



Still taken from American band Ok Go's video *This Too Shall Pass*. The Senior Primary girls watched the clip as part of an assembly on the complexity of successful collaboration. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qybUFnY7Y8w>

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

With the school play (Grades 1 to 7) scheduled for performance at the end of the term, as well as a full menu of academic, sport, cultural and community activities on the go, the idea of collaboration is very much on my mind. We use the term widely in schools, attach an absolute value to it, and create opportunities to observe and assess it across a range of disciplines. Its inclusion in the list of 21st century skills (as cited on stemeducationjournal.springeropen.com) confirms its undisputed power to “enhance knowledge building and problem solving”.

While it is not my intention to question the good reputation of collaboration - despite its complicated definition as both comradely and traitorous co-operation - I do think we are quick to forget just how difficult effective collaboration is to achieve. A few years ago, a Junior School parent sensibly pointed out the necessity of always assigning roles in collaborative projects so that each member of the group could assume some accountability in managing and completing the task. It seems an obvious insight, but I have watched how often collaborative tasks involving adults founder on this very point.

And speaking of watching, it is the spectacle of creativity (another 21st century skill) that most brings home how testing collaboration can be for everyone involved. My point of reference at the moment is Peter Jackson's *The Beatles: Get Back*, which documents the band's recording sessions in January 1969. I am, admittedly, only one episode into the series, but so far, what I have seen reflects more of the tedium and strain attendant on collaboration and fewer of what online journalist Ben Lindbergh describes as “magical moments when inspiration strikes”.

When tackling the question of who comes out of the documentary looking the best, Lindbergh's observations on Paul McCartney's “ambitious vision” and “indomitable work ethic” are interesting; more interesting still is his assessment of drummer Ringo Starr's contribution: “He showed up on time, open to input and prepared to play. [...] Ringo was the glue guy and an invaluable buffer between the more combative Beatles.”

The list of behaviours attributed to Ringo are modest in comparison to Paul's, but practically speaking, invaluable. Anyone who has attempted to work collaboratively will recognise the importance of consistency and open-mindedness - and glue. What all organisations, including St Mary's, need to continue getting better at is formally recognising the merit in the Ringo approach, celebrating it, and rewarding it. While we cannot do without the Pauls of the group, we could also do with acknowledging and documenting how the steadfastness of the Ringos creates the climate in which creativity thrives.

Coming full circle, then, the success of the Junior School play rests on the felicitous collaboration of teachers and girls (and both of these groups with each other), and parents. Never about individual performances only, a production on this scale requires a fascinating mix of harmony and tension to achieve its full potential, and to unleash the unforgettable magic that certain combinations of performers and audiences make together.

While the process is inarguably exciting, it includes its moments of tedium and discord. My thanks, to all the Ringos on the team who, with their mellow temperament and expansive sense of humour, are already making things easier. I see you.

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

While we celebrated Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day with much joy in previous years, we recognise that the needs of many of the children in our school have changed. To ensure that our pastoral care is responsive to the needs of all our children, we have chosen, instead, to celebrate parents and guardians in a series of Family Day services.

One of the documents informing our approach is Pope Francis' post-synodical *Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia* (AL-The joy of love) on the pastoral care of families. While clearly stating the Church's teaching, "pastors are to avoid judgements that do not take into account the complexity of various situations, and they are to be attentive, by necessity, to how people experience and endure distress because of their condition" (AL 79).

The Pope observes that we need, above all, to avoid a sterile juxtaposition between demands for change and the general application of abstract norms. He insists on concreteness, which is a key concept in the Exhortation. Citing *Familiaris Consortio* (The fellowship of the family), He states that "we do well to focus on concrete realities, since 'the call and the demands of the Spirit resound in the events of history'" (AL 31). If we fail to listen to reality, we cannot understand the needs of the present or the movements of the Spirit.

The Pope begins his reflections with the Holy Scriptures:

The Bible is full of families, births, love stories and family crises. This is true from its very first page, with the appearance of Adam and Eve's family with all its burden of violence but also its enduring strength (cf. Gen 4) to its very last page, where we behold the wedding feast of the Bride and the Lamb (Rev 21:2, 9). Jesus' description of the two houses, one built on rock and the other on sand (cf. Mt 7:24-27), symbolises any number of family situations shaped by the exercise of their members' freedom, for, as the poet says, "every home is a lampstand".

