



Original illustration by Yolandi Geyser for St Mary's Junior School reporting document

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Written in September 1959 and published as part of the first installment of her diaries (*Reborn: Journals and Notebooks, 1947-1963*) Susan Sontag's 10 rules for raising a child - her son - have been much on my mind since I first read them in the holidays. They appear on Maria Popova's blog, *the marginalian*, along with her observation that underpinning the rules "is a subtle but palpable reverence for the precious gift of 'childishness'". I reproduced them in full for the teachers at our first staff meeting of the term; I reproduce them below for you to read now.

1. Be consistent.
2. Don't speak about him to others (e.g., tell funny things) in his presence. (Don't make him self-conscious.)
3. Don't praise him for something I wouldn't always accept as good.
4. Don't reprimand him harshly for something he's been allowed to do.
5. Daily routine: eating, homework, bath, teeth, room, story, bed.
6. Don't allow him to monopolize me when I am with other people.
7. Always speak well of his pop. (no faces, sighs, impatience, etc.)
8. Do not discourage childish fantasies.
9. Make him aware that there is a grown-up world that's none of his business.
10. Don't assume that what I don't like to do (bath, hairwash) he won't like either.

Aside from the more personal revelations about Sontag, including her distaste for bathing and washing her hair, the list - even the reference to her son's father ("his pop") - has easy application in our school environment and resonates with the relationship of trust and mutual respect we are trying to build with the children in our care. I recognise in Sontag's list the sensible and sensitive understanding of the child that we are familiar with from the Reggio philosophy, the daily "reverence", in Popova's words, for the world of the child along with a recognition of our responsibility to inhabit it with awe, tenderness and, dare I say, discipline.

Widely misunderstood and regularly deployed as a more palatable alternative to the idea of punishment, "discipline", unsurprisingly, finds its real roots in teaching. Seen through the filter of Christian philosophy, discipline is an expression of love requiring repeated effort. The teachers in the Junior School try to guide and nurture the children in our care without losing sight of the values of truth and justice, service and duty, respect, trust, and forgiveness. We spend time and effort teaching our pupils to be accountable for their actions, receptive to feedback, and willing to make amends. Discipline is included in our definition of learning, and we encourage the children "to recognise and embrace their responsibility to develop their full potential by participating actively in the education process at St Mary's" (*Statement on the Educational Philosophy of St Mary's*).

Our approach to discipline in the Junior School differs from phase to phase and is designed to be proportional and responsive to different developmental needs. How we intervene depends on where the child is at as well as the nature and gravity of the situation. Our commitment to the hard work of restoration and repair is reflected in our Educational Philosophy which speaks about instilling in our children "the resilience, persistence and determination to pick themselves up after failure." Children make mistakes; how they respond to these mistakes, and the support they receive from their teachers and parents in acknowledging their mistakes, is formative.

All our interventions are shaped by our desire to instil self-discipline, self-sufficiency, conscientiousness, and a sense of community in our pupils. Of course, we cannot achieve this objective on our own. We appeal to parents and other caregivers to support your children and the school by familiarising yourself with our policies and structures and discussing issues, at home, that affect your children, their grade, and our community. Communicating openly with each other helps us to work together to address and resolve concerns about conduct, behaviour, safety, and wellbeing as they arise - it helps us to raise our children with good sense, and sensitivity, together.

