



The family fun day took place on Saturday 28 May

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

My previous newsletter article spoke about the rigours and rewards of collaboration with special reference to the upcoming school play. In the meantime, parents in the Junior School - members of the PA and our class reps in particular - quietly demonstrated the power of effective collaboration in their organisation of the family fun day, which took place on the same day as Little Saints sports day, Saturday, 28 May.

My thanks to the Little Saints teachers, the Junior School Sports department and the Grade 7 girls who supervised and facilitated the activities for sports day at the Howell Hub; also, to the parents, siblings, and grandparents who joined us on the morning and cheered on our little athletes as they participated wholeheartedly at each station by jumping, rolling, running, balancing, hurdling and hurtling to the instructions and encouragement of the team of teachers and girls working with them. It was a biting cold morning, but the exuberant playfulness and enjoyment of the children exerting themselves kept us all warm.

The family fun day, also, with its Africa Day themed décor and stalls offering an assortment of activities and refreshments was a heartwarming occasion. In addition to offering the children an opportunity to enjoy themselves with peers and friends on our beautiful school campus, the day also brought our community together to renew old relationships and establish some new connections, too. I am grateful, especially, to Ashlea Barker and

Jenny Kydd-Bennett for organising and overseeing the event, and also, to our Grade 7 fundraising committee and support staff for their hard work on the day. It felt good to see the Junior School so emphatically inhabited again, and to watch our teachers, parents and children simply enjoying time spent in each other's company.

Of course, the fun and family time does not stop with the family fun day: please remember to consult the app for details of other upcoming events being hosted in the Junior School. We look forward, in particular, to seeing parents and guardians at the series of Family Day services hosted by our chaplain, Revd Rakgadi Khobo, with our children in the school chapel from 13 to 22 June, and we are gratified by your continued spectatorship at sports fixtures and cultural events, including the piece playing concert series kicking off on 14 June.

We are understandably excited by a new initiative undertaken by a group of our Grade 7 girls to keep you informed and intrigued about our school play.

Finally, we are delighted to be launching a new initiative undertaken by a group of our Grade 7 girls, who will be working as a team to document and promote the Junior School play. These girls will keep you informed and intrigued about all developments relating to the production process. Please follow this link for a first taste of things to come: <https://youtu.be/kFZDLtpl-gE>

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

# FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The last two weeks have been filled with lots of exciting events in the life of the school and in our Africa Day chapel services.

The festivities started with our Africa Day chapel services. At Little Saints, we discussed and sang the hymn *Nkosi' Sikele' iAfrica*. It was not just us talking about the National Anthem and being proudly South Africa, it was looking back at history and saying this hymn is a prayer asking God to bless our continent and our country.

In the Junior Primary and Senior Primary chapel services, we asked teachers to share with us what it means to be African for them: the answers varied. Grade 7 pupils shared what it means to be African for them, mentioning that their diverse cultural heritage was like being a coin with two sides for those with an ancestral heritage from other parts of the world. One of the pupils spoke about Africa Day being about freedom, much like the Exodus of Israel out of Egypt.

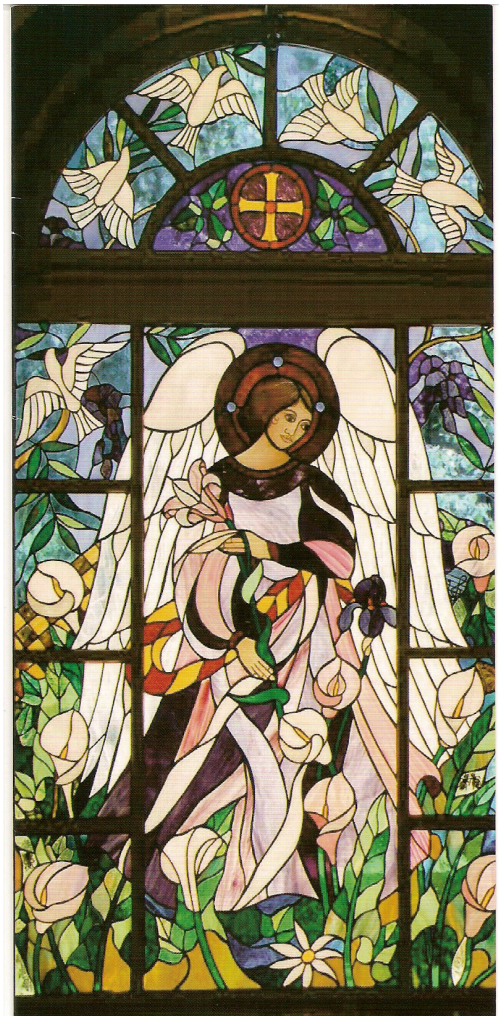
The week ended with Patronal Festival, where the whole school was present. Each part of the school participated in the Eucharist services.

