



The HOPE committee's Boma chat in the Senior Primary hall

## FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

### Dear parents

In our Senior Primary assembly last Friday, I was glad to share the stage with a group of Grade 7 girls, and one Grade 5 pupil, whose only achievement consisted in accepting an invitation to an event held in our hall the evening before. The event was the HOPE committee's Boma chat with St Mary's Old Girl Nomonde Mtshazo, her younger sister, Zingisa Mtshazo, and two parents and grandparents of St Mary's Old Girls, Mrs Elizabeth Khumalo and Dr Peggy Sekele. What made the occasion remarkable, and my reason for including the Grade 7 girls on the invitation list and urging them to attend, is the special place Nomonde occupies in St Mary's history as the school's first black pupil.

The event, organised by HOPE committee chair Refiloe Zephyrine and committee member Sarah Cairns, both parents in the Junior School, was conceived as an evening of informal conversation between Nomonde and her mother in the presence of the St Mary's community (Old Girls, present parents and pupils, and teachers). Unfortunately, Nomonde's mother could not attend owing to the death of an uncle, so her younger sister took part instead. There were four women on stage, all with different stories to tell and wisdom to impart. What became clear as the discussion progressed was how each of their experiences was shaped by their historical and socio-economic context, personal disposition and their encounter with the institutional culture of St Mary's at the time.

The episodic structure of the discussion, with each participant recounting and attempting to distil her experience of the school in response to a question from Refiloe, soon gave way to a more organic and lively exchange

of ideas and opinions, supplemented by observations and questions from the audience as well. This resulted in some challenging cross-generational debate, including valuable reflection on contentious questions of identity (its mobility and sustainability), opportunity and self-knowledge. St Mary's emerged as a flawed but loved institution: one with the power to change lives and empower young women while also inflicting "scars", Zingisa's word, and failing, imaginatively and practically, to close the distance between the apparently rarefied atmosphere of the school and the lived experience of all its pupils.

I decided that one way of measuring the value of the discussion was to test the responses of the Junior School girls who were there on the evening: on Friday morning, I found myself on stage with Alexia Bakos, Tessa Dagut, Toa Dandala, Thiya Kalan, Kiran Louw, Aashi Madhu, Khumo and Kgaugelo Makgato, Tinoonga Musasiwa, and Natalie Simon revisiting the conversation of the night before. Every girl was given a chance to comment and every one of them had something to say – it was clear from the quality and intentness of their observations that they had found the discussion stimulating and entertaining, and that it had shown them how to view their school from a generous but critical perspective. My thanks go to the HOPE committee and the support staff who contributed to the success of the evening, as well as those from the St Mary's community who attended the event, especially the Grade 7 girls: they came and listened and learnt – an achievement too often overlooked.

**DR SARAH WARNER**  
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

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<sup>1</sup>O Lord, our Sovereign,  
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
 You have set your glory above the heavens.  
<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
 you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
 to silence the enemy and the avenger.  
<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
 the moon and the stars that you have established;  
<sup>4</sup> what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
 mortals that you care for them?  
<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
 and crowned them with glory and honour.  
<sup>6</sup> You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
 you have put all things under their feet,  
<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,  
 and also the beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
 whatever passes along the paths of the seas.  
<sup>9</sup> O Lord, our Sovereign,  
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*Psalm 8 (NRSV)*

The writers of the Psalms give poetic words to our deepest emotions in God's presence – words of lament, anger and despair, and also words of praise and of awe. Psalm 8 is one worth reading over and over again, placing ourselves in the position of the speaker of the Psalm, and pausing after each verse to reflect on what we have just said to God and to make that verse our own. It is a Psalm that speaks for itself.

**REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS**  
**CHAPLAIN**



## MEET THE BOARD

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NIGEL CARMAN, CHAIRPERSON



Nigel has traced his firm's association with the school back to at least 1924. His own association with the school started nearly 30 years ago as legal adviser. He joined the Board in 1993 and has been chairman since 2007.

During his tenure as a Board member, Nigel has seen a number of long-term projects come to fruition: the AstroTurf hockey pitch, the Desmond Tutu Science Centre, reinstatement of boarding, the building of The Edge and the Aquatic Centre, and more recently, the upgrades to the Junior School and the sanatorium and counselling centre.

Nigel says the challenges, pressures and demands placed on the school leadership, and particularly on the head, have increased significantly over the past 20 years.

"A school is a very complicated organisation that requires a leader of integrity, vision, resilience and courage. As legal adviser, Board member and as chairperson, it has been my privilege to work with impressive, inspirational people, and to see the energy, enthusiasm and optimism of the girls in their charge."



# MEET THE BOARD CONTINUED

## THE VENERABLE MOSES THABETHE



I was brought up as a Catholic and my formative years were spent in a monastery training towards the ordained ministry. After about nine years of formation, after completion of a Diploma in Philosophy, while studying towards my theological degree at St Joseph's Theological Institute at Cedara, Pietermaritzburg, I decided to leave the Catholic Church and was employed by the Anglican Diocese of Natal to work in the Vocational Training Department. I was ordained a deacon in the Diocese of Natal in 2002 and a priest in 2003. During this time I completed an Honours Degree in Theology at the University of Natal and later, a Master's Degree in Education while being rector of Greyville, Durban, and subsequently rector of Westville. My move to Johannesburg took place in 2012 when I became the chaplain at Bishop Bavin School in Bedfordview. In 2014 I was appointed rector of St Thomas, Linden. My interest in Vocational Formation led to my appointment as rector of School For Ministries for the Diocese of Johannesburg. This involves leading a team that oversees the process of discernment for the ordained ministry from exploration of a vocation to post ordination training and placement of curates – a ministry that is very close to my heart. I am currently, the Archdeacon to the Ordinary (to the Bishop of Johannesburg).

