

# FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

In a previous newsletter, I mentioned *ubuntu* and its much-needed influence in our society and school. I recently came across the following article by Anna Davies, who has created *The Ubuntu Project*, a film inspired by the South African philosophy of interdependence.

#### An extract:

"To me, *ubuntu* is really about recognising and celebrating the uniqueness that exists in all people, while appreciating what is shared – our basic needs, basic wants, human tendencies, human rights, feelings and emotions and, most importantly, our value as members of the same human race.

"With *The Ubuntu Project*, my aim has been to encourage connections between people who might usually see one another as 'different'. The idea is to enhance that experience of compassion and openness.

"While *ubuntu* is a South African concept, it's certainly not unique to South Africa.

"In my experience, the absence of *ubuntu* in action is perhaps a symptom of the increase in pressure and stress a lot of people living in the modern world are facing. With pressures to succeed and achieve, and the stress of our fast-paced, always-busy modern lives, many of us are living in a chronic state of 'fight or flight'.

"There's a ceaseless fear of not being good enough. Whether that means having enough money, enough friends, enough possessions, enough likes or followers on social media, enough hobbies, enough love, enough worthiness. Whatever we define 'enough' to be, we're afraid of not having it.

"Consequently, a lot of us are living in 'survival mode'. We become preoccupied with feeling safe through self-preservation. In doing so, we can lose perspective and it becomes more difficult for us to connect with others and the world around us.

"Ubuntu brought me to the realisation that, as people, we're always better when we're together. Whether that is in collaborating with others on projects, seeking support from others when we need it, or simply spending time and engaging in conversation with others. It is through others that we come to know ourselves. "Having made this film about human connection, I have more of this sense that we're all just people, each of us with our own stories – and there's something to be learnt from everyone. There's always some common ground – that's what being human is all about."

- Anna Davies, Australian psychologist, theubuntuproject.com.au

DEANNE KING HEAD OF SCHOOL



Our congratulations are extended to Anqi for being selected as one of the two string players who performed at the Roedean Music Competition gala event on the evening of Friday 9 June

# **FROM THE CHAPLAIN**

In reading up on another topic, I was reminded of the work of the late Brennan Manning. I love the manner in which Manning laid bare the love of Christ: stark, moving and real.

Manning was a Roman Catholic priest who left the priesthood and chose to marry. Vital to understanding his perspective is the fact that he was a recovering alcoholic. Thus, Manning had a depth of understanding of God's love and forgiveness that only someone who has a deep awareness of our fallen human nature could possibly have. Manning knew deep within his heart that Jesus sought out and loved the ragamuffins: Manning himself, and you and me.

"The contagious joy of Jesus (only carriers can pass it on) infected and freed His followers. The author of Hebrews says, 'Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever' (13:8). If Jesus appeared at your dining room table tonight with knowledge of everything you are and are not, total comprehension of your life story and every skeleton hidden in your closet; if He laid out the real state of your present discipleship with the hidden agenda, the mixed motives and the dark desires buried in your psyche, you would feel His acceptance and forgiveness. For 'experiencing God's love in Jesus Christ means experiencing that one has been unreservedly accepted, approved and infinitely loved, that one can and should accept oneself and one's neighbour. Salvation is joy in God which expresses itself in joy in and with one's neighbour'(quoted from Walter Kasper, Jesus the Christ, (1977),p. 86).

"Therefore, it is unimaginable to picture a wooden-faced, stoic, joyless and judgmental Jesus as He reclined with ragamuffins."

- Brennan Manning, The Ragamuffin Gospel (1990), pp. 63-64.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS CHAPLAIN

## **MUSE MORNING**

All parents are welcome to join us at the Muse Morning on Tuesday 11 July. Refreshments will be available from 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30.

