



When Leano Tema grows up, she wants to be a comedian to help people when they feel sad.

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Last week, the teachers and I spoke about the importance of ordinary things in a time of fear and uncertainty. We spoke about the comfort that familiar faces and habits and expectations can bring. The knowledge that we will greet each other every morning, by name, ask after each other's health, laugh together - these small, daily rituals keep us going. And when we are teaching and learning remotely, these rituals do more than that - they keep us together.

Those of us on campus are sustained by signs of seasonal maintenance: the cleaning of the gutters, pruning of our trees and rose bushes, and the mending of the shingles on the chapel roof - the flurry of activity in response to what Irish poet Eavan Boland calls "the natural world with its renewals and catastrophes," reminds us, incredibly, that life does go on. Spring and summer will follow soon. At the time of writing, the Little Saints and Grade 0 children are here, clamouring to be read to, and listened to, running around the playground, and scattering their curiosity and noise across the campus. Last week the Grade 0s went on their first visit to the Science lab and Mrs Jennett showed them how to look at feathers and flowers and leaves under a microscope. Those little hands manipulating the lenses, and intent heads bent in study were our Grade 7s once - will be our Grade 7s in 2028. This is our great joy: knowing it will all begin again.

Last Thursday, Grade 1D presented their virtual assembly (curated by Mrs Di Benedetto, Mrs de Boni and Mr Potgieter) and reminded us to put our best foot forward in what might seem, at times, like ludicrously unfavourable conditions. When they spoke about all the different things girls can do and be - from game rangers to robotics engineers to artists to models to teachers - the Grade 1s reminded us not to give up on our dreams at a time when dreaming and hoping can seem like a foolish and irresponsible act. In the words of a writer, who stole this from a preacher:

Hope is revolutionary patience. Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.

According to American poet, Emily Dickinson, a survivor in so many ways:

“Hope is the thing with feathers / That perches in the soul / And sings the tune without the words / And never stops at all.”
And hope doesn’t only fly and sing and carry on - hope laughs in the face of impossible odds. What this means is that hope laughs at the most unlikely time, when everything seems serious and grim. When one of the Grade 1 girls said she wanted to be a comedian when she grew up so that she could help people when they felt sad, I wanted to cheer. I also wanted to hug her, but we know that’s not allowed at the moment.

I want us to keep the image of that Grade 1 girl with us over the next few weeks - that St Mary’s girl who understands the importance of making people laugh. I want us to think of our laughing together and keeping our sense of joy and wonder through difficult times. Let it sustain us and keep us stubbornly hoping and waiting and working and watching for the dawn.

Like the spring and summer we are preparing for on campus, it will follow soon.

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to [his disciples], “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

- Mark 4:35-41 (NRSV)

As we find ourselves in the midst of the third wave of the pandemic, perhaps we feel caught in a time warp - at that moment when the disciples tried to wake Christ up, saying “do you not care that we are perishing?”. Christ responds, “have you no faith?” I re-read Pope Francis’ words in *Ubi et Orbi* (27 March 2020): “Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you.” Pope Francis reminds us that we are all in the boat, in the storm, together. Let us also be reminded that we are in the boat together with Christ. And let us not underestimate Christ.

This is my last newsletter article as your chaplain. I give thanks for the blessing of having been chaplain in this community, and I give thanks for you. You remain in my prayers, as I hope I remain in yours.

*God our protector, your Son stilled the storm and restored calm:
stand with us through all life’s storms,
and give us courage to protect those who face danger,
that all may know you as their stronghold and hope,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and for ever.
Amen.*

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN



LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

The piazza buzzed with the cheerful delight of the children enjoying the flower provocation that was set out for them. They created a vibrant, colourful sign for a fantasy flower shop, where flower arrangements could be assembled using the pretend flowers. Another station invited the children to plant flowers in petite pots, which gave them the opportunity to use their fine motor skills and creativity.

