



We celebrated our Patronal Festival (St Mary's 133rd birthday) on Thursday 27 May. Pictured, from left to right, cutting the birthday cake: Siphosethu Mnguni (2021 head girl), Emma Lowndes, Marion Sigamoney, Deanne King, Khanya Gcabashe, Sarah Warner, Laila Fowler, Ande Dhlomo (2021 deputy head girl), Samantha Pringle (2021 deputy head girl). Emma, Marion, Khanya and Laila all had birthdays on Thursday 27 May

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Last week, delegates at the first-ever online SAGSA Conference (with the theme 'INSIGHT: Wellness and Belonging') had to physically lean into their computers to catch every word of Professor Thulisile 'Thuli' Madonsela's session. The already softly spoken Professor was battling technical difficulties as she addressed us from her home in the Western Cape where she holds the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice at the University of Stellenbosch. In a week in which South Africa's vaccination roll-out and the Israel-Palestinian conflict dominated news headlines, Prof Madonsela's quiet but firm assertion that "On many levels, today is better than yesterday" startled us into devout attention.

At St Mary's and other independent schools, our minds were preoccupied with the temporary suspension of contact sport and amended directions on co-curricular activities, including choir rehearsals and performance. The announcement brought a few weeks of exhilarating inter-school activity and encounter to an immediate end; it also meant that preparations at St Mary's for this week's Patronal Festival celebrations had to be curtailed, and that some voices - of the singing variety - could not be featured in our recorded service, as planned. These setbacks are felt keenly by the girls and the rest of our community and it takes an intervention, on the scale of Madonsela, for us to adjust our perspective, train our thoughts elsewhere, and attune ourselves to those non-trivial "many levels".

This time last year - yesterday in Madonsela's formulation - we were longing to return to campus. Looking back, our sense of relief is palpable in the words we wrote to our community in the first week of June: "The Grade 7 and matric girls are safely back on campus, and the school is properly awake." Our country and our school were awake - rudely awoken by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis as well as acts of brutality at home with the death of Collins Khosa in Alexandra - and trying to find each other again across divisions deepened by hard lockdown and the deficient engagement offered by social media.

A year later, we are still on campus, together, doing the necessary work that came out of that time and which informed our own process last year with the advocate's report on allegations of discrimination, and the Mandate Molefe survey. The Senior School girls as well as senior members of the Board, management, academic and administrative staff have all engaged openly with the first round of racial literacy workshops led by Lovelyn Nwadeyi and her team, and the Board hosted the first of two webinars to connect with parents this week.

In among all of this, we remain committed to the special responsibilities that come with the education of girls and our shared obligation at an all-girls' institution to learn how to lift each other up. The poem below by English spoken word performer and poet, Kae (formerly Kate) Tempest brought tears to the eyes of a Grade 7 English class last week. I think you will understand why.

The boys have football and skate ramps.
They can ride BMX
and play basketball in the courts by the flats until midnight.
The girls have shame.

One day,
when we are grown and we have minds of our own,
we will be kind women, with nice smiles and families and jobs.
And we will sit,
with the weight of our lives and our pain
pushing our bodies down into the bus seats,
and we will see thirteen-year-old girls for what will seem like the first
time since we've been them,
and they will be sitting in front of us, laughing
into their hands at our shoes or our jackets,
and rolling their eyes at each other.

While out of the window, in the sunshine,
the boys will be cheering each other on,
and daring each other to jump higher and higher.

On many levels, today, in St Mary's 133rd year, is better than yesterday. It is our duty - a duty of love - to keep working on tomorrow, "daring each other to jump higher and higher."

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

We celebrated our Patronal Festival on Thursday 27 May, close to the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (31 May), the patron saint of our school. The Patronal Festival is affectionately known as the school's birthday - 133 years old this year!

In years prior to Covid-19, Grades 2 - 12 and staff would gather in the Senior School Close for a celebratory Eucharist at which choirs and ensembles from across the school would lead the community in musical worship. Following the Eucharist, all the pupils would have gathered on the fields for a picnic.

Owing to lockdown regulations this year, it was not possible to gather such a large number of people together at a time, however, we were still able to celebrate in smaller groups. I led a Bible ring with the Little Saints on Tuesday, and gathered services in the chapel with the Junior Primary girls on Thursday, the theme of which was the Patronal Festival. The Little Saints asked to pray for beautifully coloured rainbows for the school's birthday, and for love for everyone.

Grades 4 - 12 watched a pre-recorded service, in which Bishop Steve Moreo, the Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, preached on Psalm 81:1-7 and Luke 1:39-49. Bishop Steve highlighted how God emphasised the value of Mary and Elizabeth in God's eyes, and citing our values of love, community and integrity, our Bishop encouraged us as the St Mary's School community "to never shame the other person but honour each other just like Mary and Elizabeth did". The prayers following the sermon were themed around the nurturing, motherly nature of God. Grade 7 - 12 girls assisted in leading parts of the spoken liturgy. The Senior School choir, instrumental ensemble, and Junior Primary Singing Angels all led choral or instrumental items throughout the service, including our school hymn, *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*. English, Sesotho, Afrikaans and isiZulu featured throughout the liturgy.

At different times of the day, different sections of the school held their picnics to celebrate the school's birthday. It was heart-warming to see children of all ages simply playing, their uniforms in various stages of disarray: ties around their heads, shoes off, shirts untucked. Our Senior School spirit squad moved across the school in order to lead smaller groups in the school war cry, *Oh When the Saints!*.

I am grateful to Dudley Trollope, George Potgieter and the music staff and girls, for the wonderful musical items in the pre-recorded service, and to the girls who led the spoken liturgy so beautifully. Thank you to Sasha Ehlers and Thabo Kunutu for their assistance in recording the various components of the service and compiling the service as a whole. Thanks also to all who sought to ensure that the day was a special school birthday for our pupils and staff, including events, support and catering staff.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN



Bishop Steve Moreo



LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

This week, the Grade 00 children had the opportunity to learn and play with numbers. They learnt numbers in a fun way, watching the numbers magically appear as they painted each square. They also explored numbers through sensory play.

The Grade 000 children have been engaging in a variety of tasks which further enhance their development. They used a multisensory approach in identifying number symbols through placing loose parts and playdough onto printed numbers and through drawing on various sensory materials such as rice. Through games and fine motor tasks, the children have been exploring two-dimensional shapes by cutting into different media and they have created beautiful necklaces with patterns made of two colours. After looking at themselves closely in a mirror, the children created body images. They built puzzles of varying sizes and constructed towers with large blocks. The children tackled the tasks with enthusiasm and real enjoyment.

CELIA DIANA
HOD: LITTLE SAINTS



GRADE 1 NEWS

Grade 1C worked very hard to learn their lines for their assembly which was based on the book, *The world needs more purple people* written by Kristen Bell and Benjamin Hart. The girls explained that a purple person is an everyday superhero. They shared illustrations on who they believe everyday superheroes are and who is an everyday superhero to them.

