



St Mary's School  
Waverley  
Founded 1888

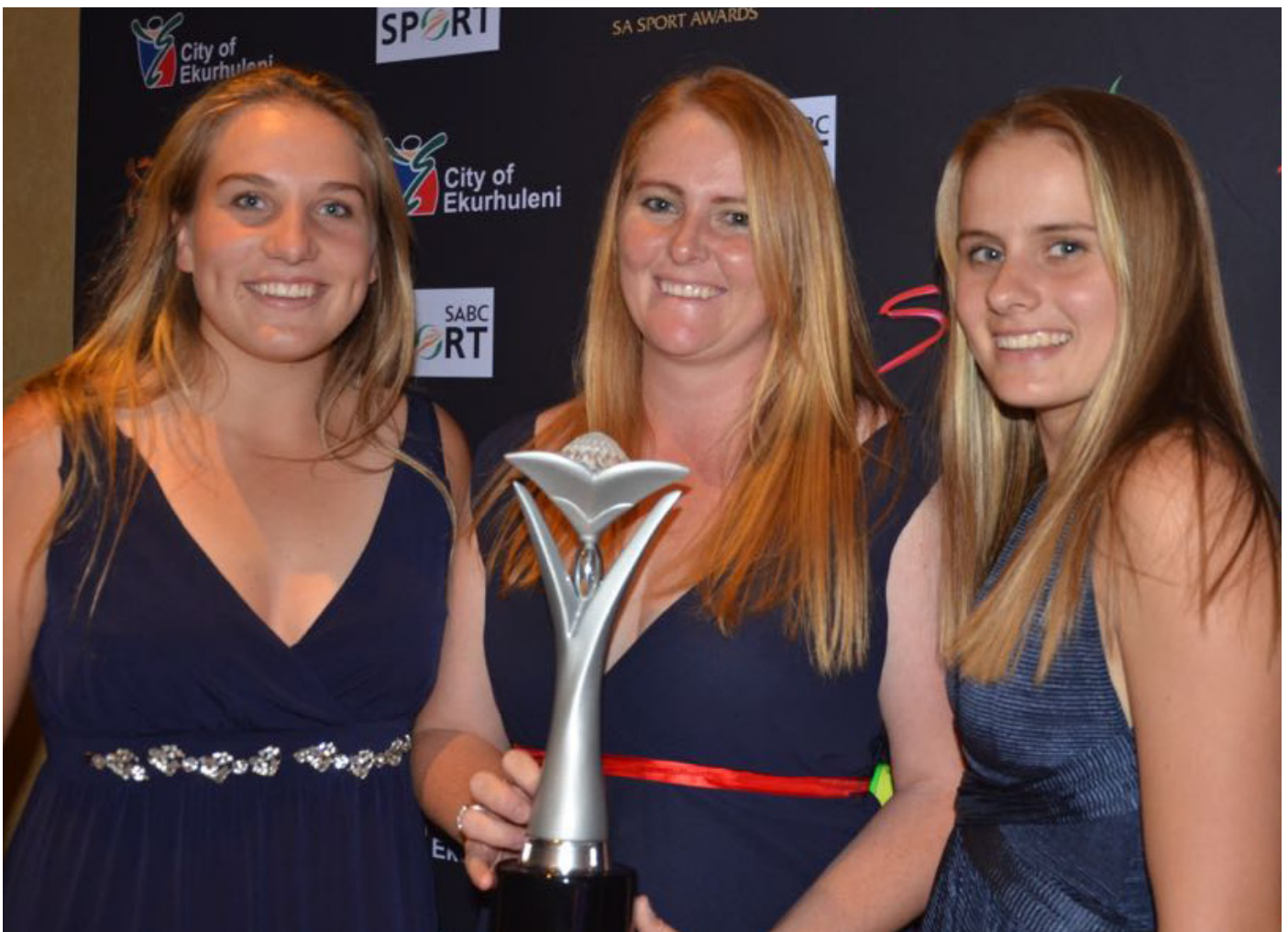
## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

17 NOVEMBER 2017

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## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



Our congratulations are extended to the St Mary's rowing team for being chosen as the SA School Sports Team of the Year

End-of-year examinations are the final hurdle as we near the close of the academic year. After a year of hard work and ongoing study and consolidation, your daughters have to write exams and test their development, understanding and potential.

I am deeply concerned by the manner in which the girls speak about examinations. Their default is to talk of stress and anxiety and they fail to recognise the months of preparation that they have completed and their readiness to test that preparation.

A letter, on the following page, out of Singapore went viral earlier this year and many of you may have read it but it is a reminder of the message that we should be emphasising for our children.

DEANNE KING  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

A school principal in Singapore sent this letter to the  
parents before the exams

Dear Parents

The exams of your children are to start soon. I know you are all really anxious for your child to do well.

But, please do remember, amongst the students who will be sitting for the exams there is an artist, who doesn't need to understand Math... There is an entrepreneur, who doesn't care about History or English literature... There is a musician, whose Chemistry marks won't matter... There's an athlete... whose physical fitness is more important than Physics... If your child does get top marks, that's great! But if he or she doesn't... please don't take away their self-confidence and dignity from them. Tell them it's OK, it's just an exam! They are cut out for much bigger things in life. Tell them, no matter what they score... you love them and will not judge them.

Please do this, and when you do...watch your children conquer the world. One exam or a low mark won't take away...their dreams and talent. And please, do not think that doctors and engineers... are the only happy people in the world.

With warm Regards

The Principal

Letter out of Singapore



## FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Little more than a week ago, there was an accident outside St Mary's, on Athol Street. While no one from the St Mary's community was involved, various St Mary's staff responded to cries for help from those affected. The accident itself was traumatic for all involved yet the response of those around was incredible.

An eyewitness to the accident – a complete stranger to all – stopped, offered her details as a witness, and comforted a child whose friend had been injured. This kind woman stayed at the scene until she knew that all involved had been cared for. One woman involved in the accident, herself uninjured, was the first to attend to the injured and paid little heed to the damage her own car had sustained. She went all the way to the hospital and contacted St Mary's and the eyewitness to reassure us from the hospital.

St Mary's staff members, without being asked, did much to assist. To mention a few: one called an ambulance and brought a first aid kit; another called our nursing sisters; a third called the nearby school whose pupil was injured. Two took charge of the traffic, while the security guard stood firm at his post and opened and closed the gate for us – exactly what we needed him to do. There were those who sensibly stayed within the St Mary's property, looking on and

praying, when they could see there was enough assistance on the scene.

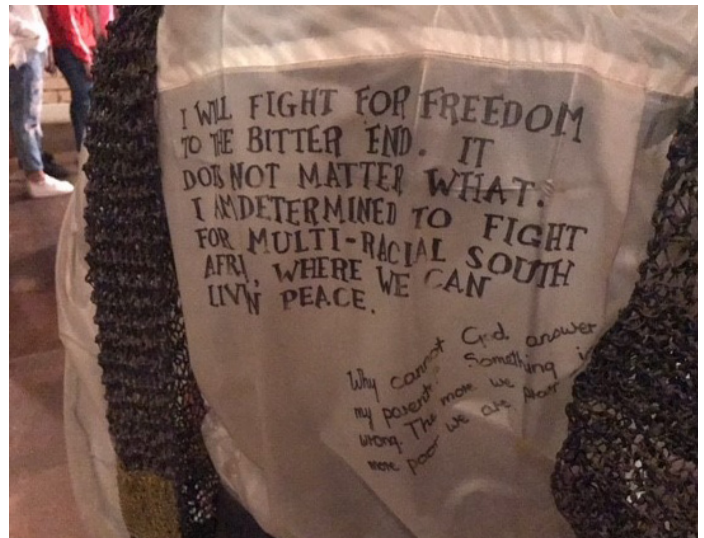
The headmaster of the nearby school personally went to fetch the child's mother to take her to the hospital. The child who had been injured was discharged from hospital the same day, with a few stitches and bruises, and in good spirits. The headmaster then took both the child and her mother, and the child's friend and her mother, home from the hospital, that night.

Reflecting on all of this, I cannot help but see God in a difficult situation, in the deep love for children and the strong desire for them to be safe that underpinned everyone's response; in the manner in which all worked together, calmly, kindly, and without anger or irritation, communicating to ensure all was done that could be done. While that accident was traumatic for all, I am immensely grateful to God for God's hand at work, visible only in the effect on those present, the hand of our wonderful God who loves all of God's children, great and small.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN



# FORM IV CULTURAL TOUR OF SOWETO



On 18 September, the Form IV Sesotho and isiZulu students had the opportunity to go on a cultural tour of Soweto. We visited historical sites and monuments starting at Walter Sisulu Square in Kliptown, one of the oldest districts in Soweto. The Freedom Charter, a document that many believe to be the foundation of South Africa's Constitution, was signed there in 1955. We were also given a guided tour of the museum, which gave us insight to the gathering known as the Congress of the People.

After Kliptown, we headed to Regina Mundi Catholic Church, which is the largest Catholic church in South Africa. It played a major role in the struggle for freedom, providing shelter to anti-apartheid activists. The colourful Soweto Theatre was next, a beautiful modern structure in the heart of Jabulani, followed by the Hector Pieterse memorial and the Mandela residence on Vilakazi Street.

At the end of the tour, we were treated to delicious food from various South African cultures, including the famous kota, a bunny-chow style meal with many fillings including egg, cheese, fries and minced meat.

We gained much insight and knowledge with regard to the significance of Soweto. Without a doubt, it was an educational trip that exposed many of us to a different environment.



Thank you to the department of African Languages and everyone who made the trip possible.

KAMILA  
FORM IV



# ROBOTICS

During the past four weeks, the Form II girls have been building and programming robots as part of their Natural Sciences final examination. They were given a custom-made circuit board, two motors and a program installed on laptops in the science labs. The brief was that they had to design a chassis, wheels for the motors, a holder for the battery and circuit board and make their robot move in a 1mx1m square. Their robot also had to have a "purpose", for example, to fetch the remote control when you are too lazy to get up, or to mop up spills in the kitchen. Challenges that the girls had to overcome included:

- Attaching the wheels to the motors
- Attaching the motors in the correct orientation so the robot does not move in circles only
- Making a hole in the exact centre of the material used for the wheels
- Making holders that allow the battery and the circuit board to be easily accessible
- Calibrating the robot to move a metre, bearing in mind the circumference of the wheels they have made
- Too much or too little friction
- Making the robot too heavy
- Adjusting the angle carefully on the computer program so that the

robot turns

- Programming the robot in a specific sequence so that it does not become confused

Other important skills that this project has been designed to address are: patience, coping with multiple failings, perseverance, disappointment, the joy that comes with their robot working, time management, reliance on a partner, prioritising tasks, learning and exploring without focusing exclusively on marks.

This project is worthwhile for developing our Form II girls in so many ways and I am proud of how maturely they tackled it. I thank the Natural Sciences teachers, Carolyn Huysamer who is in charge of the project, Gail Andrew who has been supportive of both the staff and the girls who worked daily on the project with us, and Kim Jacobs who is completely new to the project and had to learn very quickly.

MELANIE BLAIR  
HOD PHYSICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES



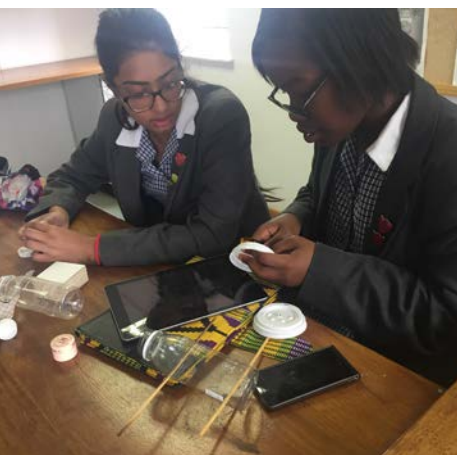
Circuit board and battery in situ on a robot



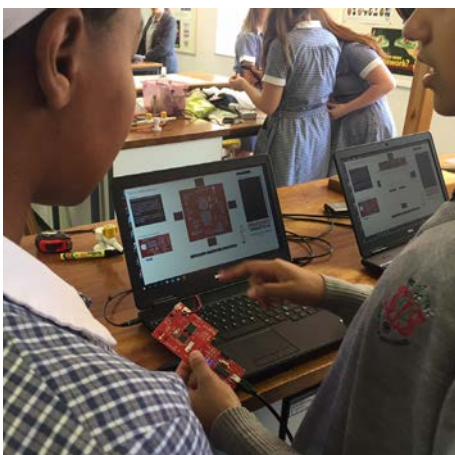
Robot for mopping up spills



Affixing the battery to the Easter egg robot



Making wheels



Programming the circuit board using a laptop



The Easter egg robot



## INNOV@TION HUB



As the year draws to a close I have been talking to some of the girls of about their experience of e<sup>4</sup> this year. Two girls wrote about their highlights for the year.

CLARE SEARLE  
CURRICULUM INNOVATION LEADER

"I particularly enjoyed writing the e<sup>4</sup> research essay. Although it was very challenging, it taught me to dig deeper with intent when researching. Given the space and time to discover and experience information by referring to various kinds of sources, I came to the harsh realisation that the city that many of us call home was essentially founded on the greed for wealth that was fuelled by the discovery of gold. This led to the exploitation of the majority (being the black Africans) making them feel as though they were the minority. This acted as a [segue] to the next fundamental question – why is there an observable difference between the treatment of

people in the majority versus people in the minority? Now, I can say that a city, which was originally intended to benefit those who conquered the land of others in the hopes of exponential profit, has developed into a city which is now known for its diversity as well as its celebration of all cultures. Although Johannesburg has come a long way, this project made me realise how much further we still need to go in order to ensure that Johannesburg feels like home to all who reside in it."

SIPHOSETHU  
FORM IM

"e<sup>4</sup> gave us the opportunity to write a fully referenced research essay. Given a choice of topics, I was able to choose an area to research in which I am interested: the mining compounds in early Johannesburg. This was one of the most interesting and eye-opening things I have ever done. For starters, we had to find all our information in books and other resources. We also had the privilege of going on an outing to the Workers' Museum, which gave me a chance to picture how hard life was back then and realise how much I take for granted now. For example, it made me really understand just how incredible it is to be living now when everyone enjoys equal rights. This was such

an amazing experience for me to learn about such an interesting and moving topic and it was also special because I got to teach myself. e<sup>4</sup> this year has really given me a chance to learn and experience such incredible things in so many different ways, but the research essay has definitely been my highlight. I am so grateful that I was given the chance to conduct my own research. It was a challenge, but it gave me such pride when I finished."

LARA  
FORM IM

## SANLAM YOUTH LITERATURE AWARD COMPETITION

Six pupils from our school had the honour of attending the Sanlam Youth Literature Award Competition on 7 November. This prestigious competition, which produces the most esteemed prize for youth literature in South Africa, happens every second year. Held at Exclusive Books in Hyde Park, the prizegiving was a youthful affair, with extracts from the winning titles read by girls from St Mary's. The six pupils read extracts in the following winning categories: English, Afrikaans, Sesotho and isiZulu. The evening was a true celebration of reading and the importance of books.

St Mary's girls also had the honour of meeting four of the six authors from the Sanlam Youth Literature Awards. Authors from the English, Sesotho and isiZulu categories talked to our girls on Wednesday 8 November.

OLIVIA DOUGLAS  
SENIOR SCHOOL LIBRARIAN



Lesley Beake, Dumisani Hlatwayo, Jane Bauling, Olivia Douglas, Lebohlang Pheko and Michelle Cooper



Lukhanyiso, Dineo, Kara, Tinoonga, Emma and Rethabile



Mrs Douglas and Ms Tobias with girls attending the Sanlam Awards evening



# AFRIKAANS AARDKLOP FESTIVAL

The Afrikaans Aardklop Festival presented a new opportunity to immerse ourselves in the Afrikaans culture outside of the classroom. We were exposed to a wide variety of foods, popular music and theatrical productions. We were able to enhance our spoken language skills by talking to the Afrikaans shopkeepers about their foods, clothing and various products. For about two hours, we were the audience to various short, one-woman shows on a diversity of subjects. Our language skills were further improved by being able to watch and listen to these productions.

This outing was a great learning experience, even while taking shelter in tents from overhead thunderstorms and heavy rains. Luckily, my friends and I decided to take shelter in the food tent, where we had the most "un-Afrikaans meal": Chip 'n Dip!

The time spent at Aardklop was enjoyable and educational and I left with a greater appreciation of the Afrikaans language.

JORDAN  
FORM I



A group of Form I Afrikaans girls went on an outing to Aardklop. Aardklop is an annual Afrikaans arts festival held in Potchefstroom.

Early on Friday morning, we excitedly climbed on the bus. When we arrived we saw our first play. The actor told us a story about her secret language of the flowers. The play was very interesting. For a few hours we got to enjoy some Afrikaans music and the craft market.

We finished our day with another play, which starred an actress who previously acted in the well-known Afrikaans soapie, *7de Laan*. We had some good laughs at the expressive acting where there was never a dull

moment.

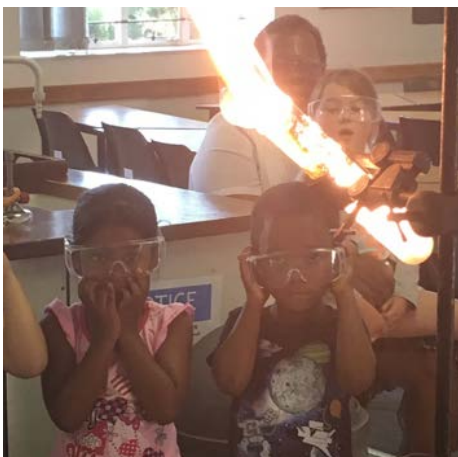
We had a memorable day out at the Afrikaans version of the Grahamstown Arts Festival. I look forward to going again and expanding my Afrikaans vocabulary. This was a wonderful experience of the Afrikaans culture!

ASHLEY  
FORM I

## LITTLE SAINTS COMES TO THE SCIENCE LABS

Last week, two Grade 00 classes from Little Saints came to the Senior School Science labs for a show. They saw, among other experiments, elephant's toothpaste hit the ceiling and a rocket blasting its "engines" in the fume hood. They absolutely loved it. Thank you to Gail Andrew and Kim Jacobs for helping me with this experience for the Grade 00s.

MELANIE BLAIR  
HOD PHYSICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES



## FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to the following girls who passed their music examinations recently:

ABRSM			
Alexandra	Alto Saxophone	8	M
Lucy	Clarinet	7	M
Eloise	Clarinet	3	M
Veneka	Piano	7	P
Isabelle	Piano	7	P
Megan	Clarinet	5	P
Wanjiru	Flute	3	P
Samantha	Piano	2	P
Angela	Piano	2	P
Khanyisile	Piano	1	P
Aleksévi	Piano	1	P

### TRINITY

Amy	Flute	7	P
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### ROCKSCHOOL

Dikeletso	Voice	4	M
Erin	Voice	2	M

The remaining results from Trinity College have not yet been received. These will be published in the newsletters next year.

DUDLEY TROLLOPE  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

  
 St Mary's School  
 Waverley  
 Founded 1888

*Christ Be Our Light*  
 A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
 St Mary's School  
 The Edge  
 Monday 4 December 2017  
 17h30 and 19h00

Reserved complimentary tickets can be collected at  
 the Junior and Senior School receptions  
 from Monday 27 November



# FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



9

## ROWING

The St Mary's rowing club is the 2017 Gauteng Rowing Championships winner! What an exciting three days of racing it was and, even though the St Mary's rowing club may be small in number, we made up for it in our spirit and our tenacity in our style of rowing. There were some standout performances, namely in the quad events where the U14 crew placed third, fifth and eighth. The U15 crew placed first and second, the U16 crew placed first and the Open 1<sup>st</sup> crew placed first and fourth, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> crew placing fourth in the second quad event. Well done to all the rowers and coaches. We thank Caitlin for her sound leadership

and guidance and to all the parents for their unwavering support and presence at every regatta.

On Sunday 12 November, the 12<sup>th</sup> annual South African Sports Awards gala event was held at Emperors Palace. Our rowing club was nominated for School Sports Team of the Year and walked away victorious. This is the first time a girls' sporting team has won this award.

CATHERINE  
FORM III



The captains receiving the trophy



The entire rowing club at Gauteng Rowing Championships

## SOUTH AFRICAN SPORT AWARDS 2017

### SCHOOL TEAM OF THE YEAR:



St Mary's School  
Waverley  
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## ST. MARY'S



## Izinjazegame



**sport & recreation**  
Department:  
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[www.sasportawards.co.za](http://www.sasportawards.co.za)



**City of  
Ekurhuleni**

**SABC  
SPORT**



**SuperSport**  
World of Champions



**SA SPORTS AWARDS**



# HOCKEY

## Super Fives

As a variation and part of pre-season training, Mrs Coetzee-Turner has brought Super Fives hockey to St Mary's. It is played on a smaller field, which is enclosed by boards that can be used to play the ball

off, at any time. The game is fast-paced and goals can be scored from anywhere making it fun and exciting as well as working on fitness and skills under pressure. Currently we are playing a "fun" league between six St Mary's teams, on a Friday between 16h00 and 18h00.



Fives field 1



Bad and Bluejee



On Friday we were pink



Green Mambas



Mrs Coetzee-Turner giving instructions



Hat-trick heroes



Oranje Meisies





Fives field 2



Black Panthers



Hannah playing for Harvard

### Ivy League award for Hannah

Six members of the Harvard 1<sup>st</sup> field hockey team received Ivy League year-end awards at the end of their season for Crimson Hockey Club. Freshman defender, Hannah, who was the 2016 St Mary's hockey captain, received Second Team All-Ivy Honours. These awards are all based on stats taken throughout the season.

Well done, Hannah on a superb achievement.

QUIX  
HEAD OF SPORT

## FROM THE FOUNDATION

The St Mary's Foundation recently became a beneficiary of the MySchool programme and is targeting St Mary's Old Girls. This initiative began by incentivising the matric pupils to sign up for a card.

GILLIAN O'SHAUGHNESSY  
FOUNDATION MANAGER

## APPEAL FOR SCHOOL CLOTHES AND SCHOOL SHOES

The end of the year is often a time for a review of school clothes. Many girls have outgrown their clothes and get new ones and the Form V girls will no longer need their uniforms. There are, however, many disadvantaged people in South Africa who would love to have these items.

We will facilitate the process of passing on an unneeded school uniforms to those who can use it. We will provide boxes in the gym foyer into which any of the following items can be placed: shoes, skirts, shirts, jerseys and blazers, to be distributed as indicated below:

- Some blazers, school jerseys and some shirts and skirts will be passed on to students in need
- Some of the shirts, jerseys and shoes will be sent to a contact in a rural area near Polokwane. She will ensure that they are passed on to students in need in some of the rural schools in her community
- The balance of the school shirts and some of the blazers are sent to the Abraham Kriel Children's Home. A clothing factory removes the St Mary's crest and sews a pocket on to the blazer

so that it can be worn at any school

- The remainder of the clothes will be sent to a hospice in Kokstad to be distributed to people in the community who are in need
- Shoes will be sent to the St Vincent de Paul Society to be distributed to students in Soweto

While we would like to finalise the movement of the clothing by the end of the year: if your decisions regarding your school clothing are only made during the December holidays, you are welcome to bring your items at the beginning of next year and we will organise their distribution.

No matter what condition your clothing is in, we can use it.

Thank you in anticipation, on behalf of the recipients.

JENNIFER PAGE AND NASTASIA  
HOD LIFE SCIENCES AND FORM IV

## STOP AND DROP

This article featured in the *Senior School News* in 2012 and we felt it appropriate as a reminder for our parents to be mindful when driving in the Stop and Drop.

### LETTER FROM GRAEME CODRINGTON - PARENT AND BOARD MEMBER

On many occasions over the past few months, and again at the start of the new school term, I have noticed a disturbing trend in the school car park and drop-off zone. A few parents clearly feel that the traffic instructions are mere suggestions and that the security personnel can be ignored or even abused.

This is unacceptable for at least three reasons. The first is most important: as parents, we have selected St Mary's to partner with us in raising good women. Among other attributes, this includes developing a respect for authority, decency towards fellow human beings regardless of their rank or status, and obeying society's rules. When parents can't, and won't, demonstrate these basic traits themselves, they jeopardise the development process of not only their own daughters but of all our daughters. Our daughters

learn more from our example than from our words, and it would be good to ensure we all set the best example for one another's daughters, too.

Secondly, the traffic rules are there for good reasons, most notably our safety. The "left turn only" rule out of the drop-off zone in the morning and at lunchtime is not only for traffic flow, but also for safety. The allocation of parking bays for "staff only" and for the disabled are not suggestions and need to be adhered to at all times. The traffic system has been carefully designed for maximum effectiveness for the whole school community.

Finally, there is the matter of common decency and good humanity. I have witnessed too many incidents of parents verbally abusing both security personnel and teachers who

have tried to advise them to adhere to the regulations.

I know that we are all rushed and time is a precious commodity in Johannesburg, but take the extra two minutes to turn left out of the car park and drive the other way around the school. Take the time to thank the security team, who work tirelessly to ensure the safety of our daughters and the smooth working of the drop-off zone. And most importantly, recognise that your actions speak louder than your words: to your own daughters and to mine. Let us work together to create a community that raises the type of women we can be proud of, and into whose hands we can entrust the future of our country.

Graeme Codrington  
Parent and Board Member



# SIZANANI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME



Greely, Thusi



Mentors meeting mentees



10<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration



Group picture on camp

The Sizanani Mentorship Programme celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday at St Mary's on 14 October. This year, 91 mentors (South African and foreign professionals) have coached 150 Grade 10, Grade 11 or Grade 12 learners from Alexandra.

The learners attended the Ikusasa Lethu programme, run by St Mary's on Saturday mornings and during school holidays. Mentors organised outings with their mentees, about one Saturday afternoon per month. They collected them at 14h00, when learners come out of their classes at St Mary's.

Sizanani also encourages non-compulsory collective outings and activities throughout the year, including exhibitions, camps in the Magaliesberg, talent shows, Life Orientation sessions, job shadowing, campus tours and workshops.

The learners are introduced to activities and new experiences, which can broaden their horizons, boost their self-confidence, improve their communication skills and help them with career information. Other than the outings, there is no financial cost to learners for the programme.

Our first meeting next year will be held from 12h30 to 15h30 on Saturday 3 February, at St Mary's. There will be training for new mentors, who will be then able to meet a selected group of Grade 10 and Grade 11 learners and choose, if they wish, one or two learners to mentor.

You can also support the programme by sharing your professional experience with our learners, donating used laptops or calculators and helping with funding learners' activities, university students' bursaries or our operating cost.

Contact: Hélène Raison

Email: [hraison1407@hotmail.com](mailto:hraison1407@hotmail.com),

Tel: 076 856 3892 or

Contact: Valérie Hirsch (programme manager)

Email: [valou.hirsch@gmail.com](mailto:valou.hirsch@gmail.com),

Tel: 083 750 7725

<https://protect-za.mimecast.com/s/QW5nBafv9WqTk?domain=sizanani.blogspot.com>

Facebook: Sizanani Mentors

# PRESIDENT'S AWARD



- 4-5 Nov Bronze Ezemvelo (huted hike)
- 8-12 Dec Drakensberg Silver & Gold (wilderness hiking)
- 8-13 Dec Orange River rafting Silver & Gold (rowing)
- 9-14 Jan 2018 Orange River rafting Silver & Gold (rowing)
- 2-5 March 2018 Kaapsehoop Silver & Gold (huted hike)

For more information on any of the programs, please contact our office on 072 275 0579 or [info@chameleon-adventures.co.za](mailto:info@chameleon-adventures.co.za)

Upcoming TPA events



For further information on the President's Award, please email Melanie Blair at [melanie.blair@stmary.co.za](mailto:melanie.blair@stmary.co.za). You are welcome to access information on the school app under the General notices/ Senior School.

MELANIE BLAIR  
HOD PHYSICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES

## PTA Club 100 winners for Term I 2018

100%	Zanetta	Grade 0	R23 700
20%	Leigh	Form II	R8 160
10%	Tamsyn	Form I	R4 080

BRUCE PATIENCE  
PTA CHAIRPERSON