Words are not enough to express the joy we shared in being able to gather for all these events.

As Africa month came to an end: our prayers for our continent continued.

*Yizwa imithandazo yethu  
Nkosi Sikelela thina lusapho lwayo*

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO  
CHAPLAIN



# MUSE MORNINGS

Muse Mornings and parents' conversations are the brainchild of the Open Door department. The initiative stemmed from a need in our community for a platform where our parents could engage with professionals from outside the school on issues that are of relevance to the development of their children.

The original meaning of the word "muse" means to ponder, reflect or to absorb in thought. This has been and continues to be the sole aim of our Muse Mornings: to offer parents a platform where they can grapple with the issues involving child rearing and development on their own, with others and with the guidance of knowledgeable professionals.

Muse Mornings have been held over many years - we have invited a wide range of speakers on extensive topics, some of which have been suggested by our parent body. We have engaged with psychologists from different fields, a gynecologist, dietician and physiotherapist.

Some of the topics which have been addressed in the past are:

- how to raise your daughters in a masculine world
- helping your daughter develop a healthy relationship with food
- and many conversations around anxiety in children and strategies to help them manage anxiety

A gynecologist was invited to speak with our fathers on how to have conversations with their daughters about their changing bodies and we are proud that our fathers arrived en masse for the talk. In the last two years of the pandemic, our speakers have targeted their conversations at supporting parents in helping their children to navigate the emotional challenges that arose out of the pandemic.

Muse Mornings are held once a term in the mornings from 07h30 - 08h30. Please look out for newsletters and the school app for the notification of the next exciting presentation. We look forward to engaging with our parents, appreciate their input and welcome any topics that they believe will be of benefit to our community.

OPEN DOOR DEPARTMENT



# PATRONAL FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS





# AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS



Africa Day celebrations at Little Saints



The Grade 2s displaying their colourful African necklaces on Africa Day



The Grade 0s celebrated Africa Day by looking at different countries in Africa. They were inspired by Zimbabwe, Ghana and the Ndebeles and designed beautiful dresses using their vibrant colours and patterns. They also threaded some colourful necklaces.



# FAMILY FUN DAY





# LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

## Sports day

Saturday 28 May was exciting, with the Little Saints’ sports day culminating in the family fun day. All of the children were stars on the field and had fun while completing the eight stations. Their excitement and joy were pleasing to observe; as was the pride they took in wearing their medals afterwards.

The fun day was entertaining and enjoyable and I thank the class representatives for organising the stalls and all the parents who helped make it such a success.

CELIA DIANA  
HoD: LITTLE SAINTS





## GRADE 1 NEWS

The Grade 1 girls were excited to attend a talk about bees given by Mr Mokhutswane. He came dressed in his protective clothing and shared his experiences of owning bee hives, taking care of bees and harvesting honey.

THE GRADE 1 TEACHERS



## GRADE 2 NEWS

The Grade 2 and 3 fine motor group threaded macaroni with wool to make bright necklaces.

ANESHREE NAICKER AND ELISA MAHUME  
GRADE 2 TEACHER AND GRADE 0 ASSISTANT TEACHER





## GRADE 2 NEWS CONTINUED

In Divinity, the Grade 2s had a fun time cutting out shapes from papers to decorate Joseph’s colourful coat. This lesson was inspired by the book of Genesis 37:3.

