



The girls enjoyed wearing slippers on Friday 11 May in support of the Reach for a Dream Foundation

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

I enjoy engaging in conversations with the matrics at this time of the year about their experiences at school. Their feedback from a survey that they complete is also informative. What often makes an impact on me is how most of them express that they fall between being well informed and interested in social matters and then reticent about the responsibility that comes with adulthood.

As the adults in their lives, we need to find the balance between educating girls for their post-school experience while at the same time nurturing and protecting them from the harshness of the real world, while still at school.

Although as a school we embrace the use of technology and the resource it presents in education, we are also fully aware of the uncensored nature of the information it affords to most adolescents. Our teenagers rely on teachers and parents to engage with them in conversations about matters where they require information and

guidance in finding their moral compasses, while navigating the journey to adulthood.

The school calendar has a number of meetings over the course of the year for parents, where the aim is to provide professional advice for parents, opportunities to engage in discussions and share our approaches. If you, as a parent, are looking for opportunities to engage with other parents and with me and my leadership team, then look out for Muse Mornings, HOPE committee conversations and general discussions with the house representatives.

The management committee, house tutors and I are also available at all times to discuss concerns which you may have. Our email contact details are on the school app.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

NOTICE BOARD – PLEASE SEE PAGE 10 FOR ALL OUR IMPORTANT NOTICES

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

This coming Sunday, the church celebrates Pentecost, the occasion 50 days after Easter when Christ's disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit and spoke Christ's message in different languages, such that the crowds who were listening understood, each in his or her own language (Acts 2:1-11). Pentecost, therefore, marks the beginning of the church: the Body of Christ here on Earth sent out in the power of the Holy Spirit to be as Christ to the world. Central to the mission of the church (that is, to our mission) must be to continue Christ's ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:11-21), as the disciples began to do, speaking a common message in different tongues to a diverse people.

One way to continue Christ's ministry of reconciliation is to pray for one another, and ourselves that we may all draw closer to God and to one another. This is the principle aim of the "Thy Kingdom

Come" initiative, which encourages individuals, groups and churches all to pray for ourselves and for five other people, during the period from the Feast of the Ascension (10 May) until Pentecost (20 May). As a school, we have drawn on the prayer resources provided on the website

(<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources#churches>), in our chapel assemblies and dedicated a Sisters of Christ Society (SOCS) meeting to praying for one another. You may have noticed that we have been posting a different prayer on our Facebook and Twitter sites each day, during this time. I encourage you to explore the site and consider drawing on the resources and ideas on the site to facilitate your own prayers, even beyond Pentecost.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

AFRICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY MODEL AFRICAN UNION (ALAMAU)

A group of four Form III girls and six Form IV girls, Mrs Molobye and I celebrated Human Rights Day by participating in the African Leadership Academy Model African Union (ALAMAU) at the Indaba Hotel from 21 to 25 March.

Megan, Jaeger, Hannah C, Hannah I, Malaika, Helen, Caryn, Anthea Poklewski-Koziell, Catherine and Isabella formed part of the St Mary's delegation to the ALAMAU and represented nine African countries and one British publication (*The Guardian*). These countries included Angola, Ethiopia, Chad, Algeria, Mali, Malawi, Rwanda, Nigeria and Senegal.

The ALAMAU is an annual leadership conference for young leaders in Africa and across the world and it simulates the activities of the African Union. Delegates to the ALAMAU developed implementable solutions for African development challenges through diplomacy and international co-operation, in a format inspired by the Model United Nations and the African Union. As representatives of the above-mentioned countries, our girls studied complex African issues, understood the position of the African country they were representing and learned to negotiate successfully without compromising their countries' national interests.

The theme for ALAMAU 2018 was "Foundations for a Sustainable Future". The various committees explored issues around renewable energy, sectorial violence, gender, Africa's financial independence and numerous other issues. The conference was not limited to the committee sessions but included educational tours to the Cradle of Humankind and the Apartheid Museum, and a cultural night celebrating our continent's talent and diversity.

