



The wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship, *Endurance*, has been found 107 years after it became trapped in sea ice and sank off the coast of Antarctica.

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

March is a momentous month in South African history. Earlier this week, on Monday, we marked Human Rights' Day - a public holiday that is both a celebration of the rights of all citizens and a solemn remembrance of the suffering and sacrifice endured in Sharpeville in 1960.

While most of us recall the anti-pass campaign, begun on 21 March 1960, by the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) under the leadership of Robert Sobukwe, few even "politically literate South Africans" (in American journalist Joseph Lelyveld's description) remember another procession, nine days later, on 30 March 1960, involving around 30 000 mostly male migrant labourers in Cape Town.

Philip Kgosana, "new to politics, slightly built and twenty-three years old," led a peaceful protest, one of the largest anti-apartheid demonstrations of its kind in Cape Town, from Langa into the heart of Cape Town. The march, "generally acknowledged to have represented a turning point, the moment at which black leaders were finally forced to see the inadequacy of nonviolent tactics in the South African context" culminated in the arrest of Kgosana, the proclamation of the state of emergency, and the banning of the PAC and ANC through the passing of the Unlawful Organizations Act.

Kgosana, who was an onlooker in 1956 when 20 000 women marched on the prime minister's office to present petitions protesting the extension of the pass laws to women, "wielded an authority that seemed absolute over thousands who might have been expected to dismiss him as a boy". His story is one of leadership, comradeship, and discipline; as a long-time advocate for girls' schools, I cannot help but wonder if his spectatorship at the women's march proved instructive for his own protest action later.

Without wanting to force an unlikely comparison, I found myself thinking of Kgosana this week as the girls and I discussed Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctic in 1914. Shackleton's story of leadership, comradeship, and discipline - and, similarly, no lives lost under extreme conditions - resonates, strangely, with Kgosana's remarkable achievement.

In what has been billed as "the history event of the year" - momentous March again - the Finnish-built SA Agulhas II, on its second

35-day mission to find Shackleton's celebrated wreck, discovered the *Endurance* at 3,008 metres deep, 107 years after the ship sank. (Incidentally, our very own Mrs Jennett spent six weeks as a ship-based scientist aboard the SA Agulhas in her honours year in 1989 investigating the feeding habits of herbivorous zooplankton off the Prince Edward and Marion Islands.) The vessel, chartered by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, navigated the icy waters of the Weddell Sea in the capable hands of Captain Knowledge Bengu, and made use of a Saab Sabertooth, an extraordinary, untethered underwater vehicle, to survey the hauntingly well-preserved wreck. The Sabertooth will produce a 3D model and high-resolution photographs recording the wreck's equipment, fittings and contents at a level of accuracy comparable to that of an archaeological survey on land.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQQ\\_u5N8YOE&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQQ_u5N8YOE&t=1s)

We have so many stories to tell our children. Looking deeper into what we know - what we thought we knew - gives us the opportunity to make surprising, life-affirming connections between distant worlds and diverse people. As I have said before, and will keep on saying, it's a reminder of the importance of history, and the importance of stories, not only for what they tell us about the world, but for what they tell us about ourselves as well. It's a reminder to us of how to endure, and how to hope - in the words of Nobel prize winning novelist, Kazuo Ishiguro "We may even find a new idea, a great humane vision, around which to rally." (*My Twentieth Century Evening - and Other Small Breakthroughs*, Nobel Lecture, 1 March 2020.)

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Friday 25 March is set aside in the Christian calendar as a day to commemorate when Mary said yes to God's call on her life. The story is told in Luke 1:26- 38, and in the traditional Angelus prayer:

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:  
**And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:  
**Be it done unto me according to Thy word.**  
Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:  
**And dwelt among us.**  
Hail Mary...

In the Senior Primary we interrupted our Lent chapel service and the chamber choir sang "Tell out my soul" as an anthem to mark the occasion. The reflection for the day was based on the importance of greeting everyone we meet, just as the angel Gabriel greeted Mary.