Please join us at our Family Day services which will take place on the following dates:

- Grades 0 and 3 Monday 13 June at 07h30
- Little Saints Tuesday 14 June 08h30
- Grades 4 and 6 Wednesday 15 June 07h30
- Grades 1 and 2 Monday 20 June 07h30
- Grades 5 and 7 Wednesday 22 June 07h30

More information will be sent out closer to the time.

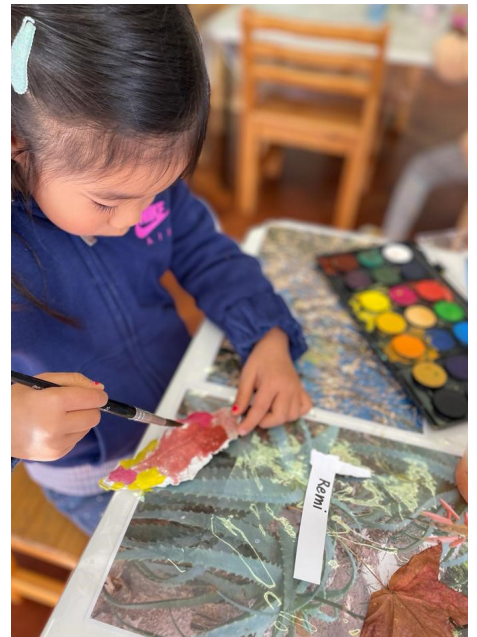
REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

The second term has arrived along with the beautiful colours of falling autumn leaves. The Little Saints children are curious about the changes they have noticed around them; their many questions have initiated interesting discussions. The Grade 000 children made autumn leaves using paper pulp; they carefully studied the colours of fallen leaves so that they could paint their creations as beautifully as Mother Nature does hers. The Grade 00 children have drawn and painted self-portraits, noticing their own growth, using autumn leaves as hair. We fortify our spirits and hope that the warmth of autumn will keep our hearts happy and light as the chill of winter approaches!

MELANIE NIJLAND
ATELIERISTA



JUNIOR PRIMARY NEWS

This term, the Junior Primary girls will be investigating water. They were treated to an exciting show, *Tholo the Brave*, all about the journey of a raindrop from the peaks of the Maluti mountains in Lesotho, to the Vaal Dam, to the taps of Gauteng.

AGOTHA CLARKE
ACTING HoD: JUNIOR PRIMARY



GRADE 0 NEWS

Signs of autumn

The Grade 0 girls set off excitedly on a leaf crunching walk around the school to see what changes this season has to offer. The autumn sights, sounds, smells and nature finds offered them lots of inspiration to create beautiful autumn pictures.

AGOTHA CLARKE
ACTING HoD: JUNIOR PRIMARY



GRADE 1 NEWS

The Grade 1 girls have been having lots of fun pretending to prepare and cook food using combinations of mud, sand and water.

AGOTHA CLARKE
ACTING HoD: JUNIOR PRIMARY



GRADE 2 NEWS

Let's dive into Term II, Grade 2s! Our theme is water and the girls have been very excited to plunge into STEM activities and experiments. We kicked off the term with the concepts of sinking and floating. The girls looked at objects, predicted whether they would sink or float, made observations, recorded their findings, and evaluated the outcomes. These activities involved teamwork and problem solving, and the girls learnt some new vocabulary, including the terms "density" and "particles".

