



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

ST MARY'S NEWS



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FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

In a move to position the school to be a valuable place of learning for future generations of South African women, St Mary's has, in the past months, undertaken the analysis and assessment of our transformation and diversity imperative. Our school has always been adaptable otherwise it would not have remained a school of choice for girls since 1888. In recognising our school's long history, we must reflect on the good and bad times that the school has endured. The Spanish Flu of 1918 is probably the closest comparison we have to a medical crisis. In her history of St Mary's School, Mary MacPhail captures the impact of that pandemic, "Soon after the war the terrible Spanish 'flu swept the country. Most schools closed down. St Mary's was literally a hospital, every bed was occupied by a patient."

This year has presented many challenges globally. In our context, St Mary's rose to the challenge of providing remote learning during lockdown and creating a safe school environment to which the girls and staff returned. For this I thank the teachers and the self-sacrificing members of staff. The school also remains grateful to the parents for their decision to entrust their daughters to our school. We aim to thrive next year and to resume a fully functional school routine, although we may be underestimating the time that the virus will be a consideration.

The biggest threat to our school over the past months has been the lack of opportunity for our community to come together. We have lost so much this year in not hosting events and functions, which usually provide us with time to socialise and experience the value of being in community. The required physical distancing of the pandemic has translated into social distancing and this has harmed our relationships. Next year will be about healing our St Mary's community through time spent together. No matter the vagaries of the pandemic, our values of love, community, integrity will endure and overcome.

To borrow from Joe Biden who found inspiration in Seamus Heaney's poetry, "This is our moment to make hope and history rhyme."

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

The beautiful jacaranda blossoms have fallen and, as the saying goes, "if you haven't started studying by the time the jacarandas have bloomed, it is too late for you to start". All our Senior School girls are currently writing their end-of-year examinations. We hope you didn't wait for the jacarandas to fall.

Photo: Quix

"For generations, girls' schools have led the way as epicentres for dismantling a wide range of systemic injustices, from equal access to education to voting rights to closing the gender gap. While creating inclusive communities where diverse voices and experiences are heard and valued is a cornerstone of girls' schools, there's no denying we're at a turning point in our history—not just as girls' schools, but individually as nations and collectively as a world." Deanne participated in a PEP Talk: Podcast on Educational Possibilities, where she spoke about, "How do educators play a role in creating anti-racist, inclusive school communities?" Please click here to listen to the PEP Talk: <https://youtu.be/kjNlzzvF8q0>

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

[Jesus] said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."¹⁵ One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

- Luke 14:12-15 (NRSV)

This passage reminds me of the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), in which the answer to the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbour?", is not the person who lives next door, or the person with whom I am comfortable or whom I know

whom I expect to assist me, but the one who shows mercy. In fact, in that parable, the one who does show mercy is the one Jesus' audience would least expect or even want to do so. Similarly, in the quoted passage, Christ encourages his host (and us) to invite those who perhaps one would not usually consider inviting: the marginalised, and those who cannot reciprocate.

Perhaps we could consider each life's moment spent with one another to be part of heaven's banquet – heaven-on-earth – for which Christ is the host, and for whom the guest list is unlimited, and VIP guests are those on the margins. Christ's invitation to the banquet that is each moment is one to be cherished and honoured, as is each fellow guest.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

CONSUMER STUDIES



Form IV



Form IV



Form III

With much nervous excitement, the Form III and Form IV Consumer Studies girls tackled their first practical examination in our beautiful new cooking venues.

The Form IV girls took up the challenge of doing the same examination as our current matric group and designed their own recipes to fulfil the design brief. The Form III girls followed a festive celebration theme and mastered the art of biscuit baking with royal icing.

We are delighted and thankful to be able to be back, exploring the love of healthy food and the science behind good recipe design.

LAUREN FROST AND CLARISE BRITS
CONSUMER STUDIES TEACHERS



Form III

The fashion revolution and the #mendingmatters movements on social media have highlighted the need for transparency in the fashion industry. In Technology, the Form II girls have interrogated fast fashion, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on textile workers and the environmental issues linked to the sustainability of fast fashion.

The girls explored the idea of “up-cycling” a garment and repairing for future use. The embroidery technique “sashiko”, together with traditional embroidery techniques, was used to make mending visible and, in doing so, prolong the use of a garment.

LAUREN FROST
HOD: TECHNOLOGY



GRADE 0

The Grade 0 girls studied a tree at the bottom of The Close. They then designed a leaf on fabric and drew different patterns on the leaf. They cut the leaves out and created a beautiful collage to make a tree. The girls also drew Coronaviruses to place onto the tree. The finished tree will be the Grade 0s contribution to the Junior School wall hanging!

