



The Junior Primary gala

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

In the autumn of 1664, when the plague shrouded the world in a deadly pandemic and universities sent their students home for a quarantine the end of which no one could foresee, a young man besotted with mathematics, motion, and light returned to his illiterate mother's orchard, where he watched an apple fall. A revolution of understanding rose in its shadow - he fathomed the mechanics of a mystery that had enchanted humanity for epochs: how bodies can act on other bodies, attracting one another impalpably and invisibly across space and separation, as if by magic. Religions had called it grace. Science, with the young Newton at its helm, called it gravity. (Maria Popova, "Gravity, grace, and what binds us when we love" from *The Marginalian* newsletter [@brainpickings.org](https://brainpickings.org))

In the summer of 2021, 357 years later, as we begin to show signs of emerging from our own deadly pandemic and a quarantine that kept us at a distance from each other for too long, we remain besotted with the whole, wholesome, wholehearted education of your children on a campus that is gradually returning to full life again.

The Junior Primary gala, one event among many in years gone by, felt sumptuously festive this time last week: the sight and sound of you and your daughters together at the pool on a beautiful Johannesburg afternoon was a spectacular sight and reminded us, vividly, of the togetherness we once took for granted. How wonderful.

And how wonderful and spectacular too was the inaugural Grade 7 fashion show, a practical research project that grew out of the girls' study of how fashion has changed throughout history. In addition to designing a period costume (including Elizabethan, Victorian Steam Punk, the Edo period) from recycled materials in teams, the girls also had to elect one of their number to model their couture for an audience of bemused teachers and peers, gathered in the Junior School Close for the occasion. Their challenge: to complete a full circuit of the Close with their entire outfit (accessories included) intact. Anyone watching the show recognised play at its riotous, improvised best.

The last two weeks of school are filled with occasions that hover somewhere between the new and the old. The pandemic has pummeled us into seeing, thinking, and doing things differently - its one lovely gift - and we invite you to join us at celebrations that are smaller in size but somehow larger in spirit as we look back on a year of remarkable continuity and change.

We ask that you accept our invitation to spend time with your daughters and their teachers on our campus, marvelling at the force that kept us grounded and grateful as a community at a time of mandated seclusion and distance. We remain connected to each other, held together “impalpably and invisibly across space and separation, as if by magic.”

At St Mary’s, we call this mystery love.

If you are travelling this holiday, arrive safely at your destination; make the most of time spent with your family, and return to us, rested and restored.



SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

At the end of the year, there are activities to mark beginnings and endings. One activity that marks a new beginning is Grade 3 chapel orientation as the girls prepare to join Senior Primary. Senior Primary chapel differs from Junior Primary chapel in its formalities. Helping the girls move into this new worship space means accepting play as a part of their learning and discovery process. Jesus’ teaching to the disciples in Matthew 18: 2-5 is a good place to start.

*[Jesus] called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me (Matthew 18: 2-5).*

Our role as adults is to be the adult in this image (see above), holding the girls’ hands as they negotiate new spaces. We must accept that they will make mistakes. It is for us to reassure them that we will always be there (to the best of our abilities) and that mistakes are part of the learning process.

With every good wish.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO  
CHAPLAIN



# LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

## Spreading the love

Over the past two weeks, the Little Saints children have been preparing for a He(ART) exhibition. We have used a variety of media to draw, paint, collage and construct heart art. We discussed how our hearts function and the feelings we experience. We hosted our He(ART) exhibition today on the lawn outside SMOGS cottage. Our intention with this exhibition was to highlight the importance of showing one another love and kindness. Voluntary donations were collected in aid of Little Saints of Bethany Home for abused women and children. Thank you for helping us spread the love.

CELIA DIANA  
HoD: LITTLE SAINTS



## GRADE 3 NEWS

The Grade 3s had fun creating Nativity scene dioramas. A diorama is a 3-dimensional scene created to illustrate an academic subject, a plot in a story or an event in history. The girls researched the origin of the Nativity and discovered that the first Nativity was created by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223.

