



Passing the baton at Junior Primary sport's day

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

I know nothing about rugby. Even referring to last weekend's semi-final match and what was variously called the Boks' late, last-gasp or ugly win (depending on your loyalties) against their English counterparts feels like a stretch to me - but the headlines and the noise they generated over the idea of winning, not really winning, just losing, and defeat made me think.

I spent Saturday morning attending Little Saints' magical production of *The Ocean's Got Talent* and marvelling at the work on display at the art exhibition in the foyer of The Edge before rushing to St Stithians to watch the last few events on the programme at the annual inter-school Prestige Athletics meet.

St Mary's was in the lead when I arrived, and despite suffering some exhilarating losses in the final round of relay races, the girls achieved a comfortable victory. The usual, mostly good-natured comments of "What do you feed them?" did the rounds among the heads of schools and the coaches, and the atmosphere of friendly rivalry kept me from dwelling too much on my answer - only later, when I recalled our experience at Prestige the previous year (mistakes made, batons dropped) did I revisit the question with anything like intent.

What do we "feed" our girls? On days when everything goes our way, I know the answer other schools might offer is "A diet of winning at all costs". The way the question is phrased, the blunt transaction it describes, misses the point. It's not what we "feed" our girls (as if education were ever a matter of consumption only), but the appetite we - our community - creates in them: an appetite for experience, opportunity, endeavour; the *chance* they believe they have of winning, and by extension, losing, on the day. When Kipling tells us in his poem *If* (a poem he rightly recognised as being "anthologised to weariness") to "meet with Triumph and Disaster/And treat those two impostors just the same", the point is not just that we must take the bad with the good, but more fundamentally that we must recognise the chancy, transient nature of both - and the fact that we are defined by neither.

We do not realise any of our values through the twin poles of winning and losing; we realise our values through the vagaries of participation, putting ourselves out there, doing our best, trying and failing, acknowledging our fallibility, and being as surprised by unexpected flaws as we are by newly discovered strengths. What remains when all the noise dies down - and there is noise - is the appetite for learning, changing, doing it all over again.

We find ourselves and define ourselves in the daily experience of being at school - and schools, as I never tire of saying, are places of change. We need to reflect honestly on the range of experience at a school that has the ideal of community as one of its values - something that we are always working on and towards, not a destination at which we have arrived. After all, the community is what makes it possible for us to know who we are when others might want to use our performance on a day to put us in our place.

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

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I try to give the girls an understanding of the Sacraments when I teach them about the Eucharist in Divinity. The Eucharist is the greatest gift that Jesus gave us - the gift of himself. The Eucharist is a gift that takes a whole lifetime to open; it is a gift that requires a response from us.

The questions the girls ask in class are of equal interest to me. Recently, we were discussing penitence - repentance and forgiveness. One of the girls asked, 'What if you are not ready to forgive?' The way the question is phrased is worth considering. The girl is not saying I am not going to forgive you, but rather, I cannot forgive you just now. It will take time for me to forgive, or I am struggling to forgive.

It was not the first time this question was raised in Divinity. My response is always the same: we need to think about the hurt our words cause in relation to a physical injury. Physical injuries take time to heal, and the healing can involve many doctors. Because the hurt caused by our words is not always visible, we forget that it will take time to heal.

*Patience is a virtue, that will serve us well in any journey of healing.*

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO  
CHAPLAIN





# FROM THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Mr Vincent Kapa the “JP uncle”  
Meet Vincent Kapa, a family man and father of four. He was born and raised in a town called Tzaneen, in the Limpopo province and moved to Johannesburg in the year 2000. Vincent joined St Mary’s 15 years ago; shortly afterwards he married his wife and they were blessed with a daughter that same year. He spends his weekends with his family and is involved in activities at his local church.

Vincent’s kind and friendly nature has earned him the title “JP uncle” and he knows the girls by name and remembers them even when they move to the Senior Primary. Vincent commented that he gets to know the girls in the mornings especially when they approach him to ask questions about their discoveries in the garden. He enjoys listening to their theories about the creatures

they find in the playground, and they appreciate the time he takes to answer their questions and listen to their stories.

Vincent loves working at St Mary’s and he feels a sense of belonging at the school. He also runs a few side businesses, including using his bakkie to move furniture and selling mango atchar. He hopes to grow these interests into a big company one day.

