

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

25 NOVEMBER 2022

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Junior Primary Chapel services

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

In our centenary book, St Mary's School, Waverley, Johannesburg 1888-1978 Mary MacPhail tells us that

In 1949 Sister Janet wrote in her Prize Giving report, "we need a Chapel that is worthy of the glory of God and of the worship that we want to offer to God in this school, a Chapel that will be a witness to all who come of what we stand for here, and a place that our children looking back on their school days will never forget."

On 11 December 1951 the Foundation Stone of the chapel was laid by the Rt Revd Ambrose Reeves, Bishop of Johannesburg. By the middle of 1952 the chapel was built; it was dedicated by the Bishop on 12 June.

This year, 2022, the chapel turned 70 years old. When Reverend Rakgadi asked the Junior Primary in their weekly service on Monday what "old looked like", they (mostly the Grade 0s), responded with the words "cracked", and "wrinkled", and made associations like, "can't walk", and "can't hear". Aside from giving us some insight into the girls' view of aging (70 is a fantastically big number when you're six), their responses trained our attention on the physical building, what Sister Janet referred to as the mere "shell" that encased a far-reaching purpose, which would affect the girls' lives "right through" - "their standards, their values, their judgements". Reverend Rakgadi's questions prompted the girls to look around them; they examined the chapel, floor to ceiling, swivelling in their pews to scrutinize its walls, windows, and door frames for signs of aging - I am pleased to record that they returned a mostly favourable judgement of a building they inhabit regularly but seldom truly see. And there is much to see and take in about our chapel.

An inventory of its contents and features at inception includes a reference to the pews, "beautifully made of kyott [sic] wood", curtains and carpet of "blue and gold", altar frontals of linen made by Sister Christina, and a statue of the Madonna and Child moulded by Sister Janet. Our centenary book and the book published on the occasion of the school's 125th birthday (Pauline Grainger St Mary's School 1888-2013) both refer to the beautiful wrought iron gates and candlesticks (made by famous goldsmith and silversmith, Kurt Jobst), the great Crucifix for the Sanctuary with its figure carved at Oberammagau by "a Herr Zwink", as well as the cross on which it is mounted and the Tabernacles on both Altars made by Mr Rutherford. A "free-standing altar dedicated to the memory of Miss Wamsley" and "beautiful matching stained-glass windows by Stephanie Fassler", who designed the original Rose Window, were added later when the chapel was upgraded in the 1980s, and, in December 2018, a new set of Stations of the Cross, painted by South African artist, Joseph Capelle were installed in the chapel.

Sister Janet's documented wish for "a place that our children looking back on their school days will never forget" and simultaneous derogation of this physical place as a mere "shell" encasing a higher purpose holds in delicate balance our School's lifelong commitment to relationships along with its appreciation of good, serviceable buildings and facilities. As we sat in the chapel appraising a 70-year-old building with girls who will matriculate in 2034, the noise of construction at the nearby Pitt Block project site occasionally intruded on our conversation. "Old buildings," T. E. Hulme tells us, "were scaffolding once / and workmen whistling". His two-line poem, with its rare appreciation of the scaffolder's art, reminds us of the human endeavour that keeps institutions like St Mary's going.

Old Girl, Zoe Clemitson wrote of her class (1958) that they, "watched the beautiful chapel being built and dedicated. It became the centre of our school lives, and a place of peace and quiet."

Would it surprise you, I wonder, to learn that the girls of 2034 feel the same? It shouldn't. Behind every impressive edifice, what inhabits our chapel and our school, with the intangible presence of unself-conscious whistling, is relationships.

On the subject of relationships, the decade-long association the Junior School has enjoyed with our beloved receptionist, Carol Lethola comes to an end this year as she takes up a post at another school. Mrs Lethola's warmth, care and sense of humour will be missed by us all and we wish her and her lovely family well.

