



Little Saints Valentine's Day flowers

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Like any commercialised festival, Valentine's Day has its detractors. From my vantage point, at the head's desk (so says this article!), any day that prompts us to celebrate the value of love and to find ways to demonstrate our love for each other and our community is worth acknowledging. In addition to wearing their hearts on their sleeves with their choice of red, white, and pink attire, our children also made cards and tokens for each other, and they crafted hearts with the bottle tops they have been collecting as part of an inter-house competition.

Among all the other activities recorded in these pages, I have had the pleasure of hosting groups of Grade 7 girls for tea: we gather in my office and get to know each other better over a plate of chocolate triangles and boxes of fruit juice. The conversation ranges over various topics, big and small, and some subjects return year after year - school uniform is one; boys is another. The scope of the uniform discussion is limited to what we wear and rarely ventures into the more philosophical terrain of why we wear a uniform at all, which is just as well. As I discovered some years ago, conclusive, credible research into the benefits of school uniform is curiously thin on the ground.

Another well-travelled topic that suffers from vigorous but largely uninformed discussion among private school parents the world over is that of class size. Malcolm Gladwell, the English-born, Canadian journalist best known in education circles for his *Outliers* essay on the advantages of "academic redshirting" (the parental practice of delaying your child's entrance into pre-school) has also considered the advantages of smaller student numbers on academic achievement in his book, *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants* (2013). He has this to say on the subject:

All of the studies of class size and its effect on results - and there have been hundreds done over the years - are inconclusive. Fifteen percent find statistically significant evidence that students do better in smaller classes. Roughly the same number find that students do worse in smaller classes. Twenty percent are like [Carol M] Hoxby's and find no effect at all - and the balance find a little bit of evidence in either direction that isn't strong enough to draw any real conclusions.

Before we get carried away, let's be clear on what the research does show: classes of 20 do perform better than classes of 40. At the same time, and what Gladwell is at pains to point out - hence the italics - researchers can find "no real benefit to making classes smaller in the *medium range* of low twenties to high teens."

Gladwell's insights reflect what most teachers intuitively know - that small classes present challenges that are potentially as difficult for a teacher to manage as very large classes. Yes, there might be fewer books to mark and relationships to foster but a good teaching environment depends on things that are demonstrably hard to measure: discussion, difference of opinion, energy. In Gladwell's words, "If the [pupil] numbers get too low, discussion suffers. And if the class is too small, among the speakers, you don't have enough breadth of opinion perhaps to get things really going." There's also something called "peer mentorship," widely recognised by teachers as an invaluable asset to deep, sustained learning but hugely undervalued by parents who habitually see their children's peers "as competitors for the attention of the teacher and not allies in the adventure of learning". Taken too far, Gladwell observes, drawing on the research of others, class-size reduction "steals away the peers that struggling students learn from."

We can speculate on why the difference in achievement between a class of 25 students and a class of 18 students appears negligible - one suggestion relates to teaching style - but we cannot ignore the facts. As a teacher of medium range class sizes, I share Gladwell's sceptical take on institutions whose entire offering appeals to parents "who see things like golf courses and Steinway pianos and small classes as evidence that their money is well spent: the school assumes that the kinds of things that wealth can buy always translate into real-world advantages." The week of Valentine's Day is a good time to remind ourselves of the kinds of things that guide our teaching at St Mary's: Love, Community and Integrity - and the privilege of learning from others.

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Reading the Bible together in Divinity lessons provides the girls with an opportunity to ask questions and become more familiar with the books and stories. In Grade 5, we have been reading the story of Creation. Below are some pictures the girls drew of how they imagined the world to look when God first created it.

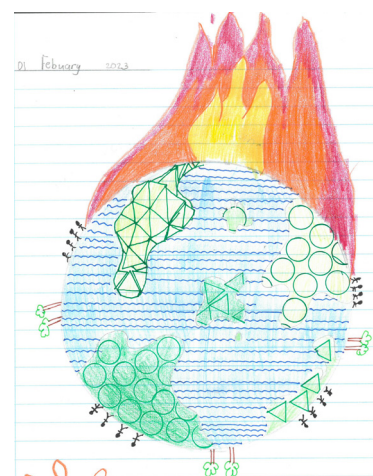
REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



