



FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Last year, in a newsletter released on exactly the same day, we were celebrating the return of the daily ringing of the angelus on campus; this year, six weeks into the first term of 2022, this publication is bursting at the seams with news of onsite events and outings, new and old.

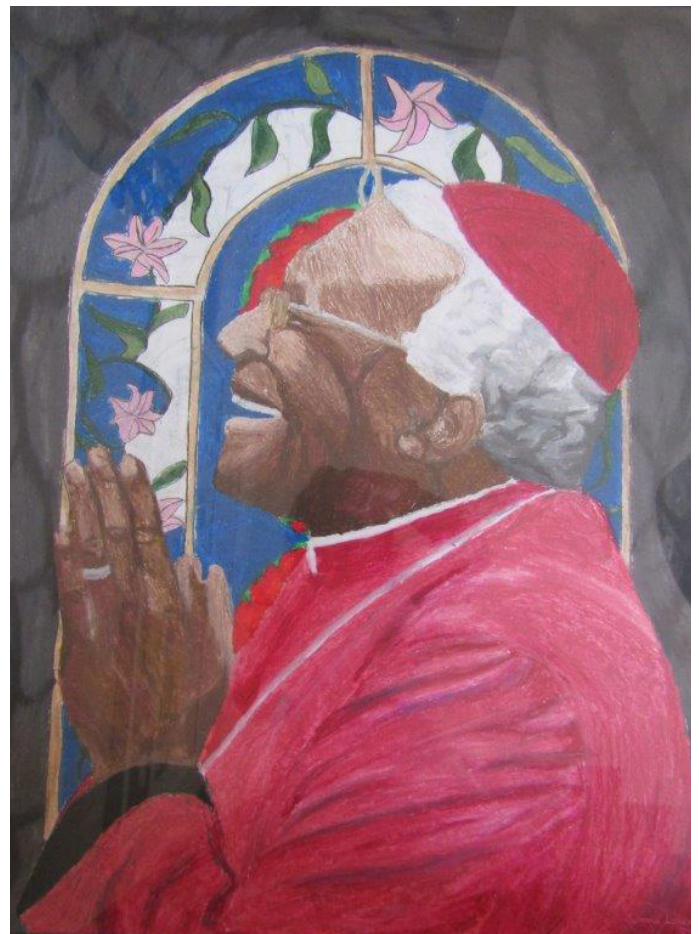
The whole of the Junior School entered into the spirit of Twos Day earlier this week, wearing tutus and exploring the implications of this unusually palindromic, ambigrammic date in history. You will see from the images included in the pages that follow that we also took the opportunity to support CHOC's Flip Flop Day, and to remember the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, building on what we learnt about his remarkable life and legacy in our assembly a fortnight ago. I am looking forward with particular interest to the portraits of "the Arch" drawn by the Grade 0s, who took inspiration from an image painted by one of our Senior School girls, Yumna Laher, in 2004, and which is on loan to us from the Seminar Room in The Edge.

While we gratefully acknowledge the return of familiar calendar events - like the Senior Primary inter-house gala, our Reggio workshops for parents, and the Little Saints and Grade 0 wheelathon - we also welcome the introduction of new activities and initiatives. In addition to hosting an inaugural onsite marimba workshop last weekend, we also took a group of Grade 6 and 7 girls to participate in a Kids' Lit Quiz at Christ Church Preparatory, and the Grade 6s paid a visit to Wits Art Museum (WAM) yesterday to view the exhibition *Seen, Heard and Valued: WAM celebrates 40 years of the Standard Bank African Art Collection*. As the WAM website informs us (and as I am happy to share with you as an old Witsie), "Wits was the first university in South Africa to include African Art in the Art History curriculum" and "To this day, the collection is deeply integrated into WAM's exhibition, research and education programmes."

My hope is that, to revisit the words of writer and cultural critic Olivia Laing quoted in our previous newsletter, our outing to WAM will provide the girls with "material with which to think: new registers, new spaces." After that, as Laing tartly observes, it's up to us. Please speak to your daughters about what they are doing at school, extend the new registers and new spaces beyond the classroom, so that their curiosity about the world and desire to think is sustained, and develops into a lifelong habit.

Deanne King and I bring news and "material with which to think" from the ASA and SAHISA National Conference ("Flourishing") held in Gqeberha this week - but more on that later. In the meantime, enjoy the half-term and the last days of February with your families: read, rest and recharge, and travel safely if you are going away. When we welcome you back onto campus, it will be March...