SARAH WARNER JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS



Grade 3 girls Koena Mokoena and Nqobile Khumalo couldn't wait to show off the new uniform earlier this week. Koena is the first girl in the Junior School to wear the new pattern.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Isaiah 6 begins with the prophet's vision of God on the throne and heavenly worship which convicts him of his sinfulness. Isaiah 6: 1-4 reads as follows:

I saw the Lord. He was sitting on his throne, high and exalted, and his robe filled the whole Temple. 2 Around him flaming creatures were standing, each of which had six wings. Each creature covered its face with two wings, and its body with two, and used the other two for flying. 3 They were calling out to each other:

"Holy, holy, holy! The Lord Almighty is holy! His glory fills the world." ⁴ The sound of their voices made the foundation of the Temple shake, and the Temple itself became filled with smoke.

The beauty and magnificence of the worship described by the prophet Isaiah in his vision, can make our own worship pale in comparison. However, as a school we have our own place of worship, which is made holy by God's presence. This year, our school chapel is 70 years old. When the chapel was dedicated Jennifer Cartwright wrote:

The chapel outwardly an empty shell, outwardly silent, yet had a life within it, a life new and extraordinary, a life recently conferred upon it - the spirit of God making it a holy place, now dedicated forever - AD MAIOREM GLORIAM DEI as quoted by Mary MacPhail 1981.

The chapel continues to be the place we gather weekly for worship for the greater glory of God.

We extend our prayers to Reabiloe Kodisang and her sisters, Kganya and Nyakallo, together with their family on the loss of their mother. May you find peace and comfort in this time of loss.

And so we join our voices with the angels and archangels as we proclaim God's greatness:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

> REVD RAKGADI KHOBO CHAPLAIN

LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

The Grade 000 classes at Little Saints have been very busy investigating water in all its forms. They have put forward some interesting theories about what water is, and where it comes from in our class discussions. In our at projects in the Atelier, we have used the colours of water to replicate swimming pools and the ocean. Using black markers and bright colours, the children have drawn themselves swimming in the water, wearing their swimming costumes.

Following a discussion on the ways our bodies can move through the water, we spoke about how we could move in water in a vessel. The children made little papier mache sail boats, painted with acrylic paint. We used book paper to create sails for our boats. Further activities in the Atelier have involved an investigation into sinking or floating, printing using water balloons, and creating wave patterns using loose parts and water beads.

The children loved using the 'sand' playdough, cocktail umbrellas and wooden peg dolls to create beach playscapes.

MELANIE NIJLAND ATELIERISTA: LITTLE SAINTS



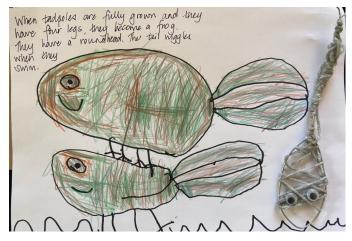
LITTLE SAINTS NEWS CONTINUED

It was fascinating for the Grade 00 children at Little Saints to observe a tank of tadpoles. The tank was at Little Saints for approximately four weeks and during this time the tadpoles grew both sets of their legs and metamorphosed into little frogs. These little creatures gave us a wonderful learning opportunity. While we were investigating the tadpoles, the children made detailed observational drawings and wire work of them and shared their theories on their development. One of our pupils found a frog in her garden at home. She brought it to school for a day for us to study it. The children drew and painted beautiful pictures of the frog.

CELIA DIANA AND ANGELA MORTIMER GRADE 00 TEACHERS



Alice Cilliers



Chloe Tresling



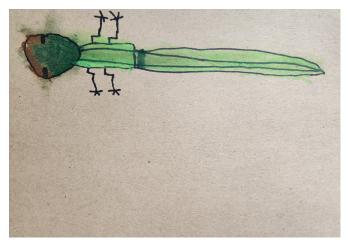
Aaheli Thakurdin



Leru Moshoeshoe



Neve Thompson



Madison McKenzie

GRADE 0 NEWS

Hosanna Rock

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year at school, with the excitement and anticipation of the season bringing a feeling of unity and belonging - and the Nativity play is a huge part of the excitement.

The Grade 0 girls impressed their audience with their performance of *Hosanna Rock* - telling the story of the Saviour's birth and reminding us all what Christmas is really about.

The girls sang, spoke and performed with confidence and they were encouraged by the massive smiles on the faces of the audience.

Shared reading

Throughout the year, the Grade 0 girls have been learning to match sounds to letters and to blend these sounds together to form simple words. They enjoyed practising these skills in the garden while reading their rhyming books to each other.

