



Our annual Patronal Eucharist and picnic took place on Tuesday 29 May. The entire school thoroughly enjoyed celebrating our 130th birthday!

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The Patronal Festival was an inspirational celebration of St Mary's School's 130th birthday on Tuesday. The gathering of the whole school is always significant and, together with a celebration of our patron saint, Mary, the Eucharist and beautiful music, it was an important day to record our school's history and to mark a new beginning.

Father Molefi Oliphant's sermon was inspirational. He spoke of our school as now being placed between its past and its future; of how we at St Mary's can look to our past and acknowledge wrongs and hurt and find healing, and then turn to our future and be a blessing to the community and to education for women. We should be mindful of being guided always in the way of Mary in our relationship with God. This message was extended through the blessings of the plaques that will be placed in the foyer of The Edge. After an extensive assessment of the signs and symbols around our school, last year's matrics and the Student Representative Council proposed a new symbol to acknowledge theirs and the school's vision. This new symbol is strategic in being placed in dialogue with past representations and signs. The plaques record an extract from the Preamble of the Constitution and a commitment from our school to this spirit and vision. All 11 official languages are represented.

"We, the people of South Africa, recognise the injustices of our past; honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity".

Preamble, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa

We, the St Mary's community, subscribe to the Constitution and strive to achieve a society rooted in equality.

(Pictures of the plaques will be showcased in a future newsletter.)

The celebration of the Eucharist was followed by our traditional picnic and the cutting of the birthday cake. It was then time for the girls to play. Across the age groups, the girls played and celebrated, a time to be with friends.

The school's history and 130th year is recorded in the timeline that now features on our website. I hope that you will browse the timeline and enjoy the reflection on St Mary's School.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work [...] For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

- Exodus 20:8-11

One of the ways in which we as St Mary's express our identity as a Christian and Anglican school is in keeping Sunday as the sabbath. While the scheduling of events outside St Mary's campus on a Sunday is beyond our control, no events take place on a Sunday on campus. This enables our girls and our staff (both teaching and support staff) to take a day of much-needed rest. It is a day that does not contain scheduled activities and which, therefore, gives all the opportunity

to attend worship services and to spend time together with family and friends, should they so choose. Maintaining a Sunday as a day of rest, on campus, is not new – it has been the practice of the school for years.

Walter Brueggemann (2014), in the preface to his book *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*, states that "in our own contemporary context of the rat race of anxiety, the celebration of sabbath is an act of both resistance and alternative" (page 55). How apt an act, in our society today. I commend the book to your reading.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

MATHEMATICS

"The more I practise, the luckier I get!" – Gary Player, 2002

Mathematics requires much practise and even more perseverance. Mathematics is a subject which many students find difficult. The complex, problem-solving nature of the subject causes stress and anxiety for many of our girls. The need to succeed and be the best in this subject area is important for some, while others want to understand the basics and be able to get through comfortably. Every girl has the ability to reach her own potential and this should never be compared with anyone else.

Mathematics teaches more than just algebra and calculus. It teaches students to become lateral thinkers and problem-solvers. Our aim is

to help all girls as far as possible, to overcome their anxiety and help them to do the very best that they can.

"Math Leaps" is our Mathematics support programme and is available every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon from 14h15 to 15h45. We encourage girls to attend as often as they need. We also have an online programme on which the girls can work at home or during Math Leaps sessions which is an excellent tool to re-inforce what they have learnt in class and to help them to catch up if they have missed school. Please email me (robyn.hoffe@stmary.co.za) should you require any further information.

ROBYN HOFFE
MATHEMATICS TEACHER

FROM THE PEER COUNSELLORS: THE EARPHONE ERA

Have you noticed that more and more students seem to study with earphones stuffed securely in their ears? Over long debates during break-time, we have argued whether listening to music enhances academic performance or whether it serves as an antidote by helping to make studying more bearable. The common view among teachers and parents is that this habit causes distraction and ineffective learning.

