



FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

It's that time of year again. We are onsite, announcing leadership positions for the Grade 7 girls, looking back - already - on successful events like Meet the Teachers and Summer Splash, marvelling at the competence of our Grade 0s, and forgetting the newness of the staff who have only just joined us. The PA AGM - conducted online under the energetic leadership of Malvern Chirume and his team - is behind us, the 2022 class reps, led by convenor Gugu Zulu, have met, and identified their objectives for 2022, and... what would a new year be without our tackling the problem of congestion in the parking lot?

The mood on campus is optimistic as we begin to conceive of a world that includes spectators and audiences, and the deliberate but joyous restoration of community. This is the message and mandate of the PA and the class reps: to bring us together and build relationships across the school.

Over the past fortnight, Di Gordon and I have spent time meeting girls and their parents for entry into Grade 0 2023. It is a wonderful thing to see our school through the eyes of prospective families, to be jolted into appreciation of our beautiful, busy campus with its vibrant population of friendly pupils and staff. Speaking about the school, practically and philosophically, to people who do not yet inhabit it, is an exercise in humility and a timely resetting of perspective: our preoccupation with what needs fixing recedes and what we have comes into full view: all the rich possibilities that lie ahead of us at this time, in this place.

The annual commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr's birthday on the third Monday of January brings him and his words to mind at the beginning of every Easter Term; the line I quoted from an address he gave in Washington in 1968 at Meet the Teachers bears repeating here: "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." Teaching our girls, showing them the difference between today's setbacks and tomorrow's possibilities is part of our duty of care - a duty that is more urgent than ever as we emerge from the strangely straitened existence imposed on us by the pandemic.

My thanks, as always, to the teachers for making the girls feel at home on campus, to Revd Rakgadi for opening the doors of the chapel wide enough to hold several grades at once, and to the parents for walking alongside us, and your children, as we enter a new year. Special thanks from me and Ms Elk for supporting the inaugural birthday book initiative, our newest tradition in the Junior School.



Junior School combined first assembly of 2022

As 2021's pantone "colors of the year" - dependable and warm Ultimate Gray and Illuminating - make way for "the carefree confidence and daring curiosity" of this year's Very Peri (PANTONE 17-3938), a unique shade of purple, we are encouraged to embrace an altered landscape of possibilities, "opening us up to a new vision as we rewrite our lives". Or, in our more modest, St Mary's idiom, "Join us, please".

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

At St Mary's, one of the rituals of transition we have is that every girl in Grade 4 is given a Bible. To make sense of the things we do as part of our beginning of the year activities and not to lose sight of the meaning, I have found it necessary to reflect on why we do what we do and how best to help the girls understand.

In my reflections, I have found the following remarks by Archbishop Rowan Williams on childhood and choice helpful:

“Childhood, after all, is a period we've come to think of as ‘latency’... to manage such a period requires a certain confidence that the society we inhabit has the resources to carry passengers, a confidence that we know how to live alongside people whose participation in our social forms is not like ours. It is not that the child doesn't have a share in society; but, on the whole, developed and not-so-developed cultures alike have granted that the child does not have the same kind of negotiating role in society as the adult. Hence the prevalence of rituals of transition...”

and

“But this implies that we as adult social agents are obliged to bear with what goes before, with the indeterminacies of childhood. A society with clearly marked transitional rituals is committed to *guaranteeing* the integrity of such a period, and a society for which the education of children is essentially about pressing the child into adult or pseudo-adult roles as fast as possible is one that has lost patience with that kind of commitment.”

These quotes challenge us to stop and reflect on our duty as a school to the girls and boys in the Junior School. It is my hope that they challenge you, as much as they have challenged me.

A special thank you to the Grade 6s, who did a fantastic job helping the Grade 4s find their way in the hymn book and Bible in our beginning-of-term chapel service.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

The Grade 000 children have settled in well and have enjoyed exploring their new environment.

THE GRADE 000 TEACHERS



GRADE 0 NEWS

The Grade 0s have been very busy familiarising themselves with their school environment.

