

South African skipper Kirsten Neuschäfer aboard her boat the *Minnehaha*

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

The Trinity term is here and my impression, after touring the campus on Wednesday, is that the children and staff are glad to be back. I had an opportunity to see all the girls and teachers from Grade 0 to 7 in our first assembly of the term - something I relish, despite the physical challenges of accommodating all of us in the Senior Primary hall - and to reflect on the remarkable journey that Junior School represents.

Another remarkable journey (one we spent time discussing in our assembly) was the one undertaken and recently completed by South African skipper, Kirsten Neuschäfer, for roughly eight months, around the world.

Neuschäfer was the only woman out of 16 entrants who set sail from Les Sables d'Olonne on the French coast on 4 September 2022, and she is the first woman, and South African, to win the Golden Globe Race, which is in its third iteration.

The competition, a retro sailing experience, "tries to emulate the conditions of the original 1968-69 race, when [British sailor] Robin Knox-Johnston relied purely on compass, sextant, speed log and dead-reckoning to become the first person to sail single-handed nonstop round the world. So no GPS, no autopilot, no internet weather forecasts and no boat longer than 36 feet" (Stephen Venables, "The unlikely new star of round-the-world sailing" in *The Financial Times*, April 22 2023). Or, in Neuschäfer's characteristically measured words, this race is "not about having the latest technology: there is still a huge element of the unknown, a sense of adventure and a big element of luck."

Neuschäfer has several years of delivering yachts and crewing and skippering on expedition boats in Arctic and Antarctic waters behind her, but she is unknown in the world of professional race sailing. She is also no stranger to embarking on adventures that bring with them "a huge element of the unknown": at the age of 22, she made a 9000-mile bicycle trip from Morocco to the Cape of Good Hope on

her own, despite strenuous warnings not to, and what she chooses to remember of this time is “the endless kindness of strangers”. She has many qualities that make her a good role model for girls: she is resolute, modest, and hardy and she has the courage of her convictions. She also likes to dream big, confront her fears and take risks, of the calculated variety. It’s difficult not to admire her pluck; well-travelled epithets like resilient, brave, and humble attach to her in interviews and articles, and her broad smile and warmth on camera could make her a poster girl for intrepid adventure and girl power.

Watching Neuschäfer give interviews before the race, her desire to represent herself, her motives and intentions, accurately and sincerely, is apparent. She chooses her words carefully, makes it clear that she is more interested in being a good skipper than a good *woman* skipper; also, that she intends to win the race. She is grateful for her mother’s support, which is of the practical, rolling-up-your-sleeves and working-on-the-boat kind, and she is not above asking others for help. She relates to her boat, *Minnehaha*, as a person and shares the credit for winning the race squarely with the 36-foot vessel that partnered her on her epic journey.

Viewing the victory video created by the race organisers with the girls and listening to them spontaneously and cheerily sing along to the catchy jingle composed for the occasion (<https://goldengloberace.com/>), two things played on my mind: Neuschäfer’s “scary but intriguing” reflection on eternity: that she sometimes dropped sail, lashed the helm over to one side, swam away from the boat and thought about the *Minnehaha* sailing away; also, her decision to sleep aboard the boat even on the night she finished the race and reached land.

Winning, it seems, might not be as simple as we think.

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

John Keble

As we begin this new term, it is the words of John Keble’s morning hymn, *New every morning is the love* that gives voice to the moment - giving thanks for the rest and looking ahead to the new term. The hymn speaks to the need to balance rest and work and to renew ourselves daily with love.

St Mary’s values are our school community’s way of stating what is important to us. We remind ourselves constantly what our values are and why they are essential. Love, community and integrity are not a list from which we can choose one or two. Rather, every one of these values flows from the capacity to give and receive love and is an individual expression and gift of that love. Though our Christian faith as a school inspires these values, the values are relevant to everyone from every faith and background. The most hopeful and helpful interpretation of these values always places love at the centre of our community’s well-being. As St Paul writes, “and now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love”(1 Corinthians 13:13).

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

ABRSM Results

Congratulations to the following students who have excelled in the recent ABRSM examinations. Well done!

Katleho Vilakazi	Violin Initial	Merit
Astrid Blair	Piano Grade 3	Pass
Kitso Vilakazi	Violin Initial	Merit

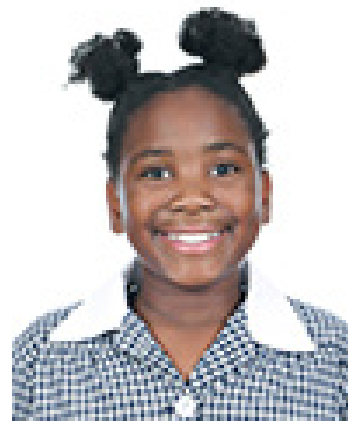
GEORGE POTGIETER
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



Katleho Vilakazi



Astrid Blair



Kitso Vilakazi

Two Loves - Texts by Shakespeare, Louw, Rilke

Next week Wednesday, 10 May, I shall be joined by Chris Vale (baritone) and Franco Prinsloo (composer and narrator) for our performance of *Two Loves* at the St Francis Music Festival in Parkview.

This performance features texts by William Shakespeare, W.E.G Louw, and Rainer Maria Rilke performed in beautiful settings for voice and piano by Franco Prinsloo (also the composer of St Mary's upcoming musical, *Naledi*), amongst others.

Should you be interested, I have included a short YouTube link to our recording of one the songs to be performed, Shakespeare's "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day" (Sonnet 18), as well as a link to the Quicket site for tickets.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQjWu-NsUJU>

<https://www.quicket.co.za/events/209234-st-francis-music-festival-2023-two-loves/#/>

EUGENE JOUBERT
HEAD OF PIANO STUDIES



NALEDI - A NEW MUSICAL

Naledi is a breath-taking tale of courage, adventure and magic, inspired by traditional South African storytelling. The storyline follows the journey of Naledi, the morning and evening star, in her quest to find the Great Baobab tree that is guarding an ancient secret of light and truth. The musical features an original score by multiple SAMA, and Naledi-nominated composer, Franco Prinsloo. It is based off a book of ancient African myth and legend which has been adapted for the stage.

The production, along with Franco Prinsloo's awe-inspiring choral music, which features music in all 11 official South African languages, is a rich, vibrant and truly never-before-been-seen on the South African stage creation. A live band featuring the internationally renowned marimba player, Magdalena de Vries, will accompany the action on stage.

The cast and crew of Naledi invite the Junior School and Little Saints to join them, at The Edge, at 17h30 for light refreshments and to view, in the foyer of The Edge, an art exhibition featuring African-inspired art pieces. The musical will begin promptly at 18h30.

Naledi is suitable for children of all ages.

Click here to book tickets <https://bit.ly/3A8HyNi>





St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

The 11th Annual

*St Mary's
Rhythmic Gymnastics
Invitational*

Saturday 13 May 2023
07h30 - 17h30

Delicious food, coffee &
drinks available





FUN DAY

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday 27 May

LITTLE SAINTS AND JUNIOR PRIMARY PARENTS –
GET READY TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP MAKE THIS AN
AMAZING DAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.



DETAILS TO
FOLLOW SOON.
PLEASE LOOK OUT
FOR COMMUNICATION
ON THE APP
AND FROM YOUR
CLASS REP.

SPONSORED BY THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION