

Front cover from *Waterlife* by Rambharos Jha.

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

And... we're back! Most of us regret the passing of the holidays, but there are also those who speak of the tedium of long absences from school or work and wish for a return to routine and the more predictable rhythm of five days of toil and two of rest. While many parents report feeling overwhelmed at the prospect of keeping their loved ones entertained over the long weeks of leisure, children complain they are bored - as often as four times a day in some surveys - and family relationships take strain, and occasionally snap, under the pressure of high expectations and extended exposure.

With changes in climate and the rise in global temperatures, the tradition of the long summer break and the school calendar in the Northern hemisphere might have to be reimagined. Climate researchers measuring summer heat and monitoring the drought, floods, and fire that it brings in its wake are arguing for the renaming of summer as the "danger season." Another well-documented if less immediately obvious danger of the long summer break that affects children relates to academic performance: turns out that teachers' exhortations to pupils to read over the holidays are more well motivated than many parents and children might think.

However we feel about holiday, and whatever happens to the timing of seasonal vacations around the world, the return to school always brings with it a sense of celebration: the children come back changed, with stories to relate, and plans to execute. They bring with them an appetite for new experiences and a hunger for what's next. It is hard not to feel lucky to be in a junior school at times like this.

At the beginning of every term, we extend a warm welcome to your children in assemblies, chapel, and individual classes. This newsletter is my opportunity to do the same with you: we wish all our families, old and new, a rewarding Michaelmas term and look forward to the opportunity to deepen our relationships and enjoy new experiences together.

We have already hosted our Special Persons' Days at Little Saints, met our class reps, and begun practising for events scheduled later in the term. Along with heads of Independent Schools across the country, Deanne King and I have been off campus for the last few days attending the ISASA/SAHISA/SABISA combined conference, and the Junior School hosted Benjamin Rosman, professor in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics at WITS, onsite for a talk on the changing landscape of education.

There is so much to look forward to on the calendar, including the online engagement with members of the St Mary's board next week, the Stand Up St Mary's comedy show, and the music and sports events and fixtures that keep your daughters busy and committed every term. The annual Little Saints concert, *Little Saints Sings*, is also in rehearsal, and its theme of underwater creatures and the world of the ocean inspired my choice of image for this week's article - taken from the exquisite *Waterlife* by Indian artist, Rambharos Jha, the book is silk-screen printed by hand on handmade paper and features Mithila art, "a vibrant and delicate form of folk painting from Bihar in eastern India." It is a feast for the eyes and senses.

It is also my duty, sadly, to inform you that Brigitte Taylor will be leaving us at the end of the year to join the Learning Support team at St Dunstan's. She will be a wonderful asset to her new school and her colleagues, and the children will miss her empathetic and bright presence.

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Forgiveness is valued by most if not all, societies and faiths. At the first Eucharist of the term, I mentioned to the girls how the new school term offers them the opportunity to begin and try again. I linked the beginning of the third term to the penitence. Penitence is the part of the Eucharist liturgy where we ask forgiveness for the bad we have done and the good we have failed to do. As the psalmist writes, "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered" (Psalm 32:1).

Professor Phumla Gobodo-Madikizela describes forgiveness as an offender's request to rejoin the community. Her view of forgiveness revolves around empathy, understanding, humanization, and collective healing. She sees forgiveness as a profoundly transformative process that can contribute to reconciliation and healing in post-conflict societies. Forgiveness is a critical part of repairing broken and strained relationships.

In her research on the emergence of forgiveness in young children, Dr Amrisha Vaish (2021) believes that from early on, children seek out people who apologize, show remorse, and feel concern for someone who has been harmed. People who show remorse and apologize to a child signal their commitment to the child and their relationship with them.

At school, our discipline procedure is guided by a philosophy of restorative justice. Making mistakes is part of the process of learning. Therefore, it is vital that as part of the learning that happens at school, girls learn to use the tools needed to repair relationships. Forgiveness and asking for forgiveness is one such tool.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

