



Junior Primary assembly in The Edge

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

This week was marked by more or less important events, beginning with national voting day on Monday, and ending with the historically English commemoration of Guy Fawkes or bonfire night today. In between, the Grade 6 and 7 girls began writing their end-of-year formal assessments on Wednesday, the Junior Primary girls held a Music assembly in The Edge, our Hindu community embarked on their annual Diwali celebrations on Thursday, and the Junior School continued to prepare for the series of valedictory events and rites of passage that bring the year to a close. The good news, of course, is that regulations constraining onsite parent attendance at school events have been relaxed; at last, we can look forward to welcoming you onto campus to attend and enliven the functions we have planned for the next few weeks.

In a meeting with the Grade 7 mentor teachers and class representatives last week, we were confronted by the usual problem of running out of time in which to realise and execute our extensive plans. This mismatch - between the time we have left and what we would like to accomplish in it - is one we face every year, with varying degrees of alarm, equanimity, and humour. The announcement of an additional public holiday on 1 November, while readily understood as necessary by the staff, was also cause for consternation - as the days before the end of term dwindle, and time marches on, all the teachers want is to be on campus with the children. November brings with it a focus on the leave-taking rituals of the Grade 7s, but we should spare a thought, also, for the younger girls and their mixed emotions as they prepare to meet their new teachers over the next few weeks and to step bravely into the next grade in 2022.

A new year brings with it new teachers, adventures, and expectations; it also marks the departure of some of our families, including those of our Grade 00 boys and our Grade 7 girls (to Senior School at St Mary's or elsewhere) who we shall acknowledge in assemblies and chapel - and several of our staff. Teena Lowndes, Rulane Mthembu and Sallie Pettit retire at the end of the year; Carrie Firth, Caron Lawrence, Rosemary Ncobela, Lerato Shuping, Lynn Trollip and Nadine Wheeler leave us to pursue other opportunities. We give thanks for their selfless service and tender care, knowing that we shall miss them and the singular contribution they make to the Junior School. In a week that includes Diwali celebrations, it seems fitting to wish that their way be lit with prosperity and joy - and to reflect on our good fortune in knowing them these past years.

There is much to reflect on as we begin the strenuous process of writing reports, collating marks for the older girls, and documenting our observations for the term. The staff sessions with Lovelyn Nwadeyi (L&N Advisors) concluded last week, but the Grades 6 and 7 girls will enjoy the opportunity to spend some time with her after writing their assessments. I expect that the girls, like their teachers, will be enriched and challenged by their exposure to diverse thinking and empowered through their introduction to practical tools and approaches to resolving conflict, learning to apologise, and appreciating the difference between impact and intention. We look forward to maintaining the momentum of the training through our deliberate use of the tools we have been given, and the constant practice of learning, listening, and trying to do better.

My sincere wishes to our Hindu families for a happy and safe Diwali - I look forward to seeing all our parents on campus to celebrate our children, the joy and light they have brought us this year.

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The Lord is my shepherd,
I need nothing more.
You give me rest in green meadows,
setting me near calm waters,
where you revive my spirit.

You guide me along sure paths,
you are true to your name.
Though I should walk
in death's dark valley,
I fear no evil with you by my side,
your shepherd's staff to comfort me.

You spread a table before me
as my foes look on.
You soothe my head with oil;
my cup is more than full.

Goodness and love will tend me
every day of my life.
I will dwell in the house of the Lord
as long as I shall live.

(Translation: ICEL Psalter)

Psalm 23 is well-known; what is striking about it is the comparison it draws. It presents us with an image of God as a shepherd. In our Senior Primary chapel service, we looked at the psalm as David telling us how he understands and experiences God. This approach led to some interesting and fruitful discussions in which the girls shared their images of to whom or to what they would compare God.