Our St Mary's delegates were effective and impactful representatives in their various committees and received the following awards:

- Jaeger: Best Delegate in the African Commission on Science and Technology
- Hannah C: Best Pre-Conference submission and

- Best Delegate in the Press Corps
- Hannah I: Honourable mention in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Malaika: Pan-African Award in the African Development Bank
- Helen: Best Speaker in the New Partnership for Africa's Development Council
- Anthea: Best Speaker in the African Energy Commission
- Catherine: Honourable mention in the Executive Council
- Isabella: Best Speaker in the Pan-African Parliament

This was a magnificent opportunity for our delegation to increase their passion for the development of our continent and to view Africa's challenges in a constructive way. The ALAMAU also created a platform where our girls could interact with other African teenagers and be inspired by the intellect, creativity and optimism exuded by their African peers. The girls, Mrs Molobye and I returned to school feeling proud to be Africans in an authentic South African school.

TINHIKO NKUNA
DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS



Cultural night

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

FROM ALEX TO PARIS



Charles at AF Compressors site in Liège, Belgium

Charles, who attended the Ikusasa Lethu Programme, was in Paris over the Easter weekend. "It is the most amazing place on Earth," he says. Charles completed six weeks' training at the company AF Compressors in Liège, Belgium. He returned to Johannesburg just in time to attend his graduation ceremony as a BTech Mechanical Engineer on 25 April at the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

"I joined St Mary's and the Sizanani Mentorship Programme in 2011 when I was in Grade 11. St Mary's supported me academically. I managed to improve my results and to be accepted at UJ. Let me thank St Mary's for making this possible. Sizanani provided me with a mentor, Marlene Pappas, from KPMG, in 2012. She really motivated me to succeed in my studies, regardless of my background. I should like to thank Valerie Hirsch, who made my life easier. Without her help, I would not have been admitted into the Faculty of Engineering. My thanks are extended to the Sizanani Group. Two companies also played a major role. The RATP Group (Paris), a sponsor of Sizanani, paid for most of my university studies. AF



Charles graduating

Compressors allowed me to complete my third year practical. They found me educated but practically unskilled. They completed my circle as a mechanical engineer and hired me at the end of my studies. My family is proud as I fulfilled my dreams, despite obstacles: I was the first one to go to university. With God, everything is possible. Be a motivation and a role model to others."

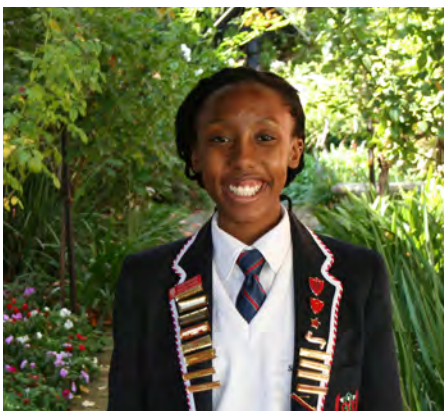
If you would like to become a mentor or learn more about the Sizanani Mentorship Programme, please contact Valérie Hirsch, via email at valou.hirsch@gmail.com or cellphone at 083 750 7725.

VALÉRIE HIRSCH
FREELANCE JOURNALIST (BELGIUM,
FRENCH, SWISS MEDIAS AND BBC RADIO)
 Sizanani Mentorship Programme - sizanani.blogspot.com

HONOURS BLAZERS

Our congratulations are extended to the following girls who were awarded honours blazers at final assembly last term:

SERVICE HONOURS BLAZER



Rorisang

SPORTS HONOURS BLAZER



Georgia



Courtney



For more info:
call 083 226 2871

DANCE



Lorena

Lorena and Nyasha of the Latin dance class participated in the Solo DANCA Latina West Rand Competition in April. Congratulations to Lorena who placed third.