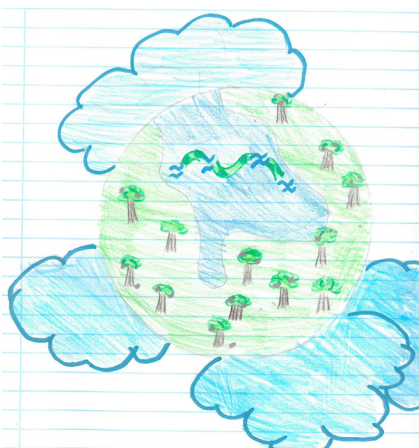
Yara Sewnarain



Elizabeth Desilla



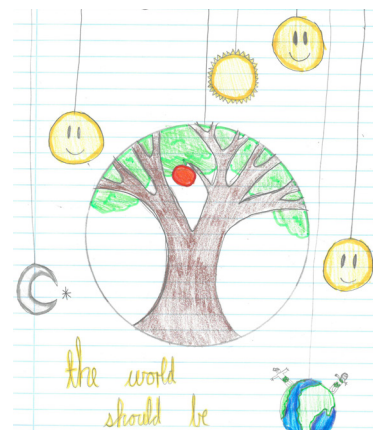
Carolyn Frolich



Grace Nienaber



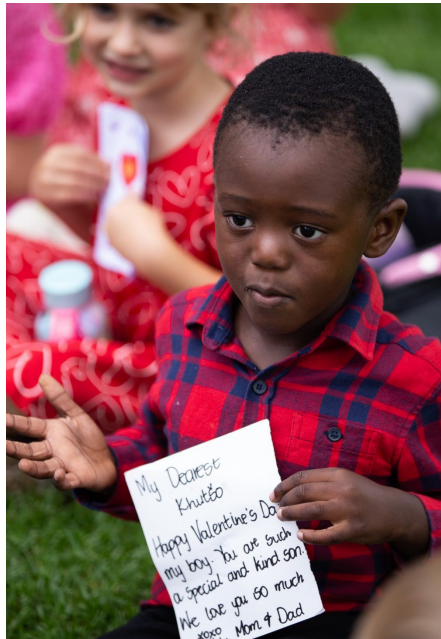
Tsholo Moreroa



Jasmine Woodburn

LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

Little Saints children celebrated Valentine's Day with a teddy bear picnic outside SMOGS. The children enjoyed listening to their teachers read the love notes their parents wrote to them.



GRADE 0 NEWS

We recognise people primarily by looking at their faces. The Grade 0s took a closer look at the faces of their friends by using a cut-out frame and mirrors. At the same time, they built their observational skills and vocabulary.

THE GRADE 0 TEAM



GRADE 2 NEWS

The Grade 2s have been busy in the classroom, designing and creating their own obstacle course out of playdough! They embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and creativity, taking great pleasure in manipulating and moulding the dough into unique obstacles to navigate. They enjoyed the hands-on, tactile exercise of squashing and stretching the dough while exploring their imagination and developing problem solving skills at the same time.

THE GRADE 2 TEAM



GRADE 3 NEWS

Our study unit on 2D and 3D shapes culminated in a fun, practical lesson on building 3D shapes with Jelly Tots and toothpicks. The girls created a variety of shapes, including cubes, cuboids, triangular prisms and pyramids, and they carefully and creatively joined them together to construct interesting structures.

GRADE 3 TEAM



SENIOR PRIMARY NEWS

History woven stitch by stitch

"This retrospective exhibition foregrounds the traditional oral histories and acts as a loudhailer through which to amplify the stories and experiences by and for the people who are otherwise not heard. Through simultaneous narration and documentation, we hope to foster a safe environment to promote healing and sharing to bring people and diverse communities together."

- Curator and art collector, Azu Nwagbogu

The Senior Primary girls enjoyed an outing to the exhibition of the Keiskamma Tapestries, *Umaf' evuka, nje ngenyanga / Dying and Rising as the Moon Does*, at Constitutional Hill. These unique art pieces - all handwoven by a community of rural women from Hamburg, Eastern Cape, demonstrate the importance of documenting local history and quintessentially South African stories. The exhibition was curated against the backdrop of the former prisons - offering a message of hope that draws on the transformative power of art and storytelling.

In her reflection on the exhibition, project founder, Dr Carol Hofmeyr explains the importance of using art as a medium for healing and as a means of sustainable livelihood for the women in this historically marginalised community.

When asked why we should include local history in our teaching, a Grade 6 student replied: *"If we do not take care of these spaces... if we do not see these tapestries and their stories, we will forget and when we forget, we make even worse mistakes than those we made in the past"*.