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

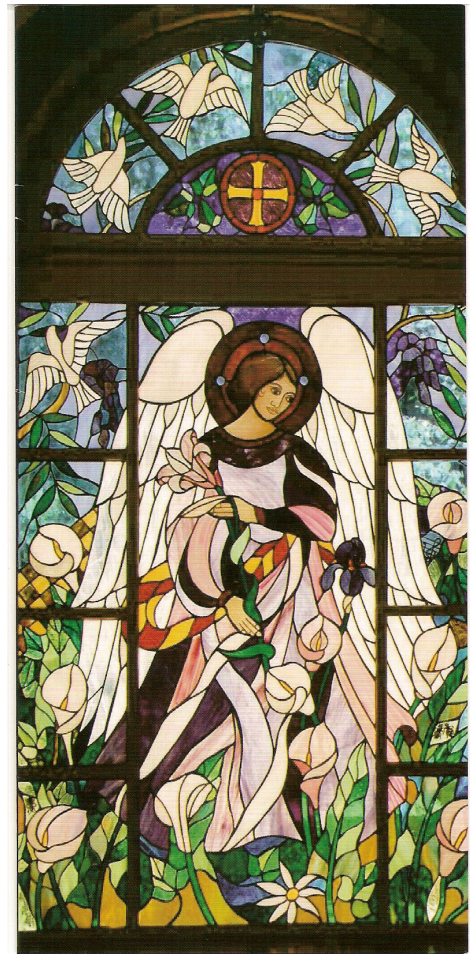
When we return from our half-term break, it will be the beginning of Lent. Every time I mention this to the girls, they ask me what I am giving up for Lent. They make various suggestions for a fruitful Lent - giving up chocolate and sweets is big. It comes as a surprise to them when I say that I will not be giving up anything for Lent. Instead, I will be taking something up for Lent. The most exciting aspect of the discussions about Lent is the girls' enthusiasm. There is a joyfulness about the talks that is infectious. For the girls, giving something up for Lent is a big deal.

The Lent cycle is interesting as it does not leave us in the dark. It offers us a way of speaking about death and new life in symbols and imagery that are child friendly. "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John 12:24). Ashes symbolize mortality, and Spring is the symbol of new life.

Ashes  Spring

Liturgically, the season of Lent marks the start of the redemption cycle. AJ Bethke (South African organist, music composer and liturgist) describes the redemption cycle as a celebration of the mystery of divine suffering and triumph over death. It is essential for us, as a school, to emphasize the theme of redemption. The girls must know that making mistakes is part of the process of learning and that there is always an opportunity to correct errors and to try again.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



CELEBRATING TWOS DAY - 2-22-22

February 22, 2022 is a palindrome day in the m-dd-yy format (2-22-22). It falls on a Tuesday, the second day of the week in many cultures around the world. This has prompted the media to call the day Twos Day.

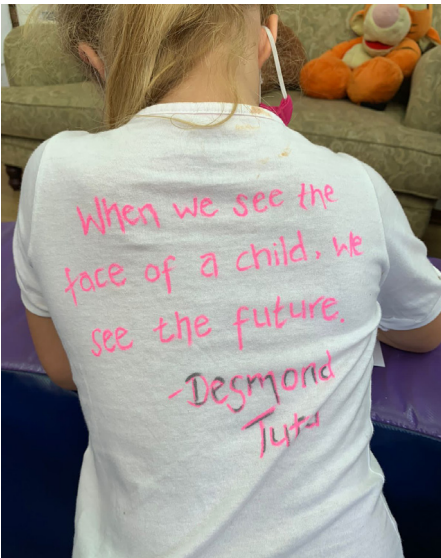
The girls had a fun-filled day wearing tutus and celebrating Twos Day. The Grade 0 girls drew portraits of the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

The Grade 3s celebrated Twos Day in colourful tutus and funky socks. They practised counting in twos and learnt all about odd and even numbers.

Little Saints children engaged in a variety of sensory, art, construction, gross and fine motor Twos Day provocations as they explored the stations set up in the different areas of their environment.

The Grade 6s enjoyed Twos Day. They solved problems and completed tangrams using the number two. They enjoyed hunting for dynamic duos in a Twos Day scavenger hunt. In mentor time, they played dice games and got to know multiple things about their friends.





LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

Little Saints Parent Reggio Workshop

On Saturday 19 February, Little Saints was filled with parents who were eager to experience an hour or two of what their pre-school children do every day. Celia Diana opened the morning with an introduction to the Reggio Emilia philosophy of education, and she shared some of the ways this is implemented in our daily routine.

We have been investigating dragonflies over the past few weeks at Little Saints and so it was fitting for the parents to experience some of the investigations and provocations their children were exposed to. The parents were divided into groups and tasked with drawing a dragonfly, participating in a thinking routine commonly used at Little Saints, and constructing a dragonfly using various loose parts. While the groups were working, further Reggio principles were introduced, like the intelligence of materials, the value of group work and co-operation, and socio-constructive learning - all concepts the parents were experiencing firsthand. Giving feedback to one another and constructive criticism was the final stage of group work, followed by a question and answer session with the Little Saints teachers.

We displayed documentation and the children’s artwork in the piazza and classrooms, as well as a group collaborative giant dragonfly made by every one of the Little Saints children.

MELANIE NIJLAND
ATELIERISTA: LITTLE SAINTS



Mixed media artworks created using transparencies and nails, by our Little Saints Grade 00 classes



Little Saints parents participating in a thinking routine on the topic of dragonflies



Isla Roman, Grade 00, painting her observational drawing of a dragonfly



Our collaborative giant dragonfly constructed by Little Saints children, using waste materials

GRADE 0 NEWS

The Grade 0s learnt about the history of the Basotho people. They watched a presentation on clothing, listened to some music, and even discussed the landscape in Lesotho.

They then designed their own Basotho hat with a twist inspired by the original hat.

LUNGA SEELE
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



GRADE 1 NEWS

The Grade 1s had a busy week participating in a range of activities. They baked and tasted, played educational games and participated in a wheelbarrow race, which provided much laughter and enjoyment.

THE GRADE 1 TEACHERS



GRADE 2 AND 3 NEWS

The environmental club had a wonderful start to the term. In the first few weeks we walked around our beautiful school, identifying flowers and trees. We also discussed recycling and noticed that the bird feeders in the Junior Primary playground needed to be replaced.

Identified a problem

The girls thought about making their own bird feeders.

Brainstorming

They used iPads to research ideas and decided to use popsicle sticks to make their bird feeders.

Design

They began designing and labelling their bird feeders.

We are in the process of building the bird feeders and look forward to testing and evaluating them.

ANESHREE NAICKER AND LAUREN SPENCER
JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHERS

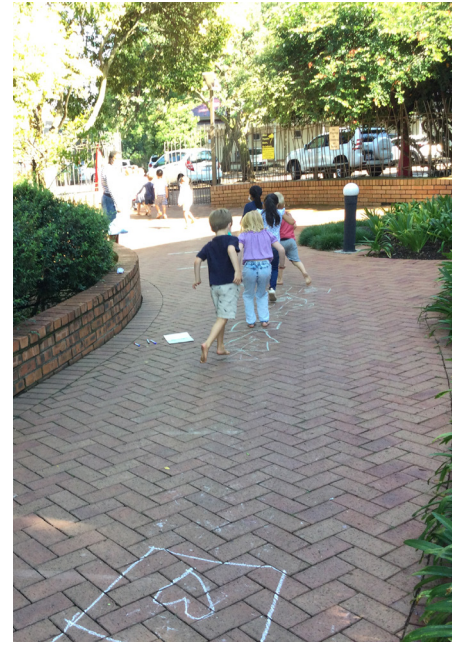


GRADE 3 NEWS

On Valentine's Day, our class mom spoiled us with some delicious treats, which we enjoyed at our picnic.

Grade 3s used their knowledge of 2D shapes to design and draw their own hopscotch. Little Saints children walked past and decided to hop along with us.

