



Senior Primary girls getting into the rhythm. See link below for the drone-captured footage.

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

This week began exuberantly with some breathtakingly beautiful displays of athleticism and what Mrs Mshengu admiringly calls “grit” on sports day; it ended just as exuberantly with assemblies and music. Our Grade 7 debaters took on the Ridge boys on Monday (motion: that parents be allowed to microchip their children without first obtaining their consent), the rhythmic gymnastics girls attended their prizegiving last Saturday, and earlier that week, all our Senior Primary girls took part in the filming of a choreographed dance (*Shine Your Light* by David Guetta and master KG) on the hockey AstroTurf under the skillful direction of Carrie Firth. To watch the drone-captured footage, follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zL1HfjdKpj4>. I think the Junior School made what 90s electronic band The Propellerheads might dub “a little bit of history” that day.

On the topic of filming, a team of Junior School teachers did some performing of their own last week when we were given the opportunity to speak on record about our school and what happens at St Mary's in the years of discovery and growth between beginning at Little Saints and entering the Senior School. Our intention in creating the video is to tell the story of the Junior School from a range of different departure points: academically, ethically, physically, spiritually. The term usually applied to the education we are describing is “holistic” - a philosophical term coined in the 1920s by none other than South African statesman J C Smuts - generally understood to refer to an interest in the intimate interconnection of the different parts of a system or organisation and something of a buzzword among independent schools.

What we are trying to articulate as a team of Junior School educators comes down to an interest in relationships, a theme Deanne King returns to regularly in her reflections on our school, and that can be regarded as a touchstone of all we do at St Mary's. These relationships encompass everything that animates the school and gives it its distinctive flavour, stretching from the obvious (relationships between different stakeholders, disciplines, environments), to the more obscure (relationships between the mainstream and the marginal, conformity and originality, what we teach and what we reward, the “what we are trying to achieve” and the “how we get there”).

Of course, what guards and guides all our discussions (both linchpin and lodestar) is our Christian identity and ethos, and our educational philosophy. The love we speak of is love of your neighbour - the most demanding kind - that asks you to extend your care and compassion to everyone based on your shared humanity and not to those who resemble you only. Community, also, cannot be viewed as a spontaneous coming together. We create community through the establishment of shared values; we hold each other accountable; we aspire to doing better. And integrity holds the seemingly disparate aspects of our school together, puts its arms around them, and keeps everything whole.

The tension between continuity and change, decisions we take together about what we keep, what we discard, what we adapt, and what we maintain are governed by who we are and who we are becoming - not what we think we should seem at a particular moment. We want our girls and our teachers to be able to receive and give feedback and to develop robust relationships with each other that are built on trust and openness. We want, in other words, to establish a sisterhood that sustains us, offers genuine support and loving correction, and that encourages us to shine our light collectively.

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

For the past few weeks, the liturgical events in the lectionary related to creation. The event that stood out most was Rogation Days. Rogation Days call Christians beyond the sacred spaces of nave and sanctuary to go out and bless the good earth God has given. Although we no longer celebrate Rogation Days with elaborate festivities, there is still reason for us to observe Rogation days, considering the challenge of climate change. George Herbert describes the aims for observing Rogation Days as:

- To seek God's blessing for the fields to bear fruit
- To seek the preservation of justice in the boundaries of the parish
- To walk in love with one another and reconcile differences
- To practise mercy and generosity towards the poor from God's provisions.

In our chapel services, we looked out the window to take in the beauty of the chapel lawns and gardens and the beautiful flower arrangement at the altar. We observed Rogation Day by acknowledging and giving thanks to God for those who tend the school gardens and agreeing to do our part in looking after the gardens. As the hymn writer reminds us, all things bright and beautiful, the Lord God made them all.