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

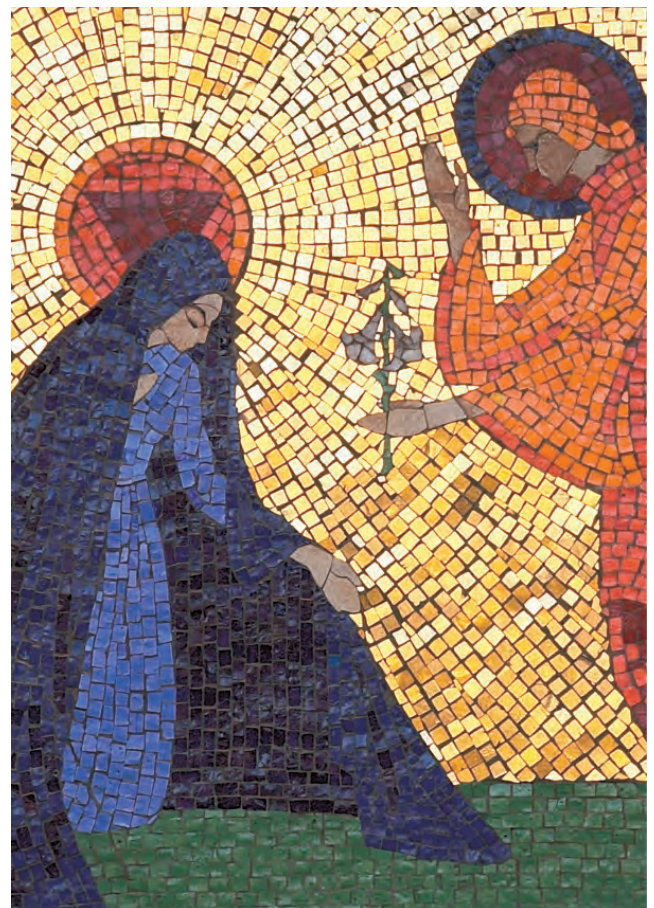
The Statement on the Christian identity and ethos of St Mary's reads:

It is acknowledged that not all staff or pupils will be of the Christian or Anglican faith. Whilst being committed to its identity as a Christian and Anglican school, the school will seek to value diversity by ensuring that other views, denominations, and faiths are respected among staff as well as pupils. Care will be taken to ensure that no pressure is brought to bear on those who do not identify as Christian or Anglican, nor will any attempt be made to convert them or to influence them in any way to abandon their own faiths (Paragraph 3).

The Grade 7 girls wrote about their religious heritage in Divinity. They were asked to share some insights on the values, customs, or traditions that have been meaningful in their life. We build relationships and develop understanding through learning more about the diverse backgrounds and traditions that make our community rich and vibrant.

In our Heritage Day chapel services in the Junior Primary, some teachers spoke to the girls about their religious heritage. These occasions give us an opportunity to celebrate religious diversity in our community.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO  
CHAPLAIN





# FROM THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

## Celebrating Mr Masibonisane Javu

As part of an initiative led by the diversity committee, we hope to regularly highlight the contributions made by the various members of our St Mary’s staff, beyond the academic sphere.

The Senior Primary environmental garden, is where Mr Masibonisane Javu expertise and love for the environment have truly flourished. This garden is tucked away in the heart of our Senior Primary section and serves as a living classroom where

members of the environmental club learn about biodiversity, sustainability, and the delicate balance of ecosystems. Mr Masibonisane manages to replenish the soil, even during the most extreme weather, growing everything from sunflowers to prize-winning radishes!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Masibonisane for his tireless efforts in caring for our garden.

LAUREN HOWDEN  
DEPUTY HEAD: ACADEMICS  
AND JUNIOR SCHOOL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBER





# LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

As part of our investigation of the sea, the children and teachers at Little Saints have studied rivers and the way they flow into the oceans. The children worked in groups to complete a STEAM task, using tin foil and loose parts which they sourced in the fairy garden. The children’s instruction was to create a river that flowed. It was remarkable to watch them working together to execute the brief. The photographs speak for themselves.

## THE LITTLE SAINTS TEAM





# LITTLE SAINTS HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

It was lovely to see the excitement and pride that the Little Saints children showed as they arrived at school in clothing that reflected their heritage. The boerewors braai with pap and a tomato and onion relish was delicious!





## JUNIOR PRIMARY HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Junior Primary girls came to school dressed in outfits that represented their cultural heritage. They enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities including art, music, South African stories and traditional games.