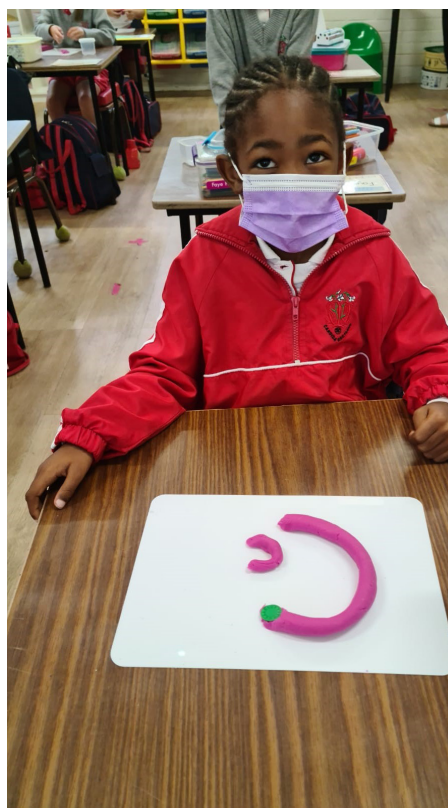
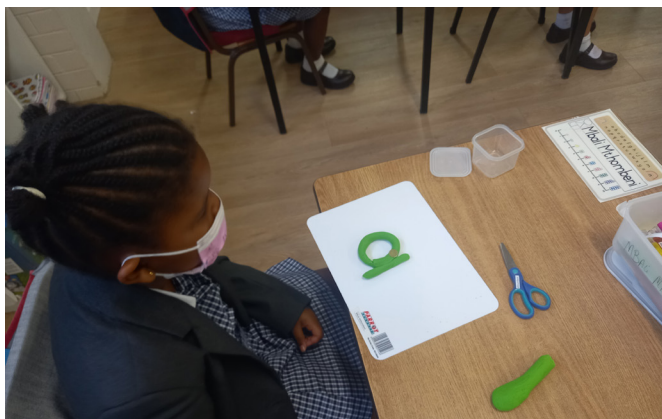
THE GRADE 0 TEACHERS



GRADE 1 NEWS

The Grade 1 girls are exploring the letters of the alphabet, sounding out the letters, and using playdough to explore the beginning sounds of words.

THE GRADE 1 TEACHERS



GRADE 2 NEWS

Mrs Naicker, Mrs De Boni and Miss Lewis welcomed the Grade 2s and their parents to the 2022 school year. The girls beamed with joy as they entered their new classrooms. It has been a blazing start to the term with activities surrounding our theme of *All about me*. The girls chatted animatedly about their feelings of being in a new grade, likes and dislikes, and their special talents. They drew self-portraits, excitedly covered their school books, and played with friends during their first two weeks of Grade 2. We look forward to a dazzling year together!

THE GRADE 2 TEACHERS



Our future is so bright, we have to wear shades.

GRADE 3 NEWS

The Grade 3s have been exploring 2D shapes and creating interesting structures.

THE GRADE 3 TEACHERS



GRADE 5 NEWS

EXPLORING DIFFERENT LEVELS IN DRAMA

This week we explored the use of different levels in our lessons. The girls had to stage a scene that was visually interesting by making use of their space and limited props.

NADINE WHEELER
DRAMA TEACHER



MATHEMATICS

Grade 5s working on value and place value.



ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A very big thank you to all the Little Saints and Junior School families who donated Christmas gifts to the Baragwanath Hospital Comforts Committee at the end of last year. These gifts were handed out to children at clinics and hospitals in Alexandra and Soweto. We received this message from one of the social workers, Octavia: Thank you so much for bringing a smile to these little children's faces and for making their Christmas super fabulous.

LINDA MAISHMAN
JUNIOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR

GRADE 7 NEWS

As part of their module on Shakespeare, the girls have started exploring the language he used. They will study the play *Twelfth Night* in their weekly English lessons with Dr Warner.

LINDA SMITH
GRADE 7 ENGLISH TEACHER



SWIMMING

2022 Summer Splash aquatics festival

Splish splash we were all taking a bath! The 2022 Summer Splash aquatics festival took place this past weekend after two years of having to cancel the event. It was a superb day and swimmers from nine schools competed against each other in water polo, swimming and diving.

What makes this event so special is that the Junior School competes alongside the Senior School. The swimming gala took place over our 50m long course swimming pool. The day was filled with cheers,

splashes, dives, pride, and passion.

St Mary's placed third in the water polo section and we were tops in the swimming and diving sections.

We look forward to watching the rest of the aquatics season unfold now that we are all back in the water.

KELSEY THOMSON
HEAD OF AQUATICS



NOTICES

MUSE MORNING - TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Date: Tuesday 22 February
 Time: 07h30 to 08h30
 Venue: Senior Primary hall
 Speaker: Andy Cohen (see biography below)
 Topic: "A parent can't always act like a grown-up, here's why..."

Booking is essential as space is limited. Quicket booking:
<https://www.quicket.co.za/events/164978-muse-morning/>

Andy Cohen is a psychoanalyst-in-training and TEDx speaker with a background in art and counselling. She is deeply passionate about creativity and self-repair and works therapeutically with a wide range of groups and individuals in private practice. Andy holds the position of editor-elect on the executive committee for IPSO, the International Psychoanalytical Studies Organisation. She also writes for a range of parenting hubs like Jozi Kids, with a strong focus on "psychoanalytic ideas made simple" in order to empower families to live fuller, more integrated lives.



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.



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