The good thing about the discussion is that it allowed the girls to engage with scripture and grow their understanding of God. As a priest, I have to resist the temptation to give the girls ready-made answers and images of God. I have to remember, prayer is friendship with God; just as we each find our ways of friendship, we all need to experiment and try things out to find our way of being friends with God.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN



LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

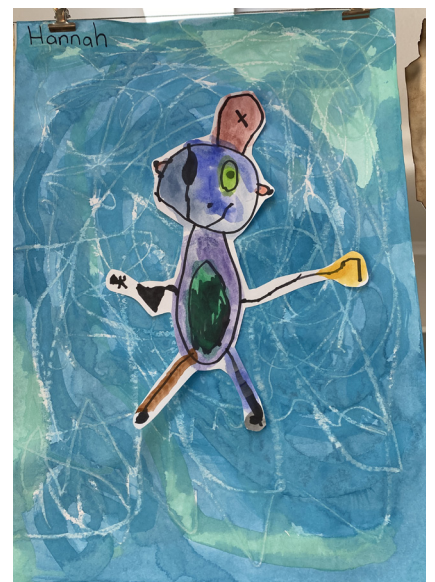
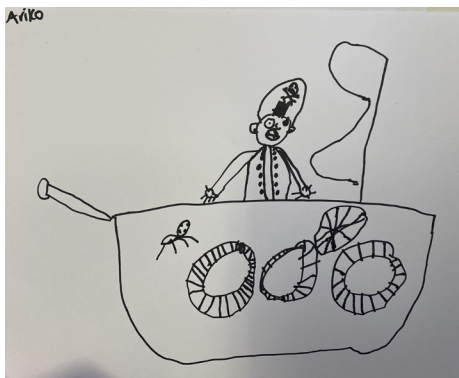
An investigation into treasures and pirates

The children at Little Saints are often finding and collecting “treasures” in their school day. What attracts them to these items so much that they feel the need to collect them? Children are experts at finding items that are often overlooked by adults: some small, some big, some shiny, some plain. We decided to take a closer look at this by exploring treasure. The teachers set up a special box in the classroom and asked the children to place any collected treasure in it. Which items would capture their attention?

Our conversations with the children led to discussions about pirates. The children told us what they knew about pirates and drew them. We then researched pirate maps and their symbols and the children made their own pirate paper and designed their own map. The children studied pictures of pirate ships and they drew their own ships using various painting techniques.

The investigation of treasure and pirates culminated in the children designing their own bandannas and wearing them proudly on Special Persons Day!

AMY KAY
LITTLE SAINTS ATELIERISTA



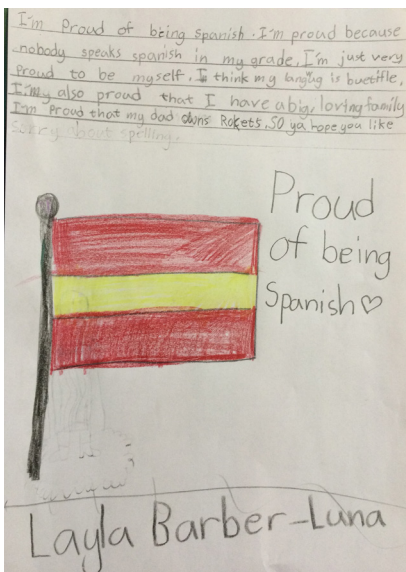
GRADE 3 NEWS

Book Review of *The Proudest Blue* - source: <https://booklounge.co.za/kids/the-proudest-blue/>

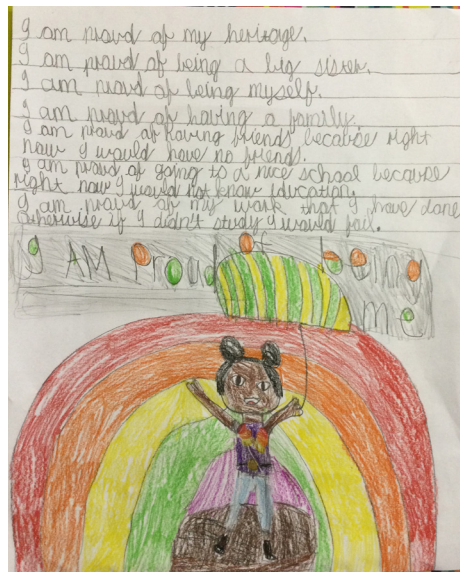
With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab - a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, "like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

Paired with Hatem Aly's beautiful, whimsical art, Olympic medalist and social justice activist, Ibtihaj Muhammad together with Canadian author, S K Ali bring readers an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond between siblings, and of being proud of who you are.

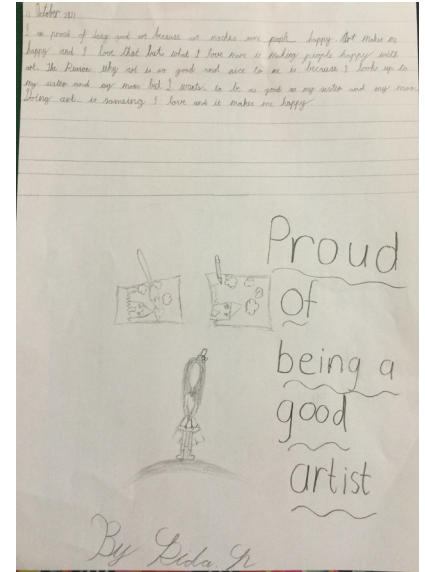
THE GRADE 3 TEACHERS



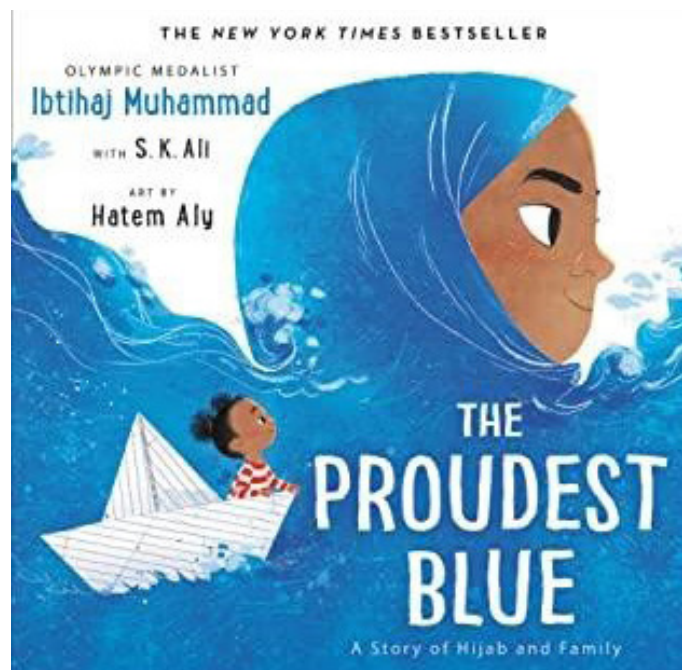
Layla Barber-Luna



Mulwi Mulaudzi



Rida Nosarka

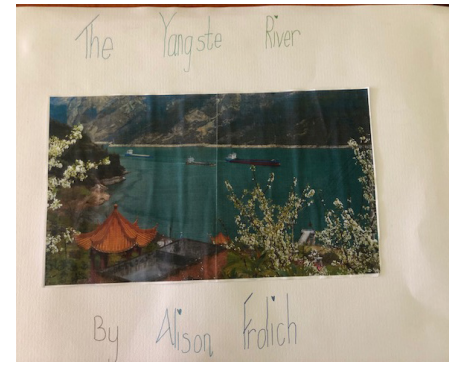
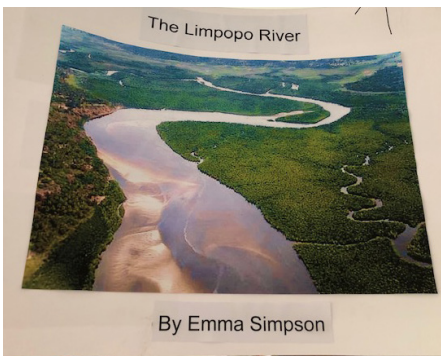


GRADE 5 NEWS

The Grade 5 girls studied rivers this term in Geography. They had to apply their knowledge and newly acquired terminology by completing a research task on a specific river in the world.

