



Cards and congratulation flowers from the girls!

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

This is the last *Just Junior* article I shall write before going on maternity leave on 1 November and, as such, it is a good opportunity for me to thank you, staff and parents, for the supportive and kind wishes you have extended to me and my family this term. A week ago, Lauren Howden alerted me to the fact that her class of Grade 1 girls had many questions about my pregnancy and that they were spending time in class exploring the topic while crafting a card and flowers to wish me well before I left. My words cannot do justice to what they made, which is why I have provided visual images for you to look at above. Also pictured above is the vase of flowers and the birthday card made for me by the Grade 0s and Grade 5Ms respectively in the past fortnight – the remarkable ephemera of school life that the girls and teachers lovingly create and that parents seldom get to see.

Taking my cue from Grade 1H, I decided to give all the girls in Junior Primary assembly the opportunity to ask me anything they wished about my pregnancy and imminent departure. I was interrogated about the sex of the baby: how did I know for sure that the baby was a little girl? Did I know for sure? Was I sure? The subtly shifting emphasis of the question and the girls' unwavering scepticism was gratifying, proof that they are not overly impressed by appeals to authority and repeated assertion. (If only we adults were less susceptible to the phenomenon Lewis Carroll memorably describes as “what I tell you three times is true”.)

I was asked practical questions (how long would I be away?), personal questions (what name had I chosen for the baby?) and pressing questions

(when would the baby “come out,” when would they see her, and what school would she go to?). Before long, the girls lapsed into making statements of the “I think” and “at my house” variety and I countered by offering information I thought they might find useful: Mrs Gordon would be looking after all of them and the whole Junior School in my absence; I would miss them while I was gone and – sensing the need to move the discussion along, I changed topics – what had they noticed about the tree in the Junior Primary playground? Hands shot up all around me as I listened to an assortment of observations about our fast-declining tree, chance sightings of the borer beetle, and strident statements on the tree's fate.

We concluded our discussion by agreeing to balance the bad news of the tree's demise with the good news of its planned replacement by a young healthy tree and I urged the Grade 0s to revisit their Junior Primary playground when they were in matric – how many years ahead was that? – to see how the young tree had spread its branches. The teachers' murmurs became more audible as the year 2030 registered in their minds. At once too close and too remote for comfort, the future, that place, we are told repeatedly, of unprecedented novelty and endless, alienating disruption loomed. At that moment, though, it was also a place with a tree, our daughters, and their school. And it felt like, through a shared act of imagination, we had just issued an impossible-to-turn-down invitation to each other: let's meet there.

DR SARAH WARNER
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

²² [Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!

²⁵ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

²⁶ If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!

– Luke 12:22-28 (NRSV)

The lily forms a part of our school badge, reflecting our ethos as a Christian school. In Christianity, the lily is the flower that symbolises Mary, and therefore also purity. The lily also symbolises Easter, and the resurrection of our Lord - new life in Christ.

The lily is referred to on a few occasions, Biblically. Christ's guarding against valuing material possessions, quoted alongside, is one such occasion. Here, those listening to Christ's words - us, today - are asked to consider how fragile the lily is, yet how beautifully God "clothes" it. Could the symbol of the lily in our badge not also be a reminder that we need not worry: God who clothes the lilies, cares for us as tenderly and beautifully as God does the lilies.

**REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN**

MEET THE BOARD

Thandi Chaane

Thandi Chaane comes from a family of teachers and was a teacher herself for 10 years before moving to the South African Council of Churches in 1976 with a focus on transformation. She was the co-founder of Read Education and Development, a literacy programme that was the first in the country to introduce libraries into schools throughout the country.

Her extensive knowledge of teaching reading and managing libraries made Thandi an ideal shareholder of Juta publishers.

As an ex-director of the Education Information Centre, she was a pioneer of career guidance in schools and it was here that her love for human resources began.

Thandi became the first woman deputy director-general of education in the Gauteng government. She was involved in transforming education policies from the apartheid era to the new dispensation.

She was head-hunted by the MultiChoice Africa Foundation as chief executive officer and co-founded the first teacher-training model on television using cutting-edge technology. This led to a turnaround in her career where Thandi felt the need to go into business on her own and she is now the owner of The Human Capital Engine, a transformation, diversity-management, human capital-training company.

Thandi is currently helping women from rural areas break into the property and farming industries, by being their "voice".