LUNGA SEELE  
JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



## ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Grade 2

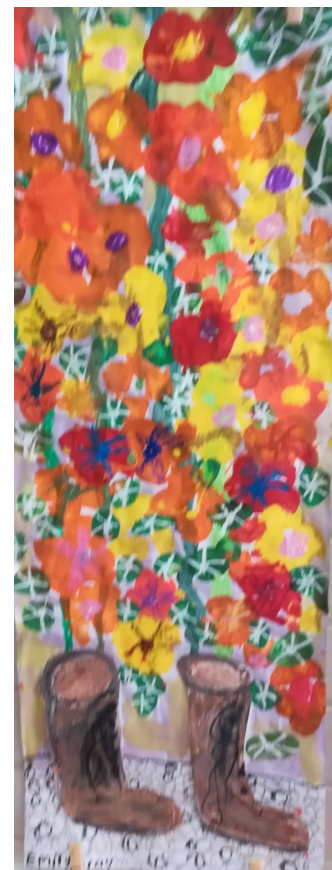
The story *The Nasturtiums that were too proud for their Boots* was read to the girls, and they were asked for their interpretation of these nasturtiums growing out of smelly old boots. It was interesting to see how they managed an awkward sized paper.



Puleng Masemene



Ndileka Tashe



Emily Gray



# ART DEPARTMENT NEWS CONTINUED

## Grade 3

Water is the theme in the Junior Primary department. You simply can't have a yacht race without water!



Sofia Von Knoblauch



Nefertiti Kgositsile



Erin Saayman

The Grade 4 trip to The Holy Family College was a great look into yesteryear!



Katleho Vilakazi



Lucy Snell

LIZ GRAWEZ  
ART TEACHER



# CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

- Did you know the moon was created because of a collision of what cosmologists call proto-Earth and Theia 4.5 billion years ago?
- Or that oil and coal are formed from dead plant matter, i.e. trees?
- Or that the chicken crossed the playground to get to the other slide?

In our hour long talk with Christopher Lloyd we got a glimpse into his fascinating mind and the wonderful non-fiction books he has written.

In this particular talk, he focused on his latest book *It's Up To Us*, where he introduced us to the children's Terra Carta - a list of rules the Prince of Wales developed to empower the youth against climate change.

In his typical style, his talk was interactive, quirky, and involved considerable audience participation - much to the girls' delight.

**ROSA ELK**  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER





# SENIOR PRIMARY NEWS

## Imbokodo book launch

On Tuesday 24 March the Grade 4 to 7 pupils joined the Form I and Form IIs for the *Imbokodo* book launch. The series of non-fiction books celebrate the South African women who have previously been excluded from the mainstream history narrative.

As authors, Athambile Masola and Xolisa Guzula write in their introduction to *10 Extraordinary Leaders, Activists and Pioneers*,

This book is about women you may not have read about in school. This is because history is remembered through the stories of men. We learn about wars, famous inventions and the great explorers as though women were not working together with their friends, brothers, fathers, uncles and husbands.

It was an empowering launch to their series, and Boikanyo Kakurupa in Grade 6 and Uphwe-Lukhanyo Dlwati, Kathryn Breedveld and Caitlyn Dube in Grade 7 read beautiful extracts from the book in English and Afrikaans.

**ROSA ELK**  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



The authors of the *Imbokodo* series with a variety of Senior Primary pupils



Boikanyo Kakurupa

# GRADE 4 NEWS

## Besoek aan die restaurant

The Grade 4s had a wonderful time re-enacting a restaurant scene. The girls had to learn the script in Afrikaans. Their performances were brilliant and much fun and learning was involved.

