



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

11 NOVEMBER 2022



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Junior School weekly assemblies

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

At this time of year, a team of Junior School teachers meets to discuss, design and review the timetable. These meetings are animated and strenuous, and every aspect of the girls' schedules is carefully evaluated, turned round, and looked at from different angles to make sure we are making the most of our time, teachers and facilities every day on campus. Unsurprisingly, the value of some timetable slots is undisputed and their place in the timetable is unassailable: one of these is chapel; another is assemblies.

In our weekly assemblies in the Junior School (Thursdays for Junior Primary, Fridays for Senior Primary) teachers and girls gather to sing, reflect, celebrate, disseminate news and notices, and to pray. I share assembly duties with my two deputies, Di Gordon and Lauren Howden, as well as the heads of the two phases, Agotha Clarke and Kerry Gibbons.

Throughout the year in the Junior Primary, different grades host theme-based assemblies - Ms Rogers' Grade 2 class recently presented a delightful programme of humorous choral verse on school-related topics - and in the Senior Primary, the Grade 7s read out notices relating to the co-curricular programme, congratulate their teams, and co-ordinate inter-house activities and events.

In addition to the piece playing concerts held over the year for

musicians in both the Junior and Senior phases, the girls are also given opportunities to perform in assembly and the teachers take time to present awards and certificates to the girls or to commend them on their achievements, both in and outside the school curriculum. In next week's assembly, for example, we will congratulate our Grade 7 U14 rowers on an impressive debut performance at Gauteng Champs and we will award Kimaya Shah-Naidoo (Grade 7) her gold certificate for being named runner-up in the 2022 South African Nestlé Nespray South African Maths Challenge.

Oh, and before I forget, one of our newest assembly traditions involves Ms Elk handing out birthday books to the girls who have donated a volume or two to our library. This practice gives the girls the opportunity to see their names inscribed in their book (or books) and to read them before they are put out on the shelves for all the other borrowers to enjoy.

The content of our assemblies is often suggested by discussions and developments on campus and beyond, and we try to achieve a good balance of instruction and entertainment, all the time subtly (or not so subtly) reminding the girls of our core values, broadening their understanding of our community, and encouraging, motivating, inspiring, cajoling and coaxing them to make the most of their opportunities, to keep trying, and to support and recognise each other - all of this with good

will, courage, and a sense of humour! We invite the girls to participate in our discussions and the intensity and volume of the discussion fluctuates according to the girls' level of interest and engagement.

To give you an idea of the range of topics addressed with your girls, the Junior Primary class assemblies have included themes touching on generosity and friendship, children of the world, the power of smiling, the A-Z of our heritage, and myths and legends. In the Senior Primary, the teachers have presented on everything from local heritage sites, fashion designers and other young trailblazers, to book-banning, Human Rights Day, Desmond Tutu, influential women musicians, incivility and the importance of R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

In a recent assembly, in response to the good news that one of our Grade 7 girls, Laila Fowler, made the under 13A girls cricket team for Gauteng, I spoke about women's cricket (played since around 1745), showed the girls some archival footage of mid-century women's matches, drew their attention to the short-lived presence of cricket at St Mary's, looked at cricket's connections to the suffragette movement, and considered this year's ICC Women's Player of the Month nominees for October (Pakistan all-rounder Nida Dar was announced as the winner). Howzat!

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS



Little Saints children being introduced to the learn-to-swim pool

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Last week Wednesday, in the Senior Primary, we held our Admission to Holy Communion service.

My favourite description of the sacrament of Holy Communion is from the Lumko Institute's centre for inculturation. In their vernacular translations, they call the Eucharist *sejo a lapa*, meaning a family meal. In their training material for preparing children for holy communion, they emphasise that it is vital for children to recognise that faith and life are not divorced from each other. The approach they recommend for preparing children, is centred on helping children to integrate their faith into their lives. Most importantly, children are to recognise that the Eucharist is itself a sacrament of reconciliation.

Congratulations to the following girls who received their First Holy Communion:

Astrid Blair
Carolyn Frolich
Grace Nienaber
Lucy Snell
Sophia Nienaber
Tayla Benade
Zanetta Zephyrine

Noluthando Mshengu
Tyla Bredin
Alison Frolich
Katherine Tandy
Megan Crossley
Sylvia Vice
Caelen Buchanan
Kanyo Grobbelaar

In the Eucharist, there is a twofold movement: the call to come, 'draw near and receive' and the summons to move out into a needy world, 'go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. These are the hallmarks of the eucharistic community (*An Anglican Prayer Book 1989:102*).