An array of colourful mark-making tools, alongside flowers displayed in various sized jars, allowed for artistic expression. Lastly, sensory trays with an assortment of loose parts encouraged the children to create their own fairy gardens. It was wonderful to see the children engage in each of these provocations wholeheartedly. The photographs clearly show their excitement! Please click on the link to see the piazza in action. <https://youtu.be/iT1E2kj5ZxQ>

CELIA DIANA
HoD: LITTLE SAINTS



GRADE 0 NEWS

The Grade 0s enjoyed time in the Science laboratory while the Senior Primary girls were remote learning. The focus of the visit was to use the dissecting microscopes and to learn about the parts of the microscope and for what microscopes are used. The girls' drawings included details of the feathers, flowers and leaves that they they observed through the microscopes.

AGOTHA CLARKE
GRADE 0 TEACHER



Grade 0s enjoying time in the Science laboratory



Grade 0s enthusiastically painting with bold colours and enjoying spending time together

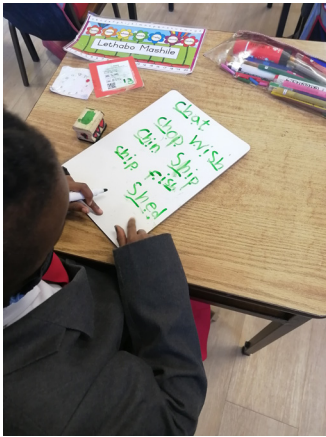


Grade 0s and Dr Sarah Warner took advantage of the beautiful sunshine and spent their reading time in the playground

GRADE 1 NEWS

It is a very exciting time in Grade 1. The girls are applying the sounds that they have learnt into their words and are making lovely progress with their letter formation.

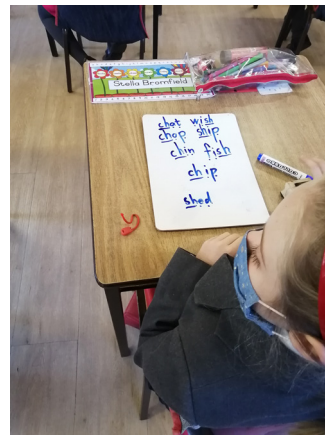
JACKY CACIOPPO
GRADE 1 TEACHER



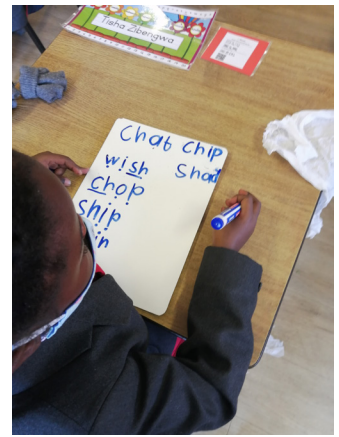
Lethabo Mashile



Omolemo Mojapelo



Stella Bromfield



Tisha Zibengwa

FROM THE AFRIKAANS DEPARTMENT

The Grade 1s are learning about clothes! The girls had to dress up in a favourite outfit and present the different clothing items that they wore. The class heard the names of all the different items of clothing and saw what they looked like.

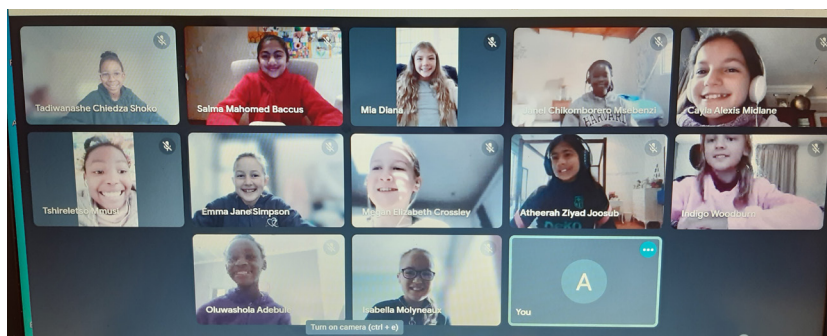
NADINE WHEELER
LANGUAGE TEACHER



GRADE 5 NEWS

The Grade 5s moved smoothly into the remote learning space. From collecting their books to setting up their home work spaces, there is a definite sense that they know what this is all about and are ready to get on with it! Besides settling quickly into the academic routine, the girls also need to stay connected on a social level. To kick off this aspect, a skipping challenge is on the cards! Grade 5GI have challenged the other Grade 5 mentor groups to keep a record of how many times they can skip in one minute. The idea is for the skipping to happen between lessons. Each girl will keep a record of their highest score for the day. Apparently Mev Grobbelaar has offered to skip for the teachers!