INNO MOKHUTSWANE  
JUNIOR SCHOOL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBER



Some snaps to celebrate our Jacaranda trees. They are so beautiful at this time of year - photos by Robyn Richmond





## LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

### Little Saints Sings

It was wonderful for the Little Saints children to perform on stage at The Edge in our production, *The Ocean's Got Talent*. In the process, the children learnt skills relating to music, art, language, memory, self-discipline and organisation. They loved playing various percussion instruments to Carl Orff's *O Fortuna* from *Carmina Burana* as Mrs Frahm-Arp conducted them. The production showed us how talented our Little Saints children are!

### THE GRADE 000 TEACHERS





# LITTLE SAINTS NEWS CONTINUED

Our under the sea investigations culminated in the art exhibition held in the foyer of The Edge. The exhibition included all the artwork made by the children over the course of the year.

ADÈLE OLDFIELD-SAMMONS  
ATELIERISTA





# GRADE 0 NEWS

## Coding

The girls enjoyed exploring coding activities using iPads in their IT lessons. The activities tested their problem-solving abilities and introduced them to computational thinking.

THE GRADE 0 TEAM



# GRADE 2 NEWS

## Assemblies

The Grade 2R assembly championed self-love through the tales of children’s author, Dev Petty. The girls’ performance demonstrated the importance of self-acceptance and they encouraged us all to embrace our unique qualities.

THASHMIL ROGERS  
GRADE 2 TEACHER



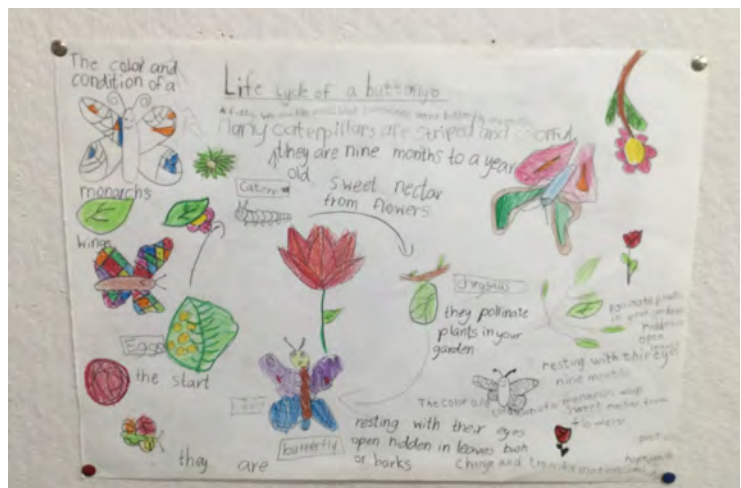
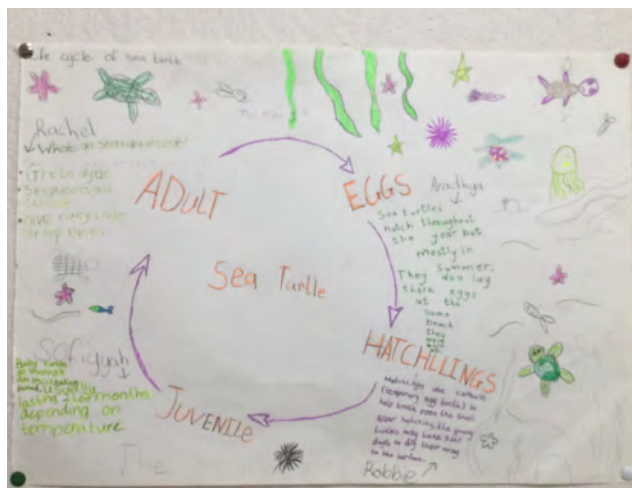


## GRADE 2 NEWS CONTINUED

### Transformations

Our Grade 2 theme of transformations evolved into living and non-living things. This led to conversations on the life cycles of various creatures such as butterflies, sea turtles, dragonflies, chickens, frogs and mosquitoes. The girls researched the life cycles and learnt new words such as larvae, moulting, chrysalis and metamorphosis. They completed the life cycles as group work, displayed their posters and gave each other feedback.

THE GRADE 2 TEAM





## GRADE 5 NEWS



Grade 5s greeting their friends after a weekend apart

## MUSIC NEWS

### St Mary's ensemble evening

On 17 October, the Junior School hosted the annual St Mary's ensemble evening. We were joined on stage by our brother school, St John's, as well as APPS, Kingsmead, The Ridge and St David's. Over 150 young musicians participated in what proved to be a magnificent festival of orchestral music. Well done to all the staff involved and a special thank you to our catering, logistics and audio-visual teams. Congratulations to our Junior School orchestra; they played exquisitely and were exemplary hosts.