> AGOTHA CLARKE ACTING HoD; JUNIOR PRIMARY



Angels



Narrators



Shepherds



Wisemen



Mary and Joseph



Innkeepers



Donkey

Cows

Angels

Children

Elders

GRADE 2 NEWS

Cooking show

The Grade 2s wowed their classmates and teachers with a demonstration of their culinary skills. Each girl brought a set of ingredients and presented a signature recipe. The girls practised projecting their voice, maintaining eye contact with the audience as well as multi-tasking. Even though they were nervous, these kitchen-savvy youngsters powered through and served up some delicious treats.

THE GRADE 2 TEAM



THE GRADE 3 TEAM

GRADE 3 NEWS

Capacity

The Grade 3s are learning about capacity. They experimented with a variety of measuring jugs, spoons and cups. Through discovery and incidental learning, they linked concepts of millilitres and litres.



GRADE 4 NEWS

Amphibians

Even though we have tadpoles changing into froglets in the lab, the Grade 4s were delighted to finally have a live adult amphibian to observe! It's been a long wait for some enthusiastic herpetologists! They have studied this vertebrate class, with particular emphasis on the characteristics of naked skin and "double life", but seeing it in real life was a treat! Because our country is water scarce, we have 132 amphibian species only. The girls were introduced to eight species found in the savanna biome and they have already chosen and researched one of the species. This visitor presented the opportunity to make a fact sheet, which began after much discussion.

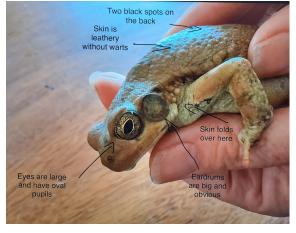
ANGIE JENNETT SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Meeting a red toad - Schismaderma carens



Enjoying the encounter



Working on a fact sheet about the visitor

GRADE 5 NEWS

Bird puzzles

A Grade 6 task earlier in the year, was to create an information puzzle to promote an understanding of the importance of birds. The Grade 5s made up these puzzles and gave their opinion on their effectiveness. Although they were harsh critics, they learnt a lot and now would like to make puzzles for the Grade 6s!

ANGIE JENNETT SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Geography

The girls enjoyed completing a research task on different rivers of the world. This enabled them to consolidate and apply their knowledge of rivers.

ROBYN RICHMOND SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Grade 5s proundly showing off their beautiful river projects

GRADE 5 NEWS CONTINUED

The Wilds Nature Reserve

A much awaited outing for the Grade 5s was organised by Mrs Richmond. We spent the morning at The Wilds Nature Reserve, appreciating the beautiful space and learning about the environment.

THE GRADE 5 MENTORS



Meeting our guides who were being assessed by their lecturer



Enjoying a break



Succulents donated by the girls that will be planted by City Parks



Walking to Eagle's View



There are many beautiful artworks throughout the Wilds

GRADE 6 NEWS

Density

The Grade 6 girls enjoyed investigating density. Water and sugar solutions, where the sugar is in varying concentrations makes a fabulous visual impact!

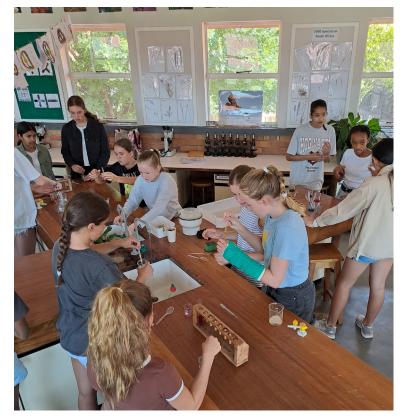
ANGIE JENNETT SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Investigating water density



Solutions made, ready to layer them



Working together to learn about density



Carefully adding a less dense layer

GRADE 6 AND 7 NEWS

Heart handover

The Grade 7s handed over their beautifully decorated papier mâché hearts to the Grade 6s to launch the *From One Girl to Another* campaign. The girls will fill their hearts with change over a year of fundraising. Through their actions, the girls learn about helping St Mary's and the wider St Mary's community. The hearts are crafted by the Reaboka Foundation, an NGO that supports women from Mpumalanga. All monies raised by the Grade 7s is in support of the St Mary's Foundation and its five programmes, namely, bursaries and scholarships, teacher development, community partnerships, which includes our Saturday School Ikusasa Lethu, assisting current St Mary's families, and the endowment fund to ensure the sustainability of St Mary's.