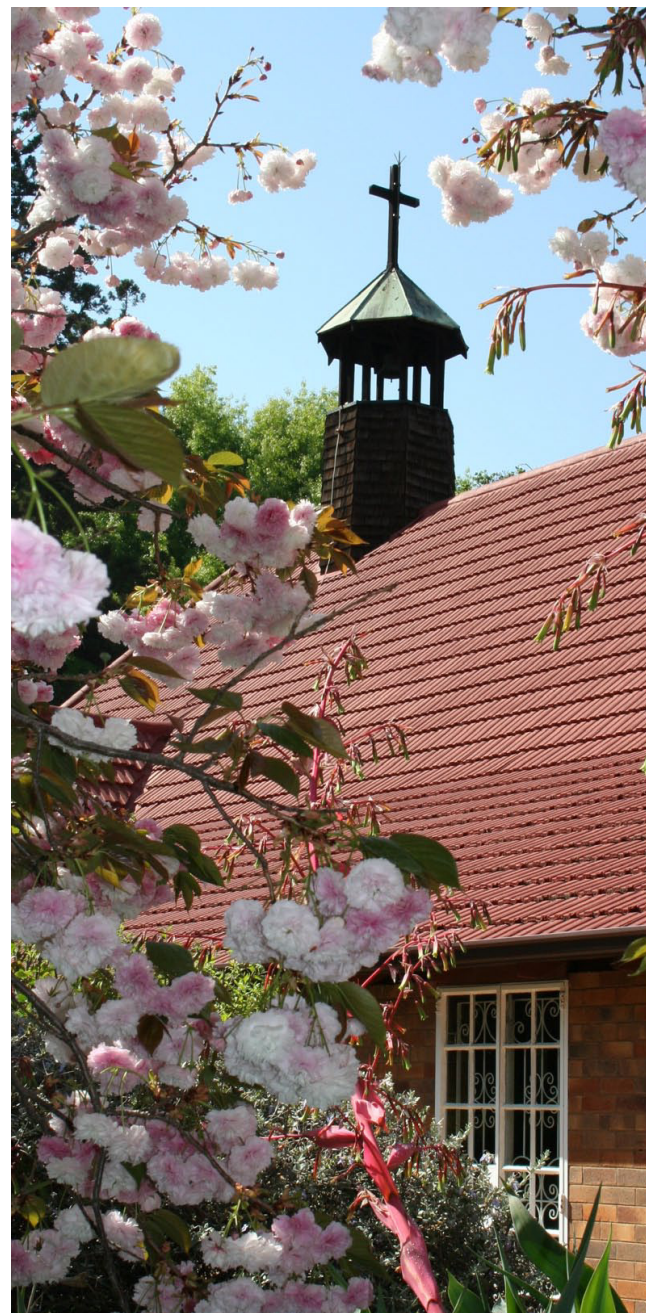
All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all.

The vygie and the thorn trees  
The laughing turtle doves  
The kudus of the bushveld  
are made by God above

The rugged Drakensberge  
The Klein en Groot Karoo  
The bushveld and the forest  
The coast and ocean blue

May we continue to give thanks to God for the beauty that surrounds us.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO  
CHAPLAIN



# LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

## THE FIREMAN SHOW

On Monday this week, a fireman visited Little Saints. He explained and demonstrated various fire safety strategies to the children and he told us how important it is for all homes to have smoke alarms in them. After lighting a fire in a pot, the fireman showed us how to stop the fire by putting a lid on it to block the oxygen supply. The spraying of the fire extinguisher certainly caught the children's attention, especially when it was used to blow out the flare candles on Mrs Diana's birthday cake!

THE LITTLE SAINTS TEACHERS



## GRADE 0 NEWS

The Grade 0s spent a busy week investigating smell, taste and touch. They loved creating potions in the pestle and mortar with lavender and mint, eating a few edible flowers along the way.