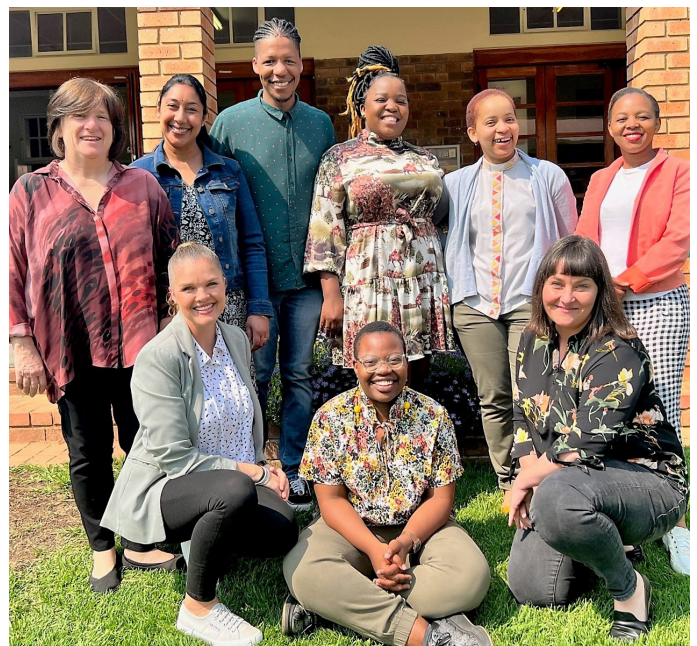
FROM THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

In South Africa, a nation celebrated for its rich cultural diversity, unity and inclusivity are not just noble ideals but essential principles. Our Junior School Diversity Committee, led by Aneshree Naicker, tries to champion these principles and to ensure that they are an integral part of our school community.

The committee includes representatives from Little Saints, as well as the Junior and Senior primary. Our mission is to share insights and initiatives across the different phases and to cultivate a welcoming environment where everyone-parents, students, and teachers-feels valued and respected.

Diversity enriches our lives and the lives of children in countless ways. According to researchers, children in diverse learning environments are more creative, develop better critical thinking skills and demonstrate flexibility in problem solving. Exposure to different perspectives, cultures, and traditions can broaden children's understanding of the world around them.

The committee will be using the Junior School newsletter as a platform to communicate regularly with parents and the wider school community. In the upcoming newsletters, we will share insights into how diversity impacts various aspects of our school, including the steps we are taking to ensure that diversity is not just a word but a lived experience on our campus.



LAUREN HOWDEN
DEPUTY HEAD: ACADEMICS

LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

This week, the Little Saints staff and children had the pleasure of hosting the special people in our children’s lives at our annual Special Persons’ Day. After joining the children for their morning ring, the guests helped the children to plant seedlings and decorate their own plant markers using wooden spoons and paint. We also embarked on a community weaving project using plastic anti-waste to create a tapestry.

THE LITTLE SAINTS TEAM



GRADE 0 NEWS

In Grade 0 the girls learnt about Moses and the Burning Bush and and drew pictures of how they imagined the bush would have looked.

NOMSA MOYO
GRADE 0 TEACHER ASSISTANT



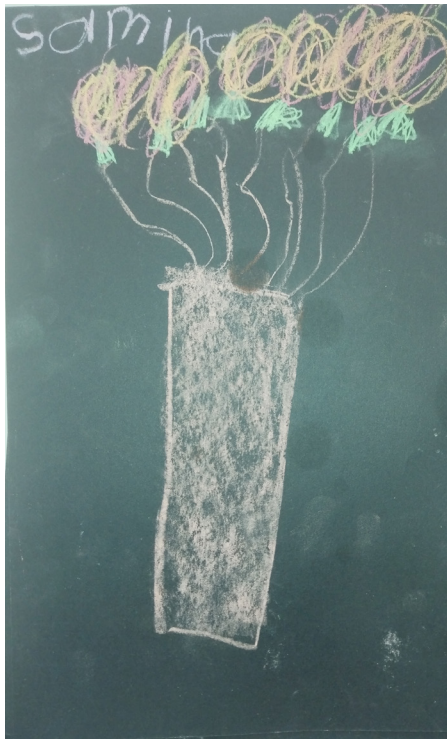
Amelia Geldenhuys



Alexia Van Altena



Sienna Alberts



Samiha Moosa



Lily Du Toit



Hannah Mackenzie

GRADE 1 NEWS

In Art, the Grade 1s have been learning about tone and how to use tonal variation to create the illusion of three-dimensionality. By drawing fruit bowls in oil pastel, they were able to experiment with tone and create enticing bowls of fruit that, in some cases, appear to pop out of the page.