With much excitement, the Grade 7s then took part in their "heart breaking" party where they broke open their heavy, coin-laden, papier mâché hearts. All monies were sorted and counted, and the girls had to guess the total money raised from their hearts. The winner will be announced after their valedictory chapel service and plaque unveiling ceremony.





Owami Msomi, Grade 7 and Zoleka Bungane, Grade 6



Reabiloe Kodisang counting cents



Grade 7s counting cents



Yemvelo Zungu, Grade 7 and Mia Smith Grade 6



Grade 6s holding their hearts

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

Investigating and learning about solar panels

The Junior Primary environmental groups were treated to a talk by Peter Frolich, who is the Managing Director of NESA Power. Mr Frolich explained why solar panels are needed and how they are built. He then took us onto the roof of The Edge, where we saw the panels up close and learnt how solar energy is converted into electricity.

ANESHREE NAICKER AND LAUREN SPENCER



EMBROIDERY CLUB

The Grade 5 girls have enjoyed the embroidery component of their Design and Technology lessons this year. They learnt chicken scratch embroidery. This involves a variety of simple stiches stitched onto gingham fabric.

JANET WELLS SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



DIABETES DAY

Raising awareness for diabetes

As part of her community service as a Grade 7 leader, Cora Slade shared her experience of living with diabetes in a special assembly for the Junior and Senior Primary. She spoke candidly about the challenges she has encountered but also went to great lengths to remind the girls that her condition has not prevented her from living life to the fullest. Her *Denim for Diabetes* collection was a huge success, the proceeds of which will be donated to St Mary's Foundation. Ms Elk, in collaboration with Cabblow Studios, added new resources on diabetes to the Junior School library. We hope to hear more from Cabblow Studios in the new year. The studio is co-founded by a St Mary's old girl, Kabelo Maaka, class of 2012. Please follow the link to their video 3 *Teaspoons of Sugar*: https://youtu.be/zhyu2c81jCo.

LAUREN HOWDEN DEPUTY HEAD: ACADEMICS





DANCE

Our Grades 1 to 7 ballet and Dance Madness girls performed at SA Dance Championships in October and all our groups were awarded high silver and gold medals. The dancers had a wonderful experience competing against various dance schools across Johannesburg and Pretoria.

CLAIRE VAN NIEKERK DANCE AND DRAMA TEACHER



Grade 3 ballet Garland group: Kitso Vilakazi, Jade Landman, Ava Molyneaux, Lethabo Maponya, Olivia Weerts with teacher Courtney Sanders



Grade 4 and 5 Dance Madness group: Haidyn Govender, Sarah-Jane Cowlard, Abigail van der Watt, Katlego Mashile, Beth Sullivan, Deepal Bhoola with teacher Willemien Jerling



Grade 6 and 7 ballet girls performed *La Esmeralda and Friends:* Caelen Buchanan, Lesego Mapaya, Boipelo Mophosho, Hana Khan



Grade 1 and 2 Dance Madness girls pictured with teacher Willemien Jerling

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

ABRSM Results

Leah Govender and Lucy Snell excelled in external Music exams. Congratulations to them for fantastic results!

Leah Govender	Piano	Grade 6	Distinction
Lucy Snell	Piano	Grade 1	Distinction

SASMT Student Concert

Congratulations to the following pianists from the Junior School who represented St Mary's School at the recent SASMT Students Concert. This event took place at Jan Celliers School on Sunday, 13 November. These young pianists played beautifully!

EUGENE JOUBERT HEAD OF PIANO STUDIES



Leah Govender



GEORGE POTGIETER

HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC

Lucy Snell



Back: Thandile Koti, Holly Cairns, Azola Dingaan Front: Zikora Egbunike, Ariella Adiukwu, Rawan Shabne, Lethabo Mashile

TENNIS

Our tennis season ended on a high note with the St Mary's tennis players participating in inter-house tennis and in a fun afternoon of pickleball. Thirty-six teams, comprising moms/dads/friends and St Mary's players quickly learnt the rules of pickleball and had a fun afternoon on the tennis courts. Unfortunately, the weather once again played a role and the fun afternoon was cut short.