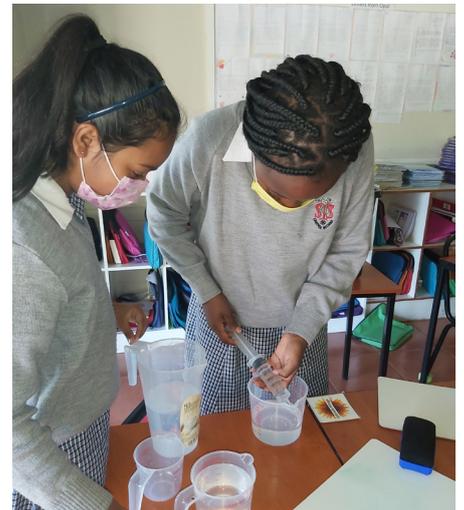
THE GRADE 3 TEACHERS



## GRADE 4 NEWS

The Grade 4 girls have enjoyed learning about capacity, debating the different shapes and sizes of containers, and working out how they could measure the capacity of each container. They needed to estimate the capacity of each container before measuring it. The girls were very creative with their solutions and learnt some valuable lessons about the error of parallax and about how their fill of two identical containers could affect their measurement.

THE GRADE 4 TEACHERS



# GRADE 5 NEWS

## Constructing rockets

Our solar system exploration culminated in the construction and launching of a rocket. It's a messy business using the reactants vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. The rockets were constructed at school and launched under the supervision of an adult at home. The build-up and release of pressure, owing to the product of the reaction, carbon dioxide, is responsible for some spectacular launches captured on video. Please click on the links below.

<https://youtu.be/G9Q0b1VMHRs>

<https://youtu.be/zub6Kbhas4A>

ANGIE JENNETT  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Constructing rockets



Grade 5s having fun with tangrams in Mathematics - not as easy as it looks!



## GRADE 5 NEWS CONTINUED



In Drama, the Grade 5s designed and constructed their own sock puppets, wrote a script, and performed a puppet show.

## GRADE 7 NEWS

The Grade 7s enjoyed writing free verse inspired by the poem *Love Letter to a Lychee* by Joshua Seigal. Yuxi Zhang wrote this love letter to her shadow.

CARRIE FIRTH  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

My dearest shadow  
I love you so  
I would hug you  
I would

but you slip  
through my fingers  
like rays of sun

You are my companion  
throughout the daylight  
and beneath  
the greying moon

A reflection of myself  
the very first I'd seen  
not from a mirror or a lens

I daresay  
you may even be  
my best friend

But alas, no friendships  
last forever  
for in my darkest hour  
even you, will disappear.

## MUSIC NEWS

Our Grade 3 marimba band gave its debut performance in our very first Junior Primary Music assembly on 4 November. The performers, as well as the audience, enjoyed every moment. The Singing Angels performed a lively song, *Animal choir*, while the Grade 1C class performed a poem. Ava Molyneux performed a mesmerising *Allegro* on the violin. The festivities concluded with the entire Junior Primary dancing the *Chicken Dance*. We look forward to many more music performances. Click on the link to see the Junior Primary marimba band perform *Albatross Rock*.

[https://youtu.be/wP89gw\\_ybdg](https://youtu.be/wP89gw_ybdg)

SELMARI QUINN  
JUNIOR PRIMARY MUSIC TEACHER

The Senior Primary celebrated music on 12 November in the Senior Primary Music assembly. We looked at how music affects our lives and how we can combat plastic pollution through the creation of musical instruments. Jessica Maher played an enchanting piano solo, *Fairies in the Mist*. The Senior Primary marimba band delighted the girls with their rendition of *Take on Me*, originally composed and performed by the band A-ha, and the chamber choir and the Grade 5s lead a bucket drumming performance of *Beautiful Creatures*, composed and performed by the Barbatuques. Please click on the link below to enjoy the performance.

<https://youtu.be/bhzVlnktZPY>

GEORGE POTGIETER  
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC

# EDTECH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Last month, our coding and robotics club girls participated in the inter-school robotics league at St Peter’s Girls’ Preparatory. St Mary’s was one of 10 schools and two of our teams received awards. Congratulations to Danielle Mihigo and Yuxi Zhang for placing first in the Junior Category and to Rothe and Rine Mulaudzi for winning the overall prize for consistency and determination throughout the competition.