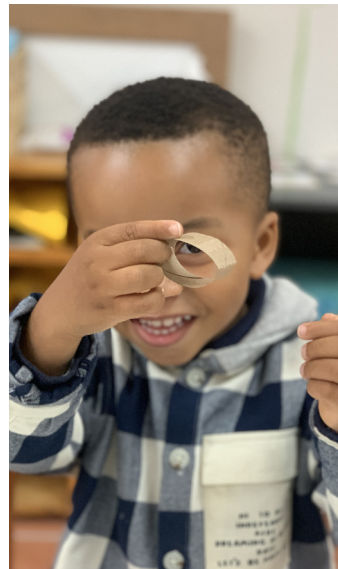
REVD RAKGADI KHOB  
CHAPLAIN



# LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

The Grade 000 children continued with their investigation of tunnels, pipes and tubes. They were interested in seeing where pipes begin and end, and they considered how pipes can be used for transporting various materials. They explored the movement of marbles and cars in tubes, threaded necklaces with tubular beads, and engaged in sensory play with translucent pipes. They ended the week by creating their own pipe sculptures using toilet rolls, wood glue, and tempera paint.

THE GRADE 000 TEACHERS



In conjunction with book month, the Little Saints children came to school dressed up as their favourite book character.

# BOOK MONTH BEGINS

Book month has begun with a bang! On Monday 14 March, the girls giggled through the *Hooked on Books and Wiggle and Woggle* performances, and sped off to the library to borrow or buy copies of the wonderful titles. (A special thanks to Refiloe Shai from Exclusive Books who came on both Monday and Tuesday to facilitate this sale.)

On Tuesday, the rain did not cause too much dismay in the library, which was chock-a-block with parents and guardians reading stories to their girls.

On Wednesday, Karen Theunissen visited the Junior Primary: she read us her latest picture book *Take Your Place, You Belong*, and ran a brief activity with the girls emphasising the importance of inclusion - no matter what colour smartie we are on the outside, we all have a chocolate gooey inside.

On Thursday evening, the first Grade 7 timetable group entertained the Little Saints pupils with their storybook plays. The girls worked so hard in their drama lessons to perfect these plays and they should be proud of their fabulous performances! On Wednesday, 23 March, the second timetable group wowed the Junior Primary.

On Friday 18 March, we hosted an inter-house literature quiz in the Senior Primary. It was a nail-biting competition, with questions ranging in difficulty. In the end the Zebras solidified their lead with 30 points! The Lions and Springboks tied second

with 26 points each, and the Hares finished third with 24 points, including a bonus point for house spirit.

Wally has also been hiding in the library all week. The whole Junior School has scoured the library each day to see if they can spot the lucrative lurker, with tiny daily prizes for each stripy success.

Birthday Books launched too! In the Junior Primary assembly on Thursday and the Senior Primary assembly on Friday, we presented the girls with the books their parents have donated to the library on their behalf. Thank you! We look forward to holding a second birthday book sale on the parent teacher afternoon - keep your eyes peeled for that announcement.

The bustle in the library, the crackle of girls turning pages, the excited squeal as pupils see their names and birthdays in their donated books, the shared cup of hot chocolate between a Grade 000 and Grade 7, remind me of Voltaire's words, as pertinent today as they were 250 years ago:

“Let us read and let us dance” - two amusements that will never do any harm to the world. (1764)

**ROSA ELK**  
LIBRARIAN AND SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Junior Primary birthday books



Senior Primary birthday books



Storytelling evening at Little Saints



Storytelling morning



Junior Primary storytelling evening



Junior Primary storytelling evening



Karen Theunissen during her book reading



Hooked on Books performing for the Junior Primary



Inter-house literature quiz



Inter-house literature quiz

# JUNIOR PRIMARY BOOK MONTH

Throughout book month, the girls have many opportunities to participate in a range of experiences to celebrate books.

Much laughter and excitement could be heard as the girls watched the *Hooked on Books* cast bring books to life - finding out how the stories end meant a trip to the library to check out the book!