PHILIPPA DI BENEDETTO  
HoD: JUNIOR PRIMARY





## GRADE 0 NEWS

As we bask in the glorious warmth of the spring sun, it's heartwarming to see our girls make the most of this beautiful weather. Our school garden has become a hub of excitement and creativity as the girls have been enjoying the great outdoors, playing in the mud kitchen, and exploring the equipment available to them.

THE GRADE 0 TEAM



## GRADE 5 NEWS

### Book reviews

The Grade 5s wrote reviews of the books they have been reading at home.

The Pearl in the Attic Karen McCombie

A dazzling book for mystery lovers and curious creatures

Scarlet is a 13-year old girl with lilac hair and an extraordinary personality who worries dearly about her grandmother. When Scarlet's nanna gets dementia, she and her mother have to sort out all the belongings in her nanna's flat where she finds a real treasure. What might happen next?

I think this is a great book. I enjoyed it because it is funny and it made me curious. It is a real mystery that reminds you to follow a path of hope.

Aisha Bhabha

The Bolds - Julian Clary

A wonderful book for someone who loves laughter and spotty adventures.

"Yes they are a far from ordinary family. But have you guessed their secret yet?"

When two hyenas witness a couple on their honeymoon get eaten by an alligator, they decide to take their belongings and leave Africa for Teddington in London to start a new life. As they settle into their home, they discover that their nosy neighbour is stalking their every move...

This is the first in a series of books about a family of hyenas living in Teddington. I love the illustrations by David Roberts. If you love colourful books then this one is for you. Next time you're in the library or book store, get The Bolds.

Grace Nienaber

The Bookshop in the Clouds - Jaco Jacobs  
"Welcome to Head in the Clouds".

This is the opening sentence of The Bookshop in the Clouds by Jaco Jacobs. In the story there are so many adventures that the main character experiences such as turning into the Lochness Monster to save her friend and stealing a book from her favourite bookshop.

This book is definitely for people who enjoy mystery and extraordinarily creative adventures.

Medupe Mashabela

THE GRADE 5 ENGLISH TEACHERS

## GRADE 7 NEWS

### Grade 7 outing to St John's College

#### Fostering connection and understanding: St Mary's collaborates with St John's College

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, it has become increasingly clear that the traditional classroom experience is not enough to prepare our children for the complexities of the real world. As educators, it is our responsibility to provide our girls with opportunities that encourage meaningful engagement beyond the confines of the classroom. One way we are achieving this at St Mary's is through our collaboration with St John's College, an initiative aimed at promoting interaction and understanding between our girls and their brother school.

Our recent joint venture was a testament to the success of this collaborative effort. The day began with a History quiz, where students from both schools were pitted against each other to test their knowledge of their respective school's history. This friendly competition not only demonstrated the pride our students have in their schools but also allowed them to learn more about each other's rich histories.

Following the quiz, an interactive workshop on consent took centre stage, guided by St John's team of dedicated psychologists.

This session provided a brave space for students to engage in open and honest discussions about consent, boundaries, and healthy relationships. It is through dialogues like these that we equip our students with essential life skills, helping them navigate the complexities of interpersonal relationships with empathy and respect.

The day culminated in a series of fun games and activities led by the St John's sports coaches and facilitated by our Grade 7 mentors. A highlight for our girls was teaching the boys the ins and outs of playing capture the flag. The experience of working together towards a common goal fostered teamwork, communication, and a sense of camaraderie among the students.

The collaboration between St Mary's and St John's was a deliberate effort to encourage our students to value interactions that transcend social events. By engaging in activities that challenge their assumptions, promote open dialogue, and build connections, our students are gaining a deeper understanding of each other's experiences and perspectives.

#### THE GRADE 7 MENTORS

ANNIE THOM, ULRIKE STEENEKAMP, THULISILE MHLOPHE





## SENIOR PRIMARY HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

After an informative assembly by Dr Warner which added to the girls' nuanced understanding of what diversity means, the Senior Primary girls enjoyed a day filled with exciting activities. They played games from different South African cultures. They acted out and retold stories from all over Africa. The girls learnt about the history of South African jazz and they loved learning a viral dance by the French singer songwriter Jain, inspired by Miriam Makeba. The girls also researched and learnt more about our own country and its rich cultural heritage - culminating in an inter-house quiz run by the quiz club captains.