**MELANIE GROBBELAAR**  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER





## GRADE 4 NEWS CONTINUED

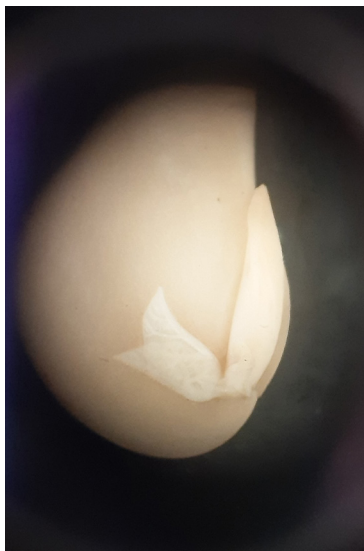
The Grade 4s are learning about the seven characteristics of life. Reproduction is the current topic and we have been having a close look at seeds. The girls were amazed to see the embryonic plant perfectly formed, all tiny and tucked up with its supply of food!

The challenge was to capture the detail in their first observational diagram using the dissecting microscope.

ANGIE JENNETT  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Discussing observations



Embryonic plant magnification 10x

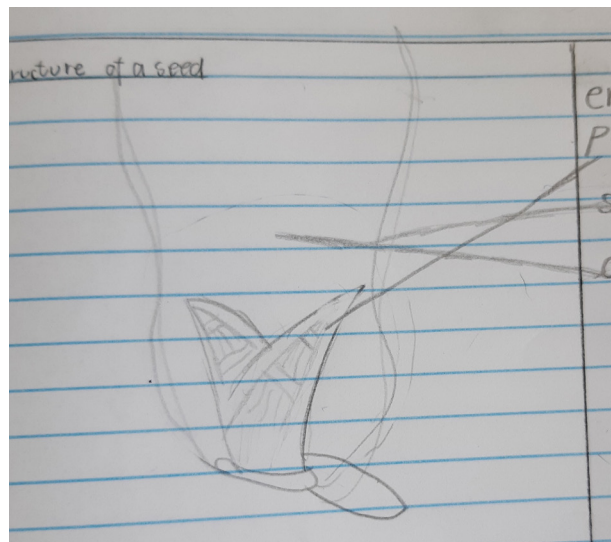


Diagram by Sophia Nienaber

## GRADE 5 NEWS

The Grade 5s are reading the science fiction novel, *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright* by Christopher Edge. To help them understand some of the scientific concepts explored in the novel, Professor Zebulon Vilakazi came to speak to the girls about the work being done at The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

As a nuclear physicist and a fellow of the Royal Society UK, Professor Vilakazi was able to answer the girls' questions about particles, energy, mass and black holes. They learnt more about the experiments conducted at the Large Hadron Collider and their curiosity about the origins of the universe was piqued.

LINDA SMITH  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Proferssor Zebulon Vilakazi





# GRADE 5 NEWS CONTINUED

## Photosynthesis

After learning about angiosperms and gymnosperms, the Grade 5s spent some time getting to grips with photosynthesis. They made a model of a leaf to show the structures associated with this important process. Using the model and chalk drawings they practised explaining the process. The goal is to produce an information video.

ANGIE JENNETT  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Making the model



Careful labeling



Explaining the process



Chalk drawings



Filming the information video



# GRADE 5 NEWS CONTINUED

## Capacity practical

The Grade 5s enjoyed a practical maths lesson working with various measuring instruments to measure capacity. They collected data and represented their findings in a bar graph.

ANGIE JENNETT  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



## Stop motion

The Grade 5s are using stop motion to create their own animations. They had to plan their story lines, choose an appropriate medium to create their characters and build the sets for each scene.

NADINE WHEELER  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER





## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thank you to all the families who donated pre-loved, second-hand books during our last book collection. These books were given to The Teddy Bear Clinic and the Baragwanath Hospital Comforts Committee and will be distributed to children within their various organisations.

LINDA MAISHMAN  
JUNIOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR



## THE SWEETHEART FOUNDATION

**Grade 4 Learner Inspires Schools to Collect Bottle Caps for Charity - excerpt from the article that featured in <https://www.goodthingsguy.com/>**

10-year-old Ella encouraged her school to start collecting bottle tops and bread tags as a way to help others access wheelchairs, now she hopes to inspire more people to help.

Ella Sproule started collecting bottle tops, and bread tags for the Sweethearts Foundation in 2018 after her granny's friend Maureen lost her battle with cancer. The then 5-year-old was introduced to the foundation's work by Maureen and became inspired to give back.

According to her mom, Fiona Sproule, Ella had been growing in her environmental activism activities. She started at home by banning straws in the house as well as making sure every family member picked up at least three pieces of plastic during their beach visits.

Today, she is still as passionate about saving the environment and gifting wheelchairs to those in need. Ella took the concept to her school, St. Mary's Waverley, and before long, the whole school was collecting bread tags and bottle tops for the Sweethearts Foundation. The foundation recycles these plastic items and uses the funds to buy underprivileged people much-needed wheelchairs.

Now at the age of 10, Ella has seen that due to Covid, the collection numbers have dropped. She hopes to inspire people to start collecting the little plastic bits and dropping them off at her school.

Speaking to Jessica Gordon, the manager of the Sweethearts Foundation's Johannesburg branch, she shared that in 2021 Ella and St. Mary's collected around 262.6kg of bottle tops. It is a great help when large schools, organisations and businesses take up the cause as it means the ability to collect meaningful amounts to purchase wheelchairs goes up. However, even one person can make a difference,

Deputy Headmistress Di Gordon shared that the school has several ways they recycle on the property but being able to recycle in this manner and give back to those in need, is a very rewarding effort for all the young girls involved. They use the tops as currency for house points, and each young girl that brings in 10 tops.

Ella hopes that more people will support this cause as it is so easy to do so. You can contact the Sweethearts Foundation if you want to get your school involved; they will be able to direct you to the nearest branch in your area for ease of drop-off.





# NETBALL

On Friday 20 May, the netball teams played against St Andrew’s and St Peter’s and the results were as follows:

	St Andrew’s	St Peter’s
<b>Grade 4</b>		
A team	won 5-0	lost 4-7
B team	won 7-0	lost 2-4
C team	won 15-1	won 6-4
D team	won 4-1	won 4-3
E team	won 6-0	drew 1-1
<b>Grade 5</b>		
A team	won 5-2	won 3-1
B team	won 3-1	lost 3-5
C team	lost 2-4	won 6-1
D team	won 8-1	won 4-0
E team	won 7-0	won 2-0
F team	-	drew 2-2
<b>Grade 6</b>		
A team	-	won 10-8
B team	-	lost 4-8
C team	won 8-3	won 4-2
D team	won 8-3	won 5-3
<b>Grade 7</b>		
A team	-	won 10-9
B team	-	won 8- 4
C team	won 11 -1	drew 6-6
D team	won 7-3	won 8-4
E team	won 4-1	won 3-1
F team	-	won 8-2

On Saturday 21 May with all the weather concerns, our Grade 4 to 7 C-F teams participated in festivals at St Mary’s and St Peter’s. We tried our best to go ahead with the festivals however, owing to rain, we had to cancel mid way.

On a beautiful Saturday 28 May, the Grade 5 to 7 A and B team netball girls participated in the annual Holy Rosary A and B netball festival. Our girls did extremely well. The Grade 6 teams won four matches and drew one. The Grade 7 teams won four matches and lost one. A usually strong Grade 5 A team struggled: they won three matches and lost two. The Grade 5 B won all their matches beating teams that they have lost to previously. Well done to all our girls on a great season.

**ANTOINETTE MSHENGU**  
**HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL**



Holy Rosary A and B Netball festival



# RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

On Saturday 14 May, the rhythmic season was off and running with 15 clubs and over 300 girls in the rhythmic community, all attending our very own 10<sup>th</sup> annual St Mary’s Rhythmic Invitational.

Everyone has been preparing for months leading up to this, and there was a lot of buzz and excitement. From Grade 1s all the way up to our “High Performance” competitors, everyone was there. All our time, blood, sweat and sometimes tears were all worth the hard work.

- We all sometimes forget that this thing we so lovingly call ‘rhythmic’, is what gives joy to our hearts
- We learn skills that help us in all areas of our lives
- We learn to make mistakes, and carry on
- Face things that scare us
- But most of all we learn to have courage

Courage to be brave and face our competitors in front of a large panel of judges and a huge audience.

After our moment in the spotlight, we finally realise once again how much we love being part of this unique and special St Mary’s rhythmic community.