GEORGE POTGIETER  
HOD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



The Junior School orchestra strutting their stuff



The combined item, *Pennywhistle*, played by all the participating schools



# JUNIOR PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

The Junior Primary sports day took place on Wednesday 18 October. The girls had the opportunity to showcase their talents and skills in high jump, long jump, sprinting and various other exciting activities they practised in their Physical Education lessons. The enthusiasm and effort were truly commendable.

The inclusion of javelin, shot put and shuttle races enlivened the event. It is worth noting that even the Grade 3s participated in the 4x100m relay.

A special mention goes to the Zebras for their unwavering spirit and the Springboks for maintaining their lead from the beginning

to the end of the event. Such team spirit and determination are truly admirable.

The final results were as follows:

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Springboks | 372 |
| Hares      | 324 |
| Lions      | 320 |
| Zebras     | 297 |

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU  
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL





# ATHLETICS

On Friday 13 October, the athletics team competed in their final meeting at St Peter’s Girls Prep before the inter-schools’ meeting and the results were as follows;

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> St Mary’s | 672 |
| St Peter’s A              | 598 |
| St Andrew’s               | 572 |
| St Peter’s B              | 255 |

On Saturday 21 October, the A athletics team participated in the inter-schools’ Prestige athletics meet. This is the final meeting of the season and all the girl schools that participate in the weekly meets come together. The nerves were apparent but the coaches and the girls were confident as they had put in the hard work and were determined to redeem themselves.

We began the morning well. After the field events we were in first place with 50½ points; St Andrew’s was close behind with 47 points. Our hurdlers did not disappoint winning all of their four events. The senior 800m girls were outstanding placing second, third and fifth out of 30 runners.

The girls dug deep and placed first in numerous races. A special mention goes to the following girls who broke records:

|               |         |             |
|---------------|---------|-------------|
| Onela Sebati  | Grade 6 | 200m A race |
| Maya Mgcina   | Grade 7 | 200m B race |
| Cayla Midlane | Grade 7 | 200m A race |

The final results were as follows:

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> St Mary’s         | 438  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> St Peter’s        | 391½ |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> St Andrew’s       | 378  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> St Stithians      | 319  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Brescia House     | 288  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Holy Rosary       | 255  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Kingsmead College | 240½ |
| St Teresa’s                       | 196½ |
| Auckland Park Prep                | 183  |
| Assumption Convent                | 125  |

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU  
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



Grade 7 inter-school athletes: Kaitlyn Quinn, Kayla Midlane, Maya Mgcina (captain), Emma Simpson, Mia Diana



Mia Diana at St Peter’s



Liya Mgcina at St Peter’s



Isabella Crawford at St Peter’s



# TENNIS

After winning the BNP Rising Stars Gauteng Central District event, St Mary’s A team, Sophie Kent, Gabriella Illgner, Isabella Molyneaux and Courtney Van Wyk, competed in the Regional BNP Paribas Rising Stars event which took place on the weekend of 14 and 15 October at Groenkloof. St Mary’s A team lost to Monument Park in the final coming second out of all the schools in Gauteng North, Gauteng Central and Gauteng East.

Congratulations to all the girls on their excellent performance.

KAREN CORBETT  
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



Rising Stars A team with medals



Sophie Kent



Isabella Molyneaux



Gabriella Illgner



Courtney Van Wyk



# DIVING

The divers were busy over the last two weeks. Not only did they compete in a Brescia weekly competition and a St Mary’s internal competition, but they also competed in the Gauteng Schools’ trial on the 21 October.

The following girls came first in their events at the Brescia competition:

- Grade 4 - Shelley Gordon-Bennett
- Grade 5 - Pakane Kekana
- Grade 6 - Isabella Crawford
- Grade 7 - Mia Diana

The following girls came first at the St Mary’s internal competition:

- Grade 4 - Shelley Gordon-Bennett
- Grade 5 - Jasmine Woodburn
- Grade 6 - Isabella Crawford
- Grade 7 - Mia Diana

Gauteng Schools is a qualifying trial to decide on representation at Gauteng at SA Schools in Pietermaritzburg in December. To qualify for the team, the divers need to come within the top three of their age group.

