



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

8 JULY 2022



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The moment that 'no masks' became an option!

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Schools spend a lot of time explaining why they do what they do, which, in many ways, is a good thing. The continuous clarification and revisiting of approaches and positions sharpens our thinking and renews our convictions. Last week, in the Senior School newsletter, Deanne King rehearsed the argument for assessments, why we write them, and their diagnostic value for teaching and learning. She also spoke about St Mary's commitment to maintaining a full co-curricular programme while the girls sit assessments, and the importance of exercise and cultural activities - dare I say, distractions - for the girls' wellbeing at a time when they are under pressure to perform.

While the desirability of a holistic curriculum might be perfectly obvious to parents in an admissions interview, what it looks like in practice often comes as a surprise. The thrill of reading a long list of activities and descriptors on a website does not always translate into the discipline of sustained participation. The Grade 6 and 7 girls who honour their commitment to playing chess matches over the assessment period are living an ideal, however modestly, that remains of abstract value only to other families - something that adds to the ambience of their time at an independent school without enriching or extending their daughter's personal experience.

The school looks for balance and proportion in what the girls choose to do, and in what we ask of them. Of course, over time, we adjust our expectations and review what constitutes best practice at different stages and in response to different contextual pressures - Covid, predictably, is the best example of this in recent times. We all recognise how Covid restrictions diluted what we understand to be the full curriculum at an institution like St Mary's. We mourned the loss of live events, spectatorship at sports matches and concerts, attendance in chapel and assemblies, and onsite community gatherings.

I ask that we remember this feeling of loss over the next few weeks while the girls from Grades 1 to 7 prepare for our end-of-term play. Our inability to stage a production over the last two years has been felt keenly by your daughters who register on a more visceral level the value of participating in the play through acting, singing, instrumental music, visual art, film making and design. Just learning to adjust to changes in the rhythm of their day and accepting the permission to adapt is a valuable life skill for our girls who can become unnecessarily rigid in their approach to school life.

We have deliberately widened the scope of activities for the Grade 7s this time around not only to increase the opportunities for their involvement; it is our intention, also, to distribute esteem among the girls and teachers by paying attention to those vital offstage aspects of production that often go uncelebrated. If you have been keeping up with our newsletters this term, you will remember time spent in assembly speaking about the challenges of collaboration and the kinds of people, not always seen, who make it happen.

My wish for you is that you will find a way to support the play and your daughter's role in it by taking an interest in it, actively engage with information sent out to you about the play in newsletters and notices, and put up your hand to assist your class reps with costumes and make-up closer to the time.

This is what we've been waiting for...

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



I recently read Archbishop Thabo's latest book, *Faith and Courage: Praying with Mandela*. What struck me in the book was learning about Nelson Mandela's faith and why he never spoke about it publicly. For Mandela, "The relationship between a person and his or her God is a deeply intimate and private matter". Learning about the life of Mandela, one cannot help but give thanks to God for those men and women who were ready to give their lives as cornerstones of peace.

*Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own:
they shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares:
what patience in caring, what courage is theirs!*

*Rejoice in God's saints, whose legends and deeds
Speak clear words of hope for those in great need
Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
in loving, in living, they prove it is true:
The way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.*

May the excitement and joy with which we celebrate Mandela Day remind us that we are celebrating a saint of our time. Mandela was a person who lived a life devoted to God; he was a worthy example of holiness, virtue, kindness and charity; he let God's love shine through him to the world. For this, we give thanks to God.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

GRADE 0 NEWS

Waves

We have looked at waves as part of our broader investigation into water. What follows are some of the Grade 0s thoughts in response to our investigation:

- Srimati Padayachee - waves are like lumps of water.
- Athena Rennias - waves are like clouds - they both push themselves.
- Katlego Pitsi - waves come from water.
- SisaseNkosi Ntuli - when the wind is strong the waves get higher.
- Yananai Kujenga - I think the wind is pushing the sea because it doesn't like it in the shade.
- Elizabeth Gorman - the water sucks the wave back and then the wind turns and pushes it the other way.
- Victoria Wallace - waves are slow in the morning and get faster as the day goes.
- Tirzah Rodda - waves are like roller coasters.
- Aurora Barker - waves happen when the sea is angry, especially when people take coral from it.
- Sophie Isaacs - the wind and water go up and down to make waves.
- Keneoue Kekana - the wind is stronger than the water and it pushes the water.
- Lilitha Mngoma - the water is pushing itself.
- Khira Kalian - the weight of something, like a rock pushes the water to make waves - like when we get into the bath.