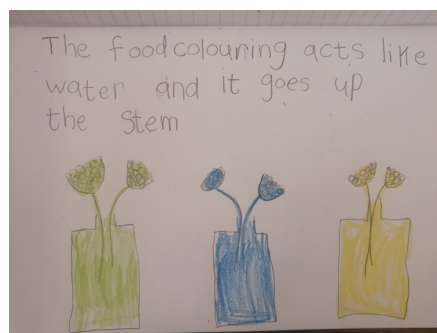
LYNN TROLLIP, AGOHA CLARKE AND BRIGITTE TAYLOR  
GRADE 0 TEACHERS



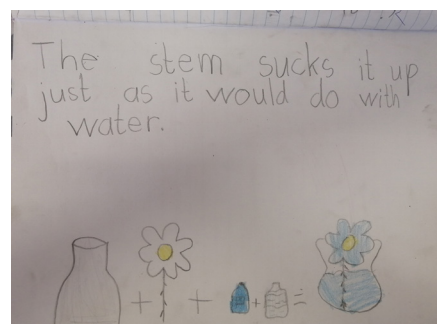
## GRADE 1 NEWS

“The colour changing flower experiment” was set up in class for the girls to observe and to draw their own conclusions about the function of the stem and how the coloured water travelled to reach the petals.

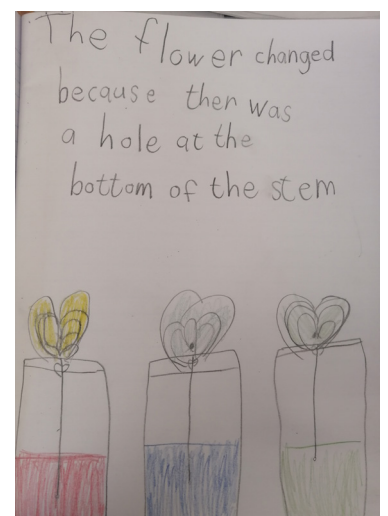
JACKY CACIOPPO  
GRADE 1 TEACHER



Ina de Villiers



Stella Bromfield



Liya Mgcina

# GRADE 2 NEWS

The Grade 2s have been learning about bravery and resilience. Our Junior School sports day was the perfect platform for our girls to demonstrate these skills. They ran their hearts out, jumped as high as they could over the hurdles and used their fancy footwork to make it through the steeplechase. Well done, Grade 2s!

## THE GRADE 2 TEACHERS



# GRADE 3 NEWS

The Grade 3s wrote colour poems and shape poems in their creative writing lesson. A colour poem allows a writer to present different images about a particular colour. These poems use similes and the different senses (sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell) to describe colours. Each line of a colour poem focuses on a different sense and each line contains an image that describes the colour.

**Blue**  
 Blue looks like the vast blue sky  
 Blue sounds like huge waves crashing  
 Blue smells like fresh raindrops falling  
 Blue feels like a soft, peacock feather  
 Blue tastes like cool, ice-cold water  
 Blue is calmness  
**Astrid Blair**

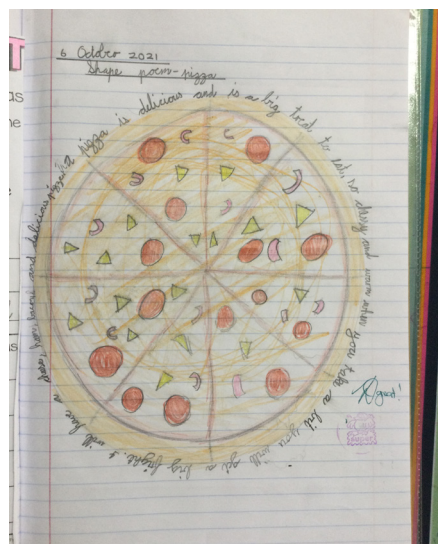
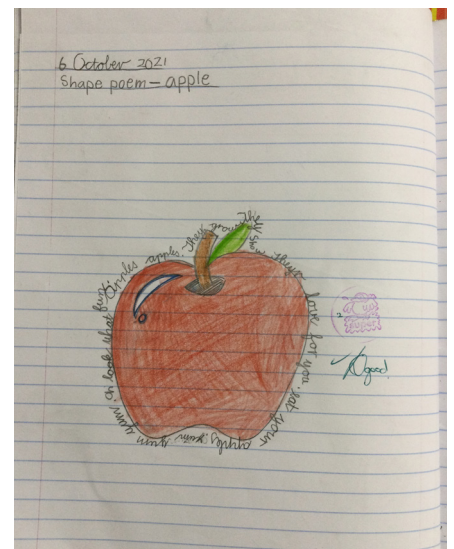
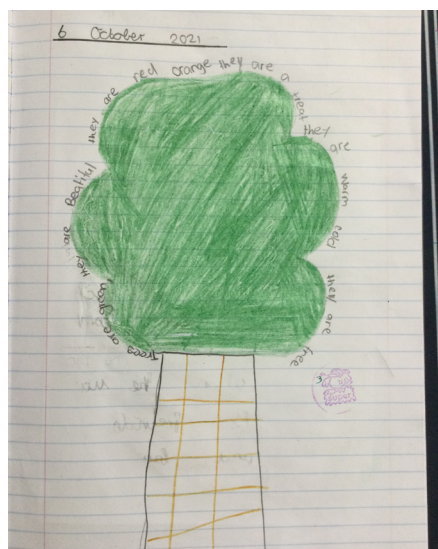
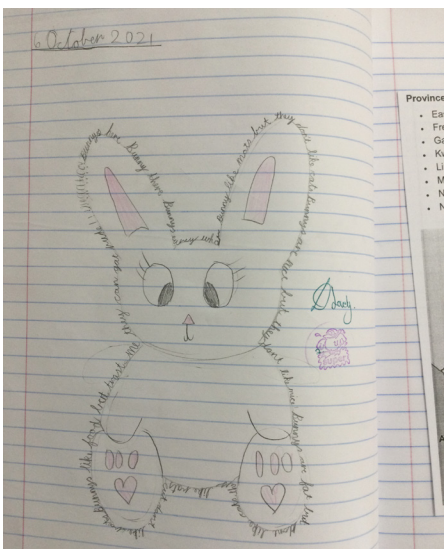
**Green**  
 Green looks like a big, old tree  
 Green sounds like leaves rustling in the wind  
 Green feels like wet grass on my toes  
 Green tastes like peas in a pod  
 Green is sick  
**Carolyn Frolich**