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

GRADE 4 NEWS

Reptiles

No better way to learn about animals than with a live specimen! Comet, the spotnose ball python spent the morning in the lab. It took Astrid Blair many years to convince her parents that this would be the perfect pet for her, and she has looked after Comet for nearly two years. Astrid explained Comet's weekly routine and his behaviour. Sharing of information among peers is powerful and together with Comet, Astrid passed on information about snakes that won't be forgotten. Body coverings of vertebrates is the theme under discussion in our lessons, so our focus shifted seamlessly to the different types of dry scales of the three orders of reptiles.

ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Astrid explaining how she cares for her pet snake, Comet



Having a close look at the scat of a snouted cobra. The fur remains from its last meal, most likely a rat, is clearly visible



Discussing all things snakes



Observing the smooth scales



Fitting the rough scutes back onto a tortoise shell found in the bush

GRADE 5 NEWS

Solutions

The Grade 5s learnt about solubility by mixing solvents and solutes to make solutions. Before tackling the practical work, the girls brushed up on their recall and understanding of the terminology.

ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Timing the rate at which solubility is achieved



The solute dissolved easily



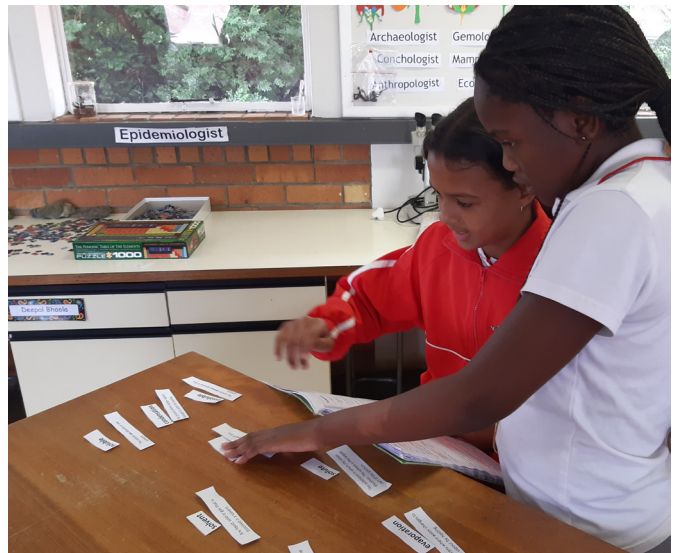
Making predictions



It's definitely soluble



Is the solution saturated?



Getting to grips with the terminology before the practical

GRADE 6 NEWS

Konka camp

The Grade 6s enjoyed their recent trip to Konka camp. They loved kayaking, swimming, zip-lining and hiking at night. They had to use their skills of collaboration to complete the problem-solving challenges and they encouraged one another as they persevered to finish the mudstACLE course.

As mentors, we were so pleased with the enthusiastic manner in which the girls embraced all the activities. It was a delight to see them having so much fun together.

THE GRADE 6 MENTORS



FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Piece playing concert series, Michaelmas Term

Our girls have been impressing their friends, teachers and parents over the last two weeks of piece playing concerts. We have been treated to a wonderful exhibition of exceptional musical talent and hard work in the Junior school. It was also the first time our Grade 1s participated in the piece playing concert series and they performed admirably. Sadly, it was also the Grade 7s' last piece playing concert in the Junior school. We wish our girls well on their musical journeys!

GEORGE POTGIETER
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



Leah Govender



Owami Msomi and Uphwe-Lukhanyo Dlwati



Kimaya Shah-Naidoo



Siliziwe Hans

JUNIOR PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

The Junior Primary girls marched with pride, cheering loudly as they followed their house captains down to the Astro. They settled down on the multipurpose surface and began the 2022 inter-house sports day by singing new and exciting war cries. Before long, the girls were fully engaged and participating in various stations, including high jump, long jump, shuttle relays, steeple chase and cross country. These stations consisted of high jump, long jump, shuttle relays, steeple chase and cross country. In between these stations, there were sprint races and all the girls ran their hearts out. We ended off the lovely morning with a Grade 3 relay race while the girls enjoyed a frozen yoghurt. Well done to all the girls who participated in sports day; you can all be

proud of your efforts. A huge thank you to all the teachers who helped to make the Junior Primary Sports Day run smoothly.

Congratulations to Shelley Gordon-Bennett for winning the *Victrix Ludorum*.