Thank you to all the players and the parents for their support and for an awesome year of tennis.

Inter-house tennis results were as follows:

1 st	Springboks	26 Poir
2 nd	Zebras	21 Poir
3 rd	Lions	21 Poir
4 th	Hares	17 Poir

nts nts nts nts

> **KAREN CORBETT** ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



Some pickleball players



Grade 6 and 7 inter-house tennis

TENNIS CONTINUED

Grades 2 and 3 tennis festival

St Mary's hosted a very successful Grades 2 and 3 red and orange ball tennis festival. Eighty excited tennis players enjoyed the afternoon participating in many mini-matches and fun games. Unfortunately, the afternoon was cut short owing to the lightning alarm. Well done to all the players.

KAREN CORBETT ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



Grades 2 and 3 festival players





Grades 2 and 3 festival players



Shilo Alberts



Liya Mgcina



Puleng Masemene



Stella Bromfield

SWIMMING

APPS gala 2022

On Wednesday 16 November, a group of Grades 1, 2 and 3 swimmers were selected to represent St Mary's at the APPS gala. It was a beautiful, hot morning and the girls were led in a land warm-up by Caitlyn Dube and Reabiloe Kodisang (the Senior Primary A team swimming captains), followed by a few lengths in the pool. The gala consisted of individual and relay races in the various strokes. Each and every girl who swam in the gala gave her very best and did St Mary's proud. A huge thank you to all the Physical Education teachers who helped prepare the girls for the gala and those that assisted on the day.



Front row: Caitlyn Dube and Reabiloe Kodisang 2nd row: Nala Moshoeshoe, Melissa Jooste, Olivia Gooding, Leruo Sefolo, Rachel Lawson, Deanna Shalala and Sofiyyah Bodiat 3rd row: Isabel Cilliers, Charlotte Naylor, Lily Locke, Emily Harris, Puleng Masemene, Tatum Atkinson, Zikora Egbunike, Keiko Bimha, Back row: Sarah Arnold, Keira Gordon-Bennett, Amelie Stout, Shelley Gordon-Bennett, Olivia Gooding, Makarurama Foto, Nobuhle Ndebele, Mia Forssman, Charlotte Adcock and Nefertiti Kgositsile



Deanna Shalala

VICKI JONKER JUNIOR PRIMARY; SPORTS COORDINATOR



Puleng Masemene



Keiko Bimha and Emily Harris



Team land warm-up

DIVING

Inter-Schools' diving competition

On Saturday 12 November, the Junior School diving team competed in the prestigious inter-schools' diving competition which was held at St Andrew's. It was a remarkably cold and rainy day but the divers took the rain in their stride and excelled in their various competitions.

The team consisted of 16 divers in total, eight divers in the A team and eight in the B team with only two divers per age group competing for each team.

I extend my congratulations to Mia Diana, Olivia Coetzer, Georgina Pearce and Pakane Kekana for placing first in their respective competitions.

St Mary's has been victorious at the inter-schools event for many years and thus the team waited for the final results with bated breath. The overall results of the A team:

102

96 90

85

58

50

38 19

1st St Mary's 2nd Brescia House 3rd Kingsmead 4th St Andrew's 5th St Stithians 6th Roedean 7th St Dominic's 8th Dunvegan Primary



A team

The overall results of the B team:	
1 st St Mary's Waverley	97
2 nd St Andrew's	84
3 rd Brescia	81
4 th Roedean	78
5 th Kingsmead	64
6 th St Stithians	54
7 th St Dominic's	45

Congratulations to both the A team and B team divers for producing such fantastic results. Thank you to Jesse Joseph and Georgina Pearce who have been wonderful captains for the 2022 Junior School diving team.