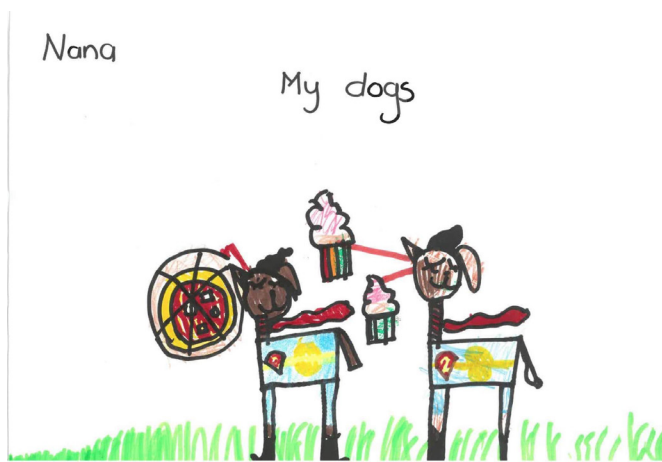
JACKY CACIOPPO
GRADE 1 TEACHER



Eldana Yanore



Ina de Villiers



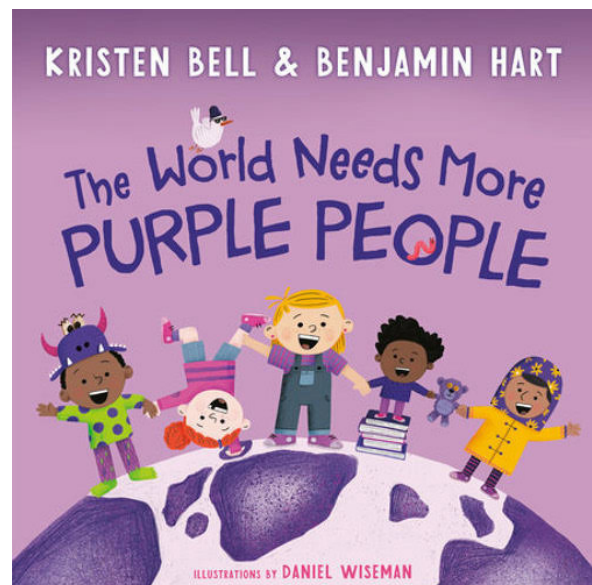
Nana Appiah



Ndanatswa Kujenga



Nikita Indhul



GRADE 5 AND 6 NEWS

The Grade 5 and 6 girls enjoyed familiarising themselves with the two types of microscopes in our laboratory: the dissecting microscope and the compound microscope. The Grade 5s wrote an essay on the history of the microscope and put their observation skills to the test by drawing detailed diagrams of various specimens. The Grade 6s worked on comparing the structure and function of the two microscopes. They compiled notes based on research, a demonstration, and their experience of using the microscopes.

The history of microscopes by Sasha Corrigan

Microscopes are a very old tool. They are almost 500 years old. They were created by Zacharias and Hans Janssen. The inventors were already lens makers. They discovered microscopes when they were experimenting with lenses. They put a lens at the top of a tube and another on the bottom. They called it a 'flea' glass because they used it to look at insects.

As technology slowly improved, a scientist called Anton van Leeuwenhoek created a lens strong enough to see bacteria. After that, the technology of microscopes got better and better. Marcello Marpighi, the father of microscopic anatomy, found taste buds and red blood cells. Robert Hooke discovered cells by studying the honeycomb structure of a cork under the microscope. Robert Koch used a compound microscope to discover tuberculosis and cholera. A German engineer named Carl Zeiss revolutionised the quality of lenses in the 19th century. In 2013, research with microscopes showed how life could have started.

To this day we are still using microscopes. They have allowed us to make new discoveries, diagnose diseases and help people. They do a great service. Thanks to all the people who have created and improved microscopes. What would be happening in the world without them right now?

ANGIE JENNETT
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



FROM THE MEDIA CENTRE

We have been so lucky to display the beautiful books created by our Junior Primary classes in the library. It has been wonderful seeing the older girls engage with and read the books, and the girls have felt such pride in seeing their work on display. Mrs Trollip even had a girl ask if she could check her own book out on library day. The Grade 0s had to illustrate their interpretation of *The Three Billy-Goats Gruff*, the Grade 1s and 2s wrote and illustrated their books as a class, and the Grade 3s investigated what it would be like if they had certain animal qualities. The books the girls made in their Afrikaans, isiZulu and Sesotho classes are also on display.

ROSA ELK
SENIOR PRIMARY LIBRARIAN



MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to Valentina Passoni who passed her online ABRSM Grade 2 violin examination with Distinction. Well done, Valentina!

DUDLEY TROLLOPE
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Sweethearts Foundation is holding an inter-school competition to see who can collect the most bread tags and plastic bottle tops. The collected tops and tags are recycled into photo frames, seed trays and other items which are then sold. The money from these sales are used to buy wheelchairs for those in need. Topsy and Tagz (Megan Arnold and Ella Sproule) presented at three assemblies and made the girls and boys aware of the collection points at school. Please support this worthwhile cause. Every bottle top and tag counts! The school that collects the most tags and tops will win a playground bench. We thought, if we win, we could donate the bench to another school.

DI GORDON
DEPUTY HEAD: JUNIOR SCHOOL



NETBALL

We played our first netball matches this term against King David Linksfield. There was huge excitement, as well as some anxiety among the Grade 4s, and our girls played well. The results were as follows:

Grade 4A lost 2-4
 Grade 4B won 10-1
 Grade 4C won 6-3
 Grade 4D lost 0-10
 Grade 4E won 2-1

Grade 5 A won 7-1
 Grade 5 B lost 1-3
 Grade 5 C won 20-2
 Grade 5 D won 5-0
 Grade 5E drew 2-2

Grade 6A won 5-2
 Grade 6B drew 4-4
 Grade 6C won 4-0
 Grade 6D won 13-2
 Grade 6E won 7-1

Grade 7A won 5-4
 Grade 7B won 13-6
 Grade 7C won 9-0
 Grade 7D drew 2-2
 Grade 7E lost 0-9

Grade 3 Netball fixture vs St Peter's

On Thursday 13 May, the Grade 3s played their first netball match against St Peter's. There was great excitement among the girls while they travelled on the bus to the fixture. Various matches were played during the afternoon and the girls learnt a lot. Every girl who participated demonstrated enthusiasm and represented St Mary's well.