The results from Gauteng Schools are as follows:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 11 years novice:                          |           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jasmine Woodburn          | Qualified |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Alexia Watson             |           |
| 12 years novice:                          |           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Isabel Harris             | Qualified |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Maryam Kaka               |           |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Lesedi Sefolo            |           |
| 12 years elite:                           |           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Olivia Coetzer            | Qualified |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Isabella Crawford         | Qualified |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Juliette Van Barkenhuizen | Qualified |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Tyla Bredin               |           |
| 13 Years elite:                           |           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mia Diana                 | Qualified |

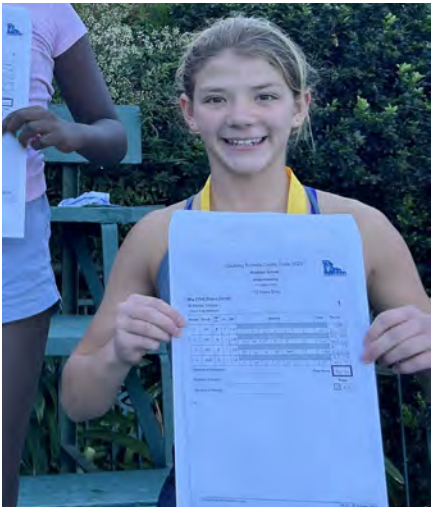
KATE SHEPHERD  
DIVING COACH



Junior School diving team



The qualified Grade 6 divers



Mia Diana



Jasmine Woodburn



## WATER POLO

In a weekend filled with exhilarating water polo action, our St Mary's U13 water polo team showcased their exceptional talent and teamwork, ultimately finishing in a commendable 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the U13 St Mary's water polo championships. The championship final proved to be a nail-biter, as it ended in a draw and was decided in a dramatic penalty shootout, where St Mary's narrowly lost to their determined opponents. Despite the disappointing loss, the girls' journey to the finals was testament to their dedication, skill, and sportsmanship.

Our team can hold their heads high, knowing that they have made their school proud, and there is no doubt that they will continue to grow and excel in the water polo season.

Thank you for the unwavering support from all the parents, siblings and staff members over the weekend.

**St Stithians Junior water polo Invitational**  
Congratulations to the St Mary's U13 water polo team on their impressive performance at the St Stithians Junior Water Polo Invitational on Friday 20 October to Sunday 22 October. The team displayed their prowess by winning two out of three pool matches, and their determination was evident in a thrilling playoff victory against DGC, where the St Mary's U13 team triumphed by just one goal.

Well done to our young athletes for their outstanding achievements in both these tournaments!

ANKE PIRIE  
WATER POLO COACH





## ST MARY'S GOLF DAY

Our annual St Mary's Golf Day, sponsored by **ABSA** was held on Thursday 19 October. It was a beautiful, sunny day for golf and our golfers enjoyed time away from their usual routines, in the scenic surrounds of the Parkview Golf Course.

Thank you to our St Mary's community who were generous in their sponsorship of much needed prizes which contributed to the overall success of the day. A very big thank you to our St Mary's golfers who were extremely generous and helped to raise R225 000 towards the St Mary's Endowment Fund, the Bursary Programme and the Parents' Association.

Please support our valued sponsors:

LISA GROBBELAAR  
HEAD OF FOUNDATION



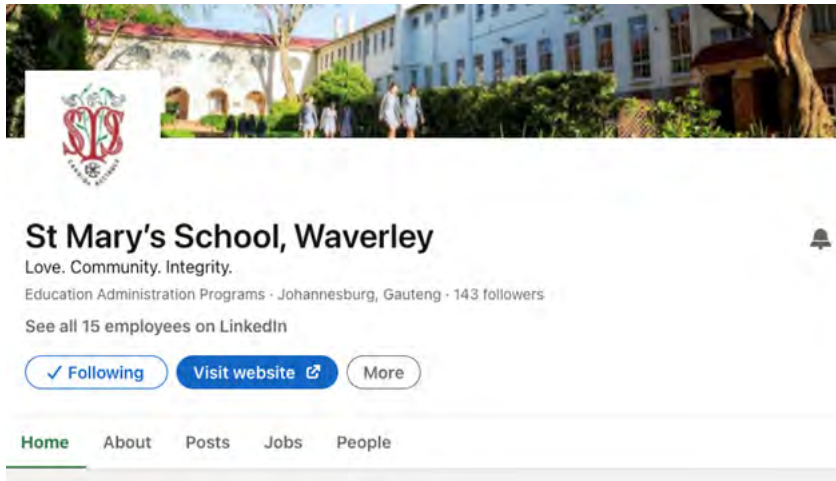
Malibuye Cossie, Sipho Mpumlwana, Thabiso Ntshingila and Nkululeko Luthuli





## 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 that 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).