LYNN TROLLIP
HOD: JUNIOR PRIMARY



GRADE 5 ENGLISH

In English, the Grade 5 girls studied Tanka poetry. These poems capture the essence of a simple moment in time in five lines and 31 syllables. The girls tried their hand at describing a moment in a season of their choice. Here are some examples of their creative expression:

Memories of Winter by Amy Shannon

On a winter's day
a crackling fire burns bright
as warm as summer
leaving the house a statue
looking upon the soft snow

Waterfalls by Catherine Desilla

Trickling, gurgling, wild
sense of direction, road home
roaring, green, alive
peaceful waterfall shimmers

alive with light and life now
Autumn Tree by Lara Teji
Autumn tree at peace
the bitter breeze blows swiftly
the leaves fall slowly
one lonely leaf lands lightly
feeling petrified at first

Summer Trees by Nadia Moosa

The golden sun shines
while the tall trees twist their trunks
the boughs droop downwards
while the leaves rock back and forth
thin twigs crack under the foot

A Cozy Autumn Day by Adelola Adebule

A cold autumn day
Crispy leaves slowly falling
Like white winter snow
Bare arms of trees stretching out
Watching the sun disappear

Leaves by Kamila Nosarka

A lonely leaf lies
hidden quietly away
petrified, twisted
shoved around, snatched from the tree
blown still 'til it hits the ground

CHRISTI LAWLESS
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

GRADE 1

Over the past few weeks, the Grade 1 girls prepared for their class assemblies. Grade 1C drew pictures for their story *The Starfish* and they discussed how they could make a difference in the world, one person at a time.

Grade 1D illustrated the story *The Grumpy Farmer* and they discussed how there is always something to be grateful for, even when times are hard, as they were over lockdown. The girls had fun recording their lines for the virtual assemblies.

PHILIPPA DI BENEDETTO, JACKY CACIOPPO AND NATASHA DE BONI
JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHERS AND LEARNING FACILITATOR



SENIOR PRIMARY INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS

This year, owing to Covid-19, we held the Senior Primary inter-house athletics in our physical education lessons. Even though no spectators were allowed on the day, the girls participated in all the events (long jump, hurdles, sprints and relays) with skill, enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Well done to Lions who won once again. Lions have won the Senior Primary sports day 11 times since 2000. Lions won with 379 points, Springboks were in second place with 366, Hares were in third place with 354 and in fourth place was Zebras with 326 points.

The overall prize winners in each grade are as follows:

- Grade 4 Isabella Lotto
- Grade 5 Lucy Barrow
- Grade 6 Georgia Plagis
- Grade 7 Jocelyn Appel

The long jump results are as follows:

- Grade 4 Maya Mgcina
- Grade 5 Lucy Barrow
- Grade 6 Erin Krüger
- Grade 7 Jocelyn Appel

Well done to all the girls and sports staff on an exhilarating day of physical endeavour!

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
HEAD OF SPORT: JUNIOR SCHOOL



TENNIS

Five of St Mary's top tennis players were invited to participate in the prestigious South African National Championships which took place in Bloemfontein earlier this month. The entries were by invitation only, owing to Covid-19 regulations. Unfortunately, Annika Gertenbach was unable to participate in the event, owing to a wrist injury. Tyrah Cook lost in a marathon singles match in the first round.

Congratulations to Sarah Millard (Form IV) and Lilitha Ndungane (Form II) who reached the quarter-finals of the U18 and U16 singles events respectively. Our congratulations are also extended to Botshelo Diseko (Grade 5) on winning her first round match in the U12 age group. Botshelo lost to the second ranked player in her age group in the country, after a spirited fight. Keep up the hard work and dedication.

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



Sarah Millard



Lilitha Ndungane



Botshelo Diseko

CAROLS AND FLORALS

LOVE, COMMUNITY, INTEGRITY

A celebration of carols and florals!

Place: The chapel at St Mary's School, Waverley
Date: Sunday 29 November
Time: 17h00

Tickets can be booked via Quicket (see link below) and cost R100 each.
All proceeds will be donated to the *Ikusasa Lethu* Programme.

Only 100 tickets may be sold,
owing to COVID-19 health and
safety regulations.



Tickets for Carols and Florals can be purchased by clicking on this link: <https://www.quicket.co.za/events/123330-a-celebration-of-carols-and-florals/?preview=t>

Ikusasa Lethu Bright campaign aims to collect pre-loved and no-longer-needed scientific calculators which are necessary for the success of each learner on our programme. Only Casio scientific calculators are required. If you happen to have either a used calculator in good condition or a new one which you would like to donate, please email Robyn Knowles at robyn.knowles@stmary.co.za.
Alternatively, please place the calculator in the Ikusasa Lethu box in either the Junior or Senior School reception areas