



Our Grade 2 girls engaging in an action-packed isiZulu lesson with Ms Sithebe. The Grade 0 parents attended a language evening with all the first additional language teachers this week.

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Looking at the calendar since our last newsletter was published, it is tempting just to list the activities and events we have participated in and bask in the glory of what the girls, teachers and parents accomplish at St Mary's in a fortnight.

A quick overview would have to include a mention of our Grade 0, 2025 information morning (where prospective parents step into our school through a portal conjured by the words and wishes of our Junior and Senior School girls); World Teachers' Day (where the PA organises a slap-up tea and a gift to acknowledge the efforts of all the teachers on campus); Senior School prizegiving (where we celebrate the achievements of all the girls but take special pride in the feats of our Junior School girls grown bright and bold); The Ridge choir festival (where the girls sing and move "as if the whole world saw"); the Senior School Confirmation Eucharist (where we are called to witness a leap of faith); the Grade 2R assembly (where the girls tell us what we never knew); the Grade 0 language evening (where the additional languages speak for themselves); and the rhythmic gym prizegiving (where strength and beauty take to the floor and remind us that they are natural partners).

There are other things as well, more fugitive displays of quiet delight and daring that we miss when we are in a hurry to decide what's next. One of these happened this week, by chance, in celebration of my birthday. Girls from all the different grades are coaxed and cajoled by their teachers into making cards and recording messages for me (some more willingly than others!) to mark the day; the younger the children are, the more time they spend on the design of the thing, colouring and embellishing their paper creation until it spins merrily away from its original intent. Among all the wishes I received, two concertina hearts crafted by the Grade 2s with their words lightly folded in between the pages took me by surprise - like the good tiger in Elizabeth Bowen's picture book, they breathed in my ear...

The teachers in the Junior Primary have been working steadily at enriching the girls' creative writing, giving them more scope to express themselves, and relaxing some of their inhibitions about making spelling and punctuation errors. Like most long-term academic projects, the daily progress the girls make is often stealthy, inconsistent and uncelebrated. That's why occasions like birthdays are valuable for the rare snapshot they give us of where the girls are with and in language, their level of playfulness with imagery, and their singular voices.

When you read the sample of wishes below, I am sure, like me, you will marvel at their originality:

*I hope you have joy spreaded on your birthday love from me  
Skin like the sun. you blom like a flower. Too strong to be piked.  
And you'r always soso joyful  
Only you can be you/Maybe your loud and bursing with life or maybe youre quiet and seem kind of shy./Maybe tall and can almost  
touch the clouds or maybe your short and can dart threw crowds.  
Bless your happy life for ever  
you should be ho you are. You should gust trie then the sky will lite up with your fire.*

In response to this altogether lovely and alive writing, I offer Alice Walker's incandescent poem "Revolutionary Petunia":

*The Nature of This Flower is to Bloom  
Rebellious. Living.  
Against the Elemental Crush.  
A Song of Color  
Blooming  
For Deserving Eyes.  
Blooming Gloriously  
For its Self.*

Go girls; the sky will light up with your fire.

On the topic of girls and going, it is my unhappy task to bid farewell to three of our Senior Primary teachers at the end of the term: Mrs le Sueur, Mrs Montgomery and Mrs Muzzell. We thank them for their dedication to the life of the school, their teaching, and the girls in their care.

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

One of the Christian signs and symbols in the chapel that we learnt about in Grade 5 Divinity is the pelican.

The pelican, in its piety, became a symbol of Christ sacrificing himself for humanity and it was represented frequently in Christian art. Two erroneous beliefs about the pelican contributed to its association with Christ. The first of these was that the Pelican would pierce its chest with its beak and feed its chicks with its own blood to prevent them from starving in times of scarcity. Second, that if pelican chicks happen to die, the pelican would open its chest and bring them back to life, spraying them with its blood.

Divinity lessons give the girls the space and opportunity to look around, ask questions and touch the objects in the chapel. Experiential learning is balanced with the need to handle the contents of the chapel with care. The process can sound and look irreverent when excitement takes over.

Whenever I find myself doubting the value of the exercise, I rewatch a YouTube video of American physicist, Richard Feynman, explaining the difference between knowing the name of an object and understanding it. In the video, Feynman's point is that simply knowing the name of something does not mean you understand it.

We often talk in fact-deficient generalities to cover our need for more understanding. To speak to each other, we must have words; it is vital that girls not only know the names of objects but also understand the meaning of the symbols.



