



Little Saints children have been experimenting with the speed of colour by sending cars through paint and down a ramp

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Last Saturday, 5 June, was World Environment Day, an event the girls and teachers would have enjoyed commemorating together in assembly under pre-Covid conditions. Instead, for the last fortnight, as we have watched the number of transmissions steadily rise among our families, we have further curtailed gatherings on campus and devoted time to devising contingency plans to safeguard the health and safety of our community. At the time of writing this article, the Junior School children are still onsite, but we are closing for half-term a day early, on Thursday. We all deserve a rest.

Some Johannesburg schools have posted videos pleading with their communities to limit social activity in the wake of new infections among pupils. We appeal to you to use the half-term to distance yourself from other families and to give your children the best chance to return to onsite schooling with a dramatically reduced risk of transmission. Please take the opportunity to withdraw from social engagement and replenish your energy in preparation for the challenges of the long winter term that lies ahead.

The girls and their teachers have been busy: the Grade 6s and 7s have completed their mid-year formal assessments while the younger grades in the Senior Primary have been tackling class tasks and, like the Junior Primary girls, consolidating their understanding of concepts and practising skills. The teachers are writing reports and have been meeting in teams to discuss and review the progress of every child in our care under the thoughtful eye of Di Gordon who personally documents the entire process from Grade 000 to Grade 7. The reports will be released later this term, on Tuesday 13 July, and online parent afternoons will follow on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27.

Before closing for half-term, we were pleased, also, to host two speakers from the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre on campus. Our guests ran workshops on fostering empathy, building connections, and deepening an understanding of discrimination with

the Grade 6s (who are working their way through *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas*) and with the Grade 7s (in preparation for upcoming history modules on the slave trade). My thanks to Rosa Elk and Lauren Howden for giving the girls such valuable exposure.

Among all of this, we have still found time to play. Little Saints has been experimenting with the speed of colour by sending cars through paint and down a ramp, the Grade 0s and 1s completed their daily dash with vim whatever the weather, and the Senior Primary girls take every opportunity to challenge each other to a game of swingball on The Close outside my office - gulping down the last of their lunch to secure a turn with the equipment before anyone else. Of course, even playing can be hard work when you are wearing a mask.

For your children, enjoy a safe, secluded break and make time to watch the dazzling documentary *The Grand African Green Up* on National Geographic (DStv channel 181) and National Geographic Wild (DStv channel 182) tomorrow night, in honour of World Environment Day.

We wish our community a sustainable return to school.

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

1 *The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.*  
2 *Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.*  
3 *There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;*  
4 *yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.*  
*In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,*  
5 *which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.*  
6 *Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hid from its heat.*  
14 *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

- Psalm 19:1-6,14 (NRSV)

There is much in our awareness that may lead to our forgetting what the Psalmist describes - that all of creation glorifies God in its beauty. It still does so, and is worth our noticing and wonderment, even in the midst of a pandemic and its attendant complications and hardships.

The collect for this week links into the last verse of the psalm:

Our Father,  
from whom every family on earth takes its name:  
help us to do your will  
that as sisters and brothers of Christ  
we may love and serve you and one another;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God in glory everlasting.  
Amen.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN



# LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

The Little Saints children studied Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* and were inspired to create their own interpretations of these beautiful flowers using clay, oil, pastels, paint, water colours and salt dough to represent these blooms.

CELIA DIANA  
HoD: LITTLE SAINTS



Kekeli Afordofe



Ariko Mhlanga



Grade 00M Sunflower artwork



Khira Kalian



Anna Crawford

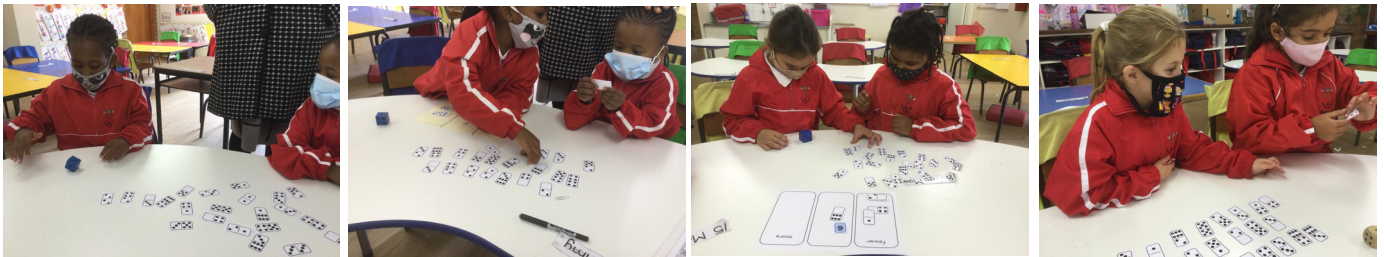


Aaheli Thakurdin



Katlego Pitsi

## GRADE 0 NEWS



The Grade 0 girls are hard at work sorting dominoes into more, less and equal groups during group work.