Our parent reading morning encourages families and children to form a love of sharing books. Reading aloud brings families together and creates and fosters a sense of belonging and well-being in children.

The girls were captivated as Karen Theunissen, author of the book *Take Your Place, You Belong*, read her book to them. She used smarties to explore the idea that, even though we may all look different on the outside, we all look similar on the inside.

**AGOTHA CLARKE**  
ACTING HoD: JUNIOR PRIMARY



# GRADE 0 NEWS

## Shopping day

The Grade 0s are learning to be smart shoppers. They enjoyed a fun-filled experience selling and buying trinkets and treats. They experimented with prices, choices, money and change. With their R5, R2 and R1 coins in hand, they eagerly set off to see what they could buy from their peers.

THE GRADE 0 TEACHERS

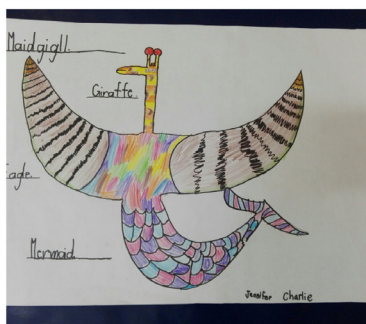


# GRADE 2 NEWS

## Marvellous, magical, mythical creatures

In the mystical land of St Mary's, there once roamed marvellous, magical mythical creatures. Legends tell of unicorns, griffins and mermaids evolving into magnificent beasts such as the Mergiraffasaurus, Drachicatog and Mergles. These discoveries led our Grade 2 explorers to deliver speeches and build models depicting the mighty marvels. As we celebrate book month, please read more about the creative critters on Book Creator.

THE GRADE 2 TEACHERS



# GRADE 1 NEWS

The Grade 1s began book month with the parents' reading morning, *Hooked on Books*, and a visit by Karen Theunissen, author of *Take Your Place, You Belong*. They also explored the concept of grouping and categorising objects in Mathematics.

## THE GRADE 1 TEACHERS





## QUIZ CLUB

We were lucky enough to compete in two very different quizzes in quite quick succession. Our first inter-school general knowledge quiz was hosted by Christchurch Preparatory on 21 February.

Amy Dagut, Pheny Mabona, Janel Msebenzi, Tadiwanashe Shoko, Daniella Lotto, Isabella Molyneaux, Boikanyo Kakurupa and Kimaya Shah-Naidoo represented us and placed fourth and fifth respectively.

Our second quiz was the international and well-regarded Kid's Lit Quiz which was hosted by St John's on the 3 March. Out of 37 teams, Team One (Amy Dagut, Mothibi Mokhatla Kimaya Shah-Naidoo

and Indigo Woodburn) placed sixth, and Team Two (Oluwashola Adebule, Annabelle Chen, Pareen Desai and Atheerah Joosub), while not placing in the top ten, should still be incredibly proud of their participation.

It has been a fabulous introduction to our newest co-curricular, and I am excited to see how the year progresses.

**ROSA ELK**  
LIBRARIAN AND QUIZ COACH



## MUSIC NEWS

### The Joy of Music at Singing Sistas

1.2.3.4. Dumela, Thobela, Molo, Avuwami, Sanibonani, Hello! On Wednesday and Thursday nights, 9 and 10 March, we celebrated the joy of music at the Singing Sistas choir festival. After a two-year hiatus of no choir concerts owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, St Mary's Junior School along with Kingsmead, St Katharine's, Auckland Park Preparatory School and Roedean to put on a spectacular show of eclectic choral music and song. Thursday night ended with a standing ovation from our parents voicing their appreciation of the girls and the hard work they have put in over the last three months. With the choir camp and many rehearsals behind us, we are immensely grateful for the opportunity to celebrate choral music again. In the words of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, "Now, we will sing." Viva, Singing Sistas! Viva!

Please click on the links below to experience some of the joy.