GRADE 5 MENTOR TEACHERS



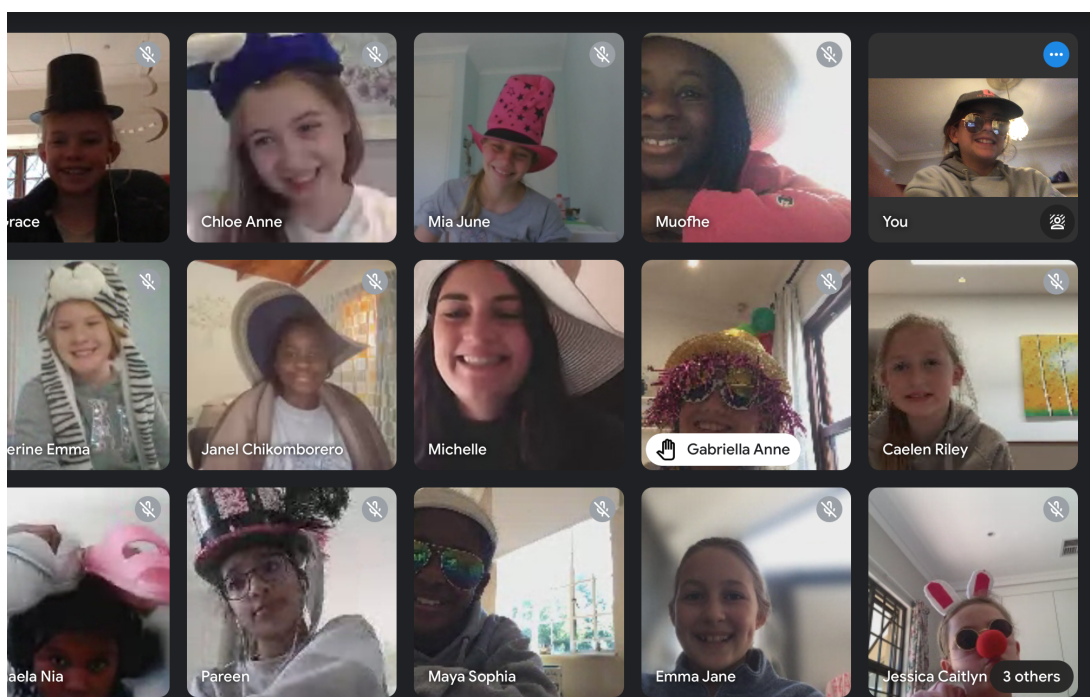
Grade 5J



Grade 5 GRO



Grade 5 GI



Grade 5M English class

GRADE 5 NEWS CONTINUED



Before half-term and then return to remote learning, the Grade 5 girls completed patterns using their compasses in geometry. They completed the flower pattern and the eye pattern.



Before half-term and then return to remote learning, the Grade 5 girls gave a speech on how to prepare roasted vegetables in their isiZulu lesson.

NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTRE

Just before half-term we were lucky enough to host two wonderful facilitators from the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre (JHGC). Cathy and Catherine worked closely with the Grade 6s and 7s on a specially developed workshop that dealt with notions of identity, empathy, and what it means to be an upstanding citizen.

As a warm-up activity the girls were asked to draw their hands and write down specific traits they believed were crucial to their sense of identity or belonging. They were then invited to stick their hands on the board, and find connections between what they wrote. The girls expressed frustration at being limited by their five fingers, and began to understand how difficult it must have been for the victims of the Holocaust to be seen as only one aspect of their identity.

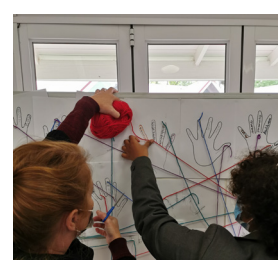
The Grade 7s focused on the definitions of perpetrator, bystander, victim and upstander while the Grade 6s focused on stories and testimonies from the Holocaust, and were asked to write or draw what they would pack in their suitcase if they suddenly had to leave their homes. At the end, both grades were asked to compose a

pledge and commit to what they could do in their own small way as upstanding citizens.

