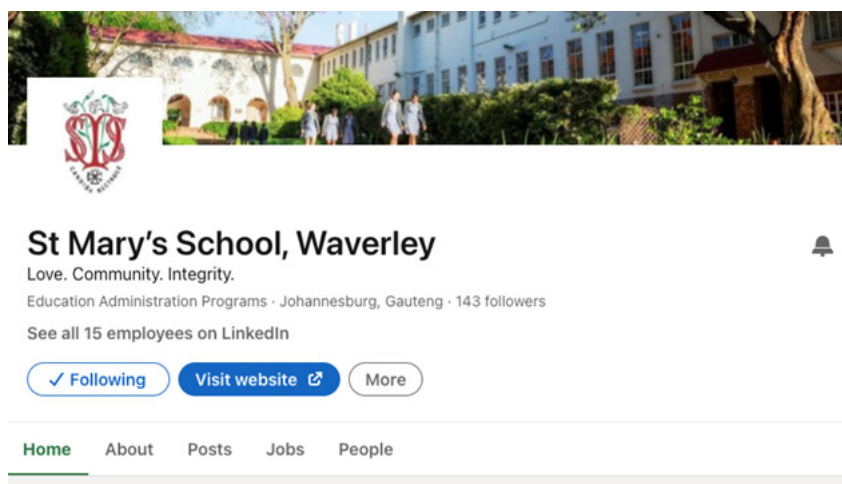
We are excited to announce to the St Mary’s community the new building’s name; *Khanyisa (to bring light)*. Both the Senior and Junior School girls played a pivotal role in the naming of this building. The four quadrants have been named after our values in isiZulu and Sesotho; *Thando* (Love), *Ulwazi* (Wisdom), *Bongiwe* (Oneness), *Kutlwano* (Understanding).

KATHY MITTENDORF
HEAD OF MARKETING



NOTICES

ST MARY'S LINKEDIN HANDLE



Account name: St Mary's School, Waverley

The modern generation requires modern innovations. We are pleased to announce that St Mary's recently added to our digital presence. LinkedIn is a platform used by employers and employees, but it extends beyond the world of employment. LinkedIn allows for better connection between members within an organisation. St Mary's has created a LinkedIn profile in order to help notify Old Girls, parents, and prospective students of upcoming events and current achievements. We hope to help present students find job shadowing opportunities, and to help past students with job placements through this digital community. Our profile will allow students from every decade to keep in contact, along with validating the claimed qualities seen on student profiles. The benefits of this platform can be reaped by all members of the St Mary's community.

Connect to our LinkedIn page, and help us to paint the metaverse red.

LUCA BOTES

Form V (and champion of the St Mary's LinkedIn account)

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 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 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 that 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.