REVD RAKGADI KHOBO  
CHAPLAIN



# FROM THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

## Incorporating diversity into school assemblies: fostering unity and values

School assemblies serve as a powerful tool for promoting diversity and fostering positive school culture. Dr. Dheeraj Mehrotra, an award-winning author and principal of Kunwar’s Global School in Lucknow, advocates the significance of this approach. He believes that assemblies can enhance learning experiences and contribute to students’ holistic development.

At St Mary’s, our transformation and diversity committee recognises assemblies as an ideal platform for addressing essential diversity-related topics. We utilise national holidays, school values, and cultural diversity as inspirational themes to motivate and celebrate each student’s unique qualities. By creating an inclusive and supportive environment, assemblies instil a sense of belonging and recognition among students.

To make assemblies engaging and immersive, teachers and students incorporate various languages and cultures. Themes are thoughtfully chosen to reflect our diverse school community, ensuring that every student feels valued and represented. By integrating musical performances, poetry, and multimedia displays, we foster an atmosphere of *Ubuntu* - a sense of community and togetherness.

Involving parents in the Junior Primary strengthens the school-parent partnership and reinforces our school’s values and

messages beyond the classroom. Embracing diversity as a means to promote these values in assemblies not only broadens students’ horizons and knowledge but also encourages camaraderie. Through these efforts, we nurture children to become valuable members of society.



ANESHREE NAICKER  
GRADE 2 TEACHER AND  
JUNIOR SCHOOL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBER

# AQUATICS CENTRE MOSAIC



A very big thank you to our St Mary’s community for purchasing tiles to complete the mosaic at the aquatic centre.



# LITTLE SAINTS NEWS



Happy Birthday Dr Warner - the Little Saints children drew a portrait of Dr Warner to celebrate her birthday.

In the Atelier the Grade 000 children have been moulding and sculpting their sea creatures in preparation for the Little Saints Sings art display. They have learnt to pinch, twist, roll and shape salt dough, tin foil and clay in order to create their 3D creatures.

## THE GRADE 000 TEACHERS



# JUNIOR PRIMARY ART NEWS

In Art, the Grade 0s made use of shapes to create two-dimensional characters. Once they were satisfied with their designs, the girls brought their characters to life in a three-dimensional format, making use of found materials. This was a tricky project but the girls fully immersed themselves in the creative process.

ADÈLE OLDFIELD-SAMMONS  
ATELIERISTA



Anna Crawford



Aarya Dewlal



Gabriella Ransom



Chloe Tresling



Unathi Magagula



Murendi Marageni



Khumo Pitsi



Joanna Saville



Hannah Mackenzie



## GRADE 0 NEWS

### Grandparents' day

Our Grade 0 girls hosted their grandparents and special people for an event filled with love, laughter and cherished memories. It was an occasion where generations came together, and the bonds between grandparents and grandchildren were celebrated. With smiles on their faces, the girls showcased their musical talents and physical prowess to the delight of their grandparents. Everyone gathered around tables adorned with flowers and it was wonderful to see the generations connecting and creating lasting memories together.

THE GRADE 0 TEAM





## GRADE 3 NEWS

Our Grade 3s dived into some hands-on learning as we explored the wonders of measurement and length, which forms part of our current Maths strand focus. Measurement involves comparing, estimating and measuring attributes, including length and height. The girls develop a deeper understanding of measurement concepts and apply them to real-life situations. They learn to use appropriate tools and units of measurement and solve measurement problems.

THE GRADE 3 TEAM





# GRADE 4 NEWS

## Holy Family College

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel back in time? Well, the Grade 4 girls got to do just that when they visited Holy Family College. They experienced what it was like to be a pupil in the early 1900s and write with an ink pen. Girls were taught to have good manners and to be gracious; part of their training included walking up and down, balancing a book on their head. Thankfully, some reading, writing and arithmetic were taught too!

Girls who misbehaved were sent to the ‘naughty corner’ where they had to wear a dunce’s cap while their classmates were encouraged to insult and make fun of them. I am pleased to say that our girls were complimented on their exemplary manners.

The girls also had fun digging for gold in mining outfits. This was part of an exciting lesson into the history and emergence of Egoli. The grounds are beautifully maintained. Fun fact: the lottery donated money to the school for upkeep as the old infrastructure is very expensive to maintain. The broekie lace on the exterior of the main building was imported from France and the name comes from the resemblance of this adornment to the lace found on women’s underwear (broekies in Afrikaans).

