



Robust discussion

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Over the next few weeks, the Junior School teachers, from Little Saints to Grade 7 attend care and concern meetings to discuss your child's progress and wellbeing, the older girls write summative assessments, and the staff draft end-of-year reports and choreograph and host valedictory assemblies. We also welcome new families to the Junior School, give our Grade 6 girls an opportunity to spend a morning in the Senior School, and prepare all our children "to boldly go" (the famous split infinitive given to us by the television series *Star Trek*) into a new grade.

In addition to celebrating the year that has been, the ritual of saying goodbye and moving on inevitably brings with it some uncomfortable reflections and a sense of regret. For some time now, it has been unfashionable to speak about regret; the common refrain, "no regrets" is brandished as the answer to living a life of vigour and conviction and embarking on a baggage-free, self-determined journey trained on forward motion. Australian singer-songwriter and author Nick Cave's mild objection that regrets "require our attention. You have to do something with them" brings us up short: why must we pay attention to our regrets, and what must we do with them?

For the last few years, since 2018, we have included a Grade 7 speaker, or speakers on the programme for Celebration Evening. What this means is that the teachers, parents, and girls get to hear another voice at prizegiving, one that does not belong to an office bearer and that is somehow more "unlicensed" than the adult ones surrounding it. Of course, the girls receive guidance on their speeches, and they have experience addressing an audience; as you would know from watching the play, many of them are accomplished performers who are comfortable and confident on a stage.

As preparation for writing the speech, the girls discuss what it means to say goodbye, the importance of acknowledging the people who have walked alongside them, the need to balance thoughtful reflection and humour in their account, and the art of telling their story. While they might know how to identify what they like and don't like (years of exposure to social media, I assume), understand the importance of gratitude, and, in many cases, the delicate decision of what to leave unsaid, they are mostly unsure of how to tell their story.

Without wanting to underplay the complexity of the girls' task - speaking to an audience that consists of their peers, their teachers, and their parents - I think part of their difficulty relates directly to the idea of regrets and what we do with them. Despite the popular discourse on the value of making mistakes, learning from them, and being adaptable, I am not sure we have given the girls permission or shown them how to speak about their experiences of growing up at school in all its wonderful and wild ambivalence.

They are happy to recount moments of collective uncertainty or mixed feelings (first days of school, changing grades, new encounters), but in general they shrink from identifying and retailing instances where they misread a situation, took a wrong turn, or, worst of all, changed their minds.

As a consequence, we miss out on the particular texture of the tale, the bumps, grooves and folds in the narrative that kept them, thankfully, from travelling in a straight line. My wish is that the more practice we give our girls at paying attention to their regrets and doing something with them - telling their story, in full - the more content we can be to stand back as "the little girl [zooms past] on her little bicycle, this fierce emissary of the future, rainbow tassels waving from her handlebars and a hundred beaded braids spilling from her golden helmet." (Maria Popova) Just watch her go...

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

In the chapel service leading up to half-term, we talked about rest and the importance of rest. The girls understood what rest means and its significance in helping us prepare for work and study. The language they used to describe rest involved going on holiday and playing with their friends and family. Their language shows how rest is making time for family and friends and enjoying the beauty of God's creation.

It is often said that Anglican spirituality finds its roots in Benedictine spirituality. According to St Benedict, *no one thing—prayer, work, rest, study—was to be done in the extreme. Instead, the holiness of life was to be found through the right balance of these elements in life.* Our school day is, to some extent, ordered this way, with time for prayer, work, play, rest and study.

In our culture of keeping busy and working all the time, we could learn from the pupils in Junior School. They recognise their need to take time off and connect with friends and family. They could learn from the adults, parents, guardians and teachers the importance of living a balanced life. Incorporating rest into our lives means doing less and trusting God.

O God of peace, *who has* taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of *your* Spirit lift us, we pray *you*, to *your* presence, where we may be still and know that *you* are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (SSJE)

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

Little Saints Sings

It was wonderful for the Little Saints children to perform on the stage in The Edge during *A Sky full of Stars*. The process lent itself to the children learning skills relating to music, art, language, memory, self-discipline and organisation. A highlight for the children was playing their various percussion instruments as Mrs Frahm-Arp conducted them. The pupils outdid themselves and gave their audience a wonderful African story to warm their hearts.