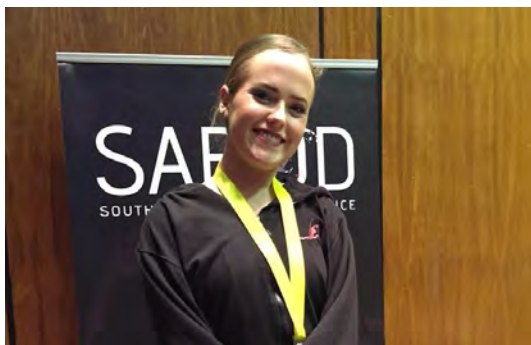


Hip-hop

Our St Mary's dance crew had the privilege of a master class in hip-hop by one of the judges of Hip-Hop International, South Africa and will be competing in the South African Hip-Hop Dance Championship qualifier competition in July.



Second from the left, Erin pictured with other competitors

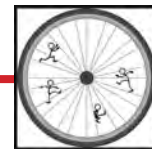


Erin

Our head of dance, Erin, competed in the Gauteng National Performing Arts Championships this past weekend. She placed first in the 16 years and over championship modern solo section and third in the 16 years and over championship jazz solo section. Congratulations, Erin.

CLAIRE VAN NIEKERK
WWW.5678PRODUCTIONS.CO.ZA

INNOVATION HUB



The value of creativity in the 21st century

The e4 programme forms part of our approach to innovation at St Mary's. The programme is run by a group of dedicated teachers who are involved in crafting a unique answer to the paradigm shifts taking place in education worldwide. I am often asked by parents if the teachers involved in designing and implementing the programme are "trained in e4". Since the e4 programme is a uniquely St Mary's approach, it is not possible that teachers are trained in the "e4 method". Instead, they are changing their pedagogy and developing curricula based on research, workshops and professional development opportunities.

A critical aspect of change in education is the introduction and integration of information technology in the classroom. In e4,

the pedagogical approach is defined first, and is enabled by the appropriate technology. The interplay between IT and pedagogy forms the basis of an online course recently undertaken by the e4 staff. The Activated Classroom Teaching approach focuses on five fundamental approaches defined as the pedagogies of Curation, Conversation, Correction, Creation and Chaos. Exposure to this course has confirmed our approach in e4, and further extended our thinking, and this will form the basis of my next few newsletter contributions.

CLARE SEARLE
CURRICULUM INNOVATION LEADER

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



HOCKEY

The hockey season has begun with league fixtures versus Northcliff and Fourways for the Grays league and St Teresa's for the Malik league. For the first time in the Grays league, both A and B teams' results will

count towards the league results. The Malik league requires our C teams, 4th and 3rd teams to play against our oppositions' A teams. The results are as follows:

	vs Northcliff	vs Fourways	vs St Teresa's
U14B	3-0	8-0	
U14A	8-0	12-0	
U14C			2-0
U15B	12-0	10-0	
U15A	1-0	3-1	
U16C			0-3
U16B	10-0	11-0	
U16A	3-1	8-1	
4 th			2-0
3 rd			0-2
2 nd	4-0	3-0	
1 st	6-0	2-0	

On Friday 11 May, Bethlehem Voortrekker High School from the Free State travelled to St Mary's to play a friendly game. This fixture promised to be physically tough. The U14A team struggled to put the ball in the net but, after much persistence, successfully scored in the second half, winning 1-0. St Mary's 2nd team went down 0-1 in the first half and fought their way to victory in the second half, winning 2-1. The 1st team game was everything it promised to be with both teams

missing opportunities and fighting hard to remain in the game. The game ended 0-0.

We wish all the St Mary's hockey players participating in the provincial trials the best of luck.

ROXY COETZEE-TURNER
HEAD OF HOCKEY

EQUESTRIAN



India: Open Working Hunter



St Mary's had a clean sweep in Open Working Riding: Nicola B (second), Lia (first), Nicola D (third)

The second SANESA inter-schools qualifier was held in March at Eaton Farm, Midrand. The Saturday proved to be extremely challenging, both physically because of the rain, and psychologically, because one of the horses from the Beaulieu College High School team unfortunately broke a leg and needed to be euthanized. The remainder of the show was cancelled on the Saturday. This included most high school show jumping classes. Classes resumed on the Sunday and, although classes were subdued, everyone who participated gave heartfelt good blessings for all riders and equines, and their condolences to all those who had been injured or suffered loss in pursuit of this beautiful sport. Thanks again to Ms Wood for coming to support our team.