## THE GRADE 4 TEACHERS



Last week, the Grade 4 girls presented their first official speech in Afrikaans sharing the reasons they love South Africa and why they are proud of our wonderful country. The Afrikaans teachers were very proud of the way the girls presented their speeches and it was wonderful to see how passionate the girls are about their country.

ILOUISE MUZZELL  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



## GRADE 5 NEWS

In Afrikaans, the Grade 5 girls read the book *Bertie Blikbrein* by Jaco Jacobs. In this book, Nico's dad invented a robot, Bertie Blikbrein. Nico decided to take the robot to school one day; of course, it caused excitement and disruption...

After reading the book, the girls had to invent their own robot. In their written task they had to think of three problems their robot could solve or three helpful things their robot could do.

They made their robot out of recycling material and presented a speech about it to the rest of the class.

It was entertaining listening to all the amazing things their robots could do - perhaps some of these designs will come to life one day...

**ILOUISE MUZZELL**  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



## GRADE 6 NEWS

Grade 6 mentors

The Grade 6s have been discussing what it means to show leadership in the school environment. They have used thinking routines to help them build explanations, consider different viewpoints and uncover complexity in our conversations on leadership.

**LINDA SMITH**  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER





## GRADE 6 NEWS CONTINUED

### History

In their quest to uncover the mysteries of the past, our Grade 6 girls have been investigating the role of gold and glass in ancient African civilizations. Gold, often regarded as the “king of metals,” was highly prized in these societies for its symbolic, aesthetic and economic value.

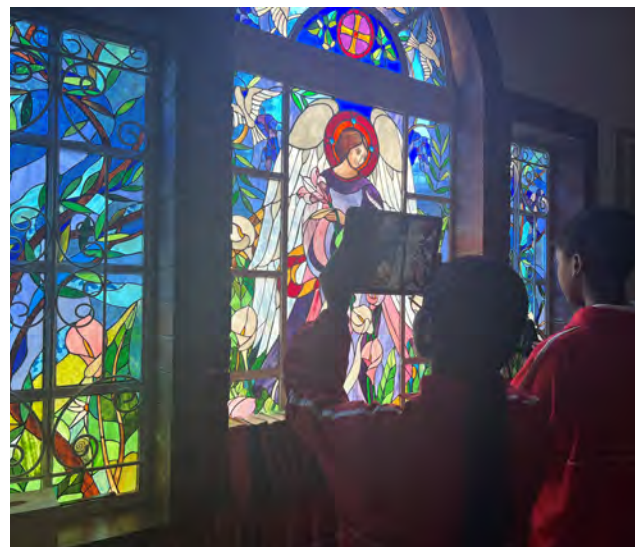
The presence of glass artefacts at Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe suggests the existence of extensive trade routes that connected these southern African sites to distant regions.

The girls ventured into various corners of our school to witness the practical applications of their learning - with the understanding that glass is still a useful technology today. They visited Little Saints, the chapel and The Edge to investigate how a substance that we often take for granted is integrated into different aspects of our educational environment.

LAUREN HOWDEN AND ROSA ELK  
SENIOR PRIMARY HISTORY TEACHERS



Girls investigate secrets in the stained-glass windows



Symbols and iconography in the chapel



Benefits of glass in educational environments



Function of glass at Little Saints



## MUSIC NEWS



The Senior Primary choir rehearsing in front of their peers in assembly on #StrongerTogether Friday in preparation for the Ridge Choir festival.

### The Ridge choir festival

The Senior Primary choir participated in The Ridge choir festival on Monday 9 October. The girls made us very proud by singing beautifully. The evening was rounded off with four combined items sung by the participating schools. Our girls entertained the audience with an ABBA favourite as well as a Miriam Makeba medley arranged by Mrs Mehlomakhulu. Well done, girls!

GEORGE POTGIETER  
HOD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC





## COMMUNITY SERVICE

A group of Grade 7s visited Waverley Gardens Memory Care Centre last week. The girls spent time talking to and interacting with the residents. The girls sang a few of their favourite songs and it was gratifying to see the care centre residents dancing, singing and enjoying themselves.