ANESHREE NAICKER
GRADE 2 TEACHER

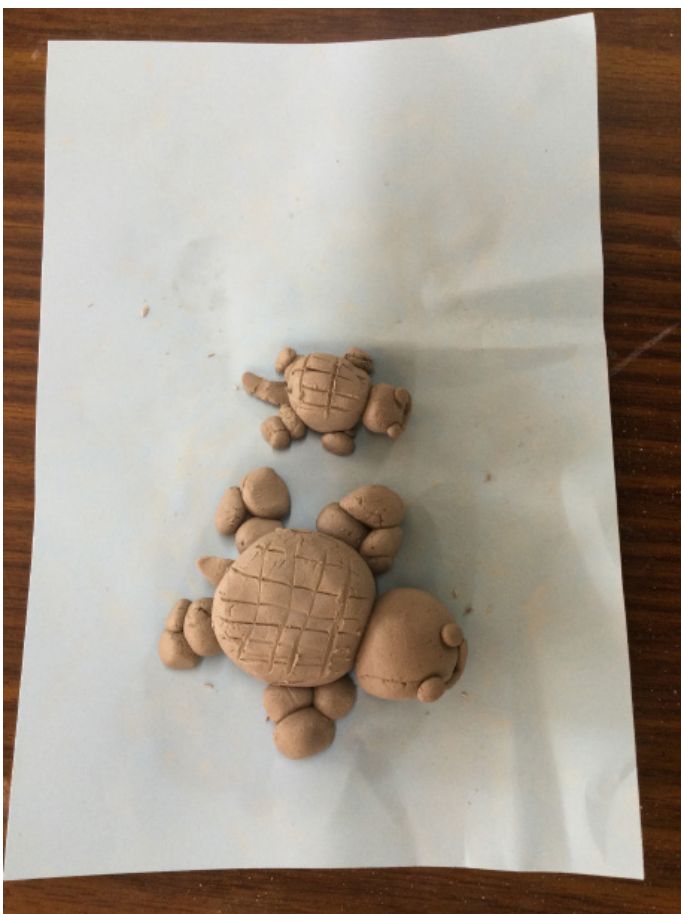
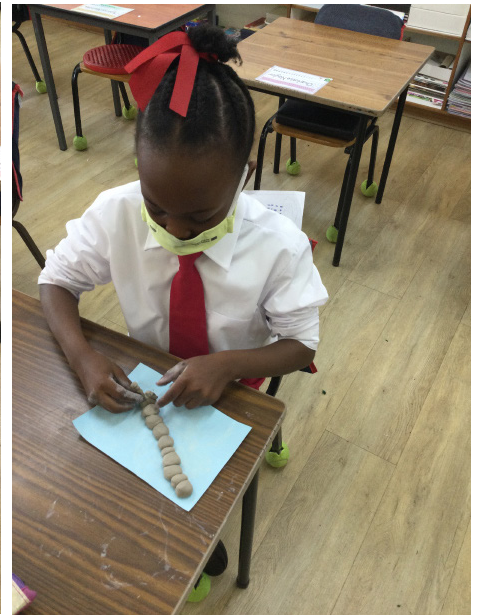


GRADE 2 NEWS CONTINUED

Clay activity

The Grades 2 and 3 fine motor group enjoyed playing with clay. Working with clay is a wonderful way to express feelings and a very calming activity. The girls were engrossed in rolling and pressing the clay, taking full advantage of the medium's range of expression.

ANESHREE NAICKER AND ELISA MAHUME
GRADE 2 TEACHER AND GRADE 0 ASSISTANT



MUSIC NEWS

The Senior Primary marimba band played at the Little Saints parents' afternoon on Wednesday. They played four pieces for the prospective parents. The marimba band loves performing and playing. On Wednesday, they played *Scary Tango*, *Under the Sea*, *Thato ya hao* and *Southern Seas*, an original South African composition.

GEORGE POTGIETER
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC

GRADE 4 NEWS

The Grade 4s enjoyed "stepping back in time" on their visit to the Holy Family Convent (previously Parktown Convent). As part of their local history module, the girls learnt about the early history of Johannesburg, the Gold Rush, the reality of life as a miner and what it would have been like to be a student at the convent in 1905! They discovered the rose garden dedicated to Helen Suzman who matriculated from the convent in 1933. From department lessons to sewing buttons and darning socks as a form of punishment, the girls left feeling more grateful for their own lovely school.

TRISH BONORCHIS, LIZ GRAWEZ AND LAUREN HOWDEN
THE GRADE 4 TEAM



GRADE 5 NEWS

Camp reflections at Camp Kwalata

The Grade 5s were grateful for the opportunity to go on camp again. The girls went to Kwalata Adventure Camp in the Dinokeng Game Reserve, north of Johannesburg.

Camp was super fun and interesting. I had a lot of snacks and some money for the tuck shop. Our main camp counselor, William, woke us early each morning with the sound of a loud drum. They took away our watches, so we never knew the time. They wanted us to enjoy the moment.

Katlego Mashile

I loved it. It was such fun and so exiting. I loved the water slide the most and also making animals for the zoo and the bracelets. I already can't wait to go to our next camp.

Grace Gibbs

Tour was amazing. It was an adventure. We played cool games and the food there was amazing.

Julia Potter

Going on camp was a wonderful experience. I loved the desserts and the chant 'hey, hey... listen up, listen up'. My favourite counsellors were Neo and Tsego because they were kind and easy to talk to.

Akua Hinson

My favourite part was the swimming pool and the slip and slide. When we went to the dorm room after dinner, we all did each other's hair. It was so much fun.

Kayla Sears

We had this drill called 'body check' where you had to run and count that everyone in your mentor group was present. My favourite and funniest part was watching my friend climb down from the third bunk using two ladders facing each other.