THE LITTLE SAINTS TEAM



GRADE 0 NEWS

In Grade 0 we are very happy to have silkworms. The girls have eagerly observed all the wonderful changes as our silkworms have grown and developed. Silkworms are amazing little creatures with a fascinating life cycle. The girls have watched the silkworms grow from tiny little black worms to big fat white worms. They were so excited after half-term to discover the silkworms making their cocoons. We will be watching them closely to see them emerge as moths.

THE GRADE 0 TEACHERS



The girls also had a lot of fun painting Hydrangeas using bubble wrap and paint

GRADE 1 NEWS

After learning about money, the Grade 1s prepared items at school and at home to sell at their market day last week. They enjoyed being shopkeepers as well as consumers, and appreciated the Grade 4 girls' guidance.

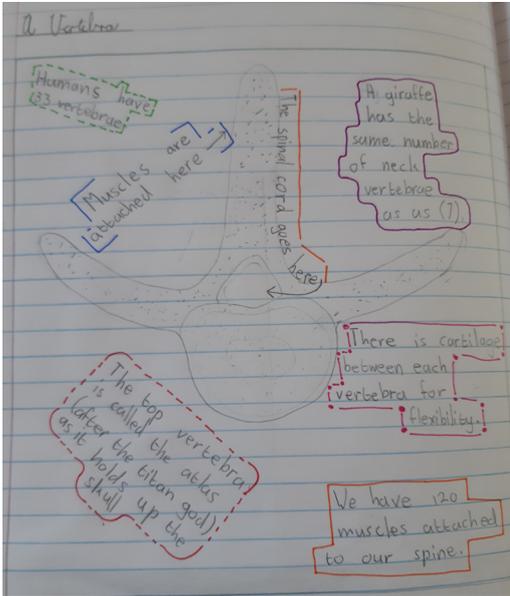
THE GRADE 1 TEACHERS



GRADE 4 NEWS

Vertebrates

The distinguishing characteristic of vertebrates is their vertebrae! The Grade 4s enjoyed a display of a variety of these - from whale to snake. They created an infographic about vertebrae including a drawing.



Vertebrae page by Astrid Blair



A variety of vertebrae

GRADE 6 NEWS

Germination

The Grade 6s are documenting the germination of bean seeds at home with the goal of producing an information presentation. At school, they investigated each step of the sequence by observing the bean seeds in various stages of germination. An important part of this process is being able to represent their observations in diagrams that are as accurate as possible.

ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Sylvia Vice brought her beans from home



Observing the radicle, side roots and root hairs



Germination in action



Discussing the plumule and new leaves

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB NEWS

Reduce Reuse Recycle

“Our mission is to protect the environment”- this very important slogan was reiterated by the ladies from the DON'T WASTE head office. The environmental club had an interesting afternoon listening to the representatives from Don't Waste, who visited St Mary's. The girls were informed on how waste is collected, separated, and recycled. They also asked questions and were amazed to learn that paper is further separated and plastic containers that are not rinsed out, are considered contaminated and cannot be recycled immediately. The girls found the discussion informative and promised to REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE as well as create an awareness in others.

ANESHREE NAICKER AND LAUREN SPENCER



NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Junior School ensemble evening

On 18 October, the Junior School hosted our first ensemble evening in three years and it was truly wonderful to be able to perform with our neighbouring schools once again. The girls and boys were excited to play their school's pieces as well as to perform the combined item, *Man in the Mirror*. Many bonds between schools are renewed in music. Fun was had by all. The evening concluded with an encore of the combined item.

GEORGE POTGIETER
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



Combined orchestra



Combined orchestra



Junior School orchestra



Junior School orchestra



Junior School orchestra



Annabelle Chen in Grade 6 has won the under 12 years category in the Atterbury piano competition. This is no mean feat, as many talented and devoted pianists take part in this competition. Congratulations, Annabelle! We are very proud of you.

DIVING

On Saturday the 15 October, 10 St Mary’s girls represented Gauteng at the annual SA Schools’ diving competition held at St Andrew’s.

The St Mary’s divers put together an exceptional display of poise and elegance resulting in all 10 girls obtaining a podium position. In summary we received five gold medals, two silver medals and three bronze medals.

The results were as follows:

11 Years Novice:	1 st	Tyla Bredin
11 Years Elite:	1 st	Isabella Crawford
	3 rd	Olivia Coetzer
12 years Novice:	2 nd	Isabella Lotto
13 years Novice:	1 st	Kristin Biggs
	3 rd	Jesse Joseph
14 years Elite:	1 st	Emma Campbell
15 years Elite:	3 rd	Keratile Manaka
16 years Elite:	1 st	Zalika Methula
16 Years Novice:	2 nd	McKenzie Coakley-Eager

Congratulations to all the girls on their fantastic achievements.