LINDA MAISHMAN  
COMMUNITY SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR



### Phendulani literacy quiz

It was a pleasure to accompany H.A. Jack, one of our neighbouring schools, learners to Roedean for the Phendulani literacy quiz. The quiz runs yearly and its objective is to boost literacy and the joy of reading among Grades 6 and 7 pupils. The 12 H.A. Jack contestants also enjoyed being addressed by Prudence Makau, author of *My So-Called Friend*. The Grade 7 team ranked fifth overall, and it was a wonderful celebration of literature.

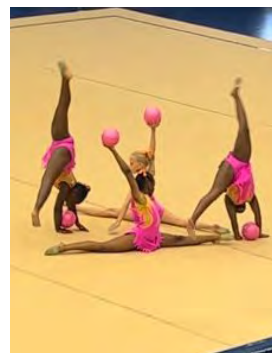
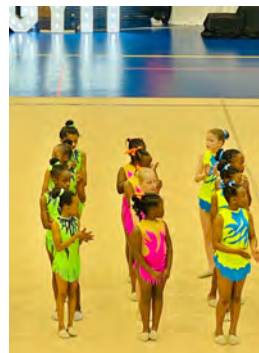
ROSA ELK  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER





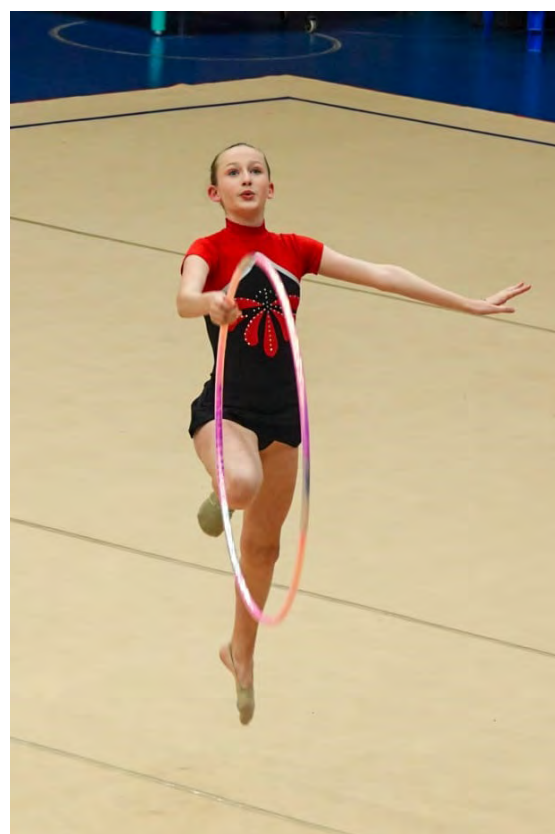
## RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

At the beginning of this month our gymnasts attended the national competition, Gym Games, at Wits University. On 3 October, our ball groups competed. All three ball groups from St Mary's qualified for Gym Games this year and they went up against 11 other groups. Our little gymnasts were among the youngest of the ball groups and they captured the hearts of the audience and the judges with their incredible performance. Tisha Zibengwa, Zikora Egbunike and Frantzis Ngoma's group placed sixth overall. Lethabo Maponya, Naledi Sekete, Mulalo Neswiswi and Jade Landman's group placed twelfth overall. Mohau Mokhutswane, Rizqaa Adam, and Sibusisiwe Mulenga's group placed fourteenth overall. Congratulations to our beautiful gymnasts and their coaches, Linda Giuricich and Keabetswe Sesing.



On 2 and 3 October, we had our Level 5 to 7 gymnasts perform their individual dances at Gym Games and the following gymnasts qualified: Muofhe Neswiswi in Level 5, Laurel Kelly in Level 6, Emma Home in Level 7 and Caelen Buchanan in Level 7. In the overall positions Moufhe placed fifteenth, Laurel placed eighteenth, Caelen placed eighteenth and Emma place sixth overall with a gold medal for her free dance routine. All the girls did us proud with their performances and their hard work throughout the year. A special thanks to the parents and the gymnasts for their dedication and we look forward to another successful competition season in 2024.

NICOLE DIXON  
RHYTHMIC GYM COACH





# TENNIS

On Thursday 28 September, our Grade 6 girls played against St Dunstan’s A team beating them 37-13. Ten of our Grade 3s were chosen to play against St Dunstan’s C and D team giving them a great deal of exposure and experience.

On Thursday 5 October, St Mary’s A-D teams played in a friendly match against St Benedict’s. The girls played competitive tennis against the boys losing with a close margin.

The C and D teams enjoyed playing both doubles and mixed doubles and the afternoon was most enjoyable.

