



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is no stranger to representation: his image has been captured in numerous photographic portraits, paintings, prints, sculptures, statues and monuments around the world. President Cyril Ramaphosa unveiled two new statues of Mandela this week - not without controversy - in Mthatha and at the Qunu Youth and Heritage Centre, and a wealth of postage stamps and other memorabilia commemorating Mandela's legacy as an international statesman, nobel laureate and icon of the anti-apartheid struggle is available for viewing online. Mandela has also been the subject of many articles, academic papers, and books and the recent publication of Johnny Steinberg's double biography, *Winnie and Nelson: Portrait of a Marriage* shows that interest in Mandela's life has not abated.

Mandela will always remain interesting to us in the Junior School for his elevation of the concept of service and the matchless example he set of self-fulfillment through service to the community. Again, for this year's Mandela Day celebrations, the girls in the Junior Primary recognised the support staff by hosting a gratitude tea in their honour and the Senior Primary girls spent time assembling soup packs for distribution by the Baragwanath Hospital Care Comforts Committee. They also performed in a music concert with the Senior School for the enjoyment of everyone on campus.

The Little Saints children and teachers prepared sandwiches and organised a collection of new socks and beanies for the needy. Their remarkable portrait of Madiba (see above image), made from finger- and handprints under the guidance of our atelierista, Mrs Oldfield-Sammons, was the work of a few days. I was fortunate to be included in the project and, like my fellow mark-makers, felt a rush of recognition when I pulled my focus in and identified my handprint in the composite image.

Some years ago, I visited the Nelson Mandela Capture Site outside Howick in KwaZulu-Natal with my family. The site commemorates the time and place of Mandela's arrest on 5 August 1962 with its visitor centre and internationally acclaimed interactive sculpture, *Release*, created by Marco Cianfanelli and Jeremy Rose in 2007, and curated and commissioned by Culture Mechanics, a specialist museum, exhibition, design, and art consultancy.

Described in the journal *African Arts* as “an extraordinary monument”, the sculpture comprises “fifty discrete black steel components, each between 6.5 and 9.5 meters tall” and “is approached via a paved pathway set between two embankments. [...] When the viewer arrives at a spot some 35 meters in front of the sculpture, the work reveals clearly an image of Nelson Mandela’s face in profile, looking towards the west, the side where the sun sets. Then, as the viewer moves closer to the structure, the illusion disappears”.

The fugitive nature of the installation, its ability to conjure and dissolve, makes it into a kind of anti-monument that recalls, metaphorically, Mandela’s heightened visibility to an international audience the moment he disappeared from world view. The sculpture, the largest artwork of its kind in South Africa, achieves many things: among these is its ability to remind us of the fleeting nature of presence, and to make public memory feel personal and intimate. Our Little Saints painting, on a radically reduced scale, and in its own way, achieves something similar; avoiding the twin dangers of appearing trite or overblown, our portrait - the work of many hands - makes one thing clear: if Mandela is there, it’s because we are too.

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN



“My Joy at being in this conference [The Annual conference of the Methodist Church] is multiplied many-fold by the fact that this is for me also a personal homecoming, both in the physical and spiritual sense. The environs of Umtata are not only my humble origins, but it is also here that my spiritual association with this great church started. And I cannot overemphasise the role that the Methodist church has played in my own life” (Mandela, September 1994).

Reading these words by Nelson Mandela about how formative Christian education was in his life, makes me appreciate our school’s Christian identity even more. Mandela seldom spoke publicly about his faith. For him faith was a private matter between an individual and God. For Mandela, faith and religious institutions had an important role to play in building our country. In the same speech quoted above, Mandela referred to reconciliation as “a spiritual process which requires more than just a legal framework. It has to happen in the hearts and minds of people. Indeed, no institution is better placed to assist this process than the thousands of religious congregations which gather every week all over the land and among all communities” (Mandela, September 1994).

As we go about our Mandela Day activities, may we also remember the values he embodied.

*Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika*

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO  
CHAPLAIN



# MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Little Saints celebrated Mandela Day by making peanut butter and jam sandwiches to give to the less privileged. They decorated brown paper bags in which to put the sandwiches and included a pair of socks and beanie as well. The children also created a Mandela picture made up of handprints and fingerprints.