KERRY GIBBONS  
HoD: SENIOR PRIMARY



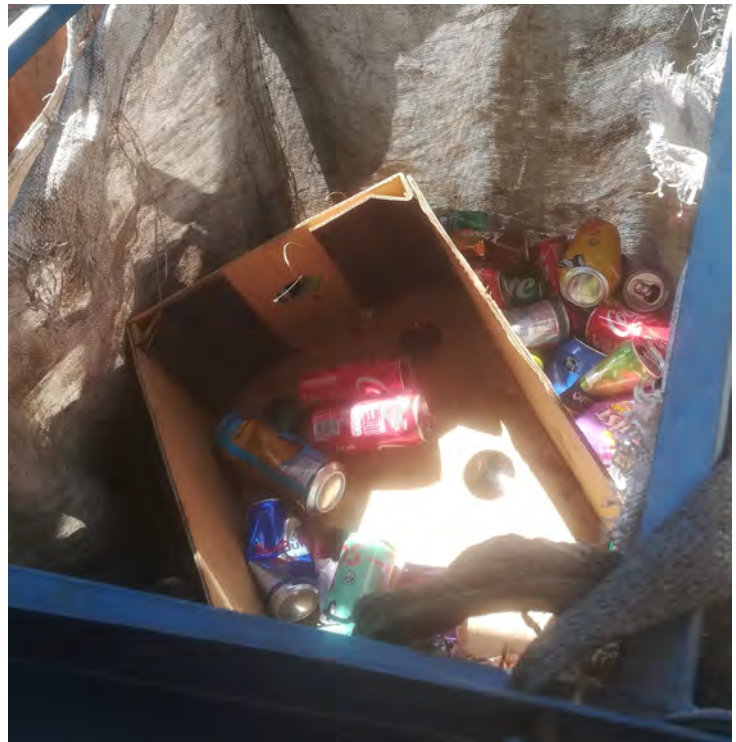


## THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

### Recycling

"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 representatives from Don't Waste, who visited St Mary's School. The girls were informed about how waste is collected, separated and recycled. They were amazed to learn that paper is further separated and that unrinsed plastic containers are considered contaminated and cannot be recycled immediately. The girls found the discussion informative and promised to REUSE, REDUCE & RECYCLE as well create an awareness in others.

ANESHREE NAICKER AND REFILOE KOIKOI  
JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHERS



## FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The girls in the Junior Primary have been busy in their Music lessons this term.

The Grade 0s have been preparing for Grandparents' day, singing action songs and using non-melodic percussion instruments, such as hand drums and claves (rhythm sticks).

The Grade 1s continued learning about keeping a steady beat incorporating body percussion with their music buddies, using a rhyme *Meet me at the garden gate*.

The Grade 2s are learning the difference between rhythm and a steady beat, and they are playing the clapping game song *Kokoleoko* in partners.

The Grade 3s learnt a passing game song from Ghana called *Obiswana*.. They began by learning the song with one clave. Then they progressed to using both claves, very successfully, with a pattern on the steady beat. To see their performances, please click on the link below:

Grade 3M <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wj9K2l5FcVoS17wzcqm6XwlrakZaChlx/view?usp=sharing>

Grade 3K [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OKFBhqtJJFqlZhHnaVihcKVeEDX\\_RT6-/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OKFBhqtJJFqlZhHnaVihcKVeEDX_RT6-/view?usp=sharing)

JOANNE SEQUEIRA  
JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER



# RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Congratulations to all the level one, two and three gymnasts who made us proud at the Future Nations Competition on 23 September! The girls performed their free hand dances at this friendly competition. A special thanks to the gymnasts who inspired the younger gymnasts by putting on a ball and ribbon display at the competition. Well done, girls!