We were proud to host this exclusive and successful invitational at our beautiful St Mary’s School.

It was wonderful seeing old friends, making new ones, working hard at our duties, but definitely having so much fun along the way.

As rhythmic captain 2022 and on behalf of the Junior rhythmic team, we would like to thank all our coaches: Linda Giuricich, Kea Sesing, Londi Dube, Koketjo Mboweni, Shirley Mabaso, Mapitsi Moraba, Thuli Lulumbano, Sara Feldman and all the wonderful girls that participated.

We look forward to hosting once again next year.

The Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3s took part in the Central Gauteng district championships on Saturday 28 May. The following gymnasts qualified for Central Gauteng half colours:

### Level 1

Tisha Zibengwa, Zikora Egbunike, Emily Gray, Thamsanqa Magagula, Mulalo Neswiswi, Liwalam Mpumlwana, Ruvarashe Pongweni, Frantzis Ngoma, Sibusisiwe Mulenga.

### Level 2

Ava Molyneaux, Jade Landman, Naledi Sekete, Rizqa Adam, Lethabo Maponya.

### Level 3

Onaleron Sebati, Medupe Mashabela, Muofhe Neswiswi, Amira Laher.

**VALENTINA GIURICICH**  
JUNIOR RHYTHMIC CAPTAIN



Grade 1 girls



# RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS CONTINUED



Grade 2s



Level 1



Level 2



Level 3



Level 6 and 7



Rhythmic gymnastic coaches



# EQUESTRIAN

## Junior School equestrian team SANESA Qualifier 3

It was a cold and wet Saturday morning on 21 May when the Junior School equestrian team met at Kyalami Equestrian Park for the third SANESA qualifier.

The Saturday was a busy day with nearly all the team riding. The girls competed in Showjumping, Prix Caprilli and Equitation classes and they and their horses and ponies performed well.

There were two showjumping classes: one where they had to ride a clear round in order to qualify to ride in the jumpoff for the best time and a speed class where they ride for the fastest time in a class. The riders jumped heights from 50cm to 80cm. Vivienne Chen rode in the 50cm classes, Kathryn Breedveld and Mia Terblanche jumped in the 60cm classes, Astrid Blair and Ella Mundell rode in the 70cm classes and Astrid Blair and Emma Frahm-Arp competed in the 80cm classes. Frustratingly, a knocked jump can mean the difference between a first place or a placing further down the rankings.

The equitation girls are marked on how well they ride and present their horses in a test that includes both flatwork and a short jumping course. Prix Caprilli is essentially a dressage test with two or three added jumps. Here the riders need good control and neatness. Sunday was a little warmer and calmer and three girls participated in Dressage, Performance Riding and Working Riding. Katleho Vilakazi, Astrid Blair and Emma Frahm-Arp competed and between them rode eight classes and collected four first places, a second place and 3 placings.

Between the seven riders they rode eight ponies in 35 classes with 20 placings, nine first places, three second places, one third and two fourth places. At the moment, the St Mary's Junior School team is well in first place in their category.

Well done to all the riders and their ponies and we look forward to having Lucy Barrow back for the next qualifier and wish her horse a speedy recovery.

**LOUISE FRAHM-ARP**  
**JUNIOR SCHOOL CHEF D' EQUIPE**



 **SANESA GAUTENG JHB QUALIFIER 3**  
21 - 22 MAY 2022  

Louise Frahm-Arp riding Waterside Fidelio



Astrid Blair riding Pegasus Supernova



**SANESA GAUTENG JHB QUALIFIER 3**  
21 - 22 MAY 2022





Vivienne Chen on Copper



**SANESA GAUTENG JHB QUALIFIER 3**  
21 - 22 MAY 2022








# Sundowners with HOPE

*A time to mingle and  
Hear Other Peoples' Experiences*

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND WINE AT SMOGS COTTAGE  
(BEHIND OLIVES & PLATES)**

**TUES 14 JUNE, 17H00-19H00**

R.S.V.P. by Fri 10 June  
Lilly.Tshotlhana@stmary.co.za



## 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](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 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).