THE GRADE 3 TEACHERS



GRADE 4 NEWS



Grade 4 symmetry hearts for Valentine's Day

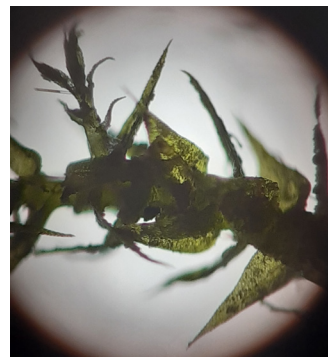
GRADE 5 NEWS

The Grade 5s investigated the next two primitive plant kingdom divisions: mosses and ferns. The focus is on the increasing differentiation of body structure: rhizoids (root-like structures), rhizomes (stems) and leaves. A highlight was the fascinating reproductive structures on the fern leaflets - the release of ripe spores, triggered by the heat of the microscope light, resulted in many whoops of "I saw it!". The girls had the opportunity to practise a variety of methods to summarize information, as well as to hone their observation skills.

ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Observation of moss



Moss plant magnification 30X



Drawing the moss plant

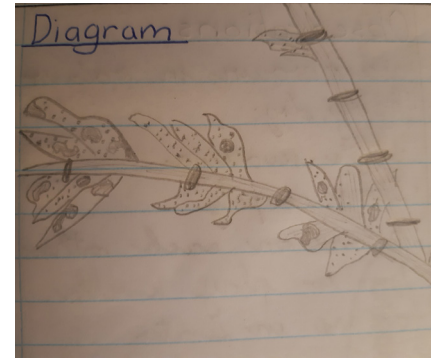


Diagram of a moss plant



Describing the fern plant



Looking at a leaflet



Reproductive structures on the underside of a fern leaflet (magnified 30X)

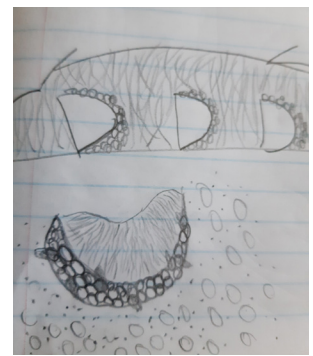
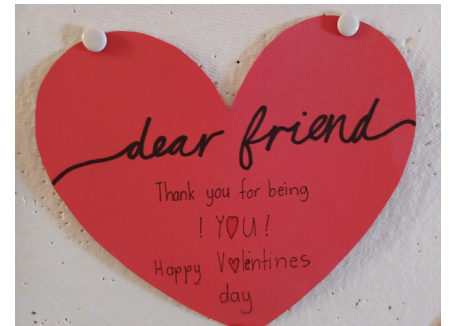


Diagram of reproductive structures

GRADE 6 NEWS

In our mentor groups, the girls discussed the ways in which we show love and care for one another. They wrote special messages of love and kindness to friends and family for Valentine's Day.

THE GRADE 6 MENTORS

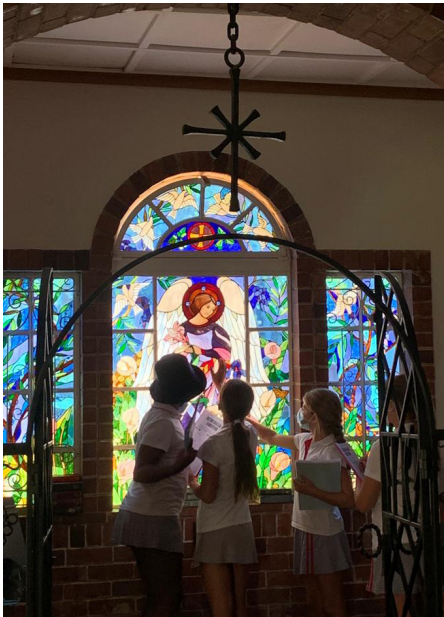


GRADE 6 NEWS (CONTINUED)

Grade 6 History

After investigating the history of Mapungubwe, we went on a slight tangent to discuss the history of glass. Glass beads were found in Mapungubwe which historians believe indicate early trade routes with the Middle East and China. To introduce this theme, we went on a glass scavenger hunt around the school and considered the different uses of this ancient technology which has been used for the past 4000 years.