These are some of their front covers. The girls enjoyed learning how to research their topic and present a project on cardboard.

ROBYN RICHMOND
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

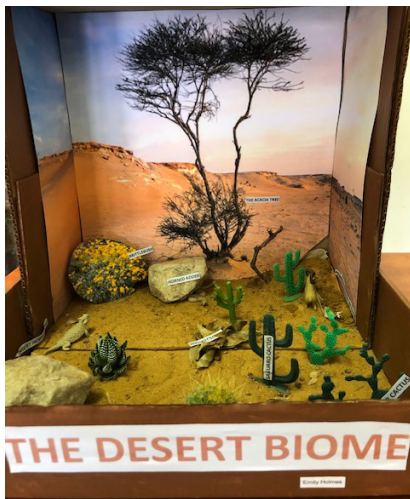


GRADE 6 NEWS

Biomes in a box

The girls completed a research task and presented it as a 3-D “biome in a box” to their peers. Their presentations were excellent.

ROBYN RICHMOND
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



DANCE

The St Mary's ballet girls congratulated Lalela Mswane on being crowned Miss South Africa when we celebrated World Ballet Day on Wednesday 20 October.

Some of our girls entered the Gauteng Dance Festival and were thrilled to be back on stage after almost two years. The dancers did extremely well and we are proud to announce the following:

Emma Home, Cassiah-Jade Cabral and Hayley van Niekerk in Grade 4 were awarded an A+ for their quartet.

Mia Diana in Grade 5 was awarded an A for her trio.

Holly Cairns, Kimaya Shah-Naidoo and Imogen Gunning were awarded an A+ for their trio.

CLAIRE VAN NIEKERK
DANCE AND DRAMA TEACHER

Our Miss SA 2021 is a ballet dancer. Look at that structure. Miss Lalela Mswane, **congratulations** sisi.



Celebrating the new Miss SA



Grade 0s



Grade 2s



Grade 4s



Grade 4s



Boipelo Mophosho in Grade 5

DANCE CONTINUED



Cassiah-Jade Cabral, Hayley van Niekerk, Chiara Buckham, Emma Home.



Mia Diana in Grade 5 was awarded an A for her trio.



Kimaya Shah-Naidoo, Willemien Jerling (modern dance teacher), Imogen Gunning, Holly Cairns.

MUSIC NEWS

The Senior Primary marimba band welcomed all the new parents of 2022 to the New Parents' Evening held on Thursday 28 October. This was the first performance the girls gave in 18 months and they did St Mary's proud.

GEORGE POTGIETER
HOD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



WATER POLO

Congratulations to the following girls who have made their respective age-group Gauteng teams. They will compete at the SA Schools' inter-provincial water polo tournament that will take place in Cape Town from 15 to 19 December 2021.

These girls have been training hard throughout the year and we wish them all the best of luck for their upcoming competition.

Emily Dickinson	U13A Gauteng Team
Jayden de Bruin	U12A Gauteng Team
Reabiloe Kodisang	U12A Gauteng Team

KELSEY THOMSON
HEAD OF AQUATICS



Emily Dickinson



Jayden de Bruin



Reabiloe Kodisang

ATHLETICS

On Friday 29 October, the athletics team participated in their last meeting for the year. In a typical year, this meeting would have been the Prestige inter-school event where all the girls' schools compete for the prestigious title and trophy. Our girls treated this final event as such and competed with passion and determination. Our girls placed 1st in the majority of the events, winning the afternoon with a huge lead. I am excited at the prospect of our talented athletes participating in the Prestige inter-school event in the future.

The results were as follows:

St Mary's	605
St Stithians	460
St Andrew's	441
Holy Rosary	378

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL

NOTICES

THE BOOK PEOPLE

We are very excited to host the Book People next week from Wednesday to Friday. They will be bringing a huge selection of affordable books suitable for Grade 0 to Grade 7 readers. We will give the girls an opportunity to browse the books on Wednesday during class time. As they are an outside company, should you and your daughter wish to purchase books, you will need to send your daughter with money in an envelope. We hope it will be an exciting experience!

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.