We would like to thank Catherine, Cathy and the JHGC for putting so much care and effort into creating this programme for us. We hope it is the first stepping stone in developing critical literacy about complex identities, empathy, and the devastating effects of discrimination.

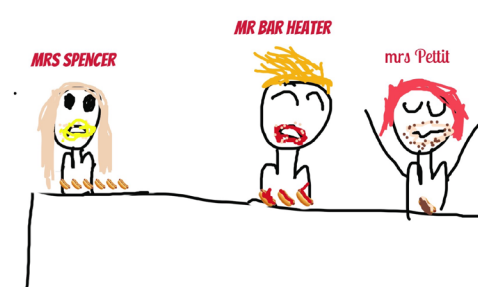
In remote Book-Ed lessons this past week we read two stories about strange school experiences. In Jerry Pallotta's *What I Saw in the Teacher's Lounge*, we imagined what secret activities and adventures the teachers might get up to in the staff room. I invited the girls to draw what they think happens in the staff room, and they sent in some lovely, creative responses.

ROSA ELK
SENIOR PRIMARY LIBRARIAN

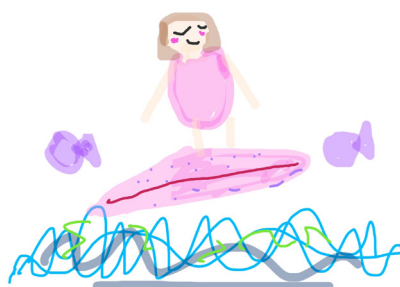


Grade 6 and 7 learners engage with the JHGC workshop

What I Saw in the Teacher's Lounge



Langalezwe Zulu



Mila Kana



Zia Habib



Rawan Shabne



Carolyn Frotlich

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

This week Little Saints have been learning musical games to reinforce good interval singing. It has been great fun! Below are the Grade 00s playing *Tideo*. These games are based on the *Kodály* method to inculcate pure singing.

Rachel Adelaar in Grade 00 is a budding soloist. Here she is singing while taking pizza orders. Welcome to Gino's Pizza Restaurant. Find the link below.

<https://youtu.be/JzSifKWIXOE>

Koena Mokoena in Grade 2P played *The Hunter's Chorus*, composed by Carl Maria von Weber, in virtual assembly this week. She played with poise and determination. Well done, Koena! Please find the link below.

<https://youtu.be/WtROMotowkl>

May we all look through the eyes of a child where the world is pure. It is filled with love. It is brimming with life.

GEORGE POTGIETER
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



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 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.

MUSE MORNING - TUESDAY 13 JULY

Please join us for our next Muse Morning:

Date: Tuesday 13 July

Time: 08h30 to 09h30

Speaker: Luke Lamprecht (see biography below)

Topic: The myth of the resilient child

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 848 9034 1671

Passcode: 796231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84890341671?pwd=eVdyUzlKS2N1OTFnOG9kR0lCZ3Y0Zz09>



Luke Lamprecht Biography

“Working with children is walking on holy ground, be mindful of the footprints that you leave”

Luke Lamprecht is a Child Protection and Development Specialist, with 26 years of experience in the NPO field. He has worked with organisations including Lefika La Phodiso: The Art Therapy Centre, The Teddy Bear Clinic for Abused Children, Johannesburg Child Welfare, Childline, Bigshoes and the Johannesburg Parent and Child Counseling Centre. He is also a director at Fight With Insight: a boxing gym based at the Children’s Memorial Institute in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, where he coaches inner-city children.

As a Child Protection and Development Specialist, Luke works with children in conflict with the law, children with autism, and children with behavioural challenges and psychiatric diagnoses. As an expert and consultant, he convenes the Johannesburg Child Advocacy Forum, supervises Women and Men Against Child Abuse’s Alexandra Victim Empowerment Programme, consults to the founder of the South African Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse, and advises on child protection issues for the Shaken and Abused Baby Initiative. Lamprecht also compiled a protocol for Child Protection and HIV intervention (for children, adolescents and families) for child protection professionals.

Lamprecht regularly conducts talks and training sessions on social cohesion, servitude leadership, BEING MAN, child protection and development, health, mental health, disability, cyber-development and sexuality under Brain Mechanics. He is currently completing an MSc in Neurodevelopment at Wits and has an Advanced Health Management qualification from FPD and Yale University.