THE LITTLE SAINTS TEAM





## MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS (CONTINUED)

The Junior Primary invited all the support staff to a tea on Mandela Day. It was a wonderful opportunity for the girls to honour and show appreciation for those who do so much for them. We all enjoyed the singing and musical presentations.





## MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS CONTINUED

### Senior Primary girls and teachers unite to provide meals of hope

In a heartwarming display of compassion and unity, the Senior Primary girls and their teachers came together on Mandela Day to make a difference in the lives of less fortunate patients across Johannesburg who receive support from the Baragwanath Hospital Care Comforts Committee (BHCC). BHCC is a remarkable organisation that reaches out to disadvantaged individuals in state hospitals and clinics, ensuring they receive essential support and meals to aid their recovery. Led by the inspiring duo of Robyn Richmond and Koo Montgomery, this act of service truly exemplified the spirit of Madiba, with every girl contributing her time and effort to make her 67 minutes count.

The significance of the number 67 stems from Nelson Mandela's 67 years of dedicated service to humanity. In honour of his legacy, Mandela Day encourages individuals to spend 67 minutes of their time engaging in acts of kindness and service. The Senior Primary girls embraced this call, understanding that their contributions, no matter how small, could make a tangible difference.

Nelson Mandela believed in the power of education and service to transform lives and build a better society. The initiative taken by the Senior Primary girls and their teachers not only supported the patients at BHCC it also demonstrated the values that Mandela championed throughout his life.

LAUREN HOWDEN  
DEPUTY HEAD: ACADEMICS





# MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS CONTINUED

The music picnic outside The Edge was a perfect end to Mandela Day. The Senior Primary choir, marimba bands, chamber choir and orchestra performed for the Senior School and Senior Primary, a lovely celebration for our broader community!





## GRADE 0 NEWS

### A good friend

The girls discussed the qualities of a good friend and worked together in groups to build a model of their ideal friend using the Six Bricks blocks. They had lots of fun discussing their friend's interests and qualities and they also chose a name for her.

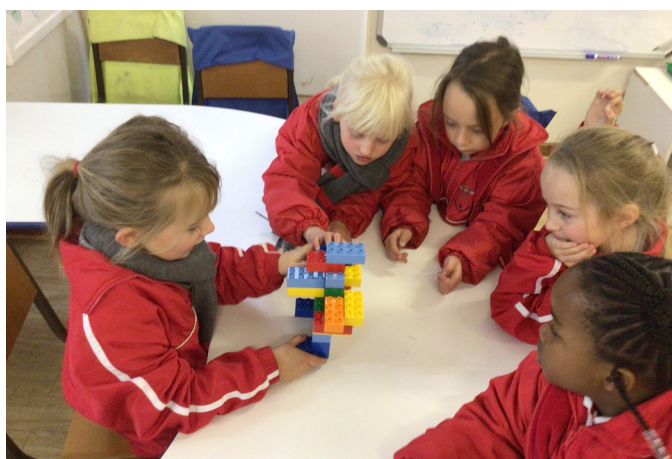
THE GRADE 0 TEAM



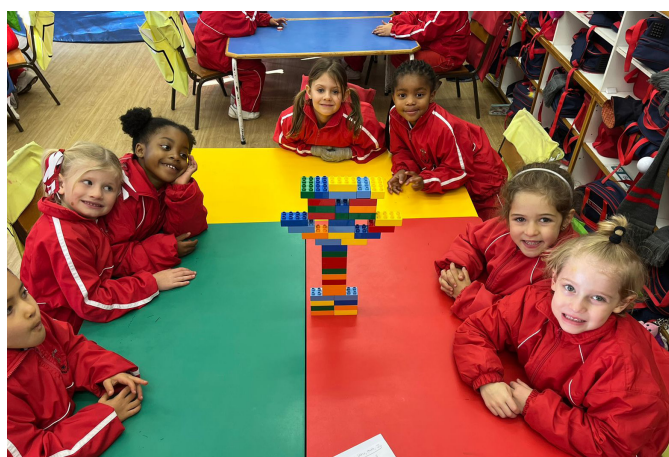
Our friend's name is Ava. She enjoys stretching and dressing up like a princess.



Our friend's name is Leru. She likes football and basketball. Leru is tall, beautiful, happy and kind. She is a good girl who enjoys playing with her friends.