The St Mary’s diving team that represented Gauteng with Kate Shepherd

KATE SHEPHERD
HEAD OF DIVING

ATHLETICS

On Friday 7 October, the athletics team participated in a meeting at St Stithians and the results were as follows:

St Peter’s	477
St Mary’s	347
St Andrew’s	311
St Stithians	295

On Saturday 15 October, the A athletics team took part in the annual inter-schools Prestige meeting hosted at St Stithians. This was a tense meet; the girls knew they had to dig deep to keep the trophy which St Mary’s has won since 2016. The team competed with determination and the usual St Mary’s style. The races were won predominantly by St Mary’s and St Peter’s Girls prep. In the last changeover of the final races of the morning, the Grade 3 4x100m relay team unfortunately dropped the baton and placed third. The unbeaten Grade 5 relay team also dropped their baton and moved from 1st place to 6th. Congratulations to Isabella Lotto who broke the record for the Grade 6 70m hurdle race. The following girls placed 1st in their events:

Nefertiti Kgositsile	Grade 3 long jump
Maryam Kaka	Junior 800m
Katherine Davidson	Grade 4B 150m
Onela Sebati	Grade 5 long jump
Noluthando Mshengu	Grade 5D 80m
Akua Hinson	Grade 5C 80m
Sophie Barrow	Grade 5B 80m and Grade 5B150m

Emma Simpson	Grade 6D 100m
Cayla Midlane	Grade 6C 100m
Isabella Lotto	Grade 6 long jump, Grade 6B 100m and Grade 6B 70m hurdles
Maya Mgcina	Grade 6A 100m and Grade 6A 200m
Lucy Barrow	Grade 7A 100m

The final results were as follows

St Peter’s	398
St Mary’s	378
St Andrew’s	291
St Stithians	4 th
Brescia House	5 th
Kingsmead	6 th
Holy Rosary	7 th
St Teresa’s	8 th

Congratulations to St Peter’s Prep on winning Prestige for the first time.

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL

TENNIS

Junior tennis league

On 13 October, the last match of the season, St Mary's Grade 5AB beat APPS Grade 5AB convincingly. The results were as follows: St Mary's Grade 5AB bt APPS Grade 5AB 106-11.

I would like to congratulate the following girls who did exceptionally well in the Secunda tennis tournament that took place on the weekend of 11 October. Isabella Molyneux came 4th in the U12 open event and Gabriella Illgner won the U12 gold event. Well done to Sophie Kent for winning the Johannesburg Country Club championships for the U12 age group.

KAREN CORBETT
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



The Grade 5AB team

EQUESTRIAN

Equestrian Team SANESA National Championships:

From 29 September to 4 October, some of the riders in the equestrian team participated in the National Championships at Kyalami Equestrian Park. All the provinces competed against each other in searingly hot temperatures and the competition was of an extremely high standard.

Four riders from St Mary's participated. Ella Mundell rode in two 70cm Showjumping classes, Prix Caprilli level 3 and a 60cm Equitation class. She was placed 11th in two classes, 7th in Prix Caprilli and 2nd in a Showjumping class. Lucy Barrow rode Prix Caprilli level 1 and was placed 9th. Astrid Blair was placed 8th in Novice Dressage and Emma Frahm-Arp competed in two level 5 Prix Caprilli classes, two 80cm Showjumping classes, Level 7 Working Riding and Performance Riding and two Elementary Dressage classes. She was placed 9th and 15th in the Showjumping, 2nd and 5th in the Prix Caprilli, 2nd in the Working Riding, 1st in the Performance Riding and 2nd in both Elementary Dressage classes.

Well done to all the girls who have worked so hard this year. It is a really wonderful achievement to be chosen to represent Gauteng and to have performed so well. Thanks again to all the parents, coaches, grooms, and ponies for their hard work.

EMMA-FRAHM ARP
EQUESTRIAN CAPTAIN



Lucy Barrow on Delti

EQUESTRIAN CONTINUED



Astrid Blair riding Pegasus Chalcedony



Ella Mundell jumping Zenzele Starstruck



Emma Frahm-Arp jumping Waterside Fidelio

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 videoed alarm systems link through to the armed response control room.

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 bi-annual basis.

ROGER YOUNG
OPERATIONS MANAGER

APPEAL TO PARENTS

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 co-curricular 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 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.