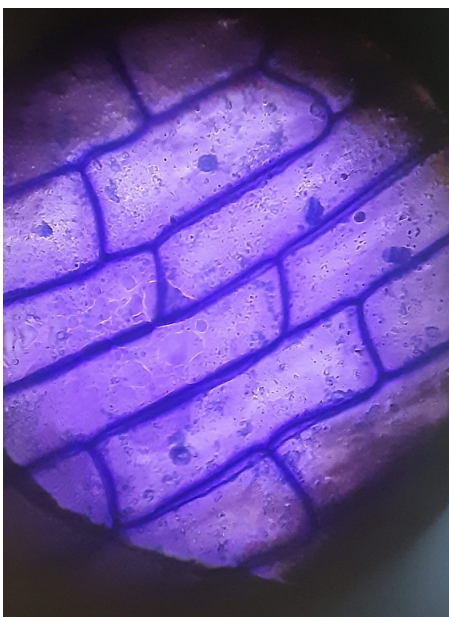
ROSA ELK AND LAUREN HOWDEN
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHERS



GRADE 7 NEWS

The Grade 7s compared animal and plant cells. They researched the cells, made scientific drawings and compared them with the actual specimen under the dissecting microscope.

ANNIE THOM
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHERS



MUSIC

The marimba band had a whale of a time at their marimba workshop on Saturday 12 February. We finished four pieces in total. The band did itself proud as it was a long day of rehearsing. Nevertheless, the girls pulled through with their various pieces. They also had a bit of competitive fun by building towers out of dry spaghetti and jelly tots.

GEORGE POTGIETER
HOD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



TENNIS

St Mary's A team beat St Andrew's A team 31-26 while the B team tied 26-26 in their second match of the season. Our C team lost to Kingsmead's A team 37-22 and St Mary's D team beat Kingsmead's team 27-20. It is wonderful to see all our players and spectators out there again. Well done to all the girls!

I extend my congratulations to Kristin Biggs, Gabriella Illgner, Julia Potter and Grace Gibbs for participating in the U13 Gauteng trials over the weekend. Unfortunately, Laila Fowler was unable to play owing to an injury.

Sadly the girls' match on 10 February against St Peter's and APPS was rained out as well as the match against St Stithians on 17 February.

KAREN CORBETT
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



Kristin Biggs, Julia Potter, Isabella Molyneaux, Gabriella Illgner

SWIMMING

On Wednesday 9 February, St Mary's hosted five schools for an A team 50m night gala. The other girls' schools were hosted by St Stithians. It was great to host this event and have spectators back on campus after all the restrictions. The St Mary's swimmers swam with heart and led most races.

The girls should be proud of their determination and excellent performance.

The results were as follows:

1 st	St Mary's	231
2 nd	St Andrew's	153
3 rd	Kingsmead	132
4 th	St Teresa's	116
5 th	Roedean	86

On Friday 11 February, the Grades 3 to 7 swimming girls participated in various galas and the results were as follows:

A team 50m gala

1 st	St Mary's	116
2 nd	St Peter's	93

3 rd	Holy Rosary	60
4 th	St Dominic's	50

A team 25m gala

1 st	Kingsmead A	90
2 nd	St Mary's B	66
3 rd	St Andrew's B	41
4 th	Kingsmead B	37

B team 25m gala

1 st	St Mary's C	234
2 nd	Holy Rosary	212
3 rd	St Andrew's	162
4 th	St Katharine's	148
5 th	Kingsmead	136
6 th	St Mary's D	120

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



SWIMMING CONTINUED

Senior Primary inter-house gala

On Thursday 17 February, we held our annual inter-house gala. It was so lovely to have all the houses together and parents watching again. There was a wonderful spirit, much energy and lots of war cries. Our individual races were tightly contested between the top swimmers and the relays were very exciting with leads often changing during the races. Congratulations to all the girls who participated with such enthusiasm. Well done to Lions who ended up winning the gala.

Special congratulations go to the following girls for their outstanding achievements:

Best Grade 4 swimmer
Junior *Victrix Lodorum*
Best Grade 6 swimmer
Senior *Victrix Lodorum*

Layla Barber-Luna
Sophie Barrow
Maya Mgcina
Caitlyn Dube

Results of the gala:

4 th	Hares	151
3 rd	Zebras	190
2 nd	Springboks	193
1 st	Lions	228

ROSE HALLENDORFF
HEAD OF SWIMMING: JUNIOR SCHOOL



Lions captains with Mr and Mrs Dube



Sophie Barrow, Junior *Victrix Ludorum*



Best Grade 4 swimmer Layla Barber-Luna



Caitlyn Dube Senior *Victrix Ludorum* winner and A team captain



Best Grade 6 swimmer Maya Mgcina



St Mary's rowing club golf day

Please contact Ronelle Price-Hughes on rpricehughes@gmail.com for any queries or sponsorship offers



Please click here to book.
We look forward to seeing you there!



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

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.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.