Thandi taught for 12 years in senior schools in Soweto and she was part of the 1976 mass resignation of teachers in protest against the education system of the time. She has trained and worked with independent schools such as St Mary's, Uplands College, St Peter's College, The Ridge and many others on managing diversity. She is also doing this work for blue-chip companies as a consultant.

Thandi has been appointed chairperson of the Primovie Management transformation committee, formed as part of the company's commitment to creating opportunities to promote, advance and recruit previously disadvantaged individuals. She was previously a non-executive director on the Primovie Board.

She is also chair of the Board of M&C Saatchi Abel and transformation manager for AAM geospatial services company.

Thandi recently concluded a deal with WE Communications enabling the formation of a trust to benefit the St Mary's School Foundation to assist girls studying for a teaching degree, and she is working with rural schools in KwaZulu-Natal and elsewhere on the continent to assist vulnerable children.

This year, she is working with 74 schools in the CURRO independent schools network to manage diversity and transformation.

Thandi has watched the leadership and transformation of St Mary's over the past 20 years and is proud to be part of it.



FROM THE FOUNDATION

From One Girl to Another assembly – Friday 12 October

The Grade 7 girls of 2018 handed in their red heart money boxes with the money that they had collected over the year for the St Mary's Foundation. The money goes towards scholarships that make the school accessible to girls from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Grade 6 girls, the Grade 7s of 2019, received their red hearts in the Assembly. Doctor Warner unveiled the plaque with Rev Claudia who

blessed the plaque and the girls. The girls each received a chocolate and enjoyed some refreshments.

On behalf of the St Mary's Foundation and the Junior School we would like to thank the girls and their parents for continuing this wonderful spirit of philanthropy. A big thank-you also to the Grade 7 mothers who collected the heart money boxes and counted all the notes and coins!

**ROBYNNE DUNKLEY
DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS: SENIOR PRIMARY**



COMMUNITY SERVICE



A small group of Grade 7s visited the Maria Kloppers Children's Home on Tuesday 16 October. We spent a special afternoon playing and interacting with 12 adorable babies and toddlers. Thank you to all the families who donated clothing, books and toys for the home

DANCE

This term, 60 Dance Mouse and Madness dancers from St Mary's will participate in the annual Dance M Company Barnyard festival on 27 October for a full performance experience. The dress rehearsal took place on Saturday 13 October and the two photographs below are a sneak preview of what happened backstage.

Congratulations go to Katherine Deacon whose quartet won the floating trophy for their dance *The Wizard of Oz* in *A Chance to Dance*. This same dance earned an A two weeks ago at the Eisteddfod of the Performing Arts in Pretoria.

Katherine also performed five ballet numbers in the Concours Dance Festival in October: two group numbers, a quartet, a duet and a demi-character solo all being awarded stellar results.

At yet another competition, Katherine placed first for her tap and second for her lyrical dance which she performed at the Gauteng Dance Festival.

5678 Productions For more info: call 083 226 2871

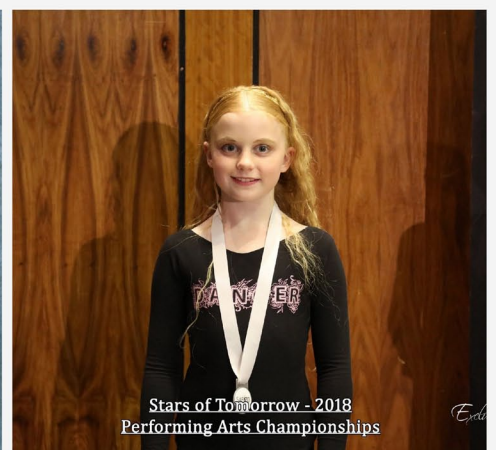
CLAIRE VAN NIEKERK
5678 PRODUCTIONS



Dance Mouse and Madness dancers at the dress rehearsal



Katherine Deacon



FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



SQUASH



Grade 1 and 2 girls practice and play squash on a Tuesday – well done girls on improving every week
 Back row: Jessica Maher, Gabrielle Marcos-Zambakides, Emma Home, Sophie Barrow and Sophia Wilkinson
 Front row: Mia Diana and Olivia Cross



Grade 3 girls are on the courts on a Wednesday with much enthusiasm. Well done all, keep practicing
 Back row: Lucy Barrow, Amarachukwu Mbanefo, Siphesihle Kubheka, Nadia Moosa
 Front row: Leah Govenader, Mohwele Mahlare, Phenyho Khele, Lonwabo Bingwa