



FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

There is no shortage of topics to discuss as we end our first full week back on campus. The third and last term of 2022 (what? Are we there already?) began in style with the PA and HOPE committee's inaugural *Stand Up St Mary's* comedy evening hosted on campus at The Edge. The event, largely the work of Old Girl Natalie Haarhoff and her husband Takunda Bimha (parents of two girls in the Junior School) with support from the St Mary's tech team, Sasha Ehlers and Ole Boinamo, featured an impressive line-up of local talent: Rob van Vuuren anchored the performances and performers Lihle Msimang, Chris Forrest, Suhayl Essa, Tracey-Lee Oliver and Ndumiso Lindi entertained and enthralled the audience of parents and teachers with their wry observations, skilled impersonations, and physical comedy.

The evening was made more enjoyable by the diversity of experience reflected in the different acts and, to revisit one of my favourite themes, I was especially gratified by the inclusion of two women comedians on the bill. A recent conversation I held with a group of Grade 7 girls will, I hope, give you some insight into my stubborn preoccupation with the topic of girls and humour: while preparing the Grade 7s to write a valedictory speech, I urged them to include some light-hearted content in their address. As we pursued the discussion and I probed them on their preference for earnest polemic in their oral presentations, one girl volunteered: "What if you are trying to be funny and nobody laughs?"

And there it was, what Peter McGraw, director of the Humor Research Lab at the University of Colorado observed in a study to which I referred at Celebration Evening a few years ago: "Every crack at humor involves risk - the joke could fall flat." Girls (not all, but enough to warrant further research) don't like risks, but they do like rewards. We see it often in their engagement in class as well where open-ended questions elicit the odd guarded response or resolute silence. Knowing the answer or being able to offer new information on their terms, where approval is more certain, is more to their liking. Of course, they are not alone in this, and we all, myself included, need to get better at relinquishing control. ("Let it go" as the wise sisters from *Frozen* never tire of telling us.)

With developments on our campus gaining momentum, and as we become more accustomed to working in temporary classrooms, living near a construction site, and adapting to changing



Comedienne Tracey-Lee Oliver performing at the inaugural *Stand Up St Mary's* comedy show

circumstances and experiences, we have little choice but to draw on our emotional reserves and sense of humour. I know the novelty of the new classrooms will wear off, but for now, I am pleased to hear from Ms Nkosi that her Grade 5 class chose the epithet "exciting" to describe their new habitat. Long may it last.

Keeping with the theme of change, every beginning of term brings its share of welcomes and farewells. Daniel Jansen van Vuuren has survived his first full week at St Mary's, and we look forward to stimulating times ahead with him charting the course of EdTech in the Junior School. At the same time, at the end of the term, we say goodbye to Natasha De Boni, collaborative learning facilitator in Grade 2, and Angie Jennett, Grade 5 mentor, Natural Science

teacher in the Senior Primary, and custodian of our enviable Junior School Science laboratory. Both teachers will be sorely missed, but long remembered for the contribution they have made to the well-being of the girls in their care at a school they have helped to define. We wish them both well and value the time and love they have given to our community.

Loris Malaguzzi, early childhood theorist and philosophical founder of Reggio Emilia centres, urged schools to do nothing “without joy”. If we take to heart his words, by beginning the third term with laughter, we have begun well.

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

One of the artworks in my office is a heart from last year’s Little Saints, “He(ART) Exhibition”. The message on the heart says: *We have hearts so that we can love people*. It is a clear and simple message, with a lot of meaning. This message brings together the temporal and spiritual worlds.

According to Paul, two worlds are ours the temporal and the spiritual (Romans 12:1-2). *The common foundation of these two worlds is the obligation to Love God and love our neighbour.*

At St Mary’s “The overall development of each girl will be based on the values and virtues of the school’s Christian tradition, summed up in the first two Biblical commandments: to love God and to love one’s neighbour. These commandments encompass the values of truth and justice, service and duty, respect, trust and forgiveness” (Statement on the Christian Identity and Ethos of St Mary’s #13).

We must not forget our limitations and the finite nature of the temporal world in which we live.

“St Mary’s does not have unlimited resources, financial or otherwise. Its sole source of income is the fees and development levy which parents pay. We are therefore conscious of the sacrifices which many parents make to send their daughters to this school and we welcome that fact” (Statement on the Educational Philosophy of St Mary’s, #6.4).