Our friend is Sophie. She likes playing and flying.



Meet our friend Zoe. She is not that tall. Zoe likes pottery, gymnastics and music. She loves watching rugby.

## GRADE 1 NEWS

The Grade 1s used hula hoops to make groups of 10 when counting bottle tops. They also had fun making pictures!

THE GRADE 1 TEAM



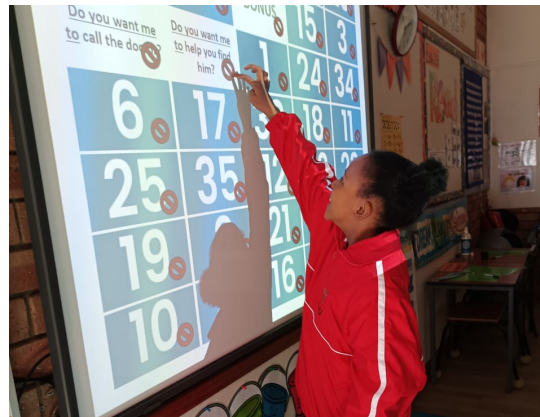


## GRADE 2 NEWS

### Perceptual skills

The Grade 2 girls thoroughly enjoyed playing a memory game that tested their perceptual, comprehension and problem-solving skills.

THE GRADE 2 TEAM



## GRADE 4 NEWS

### Study Skills

The Grade 4s enjoyed a wonderful introduction to study skills, courtesy of StudyFit, a homegrown company dedicated to empowering young learners as they tackle the reality of formal assessments.

StudyFit's visit was not merely a chance encounter but a deliberate effort to equip these young minds with invaluable techniques. Grade 4 marks a crucial stage in the girls' academic journey, where assessments and tests became more frequent and demanding.

The StudyFit instructors began by emphasising the significance of time management. They explained how breaking tasks into manageable chunks and setting realistic goals would enable the girls to tackle assignments and assessments more effectively.

Next, StudyFit introduced the girls to effective note-taking strategies. They learned how to identify key points, use visual aids, and summarise information in their own words. By actively engaging with their notes, the girls discovered that this practice not only improved their understanding but also enhanced their retention of important concepts.

StudyFit also guided the girls through the art of active reading. They were taught how to preview texts, ask questions, make connections, and reflect on what they had learnt. The girls soon realised that reading was not a passive activity but an active pursuit that required critical thinking and engagement.

Furthermore, StudyFit unveiled memory techniques that were nothing short of magic. The girls discovered mnemonic devices, visualisation techniques, and the power of association, all of which served as valuable tools to retain and recall information. With these newfound abilities, the girls felt empowered, knowing that they held the keys to unlocking their memory potential.

GRADE 4 MENTOR TEACHERS





## NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### Johannesburg Music Festival

We are delighted to announce the achievements of two Junior School girls who performed in this year's Johannesburg Music Festival. Rachel Anderson received a diploma certificate in the Woodwind Solo category playing *Feed the Birds* on her flute. Jiani Chen received a diploma for her participation in the Woodwind Solo 14 years and under category. Jiani also recently passed her ABRSM Grade 4 in Flute Performance with distinction. Well done to Rachel, Jiani and their music teachers!

If your daughter learns with a private music teacher outside school, please inform Mr Potgieter of any musical achievements so we can celebrate them. All children learning a musical instrument are welcome to perform at our termly piece playing concerts.



Rachel Anderson



Jiani Chen

CERI MOELWYN-HUGHES  
HEAD OF WOODWIND STUDIES

### Instrumental programme concerts

On 11 and 12 July, all our Grade 2s and Grade 3s showcased their newly learnt skills in the instrumental programme. This term, our Grade 2s are learning the guitar, violin and cello in small groups and our Grade 3s are learning the clarinet, flute and recorder. My thanks to the music teachers for their wonderful work.