Please follow the links below to read more about the project:

[Keiskammaart Project](#)

[The Keiskama Tapestry](#)

LAUREN HOWDEN AND ROSA ELK
SENIOR PRIMARY ENGLISH AND HISTORY TEACHERS



Values, Constitutional Hill



The women's charter tapestry



The Steve Biko tapestry



Documenting the past



Susan Koloso at 93



Botanical tapestries

VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE SENIOR PRIMARY

The Senior Primary girls took part in an inter-house Valentine's Day challenge to collect bottle tops and use them to create hearts. The house captains did a wonderful job leading their houses and helping the girls construct their hearts. Congratulations to the Springboks that won the challenge with 3 875 bottle tops. All the bottle tops will be donated to the Sweetheart Foundation which recycles plastic bottle tops and bread tags in exchange for wheelchairs. The whole Junior School took part in a diversity committee initiative to write inspirational messages to one another and these were delivered on Valentine's Day. Little Saints made beautiful flowers for the teachers.

KERRY GIBBONS
HoD: SENIOR PRIMARY



Little Saints made beautiful flowers for the teachers



GRADE 5 NEWS

Kwalata Adventure camp

On arrival at the camp in the Dinokeng Game Reserve, the girls were asked why they thought they went on camps. Their heartfelt responses serve as captions to the images included below.

THE GRADE 5 CAMP TEAM



Broadening our circle of friends



Developing a sense of independence



Learning new life skills



Enjoying outdoor learning



Overcoming certain fears



Having fun

GRADE 7 NEWS

Leadership programme

"A fundamental concern for others, in our individual and community lives, would go a long way in making the world the 'better place' we so passionately dreamt of."

- Nelson Mandela, address at Kliptown, Soweto, South Africa, July 12, 2008

Upon their return from camp, the Grade 7s were assigned their leadership positions for the year and will now start the journey of becoming the leaders of the Senior Primary we know they can be - by setting an example for the younger students and building on our values of Love, Community and Integrity.

From motivating for their positions to participating in rigorous

peer voting, the process resulted in many of the girls achieving their first choice of role; some girls even agreed to take on additional roles that serve specific needs within the school. However, as with all selection processes, there was also the inevitable disappointment. It is important to remember, as Manfred F. R. Kets de Vries explores in his book *Down the Rabbit Hole of Leadership*, "disappointment is not meant to destroy us. If taken in stride, it can strengthen us and make us better. In spite of its devastating emotional impact, we may even consider encounters with disappointment as journeys toward greater insight and wisdom."

We wish the Grade 7s all the best on this exciting and valuable journey of self-discovery.

GRADE 7 MENTOR TEACHERS
2023



Leadership roles

GRADE 4 NEWS



Grade 4s enjoyed making hearts with tangram pieces for Valentine's Day

TRISH BONORCHIS
GRADE 4 TEACHER

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Moment *musicale*

On Friday 10 February, we were treated to a rare musical moment when the exceptionally talented Zanta Hofmeyr, well-known South African violin virtuoso, visited the Senior Primary girls in assembly.

Zanta captivated the girls with her marvellous performance of Manuel de Falla's *Dance Espagnole*, accompanied by Mr Eugene Joubert, our own head of piano studies. Zanta spoke fondly of her time as undergraduate and master's student at the Juilliard School of Music in New York - explaining to the girls that while she grew up in a musical household, it was hours and hours of practice that allowed her to achieve the success she enjoys today.

GEORGE POTGIETER
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



Harmonious hymns

Many linguists and language theorists have long understood that singing songs can support a child's language development. This is also true of their ability to learn a second language. Our first additional language teachers have been taking turns to lead our hymn practices, increasing the girls' repertoire and encouraging a deeper understanding of Afrikaans, isiZulu and Sesotho hymns. Most recently, Sesotho teacher and Grade 6 mentor, Lunga Seele guided the girls in a moving rendition of *Modimo ha le teng* (*Ha a yo mathata*) and *Ukholo Lwami* which saw girls and staff alike joining in to sing and dance together.

LAUREN HOWDEN
DEPUTY HEAD: ACADEMICS



COMMUNITY SERVICE



Established in 1954

Fundraising No: 011 00330 002 + PBO Exemption No: 930 006 973 * Registration Certificate No: 001/252 NPO

03 February 2023

Ms Linda Maishman,
St. Mary's School,
Linda.maishman@stmary.co.za

Dear Linda,

Once again, this letter is written in thanks to you and your learners for the receipt of the beautifully wrapped and labelled Christmas gifts sent to us to pass on to the little patients undergoing ill health at our supported hospitals and clinics.

As happens every year, there are so many little ones suffering and we are so grateful to provide them with a Christmas gift to lighten their plight at this special time. Their joy to be given a toy at this special time is heartfelt and, through your generosity we are so happy to bring some joy to these patients during what could be a stressful and unhappy time.