Congratulations to Warona Shuping for placing first at the iStore Excellence in Education Awards. Her project titled *Women at the Olympics* won first place in the Grade 0 to 3 curriculum challenge.

**LERATO SHUPING**  
**EDTECH LEADER**



Yuxi Zhan and Danielle Mihigo



Warona Shuping

# SWIMMING

## Junior Primary inter-house gala

The annual Junior Primary inter-house gala was held on Friday 12 November. The girls all participated in the gala and swam a minimum of two races each. They all braved the big pool and swam exceptionally well. It was a very exciting afternoon for all the girls and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was lovely to be able to host the parents on campus again with the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions on spectators at sports events.

The results were as follows:

Hares and Lions	132 points
Springboks	115 points
Zebras	109 points

Congratulations to Layla Barber-Luna who won the Junior Primary *Victrix Ludorum* and well done to all the girls who participated.

**VICKI JONKER**  
**SPORTS TEACHER**



# TENNIS

The A, B, C, and D tennis team beat St Stithians convincingly in their final school match of the term.

Well done to all our Grade 4 to 7 girls who participated in the tennis festival over the weekend. It was great to see the parents out there again supporting our players.

I would like to congratulate the girls who are competing on a tournament level. Good luck for the up-and-coming tournaments.

## 11 November results

- St Mary's A beat St Stithians A 49/12
- St Mary's B beat St Stithians B 32/16
- St Mary's C beat St Stithians C 35/3
- St Mary's D beat St Stithians D 36/6

**KAREN CORBETT**  
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



Grade 4 team - Maia Stout, Isabella Crawford, Grace Gibbs, Aanya Bagoon



Grade 5 team - Isabella Lotto, Emma Simpson, Gabriella Illgner, Isabella Molyneux



Grade 6 team - Megan Macfarlane, Kristin Biggs, Sarah Silcock and Laila Fowler



Grade 7 team- Mackenzie Summers, Bailey Selvam, Jennifer Pringle, Erin Krüger

# DIVING

## Gauteng Schools

The Junior and Senior School divers took part in the Gauteng Schools trials which were hosted at Roedean School on 30 October. Gauteng Schools is a competition that focuses on the basics of diving and has been introduced to help grow the sport within schools around South Africa. There is an elite section for the club divers, a novice section for the school divers, and a development section for divers who are taking an interest in the sport.

Several St Mary's girls qualified to represent Gauteng in the SA Schools diving competition which will be held in Durban on 8 December.

### Championship Elite qualifiers:

Emma Campbell                      Grade 7  
 Daniella Van der Berg            Grade 7

### Championship Novice qualifiers:

Jessica Coutts                      Grade 5  
 Amy Ireland                         Grade 7

### Development qualifiers:

Zaria Lindberg                      Grade 6

St Mary's wishes the above girls the best of luck as they compete in SA Schools over the holidays.

**KATE SHEPHERD**  
 HEAD OF DIVING

# IKUSASA LETHU

On Saturday 30 October, the Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 learners from Ikusasa Lethu celebrated their year-end prizegiving. It was wonderful to be back in The Edge, acknowledging and celebrating the learners' achievements. The guest speaker, Revd Rakgadi, gave an account of her personal journey and spoke of the importance of following one's own path. The learners had the opportunity to thank their valued teachers and mentors for their expertise, guidance and support during the year. Programme co-ordinator, Robynne Knowles, paid tribute to Ms Linda Giuricich, Director of Community Partnerships, who retires after 18 years

of dedicated service to Ikusasa Lethu and thanked her for her significant contribution to the Ikusasa Lethu programme. The learners also had the opportunity to thank Ms Jane Lawther for her loyal service and wish her well in her retirement.

We keep the learners of Ikusasa Lethu, and especially those in matric, in our thoughts and wish them well as they write their year-end exams.

**JESSICA LANSDOWN**  
 HEAD OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



# NOTICES

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## 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.stmaryschool.co.za](http://www.stmaryschool.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).