<https://youtu.be/GA6pU2Nvi0E>

<https://youtu.be/qQvPHGnvD6w>

<https://youtu.be/wxQWFlnXMc>

**GEORGE POTGIETER**  
HOD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



# MUSIC NEWS CONTINUED



# SWIMMING

## St Mary's swimmers have excelled

Caitlyn Dube and Maya Mgcina participated in the Gauteng schools swimming trials on 25 and 26 February. They swam in the 12 to 13 year age category. Caitlyn Dube achieved personal best times in all her races and, in the 200m breaststroke, she won a bronze medal.

Maya Mgcina achieved personal best times for most of her races. She won a silver medal in the 100m butterfly and a bronze medal in the 100m freestyle. Both Caitlyn and Maya have been selected for the Gauteng schools' swimming team and will participate in the South African schools' swimming championships to be held in Hillcrest, Pretoria at the end of March. We extend our huge congratulations to both Caitlyn and Maya on their outstanding achievements.

Catherine Desilla and Sophie Barrow participated in the SSA Level 2 Regionals Gala on 12 and 13 March. Catherine swam in the 13-year age group and won a gold medal in the 100m butterfly and a bronze medal in the 50m butterfly. Sophie won a gold medal in 50m and 100m butterfly and she came 6<sup>th</sup> in 50m breaststroke and 9<sup>th</sup> in 100m breaststroke in her age group. We extend our huge congratulations to both Catherine and Sophie on their outstanding achievements.

St Mary's is very proud of these four swimmers.

**ROSE HALLENDORFF**  
HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING



Maya Mgcina and Caitlyn Dube



Catherine Desilla



Sophie Barrow

## DIVING

### CGA championships

On 12 March, Mia Diana, Isabella Crawford and Olivia Coetzer competed in the annual Central Gauteng Aquatics diving championships, which was held at St Andrew's. The competition is a prestigious event where the top divers from the province compete in a series of required dives as well as performing some voluntary dives.

Mia Diana is in her first year of the U13 age group, which is a challenging competition, and she was required to compete against older, more experienced divers. She dived well and enthusiastically and placed 8<sup>th</sup> on 1m and 6<sup>th</sup> on 3m.

Isabella and Olivia competed in the U11 age group for their first ever provincial event. They dived consistently well and impressed the judges with their poise, elegance and ability to enter the water without a splash. Isabella placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1m and 3m competitions. Olivia placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1m and 3m competitions. Isabella and Olivia make an impressive synchronized diving pair and they came first in their synchro event.

Well done to Mia, Isabella and Olivia.

**KATE SHEPHERD**  
HEAD OF DIVING



Mia Diana, Isabella Crawford, Kate Shepherd, Olivia Coetzer

## 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](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).

*celebrating the 21<sup>st</sup>*

# ST MARY'S HOCKEY FESTIVAL

proudly sponsored by Standard Bank

6 A P R I L - 1 0 A P R I L 2 0 2 2

**500+**  
TALENTED PLAYERS

**4955**  
MINUTES OF PLAY

**188**  
EXCITING MATCHES



*Competing in this 21<sup>st</sup> prestigious St Mary's Hockey Festival in April 2022 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.
- There will be a dedicated St Mary's Hockey Festival app with links to numerous social media platforms. All carry exciting advertising opportunities and 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 attached form and return it to [lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za](mailto:lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za)





## SPONSORSHIP FORM

(Please check the appropriate box as required)

### AstoTurf Foundation board sponsorship

- Boards to be erected around the perimeter of the AstroTurf
- Sponsorship of board is for a full calendar year, starting 1 April 2022, ending 31 March 2023

Board sizes:

- 1.2m x 2.4m **R15 000**
- 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 Event, Tournament and Festival app

The St Mary's Event, Tournament and Festival app is dedicated to the Hockey Festival during the Festival and used throughout the year for St Mary's events, sport tournaments and festivals. A display advertisement on the St Mary's Event, Tournament and Festival app will be for one year from 1 April 2022, ending 31 March 2023. 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 Sport Festival app.

Kindly supply all artwork in jpeg or png format by no later than Monday 28 February 2022.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to [lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za](mailto:lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za)