**Yellow**  
 Yellow looks like a big, round sun  
 Yellow sounds like buzzing bees  
 Yellow smells like bright sunflowers  
 Yellow feels like sticky honey  
 Yellow tastes like juicy, sour lemons  
 Yellow is happy  
**Jaimee Hacker**

**Blue**  
 Blue looks like a big pool of water  
 Blue sounds like crashing waves  
 Blue smells like fresh blueberries  
 Blue feels like a soft rabbit  
 Blue tastes like salty sea water  
 Blue is sad  
**Arabella-Rose Pearce**

**Red**  
 Red looks like a single drop of blood on freshly fallen snow  
 Red sounds like burning logs crackling in a grate  
 Red smells like a beautiful bunch of roses  
 Red feels like leaves brushing past you on a windy autumn day  
 Red tastes like delicious, ripe raspberries  
 Red is joy  
**Nancy Wood**

## THE GRADE 3 TEACHERS



# MISS SA VISIT

On Friday 8 October, the Junior Primary hall was abuzz. The Grade 0 to 3s thoroughly enjoyed Miss South Africa, Shudufadhzo Musida's visit and reading of her new book *Shudu Finds Her Magic*. It was a lovely morning and the girls all learnt a wonderful lesson about being themselves and standing up to bullying. Thank you, Shudu, for inspiring our girls!

**ROSA ELK**  
**JUNIOR SCHOOL LIBRARIAN**



## GRADE 5 NEWS

In English, the Grade 5s have been focusing on observing their surroundings and using sensory details to create vivid descriptions. The girls could not help but be captivated by the beautiful gardens on our campus.

Here are some excerpts from their writing:

In the garden around the metal arch, breath-taking saffron roses glisten in the sun, held together by beautiful gingerbread branches. Sharp parakeet plants rise out of the ground, blooming. Stepping stones part the plants into smaller gardens.

**Atheerah Joosub**

Roses braid themselves around a metal frame. Snow-white flowers are sprinkled around the hedges while vibrant green bushes help the ice-bergs to grow. Bumpy bark tangles around the metal arc which is rough from being burnt by the sun. The exquisite rose petals are dry but soft, and they feel as if they are going to flake off.

**Tadiwanashe Shoko**

There in the school garden a young tree stands in the middle of a bed looking like a lollipop, its smooth petals move in the wind. You can hear the bees buzz as they collect nectar. Rough bricks keep the flowers together.