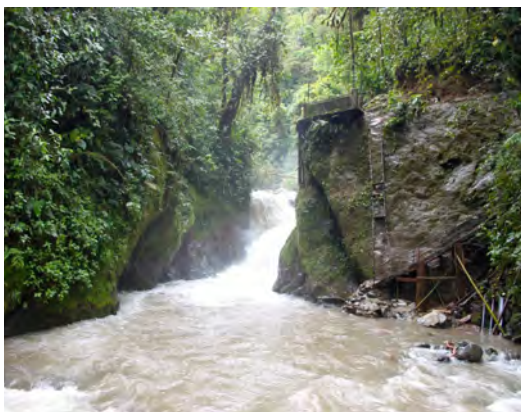
The main theory supporting this trend is the "Mozart effective", which argues that listening to classical music while studying improves cognitive performance. Listening to classical music apparently releases dopamine, which diminishes stress and aids endurance during long study sessions, however, the typical student today is not listening to classical music. Research shows music containing a strong beat, lyrics

and agitated rhythms has the same effect on students as background noise. In turn, this can hinder a student's ability to concentrate properly.

This discussion boils down to what works for the individual; be it silence, classical music or the latest pop song. As long as the long-winded geometry theorems and hidden meanings of William Blake's *The Tyger* are absorbed, St Mary's girls will be fine this coming June.

LUCY
FORM IV

GALÁPAGOS AND ECUADOR TOUR



A walk in the cloud forest



What a privilege to see a rare giant tortoise



Sea lions lazing in the sun off Isabella Island



All of the students and teachers at the equator



A blue-footed booby

Our tour officially began when we arrived in Quito, the second-highest capital city in the world. While Quito is one of South America's lesser-known capitals, we were fortunate to spend some time in this Andean metropolis and learn that there is much more to experience in Quito than first meets the eye. While there, we enjoyed many exciting activities. These included cycling around Cotopaxi, the world's highest active volcano, and an excursion to the Mindo Cloud Forest, where we zip-lined and saw a variety of species of hummingbirds. We visited the museum on the equator and stood with one foot in the Southern and the other in the Northern Hemisphere. Finally, on our last day in Quito, we visited the old town. Here, we were able to stroll through the Plaza Grande and indulge in the visual aesthetics of the various baroque churches that line the cobblestone streets.

The next leg of the trip involved a short stay in the Amazon. The Amazon is incomparable to any other travel destination with its diverse range of plant species, peculiar animals and unrestrained rivers. Immersed in this free and wild environment, we felt like jungle explorers. We visited a butterfly farm and an animal rescue centre where we saw spider monkeys, toucans and even an anaconda. Other adventures included a hike in the forest and trip to a cocoa farm.

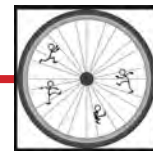
Our final activity in the Amazon was a visit to an indigenous village where we learned how the local people utilise resources from the forest in order to survive.

On Friday 20 April, we caught our flight to the Galápagos Islands. As soon as we got off the plane we were welcomed with a hot breeze and friendly smiles. During the next three days, we were fortunate enough to see the Galápagos giant tortoise, sea lions, Galápagos sharks, courting blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, marine and land iguanas, and many other iconic indigenous animals in their natural habitats.

This trip was filled with learning, experiences, laughing and making friends, both with locals and one another. We express our thanks to Ms Page, Mrs Devine and Mrs Ellis for organising this truly incredible tour and chaperoning us. We also thank Ms King, Ms Mullen, our parents and everyone else who played a part in letting us go. It was an experience of a lifetime!

JOSEPHINE
AND KATHERINE
FORM V

INNOV@TION HUB



In the previous newsletter, I wrote about Dr Craig Blewett's exciting Digital-age Pedagogies course that the e4 team and many of the staff at St Mary's have recently followed. Staff in both the Junior and Senior schools have enjoyed exposure to Dr Blewett's Activated Classroom Teaching (ACT) model and are taking the time to consider how the technology of the digital age in which we live can, and should, complement our way of approaching teaching and learning in the classroom.