ADÈLE OLDFIELD-SAMMONS
ATELIERISTA



Ava Nana



Shanaaia Siddiqui



Athena Rennias



Rachel Adelaar



Nurayn Laher



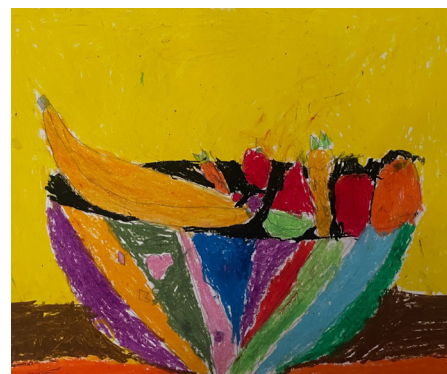
Megan Swanepoel



Maya Govindjee



Hannah Purser



Juliet Mogale



Mia Beulich



Olivia Bradshaw



Tumelo Hermanus

GRADE 2 NEWS



The Grade 2s had fun practising their handwriting in the sandpit.



THE GRADE 2 TEACHERS

GRADE 3 NEWS

At the end of the second term, the Grade 3s set sail to spend the day as pirates. The girls constructed pirate ships from recyclable materials and tested their floatability on the Grade 0 water feature. Most of the ships stood the test! Our girls tasted gruel and crackers which didn't go down a treat, and ended our Pirate Day with walking the plank in rough seas. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day!

THE GRADE 3 TEAM



GRADE 7 NEWS

Micro book reviews

The Grade 7s used 20 words to review one of the books they read in the August holidays. Here are some of their reviews:

The Inheritance Games by Jennnifer Lynn Barnes

An ordinary girl. A billionaire's inheritance. Can Avery discover why she inherited a stranger's entire fortune when his family didn't?

Maya Mgcina

Just Henry by Michelle Magorian

Henry is lonely at school. He has always been interested in film. Will he find friends with the same interest?

Qhawekazi Radebe

Kidnap in the Caribbean by Lauren St John

Laura, Skye, Tariq struggle against the clock, attacked by killer sharks and deadly pirates. This mystery will suck you in.

Georgia Alcock

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Divergent is a thrilling dystopian novel where a girl, Tris, discovers her unique identity in a divided society.

Annika Mehta

The Beasts of Clawstone Castle by Eva Ibbotson

Two children, multiple ghosts, one mission, and a pair of feet? Beware the haunting of Clawstone castle, a joyous and gory tale.

Sylvia Vice

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

Flying over the Amazon, the plane crashes. Pilot dies and four children, big and small, fight nature. Will they survive?

Emma Simpson

THE GRADE 7 ENGLISH TEACHERS

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

External Exams

Congratulations to Florence Pirnie for excelling on the harp in her Trinity College of Music exam. She received a merit for Grade 1.

Well done!

GEORGE POTGIETER
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

The pictures are of the St Mary’s ball groups consisting of Grade 3s and 4s who took part in the Central Gauteng and Gauteng competitions in the August holidays. All three groups will take part in the South African Gym Games in October at Wits University. The group in turquoise and yellow leotards, below right, came first at Central Gauteng and second at the Gauteng competition.

The following gymnasts also competed in Central Gauteng and also qualified for the Games in October.

Muofhe Neswiswi	Level 5
Laurel Kelly	Level 6
Emma Home	Level 7
Caelen Buchanan	Level 7

LINDA GIURICICH AND NICOLE DIXON
RHYTHMIC GYM COACHES



WATER POLO

Many of our water polo players participated in the Gauteng Schools’ Water Polo Winter Training Programme in the August holidays.

Congratulations to the following girls on their selection as part of the Gauteng Schools Water Polo Association training squads who will be competing in the 2023 SWPSA IPT Tournament taking place in Gqeberha from 9 to 13 December 2023. Final teams will be selected at a later date.

- Grade 6
- Cassiah-Jade Cabral
 - Sofia Ferreira
 - Kayla Sears
 - Isabella West

- Grade 7
- Scarlett Bruwer
 - Megan Crossley
 - Alison Frolich
 - Cayla Midlane
 - Oagile Tema

ANKE PIRIE
HEAD OF WATER POLO

TENNIS

The St Mary's A and B teams competed in the Independent Primary Schools Tennis Tournament that was held at Sun City from 25 to 28 August.

St Mary's A team beat St Peter's A team in a very close and exciting final to finish in the top place out of eight teams.

The St Mary's B team also played tennis of a very high standard to beat St Peter's B team to take third place.