I would like to congratulate all the girls on their good attitude both on and off the court.

KAREN CORBETT  
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



Grade 3s at St Dunstan’s



CD team vs St Benedict’s



AB team vs St Benedict’s

# ATHLETICS

The athletics team participated in a meet on Saturday 30 September at St Andrew’s and on Friday 6 October at Stithians. The results were as follows:

30 September		6 October	
1 <sup>st</sup> St Mary’s	470½	1 <sup>st</sup> St Mary’s	503
2 <sup>nd</sup> St Andrew’s	459½	2 <sup>nd</sup> St Andrew’s	480
3 <sup>rd</sup> Holy Rosary	262	3 <sup>rd</sup> St Stithians	443
4 <sup>th</sup> Assumption Convent	201	4 <sup>th</sup> Mary’s DSG	314
		5 <sup>th</sup> Holy Rosary	286
		6 <sup>th</sup> St Teresa’s	178 (their Grade 3s did not compete)

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU  
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL

# SWIMMING

Outstanding achievement  
Maya Mgcina was selected for the South African national junior squad to compete in Namibia at the Namibian national short course championships in Swakopmund from 28 September to 1 October 2023. She competed in the 13-14-year-old category and achieved the following excellent results:

- Three personal best times
- Gold medal in the 50m butterfly
- Gold medal in the 100m butterfly
- Silver medal in the 200m Individual Medley
- Bronze medal in the 50m freestyle

Congratulations to Maya on her fabulous results.

ROSE HALLENDORFF  
HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING





# DIVING

On Thursday 5 October, the Junior School Diving team competed in a diving competition against St Stithians. Although it was the first fixture of the season, the St Mary’s divers displayed some magnificent dives, producing impressive results.

The divers who competed in Grade 3 this week were - Thakane Ntseare, Mia Malan, Lethabo Mashile, Emily Harris and Erin Kydd-Bennett.

Grade 4B	
1 <sup>st</sup> Amelie Stout	67.15 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Madison Coetzer	58.20 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Reabetswe Mahlare	52.90 Points

Grade 5A	
1 <sup>st</sup> Pakane Kekana	85.80 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Alexia Watson	67.20 points

Grade 5 B	
1 <sup>st</sup> Katie Davidson	59.45 points

Grade 6A	
1 <sup>st</sup> Olivia Coetzer	104.25 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Isabella Crawford	97.05 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Noluthando Mshengu	75.05 points

4 <sup>th</sup> Isabel Harris	71.10 points
6 <sup>th</sup> Lesedi Sefolo	65.60 points

Grade 7A	
1 <sup>st</sup> Mia Diana	148.05
2 <sup>nd</sup> Isabella Lotto	116.65 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Daniella Lotto	100.35 points



KATE SHEPHERD  
DIVING COACH

# EQUESTRIAN

St Mary’s equestrian team at National Championships

Over the last week, the St Mary’s equestrian team represented Gauteng province at the National Championships. The girls rode in a variety of classes from Showjumping and Dressage to Eventing and Working Riding. The Junior School came fourteenth out of over 80 schools, which is a wonderful achievement.

Well done to the entire team for their commitment and hard work over this last year. You have made us proud.