GEORGE POTGIETER  
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



The recorders with Christine Geldenhuis



The cellos with William Nobela



The clarineos with Danni McKinnon



The flutes with Meg Twyford



The violins with Louise Frahm-Arp



# HOCKEY

## Junior School hockey fixtures

On Friday 7 July and Saturday 8 July, our Grades 4 to 7 hockey teams participated in their weekly hockey fixture at St Mary's against St Peter's. The Grade 7 teams played on Friday and had an eventful afternoon filled with exciting hockey. On the Saturday, the rest of the teams from Grades 4 to 6 participated and all the girls played well. The results were as follows:

Grade 7A won 1-0  
 Grade 7B drew 0-0  
 Grade 7C lost 4-1  
 Grade 6A won 1-0  
 Grade 6B lost 1-0  
 Grade 6C lost 1-0  
 Grade 5A drew 0-0  
 Grade 5B lost 2-0  
 Grade 5C lost 1-0  
 Grade 5D drew 1-1  
 Grade 5E lost 4-1  
 Grade 4A lost 5-2  
 Grade 4B drew 1-1  
 Grade 4C lost 2-1  
 Grade 4D won 3-0  
 Grade 4E lost 1-0



Grade 4A hockey team with Ms Quix

On Friday 14 July, all Junior School hockey teams played their weekly fixture against Roedean. It is pleasing to see all the girls making progress week to week. The results were as follows:

Grade 7A won 7-0  
 Grade 7B won 3-0  
 Grade 7C lost 2-1  
 Grade 7D drew 1-1  
 Grade 6A won 2-0  
 Grade 6B drew 0-0  
 Grade 6C drew 1-1  
 Grade 6D lost 2-1  
 Grade 5A won 4-0  
 Grade 5B won 3-0  
 Grade 5C won 1-0  
 Grade 5D won 2-0  
 Grade 5E lost 1-0  
 Grade 4A won 3-0  
 Grade 4B drew 1-1  
 Grade 4C won 1-0  
 Grade 4D lost 3-0  
 Grade 4E won 1-0



Grade 4D hockey team players

Well done to all the girls who participated in the matches.

VICKI JONKER  
SPORTS TEACHER



## HOCKEY CONTINUED

The Grade 3s played their first hockey fixture on Thursday 13 July against St Katharine's and APPS. The girls played two games, six a side, on one quarter of the AstroTurf. The girls were assisted by their coaches who guided them on positional play and gave each player a chance to play in different positions. In between the matches, the girls sat with their friends on the side and cheered loudly for the other St Mary's teams. The girls enjoyed taking part in the games and they did their best throughout the afternoon. Well done to all the girls who participated.

VICKI JONKER  
SPORTS TEACHER



Grade 3 pink team



Grade 3 orange team



Grade 3 blue team



Grade 3 green team



Grade 3 yellow team



Grade 3 purple team



# RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

The Level 6s and 7s participated in the Gold Reef competition at the Portuguese Hall in Turffontein on Friday 14 July and our top performer was Emma Home. Together with the Level 5s and the three Grade 3 and 4 ball groups, the Level 6s and 7s will train in the holidays and compete in the Central Gauteng and Gauteng provincial championships in August.

LINDA GIURICICH  
HEAD OF RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS



Level 7s - Emma Home, Kgalalelo Pitje, Caelen Buchanan



Level 6 - Laurel Kelly

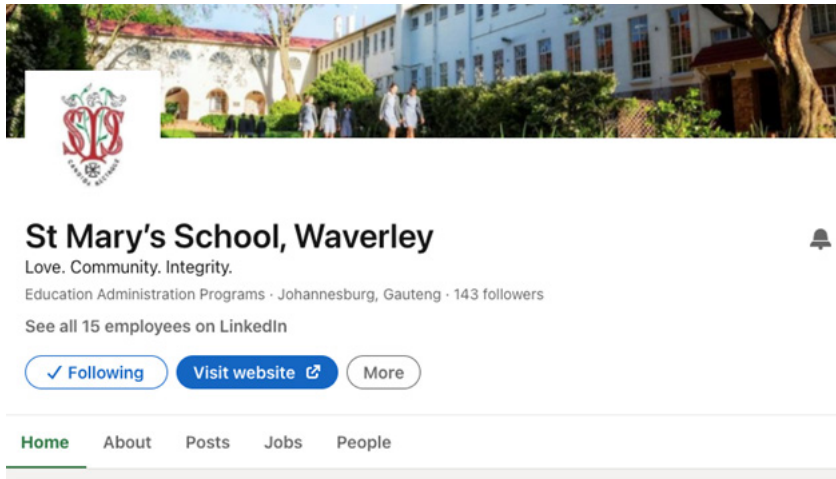


The provincial gymnasts



## 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](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 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).