THE GRADE 0 TEACHERS



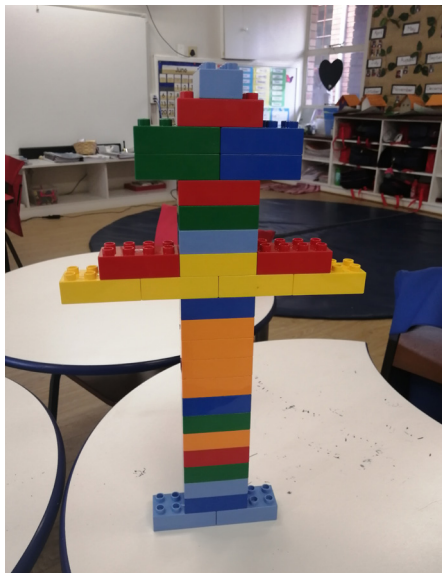
GRADE 0 NEWS CONTINUED

The Grade 0 girls worked in groups to build a friend using Duplo blocks. They discussed the qualities of a good friend before starting to build. They had to work together to decide how they would build the model. Each group took a turn to describe their model and to tell the other groups which qualities of friendship they had incorporated into their model.

THE GRADE 0 TEACHERS



This is Esmeralda. She loves her green sleeves and eyes. She likes to eat pasta and drink Sprite. She is good at doing gymnastics. Esmeralda likes to have friends and she is a good friend. When you are hurt she always says sorry. She is kind and beautiful and always shares.



This is Hannah. She is tall and enjoys sports. Her favourite sport is soccer.



This is Sophia. She is tall and very pretty, she is the colours of the rainbow. Her favourite sports are swimming and tennis. Sophia loves reading and enjoys wearing colourful shoes.



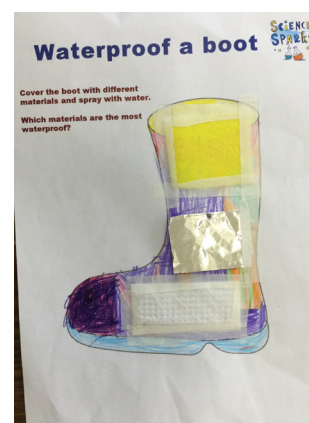
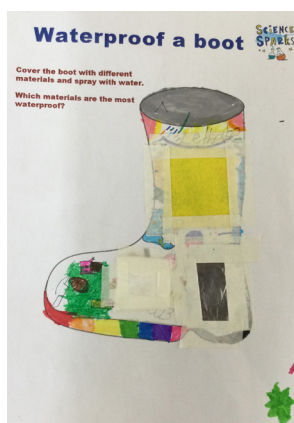
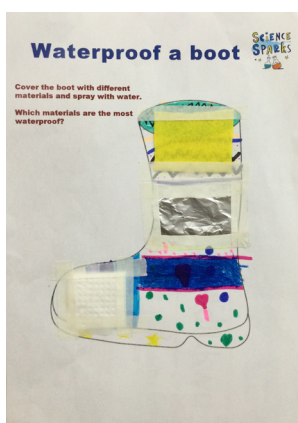
This is Snowy. She wears a cap and likes to read books. Her favourite food is spaghetti and she likes to play hide-and-seek and "tag you're it". She loves us and always plays the games we love. She cares for us and says she is sorry if she does something wrong.

GRADE 2 NEWS

It's full STEM ahead for the Grade 2s as they experimented further with water with Ms Widdegger. Ms Widdegger conducted an experiment with the girls based on waterproof and water absorbent materials. The groups displayed teamwork as they analysed various materials such as felt, foil, paper napkins and crayons. The girls sprayed the materials with water and deduced whether the materials were absorbent or waterproof. The experiments were evaluated, and it was interesting to note that the words "density" and "particles" - from a prior experiment - were mentioned in their explanations.

Water pleasure teaching Grade 2s!

ANESHREE NAICKER
GRADE 2 TEACHER



GRADES 2 AND 3 NEWS

Fine motor group

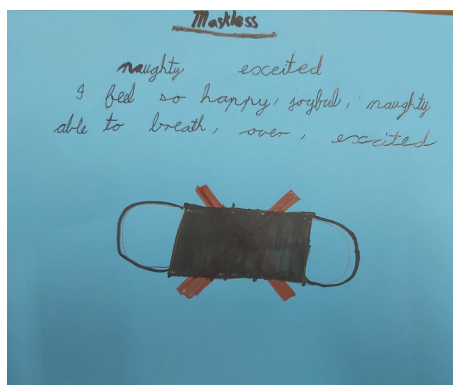
The Grade 2 and 3 girls participated in the creative activity of making popsicle dolls; using skills like drawing, tracing, cutting, and gluing. The girls enjoyed adding wool as hair and cupcake liners as skirts.