Level 1 Future Nations



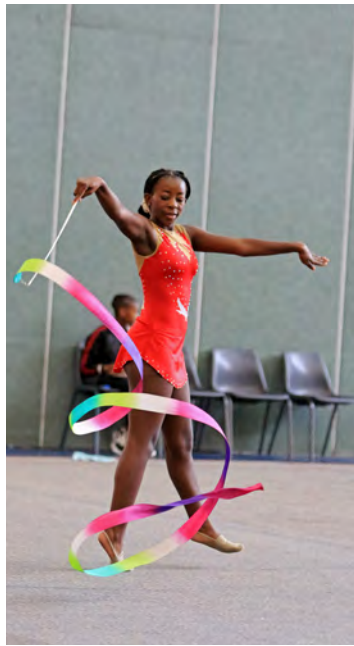
Level 2 Future Nations



Level 3 Future Nations

These Senior Primary rhythmic gymnasts will represent Gauteng at the South African Gymnastic Games at Wits University next week.

LINDA GIURICICH AND NICOLE DIXON  
RHYTHMIC GYM COACHES



Muofhe Neswiswi



Laurel Kelly



Caelen Buchanan



Emma Home



# TENNIS

On Thursday 21 September, St Mary’s E/F team beat St Katharine’s C/D team 56-28.

I extend my congratulations to the Grade 5 and 6 girls for their good attitude both on and off the court. Well done, girls; keep up the hard work.

21 September  
St Mary’s E beat St Katharine’s C 29-14  
St Mary’s F beat St Katharine’s D 27-14

KAREN CORBETT  
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH

# ATHLETICS

On Friday 15 September, the athletics team participated in their first meeting of the season. All the girls performed well and the Grade 3s were impressive in their first meeting placing in the top two in all their races. This was a great start to the season and there’s much to look forward to in the upcoming meetings.

The results were as follows;

St Mary’s	403
St Andrew’s	326
St Teresa’s	154

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU  
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL





## EQUESTRIAN

The Junior School equestrian team took part in the SANESA regional finals on 29 and 30 July at Eaton Farm against the four other regions in Gauteng. Below are the results:

NAME	HORSE/PONY	CLASS	PLACING	No. of riders in class
Vivienne Chen	Destalsmit La Mas Bonita	Dressage Preliminary test 3 (Pony)	3rd	24
		Dressage Preliminary test 4 (Pony)	9th	24
Taylor Ruth Prinsloo	Tannenhof Bolero	Prix Caprilli Novice (Horse)	14th	20
		Equitation Intermediate 100cm (Horse)	1st	1
Mia-Ann Terblanche	Wakkaberry	Dressage Preliminary test 3 (Pony)	21st	24
		Dressage Preliminary test 4 (Pony)	13th	24
		Jumping 70 cm Speed class (Pony)	4th	30
		Jumping 70 cm Competition class (Pony)	18th	30
Lea Jackson	Franlaren Evonna	Equitation Rider Special 70cm (Horse)	1st	13
		Jumping 70 cm Speed class (Horse)	8th	22
Katleho Vilakazi	Pegasus Chalcedony	Jumping 50 cm Speed class (Pony)	23rd	36
Astrid Blair	Supernova	Dressage Preliminary test 3 (Pony)	11th	24
		Dressage Preliminary test 4 (Pony)	15th	24
		Equitation Novice 70cm (Pony)	2nd	17
		Jumping 80 cm Speed class (Pony)	8th	26
		Jumping 70 cm Competition class (Pony)	7th	26



Katleho Vilakazi and Pegasus Chalcedony






Lea Jackson and Franlaren Evonna






# EQUESTRIAN CONTINUED



 **SANESA Gauteng Finals**  
29-30 July 2023  




Astrid Blair and Supernova



 **SANESA Gauteng Finals**  
29-30 July 2023  

Taylor Prinsloo and Tannenhof Bolero



 **SANESA Gauteng Finals**  
29-30 July 2023  

Vivienne Chen and Destalsmit La Mas Bonita



 **SANESA Gauteng Finals**  
29-30 July 2023  

Mia-Ann Terblanche and Wakkaberry

At the SANESA Johannesburg awards evening on 21 September they won the trophy for the highest achievers in category E.



 **SANESA Johannesburg Awards**  
21 September 2023 

ST MARY'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (PREP)			
NO.	NAME	TEAM	DISCIPLINE
1	ASTRID BLAIR	A	DRESSAGE
		A	EQUITATION
		B	JUMPING
2	KATLEHO VILAKAZI	B	JUMPING
3	LEA JACKSON	A	EQUITATION
		A	DRESSAGE
		B	JUMPING
4	MIA-ANN TERBLANCHE	B	DRESSAGE
		A	JUMPING
5	TAYLOR RUTH PRINSLOO	A	PRIX CAPRILLI
		A	EQUITATION
6	VIVIENNE CHEN	A	DRESSAGE



## EQUESTRIAN CONTINUED

The following girls have been selected to represent Gauteng at the National Championships from 4 to 7 October at Kyalami Equestrian Park:

Pupil	Team	Classes
Astrid Blair	A	EQUITATION SAEQA NOVICE 70cm (PONY Class)
	B	2 phase 80cm show jumping (Pony class)
	B	Normal competition 80cm show jumping (Pony class)
	A	Eventing (65cm)
Vivienne Chen	A	DRESSAGE Pony rider prelim test a
	C	DRESSAGE Pony rider prelim test b
Lea Jackson	A	EQUITATION SANESA RIDER SPECIAL 70cm (HORSE Class)
Taylor Prinsloo	A	EQUITATION SAEQA INTERMEDIATE 110cm (HORSE Class)
Mia-Ann Terblanche	A	2 phase 70cm show jumping (Pony class)

MELANIE BLAIR  
TEACHER IN CHARGE

## ST MARY'S GOLF DAY



# ST MARY'S GOLF DAY

**(absa)**

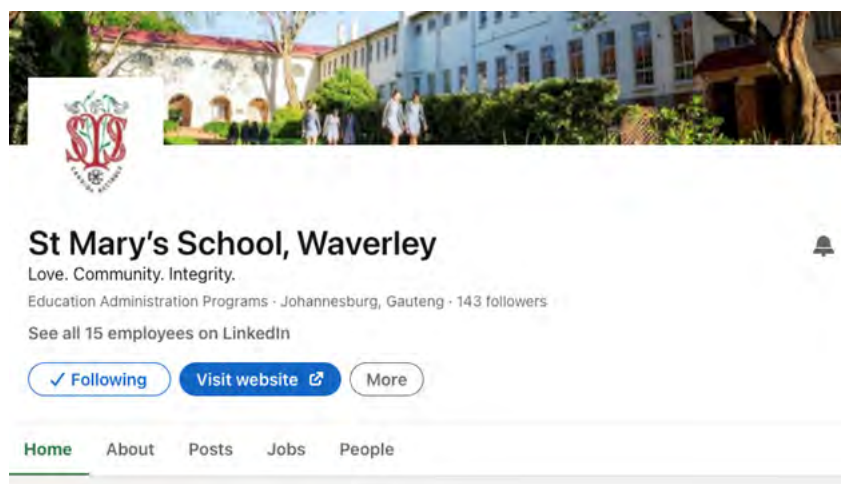
**St Mary's School Waverley**  
Founded 1888

Date: Thursday 19 October 2023  
Price: R4200 per fourball, includes greenfees, halfway and dinner  
Parkview Golf Course: T-off from 11h30  
Donations of prizes will be most welcome, please email [lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za](mailto:lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za)  
Click [here](#) to book your fourball  
All proceeds to go to the St Mary's Foundation



## 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).





**ST MARY'S SUPPORTER GEAR  
AVAILABLE FROM  
THE CLOTHES CUPBOARD**



St Mary's School  
Waverley  
Founded 1888