**Courtney Van Wyk**

Golden-amber roses drape elegantly over the archway that has rusted with time. Ivy tendrils run up and down the stalks of many tall shrubs. A pearly sculpture stands its ground underneath a cascade of blossoms. It is a monument for Mrs D Donald, and it is nestled - undisturbed - as if it is watching the world go by. The syrupy scent of spring flowers drifts up and daisies slumber serenely against their bristly leaves.

**Sophia Wilkinson**

I detect the smell of honeydew coming from the roses so I stand below the arch and reach out my hand to feel the petals. They have a satiny feel on the bottom side and on the inside they feel like a thousand spiderwebs sewn together to make silk. As I bring my hand back, I hear my friends calling me and as I walk away, I decide that this is where I am going to spend my break.

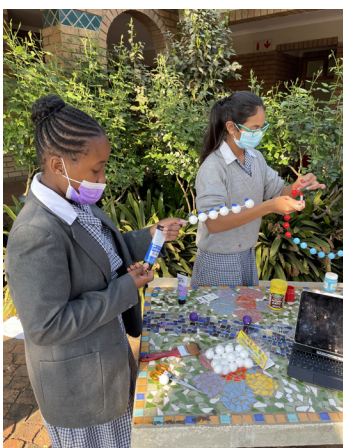
**Indigo Woodburn**

LINDA SMITH  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

## GRADE 7 NEWS

Grade 7 learnt about the atom. They learnt about the protons, neutron and electrons. They discovered that the electrons spin around the nucleus which is made up of protons and neutrons. The periodic table was then introduced and specific atoms were discussed. The girls chose an atom and made a 3D model of the atom of their choice.

ANNIE THOM  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER





# GRADE 7 NEWS CONTINUED

## DEBATING

The Grade 7 debating team represented St Mary’s with maturity, professionalism and spunk in their debate against The Ridge boys earlier this week. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and it was wonderful watching the girls construct complex arguments in support of the notion that parents be allowed to microchip their children without their consent. Well done to the speakers, Jemma Tresling, Phathutshedzo Mareda and Pascale Durand, and to our accompanying team.

**ROSA ELK**  
JUNIOR SCHOOL LIBRARIAN



The Grade 7 debating team with their coach

# TOUR DE MATHS

Four Grade 6 and 7 girls represented St Mary’s at the Tour de Maths. This fun-filled, but challenging, event was held at Pridwin on the evening of the 14 October. There were many participating schools, with approximately 160 boys and girls attending. The girls were placed in teams of four, made up of participants from different schools and they were expected to solve challenging, non-routine word problems within a time limit. This not only tested their mathematical proficiency, but also their ability to work as a team and manage their time accordingly. Our girls coped exceptionally well and made St Mary’s proud.

**SUE LE SUEUR**  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



# NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Junior School orchestra took part in the Kingsmead online ensemble festival last week. They had a wonderful time recording in The Edge and learnt much about the recording process. Please click on the link below to see them performing James Bond, 007.

<https://youtu.be/PjAkrjbNBdc>

Listening to music enhances brain function, but what happens to our brains when we play an instrument? Please click on the link below

to see the enticing video, *How playing an Instrument benefits your Brain* by Anita Collins.

[https://youtu.be/c7Cr\\_1tosNA](https://youtu.be/c7Cr_1tosNA)

I wish you a restful half-term.

Musical greetings!

**GEORGE POTGIETER**  
HoD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC

# JUNIOR PRIMARY INTER-HOUSE SPORTS DAY

The Junior Primary girls came marching down with pride, lead by their house captains. They settled down on the multipurpose field and began the 2021 inter-house sports day by singing war cries. Once that was done, the girls set off in their houses and went to participate in various stations. These stations consisted of high jump, long jump, shuttle relays, steeple chase and cross country. In between these stations there were sprint races and all the girls ran their hearts out. We ended off the lovely morning with the Grade 3 relay races. Each and every girl can be very proud of herself for participating so well. A huge thank you to all the teachers who

helped to make the Junior Primary sports day run smoothly. Congratulations to Sophia Crawford for winning the *Victrix Ludorum*.

