



Mr Theuns Mahloko directing traffic in stop-and-drop

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

There is so much to celebrate in the Junior School as we approach the end of the year and marvel at how much our children from Grades 000 to Grade 7 have grown. We prepare ourselves to say goodbye to our girls leaving for Senior School as well as our Little Saints boys who are moving to Grade 0 at new schools, and we give the children we have walked alongside for a year into the hands of our colleagues in a higher grade. The process is emotionally demanding: the immense gratification of seeing children move on convincingly is matched only by the ambivalence of letting them go.

Of course, the children are not the only ones who move on and up in the school, and year end is a time for us to reflect on our experiences as a community, what we have achieved and what still remains to be done. My thanks to all the parents who have engaged with us, given us their time, and taken opportunities to participate and be present in the life of the school. I am especially grateful to our head of the PA, Lebo Mpumlwana, her colleague, Anna Hansel, and their team for the energy and renewed vision they have brought to community events this year; also, to our class rep co-ordinator, Gugu Zulu, and the Junior School class reps, for their invaluable support.

The year 2023 has been a rewarding but strenuous year: we have worked hard and learnt a lot - and the learning continues. It is in the spirit of continued learning and in recognition of our desire, always, to do better, that I draw your attention to ongoing and unbecoming friction between parents and our staff, and parents with each other in the Junior School parking lot and stop-and-drop area. Our support staff led by operations supervisor, Mr Theuns Mahloko, as well as our security guards who monitor traffic in and out of the gates on Burn Street report ill treatment and rudeness from our parents regularly; and just last week, parents, teachers and girls were witness to an altercation at the stop-and-drop that involved the verbal abuse and public haranguing of one parent by another.

Outbursts directed at our staff or at other parents are not only never justified, they also are at odds with our ethos, and tear at the fabric of our community - a community that is dedicated to raising children together. A teacher's duty of care extends to modelling decent, civil behaviour for the children she teaches, and in the Junior School we work intentionally at creating an environment that recognises the dignity of everyone who inhabits it. Our children should feel safe in the expectation that all the adults on our campus will treat each other with respect and that they will behave with restraint in each other's presence. This is a reasonable expectation

and one that we should hold each other to at all times, but especially as the term draws to a close, tempers fray and our patience sometimes wears thin.

We have so much to celebrate and to be grateful for, a theme Mrs Gordon and Mrs Di Benedetto have been exploring with the Junior Primary girls in assembly. We honour our children when we honour each other, and when we conduct ourselves - in the words of a well-known school prayer - "as if the whole world saw" (William DeWitt Hyde).

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

This week, we extend our congratulations to Hannah Keefer on her Baptism, which was included in our Junior Primary chapel service on Monday. The 1989 *An Anglican Prayer Book* describes Baptism as one of the two great sacraments of the gospel, given by Christ to the Church. The second sacrament being Holy Communion.

At the time of Baptism, a promise occurs. In an infant or child's baptism, the parents, godparents and community of faith promise to raise the child in the faith. Through this the community, flawed as it is, commits to walk this journey together.

At Baptism, the seed of faith is planted. This seed is planted in the context of family and community and requires nurturing to grow. On Monday 27 November, we will have our end-of-term chapel for Junior Primary. We chose the theme for the chapel service: 'sowing seeds of kindness.'

The agricultural image of sowing and seeds gives us an opportunity to discuss complicated terms using concrete ideas. Let us consider the work and relationships we have put effort into this year. We hope for positive results from our actions. Sometimes, things do not work out how we want or expect. The language used around crop failure owing to external and internal factors can be helpful to describe why, at times, seeds of kindness in relationships do not produce positive results.

Thank you for sowing seeds of kindness by donating Christmas presents for the Baragwanath Care Comforts Committee.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



FROM THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Getting to know Sakhile Ntshangase

Sakhile, whose name means, "We are building", is 38 years old. Her clan name is Mgazi Sobethu, and she hails from Nongoma, the Royal Place of the Zulu King, King Misuzulu Zulu, in KwaZulu-Natal.

Sakhile has two children: a daughter, Mbalenhle, who is 17 years old, and a son, Prince, who is 12. Sakhile's mother's name is Beauty; sadly, her father, Mthunzi, passed away. She has five siblings, three sisters and two brothers. Sakhile has worked at St Mary's for eight years and she loves working at the school because the girls are kind and she is happy to be around them. She has a friendly relationship with her colleagues.

Sakhile wishes all a prosperous and happy 2024.

ANESHREE NAICKER AND SIPHIWE SITHEBE
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Sakhile Ntshangase

LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

Our new library

The Little Saints children are delighted with their new library, which is the result of Melanie Nijland’s innovative vision. She incorporated trees drawn by the Grade 00s and painted a striking mural on the walls. The Grade 00s created papier-mâché leaves by cutting plastic bottles and they made flowers that were transferred into magical lights that hang from the ceiling.

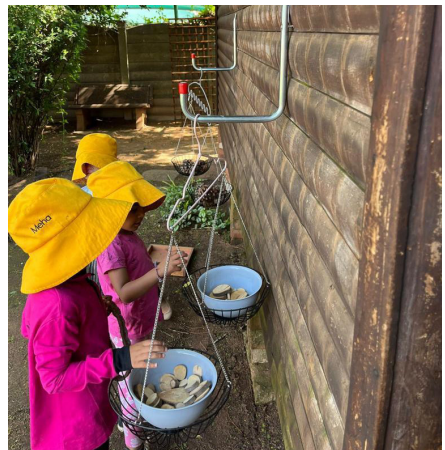
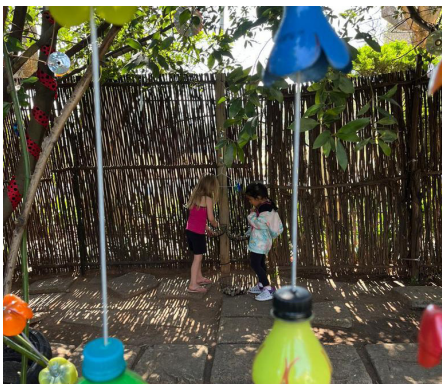
Our fairy garden revamp

Beautiful new installations include a construction site, weighing stations, weaving looms, enchanted tree hangings, a curtain made of spray painted water bottles and a detailed water wall. We are very grateful for the parents’ input into the project and appreciate all their hard work.

THE LITTLE SAINTS TEAM



Our new library



Our fairy garden revamp

GRADE 0 NEWS

The Inn crowd

In this delightful Nativity, the animals - who feel isolated and inferior at the beginning of the play - are the first to witness the birth of Jesus, feel his influence, and be heartened by his presence. The play's message of acceptance, support and love is as important at Christmas as at any other time of the year.

THE GRADE 0 TEAM



GRADE 1 NEWS

Transformation and change

The Grade 1 girls have been learning about “Transformation and change”. They have been documenting the changes and transformation of the old Pitt Block from rubble to a new building. They also planted seeds and drew each stage as they grew into plants.

THE GRADE 1 TEAM



GRADE 2 NEWS

The environmental club aims to keep our school clean and continues to spread messages about looking after planet Earth. This month, the club members were awarded certificates for saving water, recycling, picking up litter and being eco-warriors spearheaded by our motto: ‘Be it big or small, your actions matter!’ Keep thinking **GREEN!**

ANESHREE NAICKER AND REFILOE KOIKOI



GRADE 3 NEWS

Tech in the classroom

For the last few weeks, the Junior Primary girls have been exploring numbers using robots! We had lots of fun trying to give each other difficult tasks to complete and then working out large calculations with the numbers we discovered. Our Grade 3s were also introduced to Dash the Robot, who they taught to drive along a path.

DANIEL JANSEN VAN VUUREN
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT EDTECH AND IT



GRADE 7 NEWS

Grade 7 History project

Last week, the Grade 7s presented their much-awaited recycled fashion show for the school. The project began with each group choosing a specific historical period and conducting in-depth research into the prevalent fashion trends of that era. The project went beyond a mere examination of style; it extended into the realm of sustainability, providing an engaging and insightful experience for the girls.

The girls eagerly unearthed the fabrics, silhouettes, and accessories that defined the style of their chosen time, gaining some understanding of the cultural influences that shaped fashion through the ages.

The project did not stop at historical exploration and the girls

were challenged to analyse the sustainability of fashion practices during their chosen period. They delved into questions of resource use, environmental impact and ethical considerations tied to the fashion industry. This added layer of inquiry prompted critical thinking about how fashion choices in the past might have contributed to, or mitigated, environmental challenges.

Armed with these insights, the girls took on the creative challenge of translating their findings into wearable art. Using recycled materials, they set out to design and construct outfits inspired by their chosen era.

Their research culminated in a fashion show attended by all the children and teachers in the Junior School, from Little Saints to Grade 6.

LAUREN HOWDEN AND ROSA ELK
SENIOR PRIMARY HISTORY TEACHERS



Zoleka Bungane



Thandile Koti



Sophie Kent



Scarlett Bruwer



Georgia Alcock



Megan Crossley



Maya Mgcina



Kaitlyn Quinn



Oluwashola Adebule

GRADE 7 NEWS CONTINUED

Grade 7 outing to the theatre

Of all Shakespeare’s comedies, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is the one most often associated with younger audiences owing, I think, to its combination of fairies, romance, magic, and mischief - all set in an enchanted Athenian wood. The English department jumped at the opportunity to take a group of Grade 7s to see Geoffrey Hyland’s production of the play at Montecasino following its successful run at Maynardville Open Air Festival. The cast featured some well-known local actors as well as paralympic athlete, Caleb Swanepoel, in his debut role as Puck. Even though the girls are not studying the play, they were carried along by the comedy and spectacle of the production and they let themselves be entertained by a story that they found familiar and strange at turns. Our thanks to Ms Panyane, our Drama teacher, for lending our outing even more credibility by agreeing to join us.

SARAH WARNER, ROSA ELK AND LINDA SMITH



FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Piece playing concert

On Monday 20 November, our Grades 3 and 5 girls ended the piece playing concert series with a bang! All our Grade 1s to Grade 7s had an opportunity to perform for their parents and friends at various concerts over the last three weeks. We congratulate all our budding musicians on their hard work, dedication and beautiful playing.

GEORGE POTGIETER
HOD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



Grades 1 and 2 piece playing



Grades 3 and 5 piece playing



Grade 4 piece playing



Grades 6 and 7 piece playing

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

We congratulate our musicians who achieved outstanding results in The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examinations:

Emma Valentina Ku	Grade 4	Piano Performance Grade 4
Ariella Adiukwu	Grade 3	Piano Performance Initial
Koena Mokoena	Grade 4	Violin Grade 2
Thandile Koti	Grade 7	Piano Performance Grade 3
Nancy Wood	Grade 5	Piano Performance Initial
Jiani Chen	Grade 7	Flute Performance Grade 5

DUDLEY TROLLOPE
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



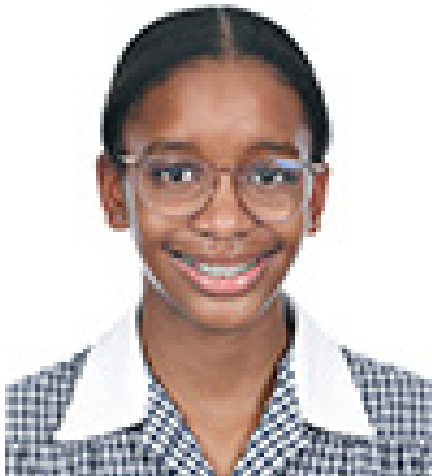
Emma Valentina Ku



Ariella Adiukwu



Koena Mokoena



Thandile Koti



Nancy Wood



Jiani Chen

SENIOR PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

Our long-awaited Senior Primary sports day finally unfolded on Wednesday 15 November. Leading up to this exciting event, the girls engaged in inter-house competitions featuring the 800m run, high jump and long jump during their Physical Education lessons. The scores for these combined events were as follows: Hares 132, Lions 100, Springboks 138 and Zebras 108.

What began as a potentially gloomy day transformed into a delightful afternoon filled with high spirits. The atmosphere was lively, fueled by the infectious energy of the house war cries that kept the girls motivated throughout the day. As the day progressed, the Springboks maintained their lead and emerged victorious.

The final results were as follows:

1 st Springboks	506
2 nd Hares	420
3 rd Zebras	367
4 th Lions	319

Congratulations to the following certificate winners:

800m

- Grade 4 Shelley Gordon-Bennett
- Grade 5 Katherine Davidson
- Grade 6 Maryam Kaka
- Grade 7 Maya Mgcina

High jump

- Grade 4 Nefertiti Kgositsile
- Grade 5 Katherine Davidson
- Grade 6 Isabella Crawford
- Grade 7 Emma Simpson

Long jump

- Grade 4 Nefertiti Kgositsile
- Grade 5 Katherine Davidson
- Grade 6 Onella Sebati
- Grade 7 Emma Simpson

Overall Grade winners

- Grade 4 Nefertiti Kgositsile
- Grade 5 Katherine Davidson
- Grade 6 Onella Sebati
- Grade 7 Maya Mgcina



Phenyo Mabona and Lesedi Madonsela



Salma Baccus



Maya Mgcina with her mother Heloise Mgcina



Letlotlo Mogopodi and Courtney Biggs



Hannah Mazhande

SPORT SUCCESS AT ST MARYS 2023

“The only one who can tell you ‘you can’t win’ is you, and you don’t have to listen.”—Jessica Ennis-Hill

Athletics

Senior

- Won inter-high

Junior

- Won Junior Prestige

Basketball

Senior

- 1st team lost only one local league match in Term III
- U14 team was unbeaten, in the local league
- Three girls were selected for the City of Johannesburg U15 team that played in the OR Tambo Social Cohesion Games

Diving

Senior

- Won Summer Splash
- 2nd at National Aquatics Festival
- 2nd at inter-high
- Nine provincial representatives
- Two girls competed at the Dresden Youth International
- One girl competed at the World Championships in Fukuoka, Japan

Junior

- Won inter-schools for the 16th year in a row
- Two girls competed at U16 nationals
- Six provincial representatives

Equestrian

Senior

- 4th at Gauteng finals - the top Johannesburg school
- Ten Provincial representatives
- Two South African representatives

Junior

- 14th at Gauteng finals
- Five provincial representatives

Hockey

Senior

- 1st team ended the 2023 season ranked 5th in the country
- Made the final of the St Mary’s Festival (for the first time since 2016)
- Sixteen provincial players
- One representative in each of South African U18A, U18B and U16A

Junior

- No official inter-schools league
- Four Grade 6s made the D9 team
- Two Grade 7s made the D9 team



Netball

Senior

- St Mary's U15 Netball Festival doubled in size (from 12 teams to 24 teams)
- First-ever live streaming of English school netball matches (St Mary's vs St Andrew's)
- U15 A team qualified for Gauteng Championships
- D13 B team championships - St Mary's had all age groups (U14-U18) qualify for these championships
- Overall 2nd place in the district league

Junior

- No official inter-schools league
- U13 A came 3rd at the St Andrew's U13 Netball tournament

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Senior

- Three gymnasts represented Gauteng at Gym Games

Junior

- Forty-four Provincial representatives
- Four gymnasts represented Gauteng at Gym Games
- One gymnast in level 7, received a gold medal for her free dance at the Gym Games
- Three of the Junior School ball groups represented Gauteng at Gym Games

Rowing

Senior only

- Won Boat Race in December 2022
- Won South African Rowing Championships in March
- Won Gauteng Rowing Championships in November
- Six girls were selected for the U16 South African Schools Rowing Development Team
- Three girls represented South Africa in Paris at U19 Rowing World Championships

Squash

Senior

- Won Gauteng Top Schools' squash
- Won two leagues
- One South African Top 10 representative

Junior

- Played league

Swimming

Senior

- Won Summer Splash
- 2nd at National Aquatics
- Won inter-high A and B galas (first time in history)
- Four girls qualified for Senior Nationals
- Four girls qualified for Junior Nationals
- Four girls swam for Gauteng schools

Junior

- Won the A 50m final gala
- Won the A 25m final gala
- Won the B 25m final gala (C team)
- One swimmer represented South Africa



Tennis

Senior

- Won Senior inter-high (25 schools participated in this event)
- Won the Premier League
- Two players in the U19A GC Provincial team.

Junior

- Won the Independent Schools Tournament at Sun City
- Came second in Gauteng North, East and Central in the BNP Rising Stars Primary School event
- Two provincial representatives



Water polo

Senior

- Placed 3rd at Roedean Prestige
- Placed 10th at the St Stithians Stayers tournament
- Fifteen provincial reps

Junior

- Placed 2nd at the St Mary's U13 championship
- Placed 8th at the St Stithians invitational tournament
- Nine provincial representatives



ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL

SWIMMING

On Wednesday 15 November, a group of our Grades 1 to 3 girls participated enthusiastically in the Auckland Park Preparatory Gala - an annual event hosted by APPS with the aim of introducing Junior Primary girls to swimming competitions. Despite the chilly morning weather, the girls showed remarkable determination and resilience, refusing to be deterred by the cold conditions. We have not spent a lot of time in the pool this term owing to the recent rainy weather and cold spell, but despite these challenges, the girls displayed unwavering excitement, particularly the Grade 1s who were experiencing a gala for the first time. Well done to all the swimmers. We look forward to working with all the girls and watching them as their skills and confidence develop.

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



DIVING

Inter-schools’ diving

On 11 November, the Junior School’s diving teams competed in their final competition of the year, inter-schools’. There was a sense of expectation among the diving girls leading up to the event as St Mary’s has sustained a 15-year winning streak for both the A and B teams - this year was the possible 16th... Inter-schools’ is a prestigious diving event and the divers train and compete all year to prepare themselves for the contest. Schools are given their final placings at the inter-schools’ competition.

The individual results are as follows:

A team:

Grade 3

Isabel Cilliers 2nd
Erin Kydd-Bennett 1st

Grade 4

Keira Gordon-Bennett 4th
Shelley Gordon-Bennett 3rd

Grade 5

Jasmine Woodburn 12th
Pakane Kekana 2nd

Grade 6

Isabella Crawford 2nd
Olivia Coetzer 1st

Grade 7

Indigo Woodburn 10th
Mia Diana 2nd

B Team:

Grade 3

Tisha Zibengwa 2nd
Angelina Joseph 1st

Grade 4

Maya Bagoon 3rd
Amelie Stout 1st

Grade 5

Katherine Davidson 3rd
Alexia Watson 1st

Grade 6

Juliette Van Barkenhuizen 2nd
Isabel Harris 1st

Overall results:

A teams

- 1st St Mary’s Waverley
- 2nd St Andrew’s School For Girls
- 3rd Roedean School (SA)
- 4th Kingsmead College
- 5th Brescia House School
- 6th St Stithians Girls Prep
- 7th St Dominic’s Catholic School For Girls

B teams

- 1st St Mary’s Waverley
- 2nd St Andrew’s School For Girls
- 3rd Brescia House School
- 4th Roedean School (SA)
- 5th St Stithians Girls Prep
- 6th Kingsmead College
- 7th St Dominic’s Catholic School For Girls

We are delighted that both the A and B teams won the event and that the St Mary’s Junior School diving team has maintained its 16-year winning streak!

KATE SHEPHERD
HEAD OF DIVING

DIVING CONTINUED



Tisha Zibengwa and Angelina Joseph



Shelley Gordon-Bennett, Pakane Kekana, Keira Gordon-Bennett



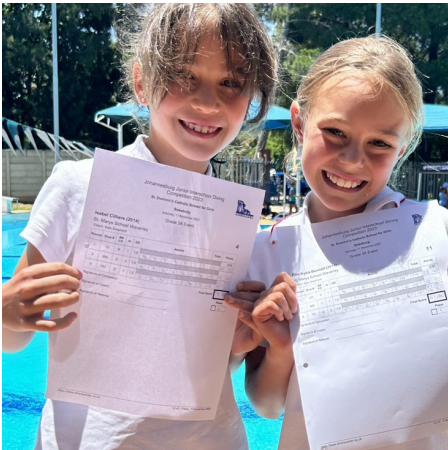
Olivia Coetzer, Mia Diana, Isabella Crawford



Katherine Davidson, Alexia Watson



Isabelle Harris, Juliette van Barkenhuizen



Isabel Cilliers, Erin Kydd-Bennett



Amelie Stout, Maya Bagoon

TENNIS

The Grades 2 and 3 tennis players participated in two tennis festivals at St Mary’s last week. On Thursday, tennis players from St Benedict’s, St Dunstan’s, APPS, St Stithians and St Peter’s participated in a fun event and on Friday all the St Mary’s Grade 2 and 3 players competed against each other. The tennis players thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

KAREN CORBETT
ASSISTANT TENNIS COACH



Grade 2 tennis festival



Grade 3 group tennis



Thakane Ntseare in action

WATER POLO

Water polo has been making waves at the Junior School level, with the U13 team (comprising grade 6 and 7 girls) showcasing their prowess in recent tournaments. The season has been marked by outstanding achievements and a promising display of talent.

The U13 team’s stellar performance at the St Mary’s U13 Championships earlier in the season clinched them a commendable second place. Despite facing stiff competition at the prestigious Saints Junior Invitational, a competition that brings together the top 20 schools from across South Africa and Zimbabwe, the U13s secured an impressive eighth place overall.

The Junior School water polo programme expanded its horizons when the Grade 5 girls took to the pool for their inaugural match on Friday, November 17. Their enthusiasm was palpable, and they displayed exemplary sportsmanship to emerge victorious against St Dominic’s with a scoreline of 14-10.

The U13 team’s triumphs and the Grade 5 players’ promising start serve as inspiration for young girls to dive into the world of water polo. Beyond the competitive aspect, the focus remains on fostering a love for the game, building lifelong skills, and instilling values that extend far beyond the pool.

ANKE PIRIE
SPORTS TEACHER



SOCCER

On Saturday 4 November, our soccer teams played their first fixture of the season. The teams had practised for one week only, but they were all keen and excited to play. St Mary’s and St Andrew’s hosted a triangular with Holy Rosary and the results were as follows:

	Holy Rosary	St Andrew’s
Grade 4A	Won 1-0	Lost 0-3
Grade 5A	Drew 1-1	Won 1-0
Grade 5B	Lost 0-1	Won 4-0
Grade 5C	-	Won 1-0
Grade 6A	Won 1-0	Won 2-0
Grade 6B	-	Won 3-0
Grade 7A	Lost 0-1	-
Grade 7B	Drew 1-1	-



On Friday 10 November, the soccer teams participated in a fixture against Roedean and the results were as follows:

- Grade 4 A lost 0-1
- Grade 5 A won 1-0
- Grade 5 B drew 0-0
- Grade 5 C won 1-0
- Grade 6 A won 2-1
- Grade 6 B lost 0-4
- Grade 7 A lost 1-3
- Grade 7 B drew 0-0



On Saturday 18 November the soccer teams participated in a triangular with St Andrew’s and St Peter’s and the results were as follows:

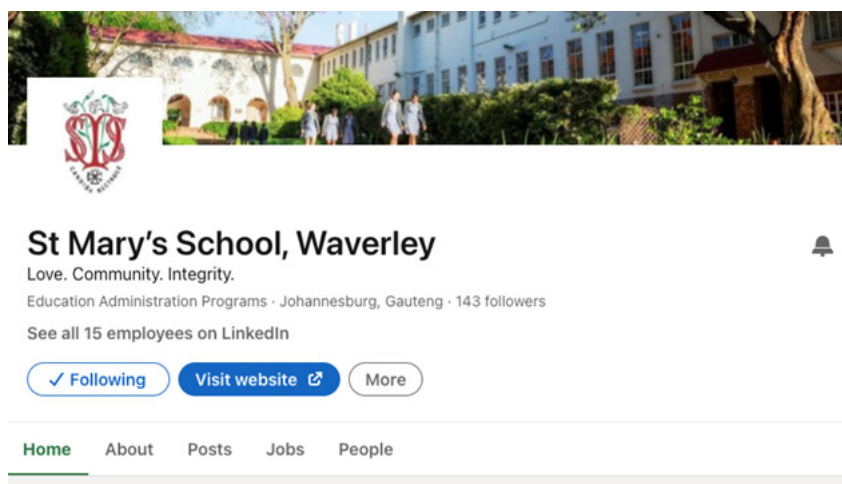
	St Andrew’s	St Peter’s
Grade 4A	Drew 0-0	Lost 0-1
Grade 5A	Won 2-0	Lost 0-3
Grade 5B	Lost 0-1	Lsot 0-3
Grade 5C	-	Lost 0-3
Grade 6A	Won 3-0	Lost 0-1
Grade 6B	Won 2-0	Won 3-3
Grade 7A	Lost 0-1	Won 2-0
Grade 7B	Won 2-1	Drew 1-1



ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL

NOTICES

ST MARY'S LINKEDIN HANDLE



Account name: St Mary's School, Waverley

The modern generation requires modern innovations. We are pleased to announce that St Mary's recently added to our digital presence. LinkedIn is a platform used by employers and employees, but it extends beyond the world of employment. LinkedIn allows for better connection between members within an organisation. St Mary's has created a LinkedIn profile in order to help notify Old Girls, parents, and prospective students of upcoming events and current achievements. We hope to help present students find job shadowing opportunities, and to help past students with job placements through this digital community. Our profile will allow students from every decade to keep in contact, along with validating the claimed qualities seen on student profiles. The benefits of this platform can be reaped by all members of the St Mary's community.

Connect to our LinkedIn page, and help us to paint the metaverse red.

LUCA BOTES

Form V (and champion of the St Mary's LinkedIn account)

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 that 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.