Cassiah-Jade Cabral

We played games, went on a game drive and did an eco-walk, then we played more games. My favourite one was when you had to break into the bank. Just a reminder that was not a real bank. It was the next day, we had breakfast and packed up, then we played a few games. So then we went back to school, I enjoyed camp and I hope all the Grade 5s did.

Sarah Cowlard

THE GRADE 5 MENTORS



SENIOR PRIMARY NEWS

Science

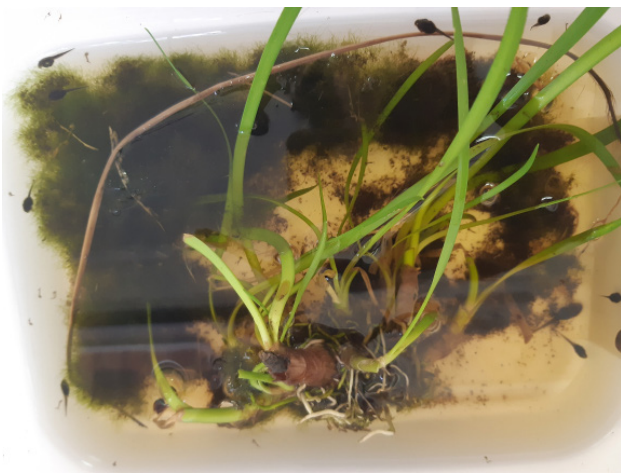
Life cycle of the frog

Over a few weeks in Term 1, we enjoyed observing the life cycle of the frog and discussing habitats. The tadpoles were kept in a container with a half-submerged water plant and algae. The container was put into the sun for a short time each day to keep the algae alive. Once the froglets became frogs, they were released into the Junior Primary water garden.

This experience added value to the Grade 4s understanding of growth as one of the seven characteristics of life. The Grade 5s made connections to the work they are doing on the plant kingdom and photosynthesis. The Grade 6s linked this to their investigations on the characteristics of each vertebrate class - the amphibians being a fascinating class owing to their 'double life'.

Florence Pirnie and Emily van Barkenhuizen documented the life cycle in the photographs included below this article:

ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



The aquatic environment



Stage one: the tadpole hatches and starts swimming using its tail. It eats water plants and algae. It breathes through gills



Stage two: the tadpole grows back legs



Stage 3: front legs grow. It now has front legs, back legs and a tail



Stage 4: the tail shrinks and the froglet begins to spend time out of the water



Stage 5: the adult is ready to live out of the water. It has lungs and uses its moist skin to absorb oxygen

BLESSING OF WALL HANGING

In 2021, the Grade 7 girls were given the opportunity to enjoy some creative pursuits. They split the two groups in half and alternated between coding and handcraft classes.

After engaging with some warm-up exercises, the girls were given the task of designing a quilt square that reflected something about themselves. Using fabric scraps, markers, paint and at least some embroidery, they took on the challenge of how to interpret their personal design onto fabric. I sewed the squares together and quilted the wall hanging - a tactile, colourful artefact that will tell the story of the class of 2021 for many years to come.

JANET WELLS
IT TEACHER



PARENT ASSOCIATION FUN DAY

Fun Day is open to all Junior Primarg girls (Grade 000 to Grade 3), their parents and siblings and we can't wait to see you all there.

Activities include: mini ferris wheel, aroma dough making, carnival style games, nail and face painting, bead your own creation and Bollywood dance lessons.

Food stalls, a braai and bar, and a cake and tea garden will be available, as well as a gin and champagne bar. Delicious vegetarian food options will be available from Olives & Plates in the tea garden area. This year we will also have an exclusive *African Food Journey* tasting experience available.

Download the St Mary's Events App and follow along as we provide more details and sneak peaks of the event. Tickets are available via Quicket.

ASHLEA BARKER AND JENNY KYDD
THE ST MARY'S PARENT ASSOCIATION



WORLD BEE DAY 20 MAY 2022

Happy World Bee Day today!

The main purpose of World Bee Day events is to spread awareness of the significance of bees and other pollinators for our survival. Simply proclaiming World Bee Day does not do much for bees and other pollinators; the main work of safeguarding their existence still needs to be undertaken.

Kath Gerakaris, one of our Grade 6 moms, came to speak to our environmental club on Monday about bees and their importance. Kath is a bee keeper and the girls' learnt so much from her.



What are you going to do to help our bees survive?

Remember to be kind to our bees!