The inter-house results were as follow:

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| 1)Springboks | 327 |
| 2)Hares      | 253 |
| 3)Lions      | 249 |
| 4)Zebras     | 245 |

**VICKI JONKER**  
SPORTS TEACHER



Sophia Crawford, the *Victrix Ludorum* winner

# SENIOR PRIMARY INTER-HOUSE SPORTS DAY

Last week, the girls participated in various inter-house field events leading up to the Senior Primary sports day. On Monday 18 October, we held our sports day on the multipurpose field. All the girls were enthusiastic and they ran with determination. We began the day with results after high jump, long jump and 800m events as follows: Springboks 1<sup>st</sup> with 112 points, Lions 2<sup>nd</sup> with 104 points, Zebras 3<sup>rd</sup> with 100 points and Hares 4<sup>th</sup> with 92 points.

Well done to Lions who won sports day once again with 522 points, Springboks 2<sup>nd</sup> with 463 points, Zebras 3<sup>rd</sup> with 413 points and Hares 4<sup>th</sup> with 373 points. Well done to all the athletes and congratulations to all the prize winners.

**Prize winners:**

Overall prize winner Grade 4-  
Overall prize winner Grade 5-  
Overall prize winner Grade 6-  
Grade 7 *Victrix Ludorum*-

Onanelona Sebati  
Maya Mgcina  
Lucy Barrow  
Georgia Plagis

**800m**

Grade 4- Maryam Kaka  
Grade 5- Maya Mgcina  
Grade 6- Emily Holmes  
Grade 7- Hannah Rigby

**High jump**

Grade 4- Onalerona Sebati  
Grade 5- Emma Simpson  
Grade 6- Lucy Barrow  
Grade 7- Georgia Plagis

**Long jump**

Grade 4- Onalerona Sebati  
Grade 5- Maya Mgcina  
Grade 6- Lucy Barrow  
Grade 7- Erin Krüger

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU  
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



# ATHLETICS

It was wonderful to take all the excited girls on the bus to our first athletics meeting this year - a friendly meeting hosted by St Andrew's on 8 October. The team has been training hard and they were eager to compete as the previous week's meeting was cancelled owing to bad weather. The girls ran extremely well, placing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the majority of the races and field events.

On 15 October, we competed against a few more schools at a meeting hosted by St Peter's. The competition was stiff and we placed 2<sup>nd</sup> with St Peter's placing 1<sup>st</sup>, Brescia house 3<sup>rd</sup>, Holy Rosary 4<sup>th</sup> and St Peter's B team 5<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all our athletes.

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



Katlego Vilakazi, Amira Laher



Maya Mgcina, Isabella Lotto



Megan Arnold



Georgia Plagis, Erin Krüger

# TENNIS

The A, B, C, and D tennis team beat Kingsmead convincingly in their second school match of the term. Well done to all the players! I extend my congratulations to Bailey Selvam who finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Belgrave Grand Prix tournament and Mackenzie Summers who won the backdraw in the same event. Mackenzie also competed well in the Growth Point Super 8 held in Pretoria.

14 October results:  
 St Mary's A beat Kingsmead's A 45/16  
 St Mary's B beat Kingsmead's B 41/16  
 St Mary's C beat Kingsmead's C 35/3  
 St Mary's D beat Kingsmead's D 36/6

**KAREN CORBETT**  
 ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



The A/B team



The C/D team

# WATER POLO

The girls have finally got back into the water and they are making a splash. The Junior School water polo girls have been learning more about the game of water polo and have taken part in a few weeks of mini scrimmage games.

Both Nicola Faber and Stephanie Midlane have shown their leadership through their passion for the game and their sportsmanship.

The squad's game awareness has improved and the sport at a junior level is going from strength to strength.

Some words from coach Robyn Dodds:  
 "From the very first practice to water polo matches at Kingsmead, the junior water polo team has had so much enthusiasm for learning more about the sport. The girls have learnt a tremendous amount and it has been a privilege for me to watch them grow and I look forward to watching them become formidable players in the water."