The top five results from Qualifier 2 were as follows:

Level 7

- Performance Riding: Nicola B (first), Lia (second), India (fourth)
- Working Hunter: India (fourth)
- Working Riding: Lia (first), Nicola B (second), Nicola D (third)

Level 6

- Medium Dressage Freestyle: Lia (first)
- Medium Dressage: Lia (first and first)

Level 5

- Dressage Elementary Medium: India (second and third)
- Dressage Elementary Medium Freestyle: India (second)
- Eventing: Kiara (second)
- Performance Riding: Nicola D (first)

Level 3

- In-Hand Utility: Hannah (second)
- Working Riding: Hannah (second)

Level 2

- Novice Dressage: Lia (second), Nicola D (third)

Level 1

- Handy Hunter: Hannah and Nina (third), Robyn (fourth)
- Working Riding: Robyn (first)

LIA
EQUESTRIAN CAPTAIN

TENNIS



Bike tour



Bicycle tour of Barcelona



Cooking class in Barcelona



Beach at Castelldefels



Girls with Toni Nadal



Selfie of the year: Julianne and Sarah with Rafa



Group at entrance to the Barcelona Open

Twenty-eight tennis players from St Mary's experienced a tour of a lifetime when they departed for Spain during the April holidays. The tour began at the Rafa Nadal Tennis Academy in Mallorca, where a week was spent training at the high performance academy. Each day was jam-packed with tennis drills, mental toughness sessions and fitness exercises and always under the watchful eye of Toni Nadal. The academy is a five-star facility and all the players enjoyed every minute of the week spent there.

A highlight was a visit to the Rafa Nadal Museum Experience, which has various interactive games and also exhibits all the racquets used by Nadal and trophies that he has won during his amazing career. There were also opportunities to explore the island of Mallorca and the players enjoyed a visit to the old town, the harbour and managed to have a quick swim in the Mediterranean.

The next stop was the cosmopolitan city of Barcelona, where the girls experienced a top-league football match and went on a motorised-cycling tour of Barcelona. In addition to this, the girls attended a cooking class in an authentic family style Spanish kitchen. They also had a chance to do some shopping in the centre of Barcelona and walk down the famous Las Ramblas. The visit to the Camp Nou stadium, which is home to the Barcelona football club, was another highlight. All the players also got to play a friendly match at two different academies in Barcelona. Both these academies boasted many immaculate clay courts. The final two days of the tour were spent at the Barcelona Open where the girls were able to watch Rafa Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov and Dominique Thiem in action.

I thank Ms Murray and Ms de Winnaar for all their help and assistance on the tour. I commend all the tennis players who went on the tour for their excellent behaviour. They were true ambassadors for their families, their school and their country. It was a pleasure to tour with this group.

Four players returned early from the overseas tour to participate in the South African Schools' inter-provincial tournament, which was held in Pretoria from 27 April to 1 May. Tamsin, Amukelani and Nina were members of the Gauteng Central team that won the U19 section and Sarah played as the number one player for Gauteng Central U15 team. All these players fared extremely well. Congratulations to Tamsin, Amukelani and Sarah who were selected for the South African Schools' team.

Congratulations to Tamsin who reached the semi-finals of the ITF tournament in Namibia and for winning the doubles title in the same event.

Congratulations to Maja for reaching the semi-finals of the U18 singles event in the South African National Junior Championships.

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



Nou Football Stadium



Group of players at TEIA



Indoor court



Matches in Barcelona on the clay



Exploring Mallorca



Rafa Nadal Academy



Girls in the museum



View of Barcelona



Porto Cristo



Congratulations to Amukelani, Tamsin and Sarah who were selected for the South African Schools' team

NETBALL



Holly

Our congratulations are extended to Holly who has been selected for the Gauteng U15 netball team. Holly made the U14 team last year: it has been a long time since St Mary's has had anybody selected in consecutive years. She will play in an inter-provincial tournament over half-term. Well done, Holly.

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT

TRI COLORE GAMES



Kristen

Congratulations to Kristen, who has been selected to represent Gauteng at the Tri Colore Games, in the code of para-swimming, from 4 to 16 July in Italy. This is another outstanding achievement!

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT

GOLF



Samantha

Congratulations to Samantha in Form I, who has been selected to represent the Gauteng Ladies B team at the South African 72-hole team championship to be played at the Waterkloof Golf Club in Pretoria from 20 to 23 May. Samantha currently plays off a two handicap. All the best, Samantha.

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT

FROM THE PTA CHAIRPERSON

I have been chairperson of the Parents' and Teachers' Association for a term now and thought it would be appropriate to share some of my thoughts.

Firstly, I have become even more aware of what a privilege it is to have my daughter at St Mary's. This role has allowed me to glimpse behind the scenes into what makes St Mary's such a great school, and it has been an experience I wish that everyone could have.

The best example of this was the Board's strategy morning, where the Board, Exco and management teams spent a Saturday morning starting to plan for success in 2030! The morning was a step towards answering strategic questions, and the leadership team will keep you posted regarding strategy that emerges over the next couple of months.

From the dedication and experience of our Board, to the passion and commitment of the staff, a huge amount of effort goes into providing our daughters with the best possible environment and education. I feel more comfortable than ever that St Mary's is an exceptionally well-managed school, and that our decision to educate our daughters here is the right one.

Secondly, I have realised what an amazing parent community St

Mary's has. Thank you for the part you all play in creating this culture – by staying for a coffee after drop off, by welcoming parents you don't yet know at sports and cultural events, or by thanking the support staff for the work they do. This fosters the positive environment in which our daughters develop.

Parental support is critical to the activities of the school. The St Mary's Investec Hockey Festival was one of the most visible examples: it was a great success, in part, because of the participation of so many parents. There have been many other events where parents have helped, from galas to cultural activities, and I thank you for your contribution and reiterate how important it is.

The main work of the PTA is done through the class and house representatives, and I specifically thank Candice De Bruin and Cindy Jackman, as well as all the other parents who have volunteered, for their contributions. The PTA committee, with its various sub-committees and portfolios, contribute further to the thriving parent community we have at St Mary's: your work is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I have seen what a huge difference we can make to our daughters by being involved. The school's educational philosophy is premised on a good working relationship between girls, the

school, and parents. This is where the HOPE (Hearing Other Peoples' Experiences) comes in. The better we parents engage with issues of diversity and inclusion, the better our children will be equipped to thrive in this complex and challenging world. The HOPE committee has created a space for parents to listen and learn from other parents. The HOPE committee also hosted Justice Edwin Cameron whose talk was a great success, and provided insightful feedback on the diversity survey conducted last year. The parents' feedback and views have been taken on by the Board and form part of the strategic deliberations which are underway.

I feel incredibly blessed to be part of this school and hope you do too. Let me know if you would like to join the PTA or the HOPE committee as we are always keen for new members, or just drop me an email (pta.chairperson@stmary.co.za) if you have ideas, questions or suggestions.

DALE VICE
PTA CHAIRPERSON

When parents are involved, children thrive. Reach out to these members of the PTA via your house representative to be part of the following upcoming PTA initiatives:

- Junior School Fun day (26 May – Candice de Bruin)
- Golf day (28 September tbc – Andrew Millard)



NOTICES

MUSE MORNING

Parents of children of all ages are welcome to join us at Muse Morning on Tuesday 5 June.

Time: 07h15 to 08h30

Venue: Seminar room, The Edge

Speaker: Anita Decaires-Wagner, social worker and educational psychologist.

Topic: Girls and Friendship – Myths and Magic

The talk will focus on recent research into tweens' and teen girls'

friendship patterns. It will consider the problems and benefits of friendship and will provide parents with suggestions on ways to help their daughters.

Coffee is served from 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30.

Refreshments will be available at the back of the Seminar room.

RSVP: Lynn.moony@stmary.co.za