AGOTHA CLARKE  
GRADE 0 TEACHER

## GRADE 1 NEWS

After listening to the story *The Giving Tree*, the Grade 1s discussed gratitude and explored the idea of giving back to nature. They decided to make gift cards for the tree outside the Grade 1 classrooms to say thank you for the fun they have climbing it, sitting in it and enjoying its shade.

PHILIPPA DI BENEDETTO  
GRADE 1 TEACHER



## GRADE 3 NEWS

The Grade 3s performed their *Three Billy Goats Gruff* play that they have been working on for the last three weeks. They made their own character mask and memorised their lines for the play.

NADINE WHEELER  
AFRIKAANS TEACHER



## GRADE 4 NEWS

The world of scientists has been opened up to the Grade 4s with the launch of a research project, *Female Scientists*. Ms Elk introduced the girls to the school's library online platform where they learnt how to access *Britannica*. The girls browsed through a selection of relevant non-fiction books, which rounded off the exploratory experience.

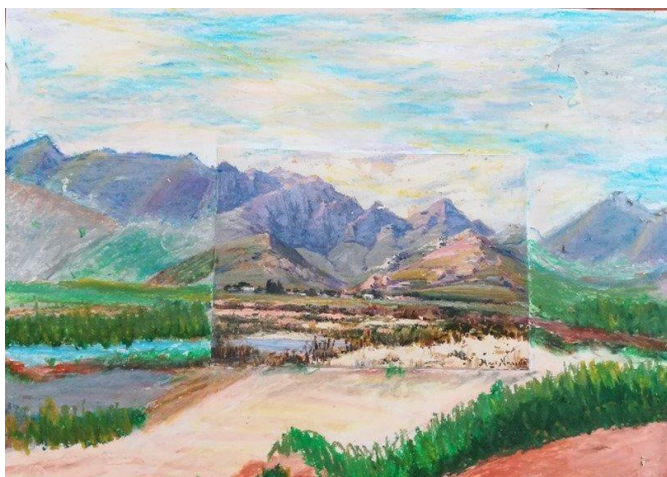
ANGIE JENNETT  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



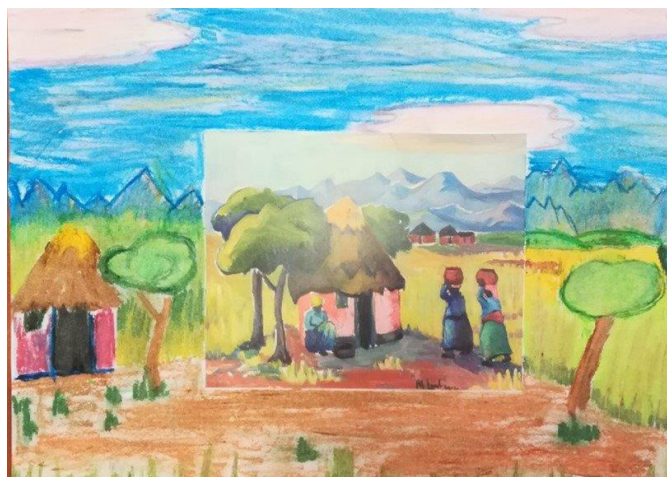
# GRADE 7 NEWS

Strauss & Co donated some of their very beautiful Art auction catalogues to the Junior School. The Grade 7s were given pictures of paintings by South African artists which they pasted on a piece of paper. Their instruction was to ‘Complete the picture - what had the artist left out?’ As you can see, the ‘finished’ pictures are exceptional.