**KELSEY THOMSON**  
 HEAD OF WATER POLO



U13 players with coach Robyn



The U13 team playing at Kingsmead



The U13 team playing

# RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

On 16 October, the rhythmic gymnastic girls took part in displays at the annual prizegiving. Congratulations to Valentina Giuricich on being appointed captain for 2022.

Oagile Tema won Level 6 under 11 at the South African Rhythmic Gymnastic Games at the beginning of October in Pretoria. Oagile trains at a club in Berario. Congratulations to Oagile on this outstanding achievement.



LINDA GIURICICH  
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS COACH

Oagile Tema



Grade 1s



Grade 1s



Grade 2s



Grade 3s



Grades 4,5,6,7



Junior Gauteng team

# RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS CONTINUED



Valentina Giuricich, captain for 2022



Central Gauteng novice team

# EQUESTRIAN

SANESA inter-schools national championships.  
6-9 October 2021 at Kyalami Equestrian Park

The competition was stiff as we competed with other riders from all over South Africa. Well done to our Junior School SANESA national representatives!

**MELANIE BLAIR**  
TEACHER IN CHARGE

| Name           | Horse              | Place   | Discipline  |
|----------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Harper Bate    | Dreamer            | 19 <sup>th</sup><br>38 <sup>th</sup>  | Show Jumping: 50cm Normal<br>Show Jumping: 50cm 2 phase   |
| Astrid Blair   | Pegasus Chalcedony | 4 <sup>th</sup><br>27 <sup>th</sup><br>33 <sup>rd</sup><br>20 <sup>th</sup><br>18 <sup>th</sup> | Equitation: Level 1<br>Show Jumping: 50cm Normal<br>Show Jumping: 50cm 2 phase<br>Dressage: Prelim Test 3<br>Dressage: Prelim Test 4  |
| Emma Frahm-Arp | Waterside Fidelio  | 5 <sup>th</sup><br>6 <sup>th</sup><br>1 <sup>st</sup><br>2 <sup>nd</sup>                        | Prix Caprilli: Intermediate level Test b<br>Prix Caprilli: Intermediate level Test a<br>Working riding: Level 5<br>Performance riding |
| Ella Mundell   | Zenzele Starstruck | 14 <sup>th</sup><br>17 <sup>th</sup><br>19 <sup>th</sup>  | Equitation: Level 1<br>Show Jumping: 60cm Normal<br>Show Jumping: 60cm 2 phase  |



Astrid Blair on Pegasus Chalcedony



Harper Bate on Dreamer

# ST MARY'S GOLF DAY

Thank you to everyone who supported and contributed to making the St Mary's golf day a success. Please support our wonderful sponsors below.

Congratulations to the winning four-ball:  
Paul Breedveld, Graeme Yates, Robbie Grota, John Hadiaris.

THE FOUNDATION TEAM



## St Mary's Golf Day 2021

A BIG thank you to our sponsors:



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## NOTICES

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### MUSE MORNING - WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Please join us for our last Muse Morning for 2021:

Date: Wednesday 3 November

Time: 08h30 to 09h30

Speaker: Andrea Jacobs (see biography below)

Topic: How to help your child navigate relational difficulties with friends

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83638869048?pwd=ZlZiTFVma2RjWEpLdEd5ankzOGEzQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 3886 9048

Passcode: 668180

Andrea is a lecturer and registered educational psychologist in private practice, based in Craighall Park. She currently works with children and adults and has extensive experience in the tertiary setting.

Andrea holds master's degrees in both Educational Psychology and Research Psychology, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. Her training took place at the University of Johannesburg (PsyCaD), Headway and the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), where she worked with varied presentations, conducted various assessments and offered psychotherapy, play therapy and career counselling. She is also trained in crisis intervention and management, HIV and termination of pregnancy counselling. She has a special interest in Psychometric Assessment, specifically concessions. Therapeutically, she enjoys working with members of the LGBTQI+ community as well as with presentations of anxiety and challenges with adjustment and life transitions.

### 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).

### JUNIOR SCHOOL: GRADE 000 TO 7 START AFTER HALF-TERM

Please take note from the live calendar that the Junior School will reopen on Wednesday 27 October after the Term III half-term owing to a transformation workshop for all staff.