The inter-house results were as follow:

- 1st Springboks
- 2nd Hares
- 3rd Zebras
- 4th Lions

VICKI JONKER
SPORTS TEACHER



Victrix Ludorum winner Shelley Gordon-Bennett with Miss Jonker



Springboks captains: Uphiwe-Lukanyo Dlwati, Sipheshile Kubheka and Imogen Gunning with the trophy



Mohau Mokhutswane-Mashaba



Madison Burnam



Liya Mgcina

JUNIOR PRIMARY SPORTS DAY CONTINUED



Leah Mudaly



Jade Landman



Erin Kydd-Bennett



Anne Shabne



Ariella Adiukwu



Grade 0 sprint race

SENIOR PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

On Saturday 5 November, the Senior Primary held their sports day. It was lovely morning, and parents and teachers enjoyed watching the girls compete with determination and skill. Springboks were in the lead from the field events, but the other houses were also intent on changing history. The final results were: Hares placed 4th with 649 points, Zebras were 3rd with 665, Lions 2nd with 692 and Springboks were placed 1st with a massive 837 points. The last time Springboks won sports day was in 2014. Lions' long winning streak has at last been interrupted!

Senior Primary girls singing 'Oh when the Saints' https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZwUgBlr6N-MtJt_MxbhL1rvVr8CMuSf/view?usp=sharing

Congratulations to the following prize winners:

800m

Grade 4	Genevieve Quinn
Grade 5	Maryam Kaka
Grade 6	Maya Mgcina
Grade 7	Emily Holmes

Long jump

Grade 4	Katherine Davidson and Medupe Mashabela
Grade 5	Onalerona Sebati
Grade 6	Isabella Lotto
Grade 7	Lucy Barrow

High jump

Grade 4	Katherine Davidson
Grade 5	Isabella Crawford
Grade 6	Isabella Lotto
Grade 7	Lucy Barrow

Overall Grade prizewinners

Grade 4	Katherine Davidson
Grade 5	Onalerona Sebati
Grade 6	Maya Mgcina

Victrix Ludorum

Grade 7	Lucy Barrow
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ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



Springboks house captains: Holly Cairns, Siphesihle Kubheka, Uphuwe-Lukhanyo Dlwati, Imogen Gunning



Grade overall prizewinners: Onalerona Sebati, Maya Mgcina, Katherine Davidson, Lucy Barrow



Ella Mundell, Kathryn Breedveld, Georgina Pearce



Mrs Barrow with Lucy Barrow, *Victrix Ludorum* winner



Caitlyn Dube and Caitlin Duggan



Lucy Barrow

SENIOR PRIMARY SPORTS DAY CONTINUED



Grade 7s: Tshepang Lenka, Cora Slade, Kamila Nosarka and Tshiamo Seobi



Akua Hinson and Sophie Barrow



Isabel Harris



Grade 7s



Lions' war cries



Springboks' war cries

WATER POLO

U13 Water Polo - St Stithians Invitational Water Polo

The U13 water polo team participated in the junior St Stithians Invitational Water Polo tournament that took place from 28 to 30 October. This tournament consists of 20 schools from all over South Africa and Zimbabwe. Our U13 team placed 10th overall and had a great tournament where they made pleasing progress as a team.

Their scores were as follows:

7-5 win over Roedean School Johannesburg

17-2 loss to Herschel Cape Town

19-2 loss to Elite Academy KZN

6-3 win over Chisipite Zimbabwe

1-4 loss to Eastern Rams Johannesburg

6-4 win over Kingsmead College Johannesburg

7-5 win over Durban Girls' College KZN

7-6 loss to Hellenic Zimbabwe

The following players were awarded "player of the match" awards over the course of the tournament:

Scarlett Bruwer

Oagile Tema

Sarah Silcock

Reabiloe Kodisang

Jayden de Bruin

Well done to the team and the coaches for a spectacular weekend of water polo.



U13 team

KELSEY THOMSON
HEAD OF WATER POLO

SOCCER

On Friday 28 October, the soccer girls played their first soccer match of the season against Roedean. Soccer at St Mary's started last year and girls' skills are developing. The results were as follows:

Grade 4 team 1 won 1-0

Grade 4 team 2 won 3-0

Grade 5 team 1 won 2-0

Grade 6 team 2 drew 0-0

Grade 6 team 1 lost 0-1

Grade 6 team 2 won 1-0

Grade 7 team 1 lost 0-2

Grade 7 team 2 won 4-2

Grade 7 team 3 lost 0-1

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



NOTICES

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

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.

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 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.