The Christmas gifts donated to us were given to OT patients attending the Charlotte Maxeke Christmas party and to HIV children at the Thoko Mngoma Clinic in Alex. Everyone who received the gifts was very grateful and their parties were so special through your kindness.

Please pass on to everyone who was involved with this wonderful offering to bring joy to so many.

With kind regards,

Heather Kent
BHCC Committee Member



Chairperson: Cheryl Wagner 082 920 9638 email: bhccsouthafrica@gmail.com website: www.bhcc.org.za
Treasurer: Frankie Donaldson 082 349 9585 Secretary: Barbara Manning 082 901 4900



A very big thank you to the Junior School families who donated Christmas presents to the Baragwanath Hospital Comfort Care Committee last year

SWIMMING

A and B team swimming

The A team swam at St Andrew's on Saturday 4 February. All the girls swam very well and coach Cobus was proud of them. A big thank you must go to Mrs Grobbelaar for being with the A team and assisting at the gala. We congratulate the A team on coming first and swimming with such determination.

The A team scores were as follows:

1	St Mary's	168
2	St Andrew's	128
3	St Peter's	118
4	St Teresa's	100
5	Kingsmead	86

The B team swam at St Peter's on Saturday 4 February. I was so proud of how they swam as well as their enthusiasm and determination in every race. It was a happy gala and the girls enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to the B team on coming first.

The B team scores were as follows:

1	St Mary's	128
2	St Peter's	99

3	Brescia and St Katharine's	72
4	St Andrew's	70

ROSE HALLENDORFF
HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING

Grade 4 to 7 C and D team gala at Kingsmead on Saturday 4 February

Well done to all the C and D team swimmers who swam at Kingsmead on Saturday 4 February. The girls swam well and enjoyed themselves. The results were as follows:

1	APPS B	147
2	St Mary's C	110
3	St Theresa's	105
4	Kingsmead	99
5	St Andrew's	88
6	St Mary's D	74
7	Roedean	62
8	APPS C	44

VICKI JONKER
SPORTS TEACHER



Grade 7 C and D team at Kingsmead



Grade 7 B team girls ready for the wacry

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Earlier this week, Mrs Mshengu and I took the opportunity to meet the Junior School rhythmic gymnasts from Grades 2 to 7 and introduce them to their 2023 captain, Caelen Buchanan. We also spoke to the girls about the ongoing collaboration between the parents and the school to find a suitable approach to rhythmic gymnastics from 2024. The girls asked lots of questions about the year ahead and what is in store for them - we look forward to sharing news in assembly and the newsletter over the next few months.

SARAH WARNER, ANTOINETTE MSHENGU,
LAUREN HOWDEN



TENNIS

Well done to all the girls who participated in the U13 Gauteng Central tennis trial that took place at Ellis Park on 4 and 5 February. Congratulations to our St Mary's tennis captains Sophie Kent and Isabella Molyneux who made the Gauteng U13 A and B team respectively.

KAREN CORBETT
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



U13 Gauteng Central trials



Isabella Molyneux and Sophie Kent

SAVE THE DATE

Please add this to your diaries as a "must-see" coming up next month - a wonderful programme of music presented by our very own Eugene Joubert (piano), joined by Gerrit Koorsen (cello) and Shannon Armer (French horn).

DUDLEY TROLLOPE
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



JOURNEY TO WAKKERSTROOM

12 MARCH 2023
5 pm



The Edge
St. Mary's School
Waverley

Eugene Joubert, Shannon Armer, and Gerrit Koorsen will be performing selected works from two upcoming concerts - 'Rachmaninoff Restored' (Eugene and Gerrit) and 'Reflections and Perspectives' (Shannon and Eugene) -

that will be presented at the 2023 Wakkerstroom Music Festival. Enjoy an afternoon of classical music as these musicians bring their unique interpretations to the stage.

celebrating the 22nd

ST MARY'S HOCKEY FESTIVAL

proudly sponsored by Standard Bank

2 9 M A R C H - 2 A P R I L 2 0 2 3

500+ TALENTED PLAYERS	4955 MINUTES OF PLAY	188 EXCITING MATCHES	7500+ PASSIONATE SUPPORTERS
---------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------



Competing in the 22nd prestigious St Mary's Hockey Festival in March and April 2023 are 32 TEAMS from Southern Africa

St Mary's School will be hosting more than 500 competitors and their coaching staff, as well as the many supporters expected during the course of the festival.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING SPONSORSHIPS:

- Sponsored boards on the AstroTurf
- A dedicated St Mary's Hockey Festival app with links to social media platforms will be used throughout the festival. The app has exciting advertising opportunities with great brand positioning for companies wishing to reach our considerable visitor numbers

If you would like to contribute and show your support, kindly complete the form on the next page and return it to lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za





SPONSORSHIP FORM

(Please check the appropriate box as required)

AstoTurf advertising board sponsorship

- Boards to be erected around the perimeter of the AstroTurf
- Sponsorship of board is for a full calendar year, starting 29 March 2023, ending 28 March 2024

Board sizes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	1.2m x 2.4m	R15 000
<input type="checkbox"/>	3m x 2m	R22 000

I/we _____ (name/name of company)
would like to sponsor an AstroTurf board as checked in the boxes above.

Display advertisement on the St Mary's events app

The St Mary's events app is dedicated to the Hockey Festival during the festival and is used throughout the year for St Mary's events, sport tournaments and festivals. A display advertisement on the St Mary's events app will be for one year from 29 March 2023, ending 28 March 2024. Annual cost for company details and a link to company website/social media on the app is **R5 000**.

I/we _____ (name/name of company)
would like to advertise on the St Mary's events app.

Kindly supply all artwork in jpeg or png format by no later than 28 February 2023.

Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Please return to lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za



ST MARY'S FOUNDATION



School-Days

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Join School-Days and Support our School,
IT'S FREE AND EASY!

Every new supporter we get will raise R15 each
for our school for the next 3 months!
It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...



1. Join:

Download the School-Days Mobile App
or visit www.schooldays.co.za.

2. Add Beneficiary:

Add our school as your beneficiary.

3. Partners:

Spend and engage with the School-Days
partners and you'll raise more for our school.

PARTNERS



School-Days

Follow us on social media
[@school_days_sa](https://www.instagram.com/school_days_sa)



For queries, contact: support@schooldays.co.za

ARE YOU GIVING BACK
EVERY TIME YOU
SHOP?

Swipe your card at our:

National business partners

WOOLWORTHS



Regional business partners

EAST – EDENVALE/GERMISTON

- Linksfield - Pharmacy
- Supa Quick – Fishers Hill
- Supa Quick – Edendale
- Esquire's Sport
- Paint Trade – Edenvale

ONLINE

- Power 24.co.za

HIGHLANDS NORTH

- Jack's Paint & Hardware

ALBERTON

- Simply School Uniform
- Loco Liquors
- Blunderbuss Gun & Sport
- Bracken Vineyard Liquors

NORTH

- Spar – Norwood

BEDFORDVIEW

- Esquire's Sport
- Jack's Paint & Hardware



NOTICES

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.

MUSE MORNING

The St Mary's community is invited to our first Muse Morning of 2023

Date: Tuesday 21 February

Time: 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30

Venue: Seminar room in The Edge

RSVP: Lynsay.young@stmary.co.za

Topic: "Shrinking diet culture - building a healthy relationship with food and our bodies"

Speaker: Anele Honono

Anele will be speaking about how to support your child in building a healthy emotional relationship with food. The talk will offer you guidance on when to be concerned about your child's eating habits, the signs to look out for and what you can do to support your child.

About Anele Honono

Anele is a clinical psychologist with diverse experience in mental health in public and private health care. From 2015-2020, she worked in ward 1 and 2 at Tara Hospital as one of two permanent psychologists in the eating disorders and adolescent wards. From 2020-2022, she moved to the Adult Out-patients department, ward 8 - Female biochemical ward, and continued to work in the eating disorders ward.

As of August 2022, she moved to full time private practice, seeing patients from the Oxford Day Clinic as well as running her own private practice in Melrose and Auckland Park where she sees adults and adolescents who present with a variety of psychological challenges.

Anele has a keen interest in working with eating disorders and is a director and shareholder at LinkedCare Consortium, a multidisciplinary team that provides mental healthcare services to individuals, families, and organisations.

JUNIOR SCHOOL TUCK SHOP

A reminder to Junior School parents that they can pre-order meals for their daughters. WhatsApped requests are difficult to process.

Please see document below or go to Resources / Tuck shop on the St Mary's app for further details.

https://protect-za.mimecast.com/s/v_60CAnX2ISyvl7IGoHjg?domain=assets.entegy.com.au

- How to register with ALLXS

- How to top up your account
- Your dashboard

The pre-ordered meals are delivered to the Junior School at tables which have been allocated as follows:

Grade 0 - 3

Grade 4 - 7

The meal menus can be found on the ALLXS pre-order site.