KATE SHEPHERD HEAD OF DIVING



B team

SOCCER

On Thursday 17 November, our Grade 3s played their first soccer match against Kingsmead and Brescia. The results were as follows:

St Mary's team 1 vs Kingmead team 1 lost 5-0 St Mary's team 2 vs Kingmead team 2 drew 1-1 St Mary's team 1 vs Brescia mixed team drew 0-0

On Friday 18 November, the Grades 4 to 7 girls played soccer against Holy Rosary and the results were as follows:

Grade 4 A won 1-0 Grade 4 B vs Holy Rosary mixed team lost 0-9 Grade 5 A won 12-0 Grade 5 B drew 1-1 Grade 6 A drew 0-0 Grade 6 B won 1-0 Grade 7 A drew 1-1 Grade 7 B lost 0-2 Grade 7 C lost 0-3

> ANTOINETTE MSHENGU HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



Grade 3 soccer girls

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Displays and a prizegiving were held in October to end the rhythmic year.

Prize winners Level 1 Tisha Zibengwa and Zikora Egbunike

Level 2 Ava Molyneaux, Rizqa Adam and Naledi Sekete

Level 3 Muofhe Neswiswi and Onalerona Sebati



Top junior gymnast Laurel Kelly



Caelen Buchanan



Emma Home

Level 5 Laurel Kelly

Level 6 Emma Home

The most improved gymnast Kgalalelo Pitje

Top junior gymnast Laurel Kelly

LINDA GIURICICH HEAD OF RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS



Liwalam Mpumlwana and the Grade 2 ball class display



Mulalo Neswiswi and Lethabo Maponya



The Grade 2s

Festive season appeal for



We appeal to our community to support the

St Mary's Foundation and at the same time stand a chance to win one of the following prizes:

- First prize: a three night stay for two people at Nungu Game Lodge, valued at R15 000
- Second prize: Nespresso coffee machine with coffee capsules valued at R5 000
- Third prize: Kyocera printer valued at R3 500

Tickets cost **R100** each and all proceeds will go towards purchasing calculators and golf shirts for learners who attend St Mary's Saturday school, *Ikusasa Lethu* (Our Future)



To enter this lucky draw competition to win one of three fabulous prizes, **please click here**

NOTICES

CAMPUS SECURITY

The welfare of all children, staff and visitors on our St Mary's campus is a priority and informs our planning and decisions relating to safety and security arrangements.

The school makes use of a security company, 24/7, which is registered with the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA). Appropriately graded security officers provide 24-hour guarding. Guarding activities are monitored through a formal guard track software system. This guarding presence is augmented through the presence of a dedicated armed response vehicle, radio connectivity is available both on campus and to an offsite control room, and fixed and mobile panic buttons link to armed response, medical and fire services.

A comprehensive camera system is accessible from multiple device platforms. Proactive offsite CCTV monitoring and videofied alarm systems link through to the armed response control room.

APPEAL TO PARENTS

Alarmed electric fences are positioned on the perimeter of our campus. Vehicle access onto the campus is monitored through access control scanners and software. Specific areas on the campus are fitted with biometric and coded access control.

A dedicated crisis management team is in place. This team is responsible for formulation, practice and review of emergency and response plans. Response plans include the use of emergency sirens and dedicated channels allowing for swift emergency communication.

The school maintains close links into the broader Waverley community through our support of CAP patrols, involvement in community WhatsApp groups, road closure and other security initiatives, and through the review of monthly crime statistic reports. Security breaches are thoroughly interrogated and external risk assessments and reviews are undertaken on a biannual basis.

ROGER YOUNG OPERATIONS MANAGER

Arrival and collection times in the Junior School

At the termly class reps meeting, we raised the importance of punctuality for the girls in relation to arrival and collection times. Children thrive when they follow a predictable routine, and the teachers use the time in the morning before lessons to give their pupils the emotional support and practical guidance they need to enjoy a productive day on campus.

In addition to appealing to you all to ensure that your children are at school on time, we also ask that you fetch your children when their day on campus is done. We take your children's safety on campus seriously; if they are not occupied in prep or the cocurricular programme, please enrol them at aftercare. Otherwise, your child needs to be fetched promptly from school. The school receptionist, teachers and teacher assistants are not available to supervise your children.

Thank you for your co-operation.

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 <u>portal@stmary.</u> <u>co.za</u> 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 <u>www.stmarysschool.co.za</u> and click on the portal login on the top right of the page. <u>https://stmarysw.ed-space.net/pparentportal.cfm</u>
- 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.