ANESHREE NAICKER AND ELISA MAHUME
THE GRADE 2 TEAM

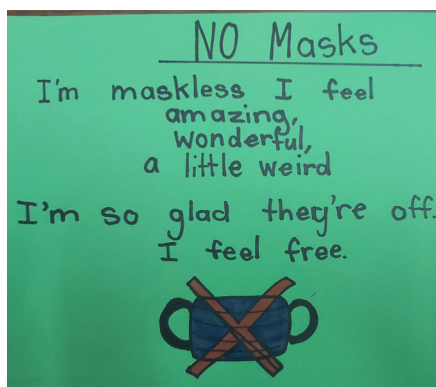


GRADE 4 NEWS

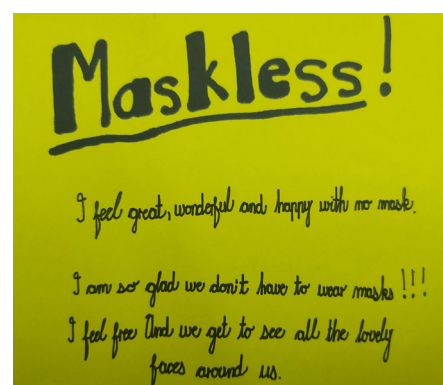
Maskless poems



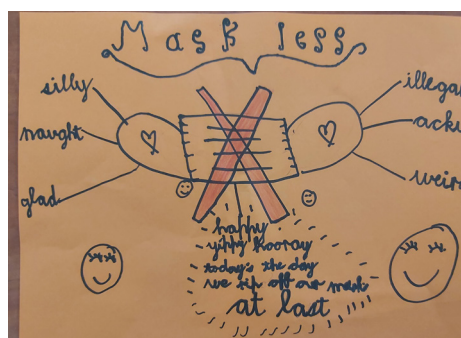
Beth Sullivan



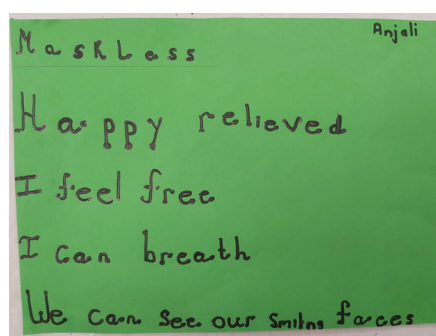
Megan Arnold



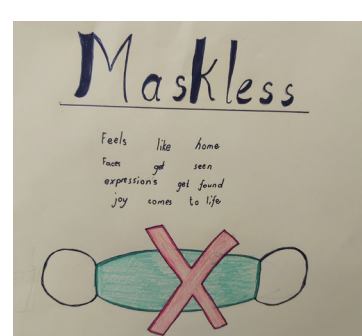
Rida Nosarka



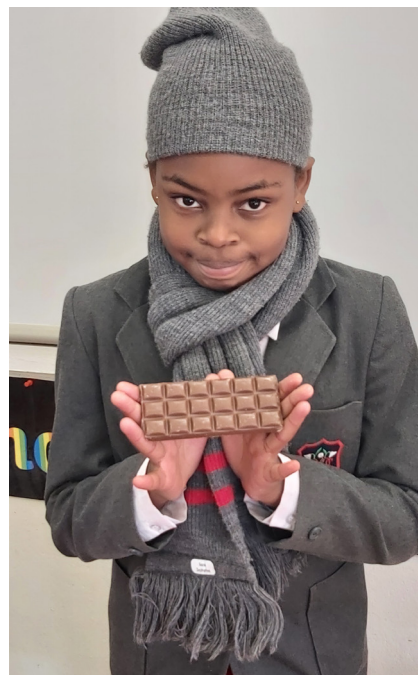
Tayla Benade



Anjali Sewdial



Sophia Crawford



The girls were learning about fractions. They enhanced their learning with a fraction party. The girls had to teach the rest of the class what a fraction is by demonstrating their knowledge.

TRISH BONORCHIS
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

GRADE 4 NEWS CONTINUED

Classification

The images below show taxonomists hard at work in the Science laboratory as the Grade 4s sorted Liquorice Allsorts. The challenge was to find characteristics to sort into the seven divisions - Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species. Music and movement were used as a strategy to learn these divisions and a guest appearance by Mev. Grobbelaar had us all upgrading our moves! Some girls extended the activity by designing scientific names for the Liquorice Allsorts.

ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Classification song moves



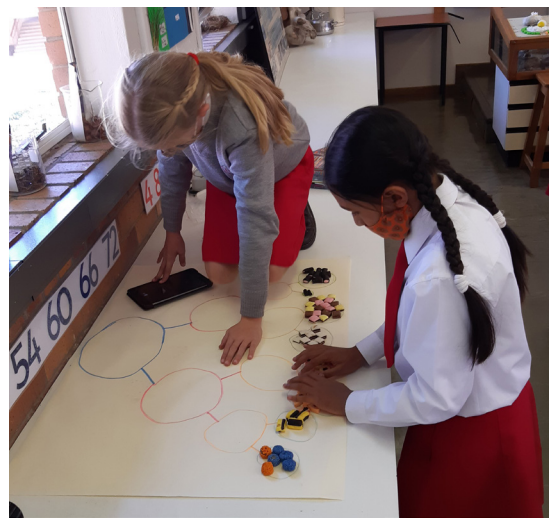
Planning and discussing characteristics



Documenting the Phylum division



Sorting into classes



Working on the Orders

GRADE 5 NEWS

Microscopes

Building on their experience of working with the dissecting microscope last year, the Grade 5s learnt about the compound microscope. They had fun looking at a variety of slides. Without prior knowledge of the cellular structures being observed, they enjoyed interrogating each other's theories!

ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



GRADE 6 NEWS

The Grade 6s are taking a closer look at birds. They completed a self-study task on the structure of a bird's egg, which included the making of a model.

ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



NOTICES

ST MARY'S 2022 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

As we did last year, we will once again be offering you the choice of receiving the annual St Mary's School magazine in a digital format version and / or a hard copy version.

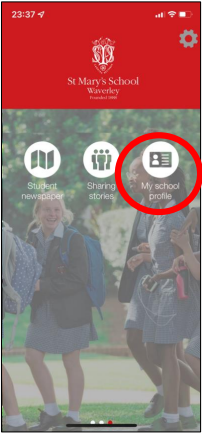
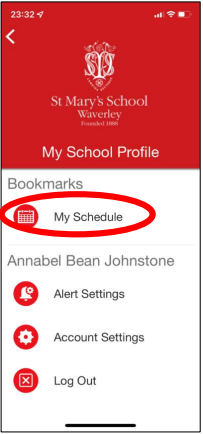
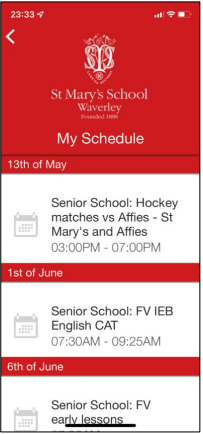
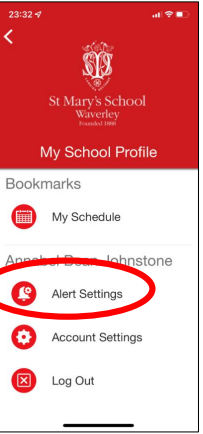
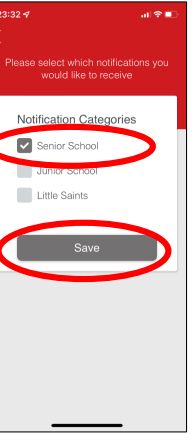
Please click this link for further information and to make your choice:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUx3Xr5yffqS222lecKEQB09xYqUC5JkKg3ao6f1oWmqMmfA/viewform?usp=sf_link

ST MARY'S SCHOOL APP

Getting to know the St Mary's School App - Tip 2: Notifications setting

Our last tip looked at adding your daughter's relevant events to your calendar. However, so much more happens on the app that keeps you in the loop of what is happening in your daughter's school life. Help yourself to get all the important information relevant to your daughter, by setting up your notifications on the app.

				
<p>1. Open the St Mary's App on your phone.</p> <p>2. Click on the "My school profile" icon.</p>	<p>3. Click on "My Schedule" to see all the events that you have bookmarked (see Tip 1: Calendar).</p>	<p>4. Example of My Schedule view.</p> <p>5. If you tap on the event, you can select an event to add to your calendar.</p>	<p>6. Go back to the "My School Profile" menu.</p> <p>7. Click on Alert Settings.</p>	<p>8. Select your daughter's school.</p> <p>9. Click on "Save".</p> <p>10. Notifications will pop up on your phone.</p>

Please send questions or suggestions for future tips to Kathy.mittendorf@stmary.co.za

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.