On Friday 14 May all our netball teams had an opportunity to play against St Peter's Girls Prep and the results were as follows:

Grade 4A won 5-3
 Grade 4B won 6-5
 Grade 4C won 3-2
 Grade 4D drew 2-2
 Grade 4E won 5-0
 Grade 4F drew 2-2

Grade 5 A won 7-3
 Grade 5 B lost 3-5
 Grade 5 C lost 5-6
 Grade 5 D lost 1-2
 Grade 5E drew 2-2
 Grade 5F lost 2-3

Grade 6A lost 5-8
 Grade 6B lost 4-5
 Grade 6C won 8-2
 Grade 6D lost 2-4
 Grade 6E lost 0-7
 Grade 6F won 1-0

Grade 7A lost 6-11
 Grade 7B won 2-1
 Grade 7C lost 4-7
 Grade 7D won 10-3
 Grade 7E lost 0-9
 Grade 7F lost 0-10

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
 HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

The St Mary's Invitational was held on Saturday 15 May. Ten rhythmic clubs entered with gymnasts from Pretoria, Brits, Johannesburg, Witbank and the Vaal. Two hundred and fifty gymnasts took part with strict Covid-19 safety precautions in place. Thank you to the team of parents who assisted with the scoring, photographs, screening, catering and general organisation. Thank you also to Molebo Pitje, our junior rhythmic captain, her mother Nonkululeko, and her family who worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the event. The judges and St Mary's coaches were delighted with the lovely wine and products from Revlon donated by Khudusela Pitje, father of Lelo and Molebo, and Tarryn Gordon-Bennett, mother of Keira and Shelley.

Zeinab Kone in Form I took part in the South African rhythmic trail on 15 May. Zeinab now ranks in the top eight junior rhythmic gymnasts in South Africa.

LINDA GIURICICH
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS COACH



EQUESTRIAN

SANESA inter-schools qualifier 2.
22-23 May 2021 at Kyalami Equestrian Park

Well done to all of our Junior School riders and their ponies!

- Five riders
- Six horses
- 24 classes entered
- Seven placings
- One first place
- Three second places
- Two fourth places

Notable achievements of each rider:

Name	Horse	Place	Discipline
Harper Bate	Dreamer	11 th	Show Jumping: 50cm 2 Phase
Astrid Blair	Pegasus Chalcedony	5 th 10 th	Dressage: Preliminary Equitation: Level 1
Katherine Deacon	Waterside Sea Whistle	2 nd 4 th	Prix Caprilli: Beginner Test 3 Prix Caprilli: Beginner Test 4
Mia-Ann Terblanche	Bentley	1 st 2 nd 2 nd	Equitation: Level 0 Dressage: Level 0 Show Jumping: 40cm
Ella Mundell	Zenzele Starstruck	6 th	Show Jumping: 60cm A2

MELANIE BLAIR
TEACHER IN CHARGE



Astrid Blair on Pegasus Chalcedony



Ella Mundell on Zanzele Starstruck



Mia-Ann Terblanche on Bentley

NOTICES

MUSE MORNING - TUESDAY 1 JUNE

Please join us for our Term II Muse Morning:

Date: Tuesday 1 June

Time: 08h30 to 09h30

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86105444526?pwd=d21uYjBXRWw4UkJPm2dBG9kMnM1dz09>

Meeting ID: 861 0544 4526

Passcode: 508553

Speaker: Esther Chunga

Join Esther as she engages with the challenges faced by our children with schooling in the wake of the pandemic and reflecting on our expectations and how we can manage these.

Esther Chunga is a counselling psychologist and she is the clinical director at Ububele Educational and Psychotherapy Trust. Ububele is a community-based organisation that attempts to address the emotional trauma of South Africa's past and the effects of ongoing poverty and inequality by supporting children and families.

In her role, Esther is very involved in the therapy and assessment clinic, as well as the Parent-Infant Psychotherapy division, which offers new born consultations at a local hospital.

She is also part of community interventions, including the Ububele bus outreach project. Esther also runs a private practice and she sees adults, children, adolescents and couples.

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.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.

TERM III CALENDAR CHANGE

Please take note of the following calendar change: Term III starts on Wednesday 8 September owing to staff attending transformation and diversity workshops.