LOUISE FRAHM-ARP  
TEACHER IN CHARGE



Mia-Ann Terblanche and Wakkaberry



Taylor Kloeck and Zambezi Equestrian Sunflower



Vivienne Chen and Destalsmit La Mas Bonita



# EQUESTRIAN CONTINUED



Kate Colling - Nationals 2023

Name	Horse/Pony	Show	Class	Place
Astrid Blair	Supernova	Eventing National Championships	65 cm 3 Phase eventing (Dressage, Show jumping, Cross country)	7 <sup>th</sup>
			Equitation Novice 70cm (Pony)	8 <sup>th</sup>
		Core League National Championships	Jumping 80 cm 2 phase (Pony)	7 <sup>th</sup>
			Jumping 80 cm Competition class (Pony)	14 <sup>th</sup>
Vivienne Chen	Destalsmit La Mas Bonita	Core League National Championships	Dressage Preliminary test 3 (Pony)	4 <sup>th</sup>
			Dressage Preliminary test 4 (Pony)	8 <sup>th</sup>
Kate Colling	Olaf	Core League Rising Stars Challenge Championship	Show Jumping: 40cm 2 phase (Pony)	5 <sup>th</sup>
			Show Jumping: 40cm Competition (Pony)	18 <sup>th</sup>
			Equitation Rider special 35cm (Pony)	19 <sup>th</sup>
			Prix Caprilli Rising Stars Test	11 <sup>th</sup>
Taylor Kloeck	Zambezi Equestrian Sunflower	Core League Rising Stars Challenge Championship	Working Riding	2 <sup>nd</sup>
			Show Jumping 40cm 2 phase (Pony)	28 <sup>th</sup>
			Equitation Rider special 35cm (Pony)	15 <sup>th</sup>
Lea Jackson	Franlaren Evonna	Core League National Championships	Equitation SANESA Rider Special 70cm (Horse)	7 <sup>th</sup>
		Core League National Championships	Jumping 70 cm 2 phase (Horse)	6 <sup>th</sup>
Taylor Ruth Prinsloo	Tannenhof Bolero	Core League National Championships	Equitation Intermediate 100cm (Horse)	1 <sup>st</sup>
Mia-Ann Terblanche	Wakkaberry	Core League National Championships	Jumping 70 cm 2 phase (Pony)	8 <sup>th</sup>




Astrid Blair - Supernova Nationals 2023



## NOTICES

### MUSE MORNING



**MUSE  
MORNING**

**Topic:**  
**Stop buffering your child from natural consequences**

**Tuesday 17 October 2023**  
**07h30 - 08h30**  
**Seminar room**  
**RSVP: [Lynsay.Young@stmary.co.za](mailto:Lynsay.Young@stmary.co.za)**

**Speaker: Andrea Jacobs**

Andrea will be speaking about our responsibility to let children experience the natural consequences of their own behaviour and using these outcomes to help them understand that their actions

have consequences. Children must take accountability and learn how to move forward from consequences.

Andrea will spend time showing us how letting children experience the natural consequences of their behaviour fosters a deeper understanding of repercussions without excessive parental involvement or futile attempts at buffering them from the realities they create.

Lastly, her presentation will be aimed at assisting us to understand this ideology of natural consequences as a necessary building block to resilience and effective problem solving.

Andrea Jacobs is a registered Educational Psychologist in private practice and lecturer and research supervisor at The South African College of Applied Psychology (SACAP).

She holds a M.Ed Educational Psychology, MA Research Psychology and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. Andrea has previously stood on the executive committee for the Society of Educational Psychologists of South Africa. Andrea has a special interest in psychological assessment, feminine mental health and maternal well-being and parenting.

### 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.

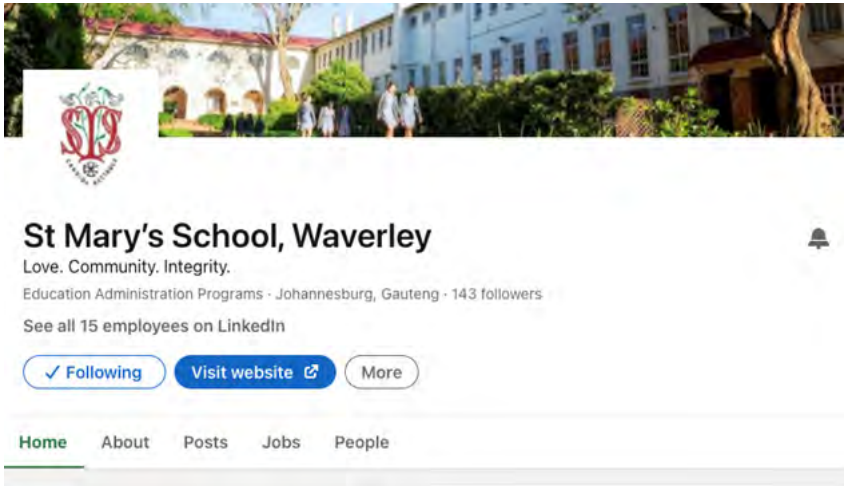
Below, please find details as to how to access this Ed-Admin St Mary's portal:

- 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 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](mailto:portal@stmary.co.za).



# 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)

# PRIZES NEEDED FOR GOLF DAY

ALL MONEY RAISED AT THIS EVENT GOES TO THE ST MARY'S FOUNDATION.

PLEASE CONTACT  
**LISA.GROBBELAAR@STMARY.CO.ZA**  
SHOULD YOU WISH TO DONATE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.  
FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



ST MARY’S SUPPORTER GEAR AVAILABLE FROM THE CLOTHES CUPBOARD