Every player in the St Mary's teams contributed to our success and were a credit to the school, both on and off the court!

KAREN CORBETT
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



Sun City 2023 A and B teams

ST MARY'S COMEDY SHOW

The St Mary's HOPE committee and Parents' Association invite you to our annual Stand Up comedy show. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Ikusasa Lethu Programme.

STAND UP ST MARY'S COMEDY SHOW

25% Staff discount
Use the code
STM@RYS

6 TOP SA comedians A Night of Hilarity for Charity!

Book tickets on:

Quicket
EXPERIENCE AWESOME
www.quicket.co.za

Thursday 21 Sept, 2023

The Edge Theatre, St Mary's Waverley

**Food Market: 17h30
Show Starts: 19h00**

Brought to you by
the HOPE committee and the Parent's Association, raising funds for Ikusasa Lethu **#No14**

ST MARY'S GOLF DAY



ST MARY'S GOLF DAY

(absa)

St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

Date: Thursday 19 October 2023
Price: R4200 per fourball, includes greenfees, halfway and dinner
Parkview Golf Course: T-off from 11h30
Donations of prizes will be most welcome, please email lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za
Click [here](#) to book your fourball
All proceeds to go to the St Mary's Foundation

IKUSASA LETHU

Did you know that these St Mary's teachers share their knowledge and skills every Saturday?

The St Mary's Foundation runs the Ikusasa Lethu Programme every Saturday, on our St Mary's campus, from January to October. Our aim is to supplement the education of committed learners who attend schools in Alexandra during the week. Over 350 learners come to our school to learn from the St Mary's teachers, as well as other skilled educators from recognised schools around Johannesburg.

Cindy Len has been teaching Geography to disadvantaged Grade 10 and 11 learners on Saturdays for 13 years. She is often named by learners as a teacher who has made a life-changing impact on their understanding and results.

Jayne Murewa has been running our Ikusasa Lethu library for eight years, and this year started a crochet club which meets after school ends on Saturdays at 14h00.

Themba Ndimande has been working with the Ikusasa Lethu CAT learners in Grade 10, 11 and 12 since 2019. He teaches them beyond their syllabus, showing the learners the practical applications of their subject. This gives them an understanding they could not otherwise gain.

Lebohang Makhalanyane has taught Mathematics for six years. Her classes are always engaging and give learners a second chance to understand concepts they may be struggling with at their own schools.

Revd Rakgadi Khobo joined our staff as a Life Orientation teacher this year, along with Lebogang Mohlahlana and Bonginkosi Ginindza in the Mathematics department.

These teachers make a difference to these learners' lives every Saturday.

ROBYN KNOWLES
HEAD OF IKUSASA LETHU



Mrs Cindy
Len



Mrs Jayne
Murewa



Mr Themba
Ndimande



Mrs Lebohang
Makhalanyane



Revd Rakgadi
Khobo



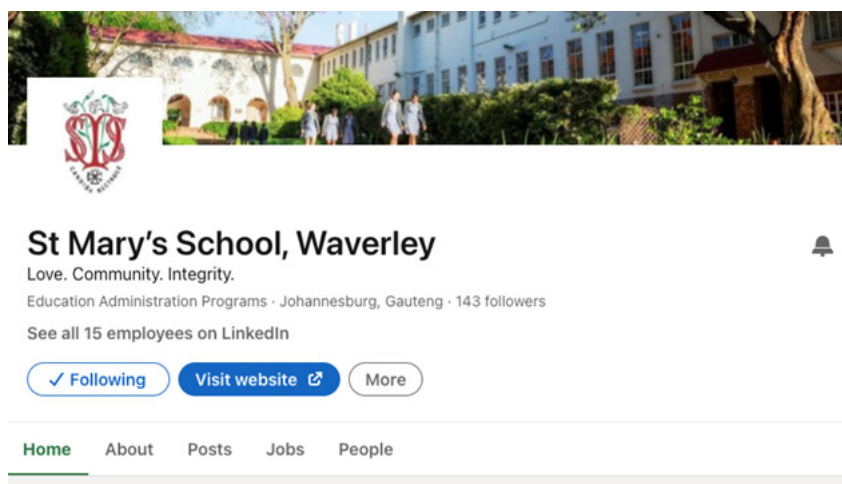
Miss Lebogang
Mohlahlana



Mr Bonginkosi
Ginindza

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.