The message on the heart, for me, demonstrates the way in which the children at Little Saints’ understand our school value of Love.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Nominations Committee of the school Board is pleased to welcome new Board members, Mr Lee Bromfield, Dr Nicole Cunningham and Ms Refiloe Hoohlo-Zephyrine onto the St Mary's Board. These appointments will fill the three vacancies created by the retirement of Mr Nigel Carman and Prof Loyiso Nongxa and the resignation of Mr Alan Pullinger at the end of 2021.

We are confident that these individuals will each, and collectively, add to the contribution that Thandi Chaane, Andile Mazwai, The Rt Revd Steve Moreo - Bishop of Johannesburg, Lara Bezuidenhout, Lebohlang Chanza, Graeme Codrington, Tswelo Kodisang, Lulama Letlape, Flavio Maraschin, Mary Vilakazi, Malvern Chirume and Julie Herold make to St Mary's School as the Board

Mr Lee Bromfield is the current CEO of FNB Life, FNB Insurance Pillar and FirstRand Insurance Pillar. Under his leadership, the Insurance business has achieved global award status and attained numerous industry awards. Having worked in a variety of roles at FirstRand for over 18 years, Lee has a strong technology and finance background. He has built successful teams and businesses for FirstRand, often bringing together different disciplines, teams and people. Lee holds a BSc Degree in Financial Mathematics from the University of Johannesburg and he is a qualified Actuary. He is a parent of two girls in the Junior School at St Mary's.

Dr Nicole Cunningham is a senior lecturer and the Deputy Head of Department: Teaching & Learning and Undergraduate studies at the University of Johannesburg. She performs various management-related responsibilities focusing on both the teaching and learning and the undergraduate programmes within the Department of Marketing Management. In addition to her role at UJ, she also owns and manages the MissFit Parkhurst boxing gym (ladies-only gym). The gym provides a safe space for ladies to express themselves, network with one another and focus on health and fitness. She currently holds a MCom in Marketing Management from the University of Johannesburg and a PhD from the Gordon Institute of Business Science (UP). Nicole's research focuses on how contemporary issues impact consumer behaviour. Nicole is a St Mary's Old Girl where she matriculated in 2008.

Ms Refiloe Hoohlo-Zephyrine is currently a Director at Blue Apple Publishing. Refiloe is an insightful strategist with over 20 years of experience devising and implementing marketing campaigns for various industries in multiple countries. Refiloe holds a Diploma in Marketing from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, a Post Graduate Diploma in Account Management from AAA School of Advertising as well as a Master of Arts degree in Marketing Management from the University of Westminster in London. She was previously chair of the Parents Association and the HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) committee. Refiloe is a parent of two girls in the Senior and Junior School at St Mary's.



Mr Lee Bromfield



Dr Nicole Cunningham



Ms Refiloe Hoohlo-Zephyrine

LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

Special person's day

This week each class at Little Saints hosted a special person's day. Every child invited two special people to spend part of the morning with them at school. The children enjoyed the opportunity to engage in art, sing songs, do woodwork and show their special people how they climb, swing and navigate the outdoor climbing structures in their environment. A highlight of the morning was sharing a picnic in our beautiful garden and reading a story book together.

THE LITTLE SAINTS TEAM



GRADE 1 NEWS



The Grade 1s plant seedlings for a new term and a new season

Finding our voices

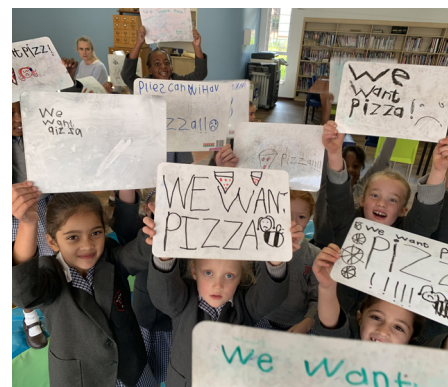
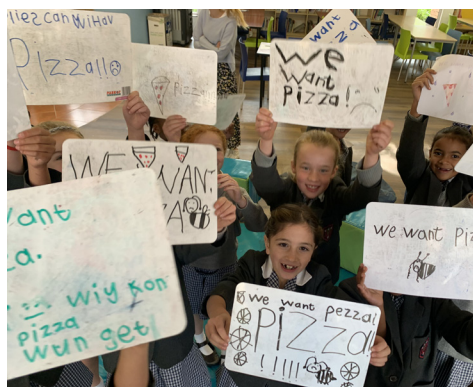
Finding their not winning the play pizza party a huge injustice, the Grade 1s staged a somewhat silent protest in Book Ed. Armed with posters, they learnt an important skill - how to find their voices when they believe they have been wronged.