Dr Blewett details consumption as the point of reference against which the other layer of digital-age active pedagogies should be compared. Consumption forms the foundation of traditional education where the student is seen as the empty vessel to be filled by the educator who "knows everything", and learning is largely fact and concept orientated. Consumption is not active but passive, and is seen as a method of teaching that is no longer ideal in the 21st century.

Curation is, in effect, the first of the "ACTIVE" layers of pedagogy. Although the five layers do not exist in isolation, but are intertwined, it is useful to consider them one-by-one. The curation layer endeavours to shift learning from a fixed and defined collection of information with which students are provided, to engaging students in the process of content curation. Instead of having the correct and relevant content delivered neatly to them, students develop the key skills of accessing information, active reading, filtering, selecting, categorising, arranging and, ultimately, creating their own content. The current generation, Generation Z, suffers from an information deluge. The skills listed above are imperative for their success in the 21st century.

In the words of Howard Hendricks, "Never do anything for a student that he can do himself. If you do, you make him an educational cripple ... a pedagogical paraplegic."

CLARE SEARLE
CURRICULUM INNOVATION LEADER

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

ENSEMBLE EVENING

On Monday 9 April, the St Mary's jazz band and orchestra hosted an ensemble evening with Pretoria Boys' High School, St Alban's College and the Moses Taiwa Molelekwa Arts Foundation. The aim of this event was to showcase the talent and enthusiasm of young musicians within an ensemble context at senior school level. Each school performed a range of pieces in both the jazz and classical spheres.

The St Mary's string quartet performed a polished medley of Tchaikovsky's dance suite *Swan Lake*, while the mixed ensembles performed *La Bamba* and Leroy Anderson's *The Typewriter* featuring

Eugene Joubert as "soloist" on an antique typewriter. The audience received this very well. The saxophone ensemble performed Andy Scott's *Miles Smiles* with aplomb and our jazz band had the audience tapping their feet to Mike Campbell's *Sunday Strut*. Overall, the concert was a wonderful way to end the first term, literally on a high note.

INDIRA
FORM V



Combined items

FROM THE FOUNDATION



Parents enjoying the 2017 Foundation auction evening

Don't miss out on this year's St Mary's Foundation auction evening and dinner on Friday 15 June.

Tickets are available at R500 per person and include a three-course meal and complimentary wine on the table. Email Joscelyn.young@stmary.co.za to reserve your tickets.

Our venue this year is The Capital On The Park which is a brand new hotel located at 101 Katherine Street, Sandton. Join us and participate in an American auction, or in the auction of wine and holiday packages and if you are feeling energetic later on in the evening, dance the night away to DJ Luis.

STAFF NEWS

After over 20 years of dedicated service to the school, Sharon San has retired. We wish Sharon all the best for her retirement! We welcome Lilly Tshotlhana as the junior receptionist in the Senior School and Zelda Siphenuka as the marketing assistant.



Sharon San



Lilly Tshotlhana



Zelda Siphenuka

VISUAL ARTS



A contemporary example by Wayne Barker



Botanical art



The Form IV Visual Arts girls recently visited the Botanical Art Worldwide Exhibition at the Everard Read Gallery in Rosebank.

Gillian Condy, who curated the exhibition and had her own work on show, gave the girls a guided tour. The exhibition featured original botanical art, based on indigenous plants. A variety of artists captured

in paint, ink or pencil, plants native to South Africa to raise awareness of wild plant diversity. Circa Gallery also featured contemporary botanical artwork.

SUE HEYDENRYCH
HoD: VISUAL ARTS

ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

Congratulations to all girls who wrote the English Olympiad in March.

The results have been released and are superb. As soon as the school receives the certificates, individual results will be announced.