My interests are: reading, studying, listening to music and on my day off you will find me cycling at the Cradle of Humankind. My children, Hope and Lungelo live with their mother in Durban and we get to spend time together during school holidays when they come to stay with me. I look forward to getting to know the rest of the Board members of St Mary's School and participating in the life of the school as the Bishop's Representative on the Board.

# FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### The Ridge Choir Festival

The St Mary's Senior Primary choir attended this year's Ridge Choir Festival on 27 September. The festival took place at the Linder Auditorium allowing for a wonderful showcase of choirs in a more roomy environment. Our girls performed well, showcasing the ever-popular *Beautiful Creatures* inspired by our school play, as well as a medley from the *Greatest Showman*.

The girls sang alongside five other schools for the combined items of the festival, which was made extra special when Richard Cock taught the audience and children an impromptu item called *Unamatotolo*.

### The Sound of Children

*The Sound of Children* concert held on 3 October also took place at the Linder Auditorium.

Our Junior Primary choir, the Singing Angels, joined forces with The Ridge, St Katharine's and Redhill to be conducted by Richard Cock and accompanied by the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra. The Singing Angels

sang a beautiful *Imagination Medley* and they sang several other items as part of a combined choir.

Our very own Emma Frahm-Arp performed as a soloist with the orchestra at this event. She showcased her musical talent on the violin by performing the Allegro Moderato from the *Seitz Concerto No. 5 in D*. She performed with professionalism and aplomb. Well done, Emma. We are very proud of you!

A special thank you to everyone who helped make my birthday a special one. It is not often that you get serenaded by a whole auditorium accompanied by an orchestra. The gift of music is truly the best gift to receive!

**CAROL SHUTTE**  
**HEAD OF MUSIC: JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Dates to diarise	Time	Event	Venue	Participants
Wednesday 24 October	18h00	St Mary's ensemble evening	The Edge	Junior School orchestra
Thursday 1 November	18h00	Junior School new parents' evening	Junior School Close	Junior marimba bands



# FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONTINUED



The Ridge Choir Festival



The Sound of Children



# COMMUNITY SERVICE



A small group of Grade 7s visited the residents at Waverley Gardens Memory Care on Wednesday 26 September. The girls interacted with the residents and handed out beautiful bunches of flowers that were donated by our Grade 4 to 7 girls. Thank you to everyone for their generous donations.

# BALLET NEWS



Maya Marsden, Olivia Kirsch and Luyanda Mshengu participated in the 2018 Concours Dance festival at the National School of the Arts in Braamfontein. They were awarded an A+ for their classical group dance and an A for their demi-character group dance

# MUSE MORNING

Parents of children of all ages are welcome to join us at Muse Morning on Tuesday 6 November.

Time: 07h15 to 08h30

Venue: Wantage auditorium

Speaker: Vanessa Hemp is a clinical psychologist in private practice. She is also the director of adolescent services at The Day Clinic in Oxford Road which provides a range of clinical services for adolescents and their families.

Topic: Identifying depression and suicidality in adolescents.

Our teens are under immense pressure and are increasingly suffering from depression and hopelessness. As parents, it is important to be able to identify if your teen is just blue or depressed, in order to seek appropriate treatment and counselling.

Coffee is served from 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30. Refreshments will be available at the tennis pavilion.

RSVP: [lynn.moony@stmary.co.za](mailto:lynn.moony@stmary.co.za) Although the topic relates mainly to adolescents, all parents are welcome to attend.

# FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



## TENNIS

Well done to the St Mary's tennis girls on their excellent performance in the league matches they played in the past two weeks.

### Results

27 September

- St Mary's A beat Roedebeek A 47-16
- St Mary's B beat Roedebeek B 36-7
- St Mary's C beat St Peter's C 46-17
- St Mary's D beat St Peter's D 40-23

### Results

4 October

- St Mary's A lost to Holy Rosary A 53-27
- St Mary's C beat Kingsmead C 47-16
- St Mary's D beat Kingsmead D 42-21

**CECILE MURRAY**  
**COACH: TENNIS**

## ATHLETICS

On Friday 21 September, the athletics team participated in their first meeting of the season hosted by St Stithians. With a few athletes unable to compete, the team ran extremely well. A special mention goes to the Grade 6 and 7 athletes who had a great start to the season.

The results were as follows:

St Mary's	519
Kingsmead	507
St Stithians	466
Brescia	433
St Andrew's	425½
Holy Rosary School	320½
St Teresa's	206

On Friday 5 October, the athletics team ran at Brescia House and the results were as follows:

St Mary's	516
Brescia	414
St Andrew's	372
Assumption Convent	208

**ANTOINETTE MSHENGU**  
**COACH: ATHLETICS**

## RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

The following girls joined 575 gymnasts who participated in the South African Rhythmic Gymnastic Games in Johannesburg in the first week of October.

- Katherine Deacon - Bronze medal for rope
- Molebogeng Pitje - Participation
- Zeinab Kone - Silver medal for free dance and bronze

medals for ball and clubs and gymnast of the year for High Performance 2.  
Danika Neuhoﬀ - Bronze medal for group

**LINDA GIURICICH**  
**COACH: RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS**



Zeinab Kone at the South African rhythmic gymnastic games in Johannesburg



**SAGF** SA Gym Games 2018  
WITS - 30 September to 4 October  
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