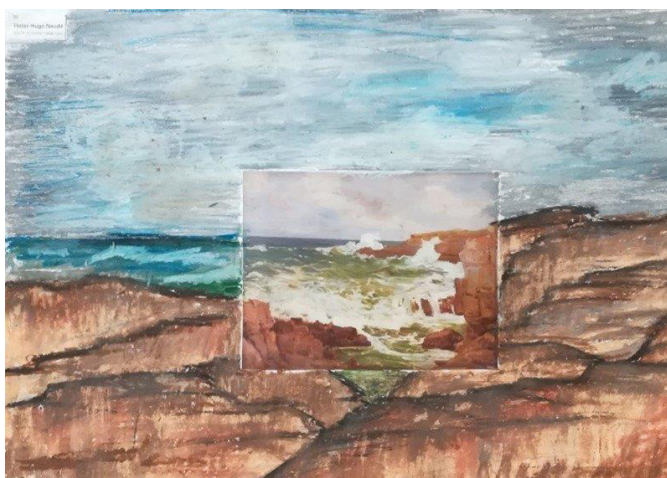
LIZ GRAWEZ  
SENIOR PRIMARY ART TEACHER



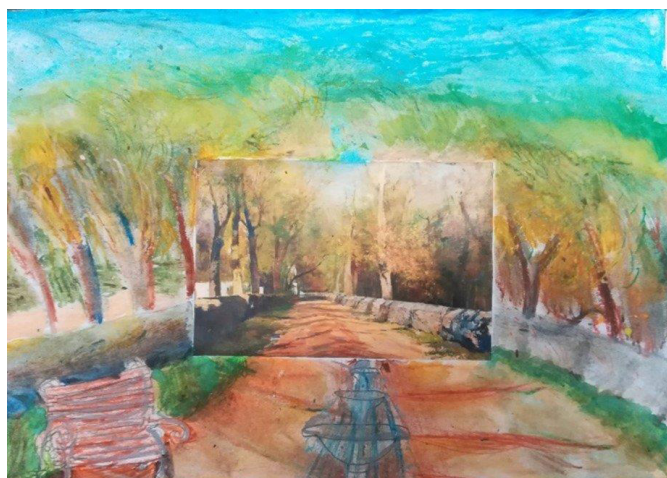
Chiara Bonorchis



Natalie Maher



Jemma Tresling



Jennifer Pringle



Yuxi Zhang



Bontle Shuenyane

# NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Senior Primary pupils were undeterred by the temporary moratorium on singing in schools owing to the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. In class music and chapel, the girls are learning to gesture in sign language to various hymns. In the video link below, the Grade 5s are signing the beloved hymn, *Make me a channel of Your peace*, composed by Sebastian Temple. Perhaps, this half-term, we can all make time to reflect on the meaning of the text:

Make me a channel of your peace  
 Where there is hatred let me bring your love  
 Where there is injury, your pardon Lord  
 And where there's doubt, true faith in you  
 Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
 So much to be consoled as to console  
 To be understood as to understand  
 To be loved as to love with all my soul

Video link below;  
<https://youtu.be/4hfDhlxwKr0>

We congratulate Caelen Buchanan (Grade 5) on her wonderful solo violin performance at the Grade 4 assembly of the *Gavotte* from *Mignon* composed by Ambroise Thomas. Caelen's performance marks the first live performance at an assembly in over a year. Below is a video of Caelen playing the *Gavotte*.  
<https://youtu.be/8gGt9fO8ISM>

It truly does warm the heart to know our girls are not perturbed by the current world circumstances.

Musical greetings

**GEORGE POTGIETER**  
 HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



Pre-Primary girls during class music

# ST MARY'S ARTS FESTIVAL

In great anticipation of the first ever St Mary's Arts Festival, the girls were tasked with coming up with a poster design that represents the Arts Festival theme.

We would like to thank all the girls who participated.

The winner of the competition is Jemma Tresling in Grade 7!



# COMMUNITY SERVICE



The Sweethearts Foundation is most grateful for all the bottle tops and bread tags that have been collected. There has been an overwhelming response! We look forward to your ongoing support of this worthwhile initiative.

**DI GORDON**  
DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS



# RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

On Saturday 5 June, 16 Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 gymnasts took part in a competition at the Gold Reef gym club in Berario. They won 14 gold and two silver medals.

Our top scoring Level 1 was Ava Molyneaux followed by Rizqa Adam,; the top Level 2 was Kailyn Viljoen followed by Beth Sullivan; and the top Level 3, Thikho Marageni followed by Tshireletso Mmusi.

LINDA GIURICICH  
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS COACH



Back row: Beth Sullivan, Amira Laher  
Front row: Medupe Mashabela, Amy Matroos, Kailyn Viljoen



Tshireletso Mmusi



Thikho Marageni, Gabrielle Mihigo, Abigail Christou



Naledi Sekete, Keira Gordon-Bennett, Victoria Frodsham, Ava Molyneaux, Rizqa Adam, Lethabo Maponya, Jade Landman

## TENNIS

Congratulations to Bailey Selvam and Erin Krüger on their selection to the Gauteng Central (GC) U13 A/B team, respectively. Thirty-six players participated in the GC U13 trials at Ellis Park on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 May 2021.

Well done to both girls!

**KAREN CORBETT**  
TENNIS COACH

## SQUASH

Amy Shannon, Charlotte Bowden and Amy Saunders all competed in the Standard Bank Joburg Junior Closed Squash Tournament, to finish in first, second and third position in the U13 age group (respectively). As a result, all three players have been selected to represent Gauteng in the U13 Joburg Squash team, at the annual inter-provincial tournament, which will hopefully take place in July.

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



Amy Saunders, Charlotte Bowden, Amy Shannon

## NOTICES

### 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).