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



FENCING



Congratulations to Jessica in Form I who won two bronze medals at the Arnold Fencing Competition. The one medal was in the U17 division and the other in the U15 division. The competition involved girls from around the country and both of these medal bouts were extremely tough. Well done, Jessica.

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT

FOOTBALL



Ynez will be representing the Gauteng football team at the Tri Colore Games in Reggio Amelia, Italy in July. Well done and good luck, Ynez!

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT

CROSS-COUNTRY

Jenna is a superb example of a dedicated athlete. I am sure most of the school has seen her training, as she runs alone on the grass hockey field most afternoons. She has been representing St Mary's at the weekly meetings at various schools in and around Johannesburg. She has been selected to run for the Northern Districts team at the inter-districts' cross-country meeting at Pretoria Boys' High School.

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT



HOCKEY

The U15 hockey girls participated in a tournament held at Garsfontein on 7 and 8 April. The girls played three pool matches against various schools and did well to finish second in their pool. They played an exciting game of hockey in the quarter-final, which ended as a draw. This meant they needed to go to eight-second penalties to see which team would qualify for the semi-finals. The girls had never done eight-second penalties and coped extremely well with the pressure and walked away with a spot in the semi-finals. The girls played exceptionally well in the semi-finals but were unlucky to lose

that game and had to settle for playing for third or fourth position later that day. They were determined to play their last game of the tournament and finish off on a high but were unable to do so after conceding an early goal. The girls dominated the game but could not score a goal, resulting in their finishing in fourth place overall.

VICKI JONKER
SPORTS TEACHER



Hockey supporters at St Stithians

The hockey players have been busy over the past two weeks, with competitive, friendly and league fixtures. The biggest yet, our rivals, St Stithians, proved to be a positive fixture for the St Mary's teams. Not one age group lost its game and the first team pulled off an outstanding performance to win 3-1. The St Mary's community



1st team singing "Oh When The Saints"

showed how special it is to be a part of the school. About 60 girls travelled to St Stithians to play and cheer on the 1st team, which was phenomenal. Throughout the game, the atmosphere was electrifying with drums beating and war cries bellowing. We thank every girl who travelled to support the hockey teams.

	vs Noordheuwel	vs Transvaila	vs St Stithians	vs Brescia	vs Hyde Park	vs Aurora Curro
U14C					6-0	
U14B	1-0	6-0	7-0	4-0		
U14A	2-1	4-0	2-0	8-0		
U15B						
U15A	0-0	0-0	0-0	8-0		
U16C					1-0	
U16B	4-0	3-0	4-0	4-0		
U16A	1-0	3-0	1-0	4-0		
4 th						
3 rd					1-0	3-0
2 nd	2-0	3-0	3-0	12-0		
1 st	2-1	3-1	3-1	4-0		



Back row: Sarah U18B, Zanele U16D, Roxanne U16B, Stacey U14D, Ruth U18C, Hannah U18D, Londeka U16D
 Middle row: Samantha U14B, Tannah U18B, Ella U14A, Danielle U14A, Kristin U14A, Georgina U14A, Zoë U14A, Josephine U14A, Gabriella U18B
 Front row: Nyakallo U14D, Anna U14D, Sasha U16A, Hannah U16A, Kiara U18A, Georgina U18A, Sarah U16A, Emma U16A, Caitlin U16D

We congratulate the St Mary's hockey players who have been selected to represent the Southern Gauteng school teams. Good luck with your preparation towards your tournaments.

ROXY COETZEE-TURNER
 HEAD OF HOCKEY

LOST PROPERTY

Below is a picture of all the pairs of glasses that have accumulated in lost property. I feel sure that there must be some owners who would like to bring their R5 to the sports office or to me personally and claim their important belongings.

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT



ROWING GOLF DAY



The St Mary's rowing club hosted their annual golf day on the 18 May. The money raised was for new blades.

Thank you to all our sponsors and enthusiasts for coming through and supporting the club in superb fashion!

CAITLIN DACE
HEAD ROWING COACH