After promising I would take their grievances to Mr Potgieter and Mrs van Niekerk, and their acceptance that it will be a negotiation which will most likely lead to a compromise, we shook hands and were able to continue our lesson.

Mrs Di Benedetto and Mrs Mokhutswane reminded the girls that while they have a right to express themselves and their disappointment, it is also important to celebrate the Grade 3s and 4s and acknowledge their achievements.

I suppose the Grade 1s were inspired by A.A. Milne's words: "You can't [always] stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. Sometimes you have to go to them."

ROSA ELK
SENIOR SCHOOL TEACHER AND LIBRARIAN



GRADE 2 NEWS

Back to school is cool! The Grade 2s were very excited as the beginning of Term III kicked off with discussions about holiday news. The girls chatted vibrantly to each other, and relished playing together at break times. They also spent quality time reading their favourite story books in the warm spring sunshine. We look forward to celebrating this term as we explore our Reggio theme of *Festivals and Celebrations*.

THE GRADE 2 TEACHERS

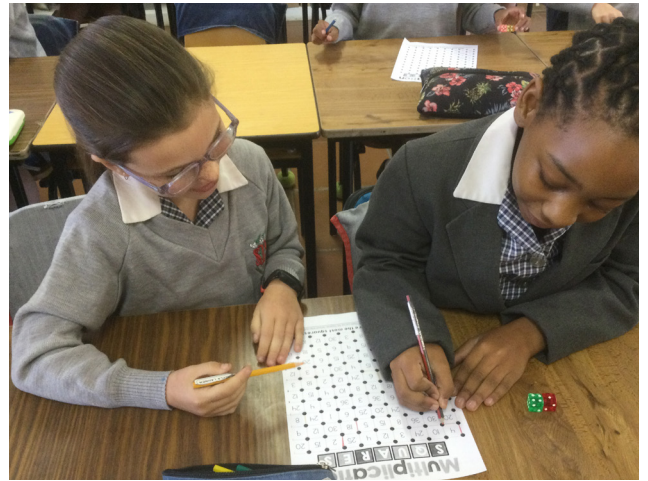
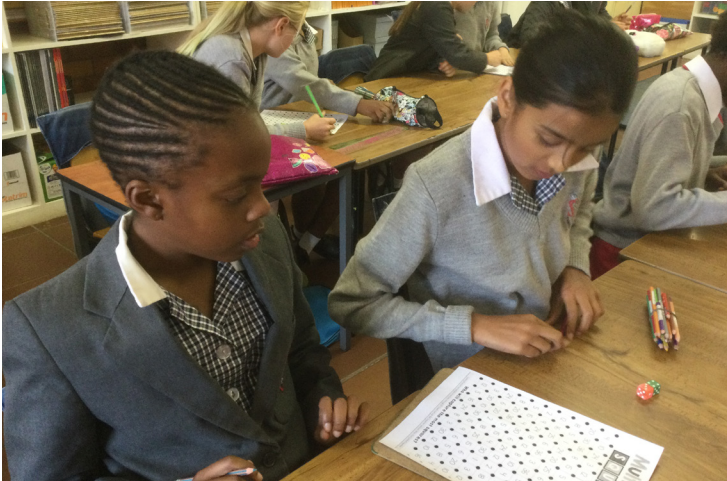


Grade 2s begin their cursive journey with fun patterns

GRADE 3 NEWS

The Grade 3s agree that the best way to learn is by playing games. They began the term with some fun multiplication games.

THE GRADE 3 TEACHERS



GRADE 5 NEWS



Mrs Richmond and a Grade 5 Geography class in one of the five temporary classrooms in use on the Junior School campus

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.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of Music

Six young pianists from the Junior School participated in the Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of Music in July. Every candidate was adjudicated on a recital performance of three pieces which was recorded previously. They achieved excellent results. Congratulations to all our girls!

Astrid Blair	10 years & under	Honours
Grace Gibbs	12 years & under	Honours
Thandile Koti	12 years & under	Merit
Jessica Maher	12 years & under	Merit
Sylvia Vice	12 years & under	Merit
Kimaya Shah-Naidoo	16 years & under	Honours

EUGENE JOUBERT
HEAD OF PIANO STUDIES

ABRSM Results

Congratulations to the following girls for excellent results achieved in the recent Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music examinations. This is true testament to their hard work and dedication to music.

Thandile Koti	Grade 2 Piano	Pass
Sylvia Vice	Grade 2 Piano	Merit
Grace Gibbs	Initial Piano	Merit
Koena Mokoena	Grade 1 Violin	Distinction
Leah Govender	Grade 5 Music Theory	Distinction
Kimaya Shah-Naidoo	Grade 5 Music Theory	Distinction

GEORGE POTGIETER
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



Astrid Blair



Grace Gibbs



Thandile Koti



Jessica Maher



Kimaya Shah-Naidoo



Sylvia Vice



Koena Mokoena



Leah Govender

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

Victoria K. Bennett Music Competition

On Saturday 20 August, Annabelle Chen participated in the final round of the Victoria K. Bennett music competition. Annabelle masterfully executed *Variations on a Theme of Paganini* on piano and won her category. Huge congratulations to you, Annabelle. We are all very proud of your dedication, hard work and devotion to your art.

GEORGE POTGIETER
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



TENNIS

The St Mary's A and B tennis team participated in the Primary Schools tennis tournament at Sun City during the holidays. A few good practice sessions were organised by Mrs Corbett before the tour and both teams fared exceptionally well. St Mary's A lost to St Peter's A in the finals whilst the St Mary's B team came third beating St Peter's B, Beaulieu A and Reddam A. All the players were a credit to St Mary's with their high standard of play on the court and their exceptional behaviour off the court. A big thank you to Ms Jonker who assisted with the teams in the absence of Mrs Corbett. The tour was a resounding success and we would also like to thank all the parents for their help and support for the duration of the tournament.

KAREN CORBETT
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



The Sun City A and B team

Back row: René Plant, Megan Macfarlane, Georgina Pearce, Holly Cairns, Jayden de Bruin, Sarah Silcock, Vicki Jonker
Middle row: Courtney van Wyk, Julia Potter, Emma Simpson, Gabriella Illgner, Isabella Molyneaux
Front row: Kristen Biggs, Laila Fowler

EQUESTRIAN

Equestrian team regional finals

On the last weekend of July the equestrian team rode at regional finals. This is where individual riders compete for places in the Gauteng equestrian team. There are five Gauteng areas, and the riders were fiercely competitive and the riding is of a very high standard. Our team rode excellently with many riders placed near the top of their classes. From these regional finals, the top 12 placings will represent Gauteng at the national championships in early October. Each placing carries points for St Mary's.

EMMA FRAHM-ARP
EQUESTRIAN CAPTAIN

Name	Horse	Place	Discipline
Katleho Vilakazi	Pegasus Shiraz	22 nd	Prelim Dressage Class 1
Katleho Vilakazi	Pegasus Shiraz	17 th	Rider's Special Dressage Class 2
Astrid Blair	Pegasus Chalcedony	11 th	Prelim Dressage Class 1
Astrid Blair	Pegasus Chalcedony	13 th	Prelim Dressage Class 2
Emma Frahm-Arp	Waterside Fidelio	1 st	Elementary Class 1
Emma Frahm-Arp	Waterside Fidelio	1 st	Elementary Class 2
Emma Frahm-Arp	Waterside Fidelio	2 nd	Performance Riding Level 7
Emma Frahm-Arp	Waterside Fidelio	1 st	Working Riding Level 7
Vivienne Chen	Copper	3 rd	Equitation: Level 1
Ella Mundell	Zenzele Starstruck	6 th	Equitation: Level 2
Vivienne Chen	Copper	5 th	Showjumping Normal
Vivienne Chen	Copper	4 th	Showjumping Speed Class
Ella Mundell	Zenzele Starstruck	13 th	Showjumping Normal
Ella Mundell	Zenzele Starstruck	11 th	Showjumping Speed Class
Emma Frahm-Arp	Waterside Fidelio	10 th	Showjumping Normal
Emma Frahm-Arp	Waterside Fidelio	10 th	Showjumping Speed Class
Lucy Barrow	Delti	10 th	Prix Caprilli Level 1
Ella Mundell	Zenzele Starstruck	8 th	Prix Caprilli Level 3
Emma Frahm-Arp	Waterside Fidelio	1 st	Prix Caprilli Level 7 test 1
Emma Frahm-Arp	Waterside Fidelio	1 st	Prix Caprilli Level 7 test 2

St Mary's Arts Festival



Free entrance

SATURDAY

1 OCTOBER 2022

10H00 TO 16H00

ORCHESTRA
MARIMBA
CHOIR
ART
DANCE
BALLET
DRAMA
PUBLIC SPEAKING
POETRY READING
PICNIC IN THE CLOSE
MARKET STALLS
BAR
TEA GARDEN