ROBYN RICHMOND
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

NETBALL

This term started with a very busy netball season. On Thursday 12 May, all the Grade 3 girls played their first netball matches at Roedeian against Roedeian and Kingsmead. After the initial shock and excitement of encountering other competition, the teams performed very well.



Grade 3 netball players



NETBALL CONTINUED

On a miraculously warm Saturday morning, the Grade 3s and Grade 4s participated in the Holy Rosary A and B netball festival. Each team played five or six matches, and this gave the coaches an opportunity to try different combinations. The improvement in the girls' standard of play was evident from one match to the next. The Grade 3 purple and blue team won five matches out of six and lost one; Grade 4 A won three out of five matches and lost two; and Grade 4 B won two matches, drew one and lost two. This festival was a great start to our term. Well done to all the girls!

The Grade 7 A netball team participated in the St Andrew's Grade 7 A netball tournament on Saturday 14 May. The tournament ran two pools with five matches in the pool round. St Mary's lost their last match in the pool round against Cornwall Hill. They went through to play in the semi-finals against Durban Girls' College and won 9-5. St Mary's placed third and Laila Fowler was named goal shooter of the tournament. This was a great achievement for the team.



Grade 7A netball team at the St Andrew's Grade 7A netball tournament



Laila Fowler at the St Andrew's Grade 7 A netball tournament

Our Grade 5-7 A netball teams participated in the St Stithians Sports Festival over three days. It was an exciting festival for the girls as we were playing schools that we do not usually play against and we were playing at night under lights. Each team had three or four matches each day. Owing to the bad weather, two of our evenings were cut short. Our Grade 7 team won three matches, lost two matches and drew one. The Grade 6s won five matches, drew one and lost one. Our Grade 5 team won seven matches and lost a tight match against Montrose. The girls played exceptionally well. They were able to refine their skills for the approaching league matches.



Grade 5A team



Grade 6A team

NETBALL CONTINUED

On Friday 13 May, the Grades 4 to 7 netball teams played against Roedean and Kingsmead and the results were as follows:

| | Roedean | Kingsmead |
|----------------|---------|-----------|
| Grade 4 | | |
| A team | 0-2 | 1-0 |
| B team | 2-0 | 2-0 |
| C team | 12-0 | 5-0 |
| D team | 4-3 | 5-0 |
| E team | - | 3-3 |
| Grade 5 | | |
| A team | 4-1 | 5-1 |
| B team | 3-1 | 5-5 |
| C team | 4-0 | 4-1 |
| D team | 4-0 | 5-0 |
| E team | - | 1-0 |
| F team | 5-0 | - |
| Grade 6 | | |
| A team | 4-0 | 4-1 |
| B team | 4-0 | 10-2 |
| C team | 10-0 | 7-0 |
| D team | 3-2 | 5-0 |
| Grade 7 | | |
| A team | 7-2 | 6-0 |
| B team | 6-1 | 4-1 |
| C team | 10-2 | 11-0 |
| D team | 6-1 | 8-1 |
| E team | - | 1-0 |
| F team | 3-0 | - |

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL

TENNIS

Tennis

Congratulations to the St Mary’s A, B and C teams that competed in the St Stithians festival from the 7-9 April. All three teams played tennis of a very high standard. The tournament was a huge success.

Well done to all the girls who participated!

KAREN CORBETT
TENNIS COACH



St Mary’s A team

SQUASH

St Stithians Prep Sports Festival

The Junior School squash team competed in the St Stithians Prep Sports Festival. The team consisted of Amy Shannon, Kaylee Verster, Narissa Naidoo and Kgalalelo Pitje. Seeing as the tournament is a festival and results do not count, the girls competed against both boys and girls.

Amy Shannon, who is currently ranked 1st in U13 in Johannesburg won all her matches and only dropped two games to Graeme College. On Friday, the girls played St John's and St Stithians girls and lost both fixtures 9-3. The St Mary's team played much better on Friday, however they lost 10-3 to a strong Graeme College team and 9-4 to KEPS with St Mary's Kaylee Verster taking a game off one of the boys. On Saturday, St Mary's lost 9-3 to St Stithians Boys and drew 6-6 to St Mary's DSG.

The festival was a great learning curve for the St Mary's team and exposed them to a high standard of squash. We look forward to playing in this tournament again.

PANASHE SITHOLE
SQUASH COACH



Squash team: Kaylee Verster, Kgalalelo Pitje, Narissa Naidoo, Amy Shannon

ED-ADMIN PARENTAL 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.stmaryschool.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.