Time: 07h15 to 08h30

Venue: Seminar room, The Edge

Topic: Insights into Anxiety

Speaker: Francesca Chetwin, clinical psychologist. Francesca provides psychotherapy to children, adolescents and adults, as well as parental guidance and psycho-educational assessments. In addition to clinical practice, Francesca is a member of The Day Clinic Adolescent DBT team and the Bellavista Remedial School SEEK assessment team.

RSVP: sharon.san@stmary.co.za

### CHESS

On Saturday 27 May, St Mary's held its third annual Girls' Senior/Junior Schools' Team Chess Championship. The teams comprised four players each, and St Mary's entered four teams; 16 teams participated in the event. St Mary's A achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place with 18 points, Jeppe Girls U18 A placed 2<sup>nd</sup> with 16.5 points and 3<sup>rd</sup> place was awarded to Dainfern College on 15 points. It was an enjoyable and successful event, and we are very proud of our St Mary's girls.

#### JENNIFER BAILEY CHESS CO-ORDINATOR





St Mary's A team - Bonginkosi, Nivia, Inge and Catherine

# FORM I E4 OUTING TO NORTHWARDS HOUSE

During Term II, the Form I girls began to explore the growth and development of Johannesburg as a migrant city, and the consequences this has had for many people over time. The Randlords and black migrant workers are two distinct groups that highlight the societal norms, racial relations and power dynamics that existed in early Johannesburg.

The recent visit to the Northwards House is the first stop on this journey, with this outing aiming to understand the life and times of the white and mostly European Randlords. In visiting this house, it was hoped that the Form I girls grasped how this lifestyle demonstrated vast societal stereotypes, hierarchy and segregation.

The various activities and conversations during the outing assisted pupils in comprehending how the Randlords' lifestyle was made possible because of the injustices that existed in the late 1800s. These injustices and the Randlords' thinking, as well as that of the people of the time, further entrenched segregation, having a negative impact on race relations in our country. Northwards House offered the Form I girls an experiential learning opportunity. Three practical examinations occurred during the morning, including the music listening examination, the perspective drawing activity and the stunning dance performances for the e4 My Voice course. The content and learning from this outing was used to inform the context of the My Toolbox examination assessments.

A big thank-you is extended to the girls for their enthusiasm and commitment to the variety of learning opportunities, as well as to the e4 staff for arranging the outing.

SALLY JAMES DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS

3



Dance performance in action, reaturing Zion, Megan (roreground), and Yvonne and Annie (background)



Luthando and Siphosethu analysing their Google Photospheres of the Johannesburg skyline



More impressive dance performances



Form Is complete the music practical listening activity in situ, in the Northwards ballroom

## FROM THE FOUNDATION

The St Mary's Foundation auction evening is sold out!

Thank you to the community for the overwhelming support of the 2017 auction evening.

Guests at this year's auction, who do not wish to participate in the auction but still wish to contribute to the Foundation, will have the opportunity of purchasing lucky mystery boxes. These boxes will vary in value from R500 upwards and will contain items such as weekends away, salon vouchers or sports match tickets, to name a few.

We look forward to a fun evening out at the Rand Club.

#### GILLIAN O'SHAUGHNESSY FOUNDATION MANAGER

# FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

### ISSF

The Independent Schools' Sports Festival (ISSF) took place in Durban on 9 and 10 June, hosted by Our Lady of Fatima Diocesan Convent School in Durban North.

Owing to the limited facilities on campus, only netball was played at the school. The other three sports were all played at different venues, but in close proximity. We played hockey at the Riverside Sports Club, tennis at Durban North Tennis Club and squash at the Crusaders Sports Club.

The ISSF is a wonderful event that has been running for about 20 years, between some of the independent girls' schools in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. Hosting of the event works on a rotational basis, with the hosting taking place in KwaZulu-Natal one year then in Gauteng the following year.

Unfortunately, the date always falls during our examinations, which proves problematic, especially when we are required to travel as far as Durban. We were very fortunate, much to the delight of all, to be able to fly to Durban and back. Our diligent girls took their books and studied at the airport before we transferred to the tournament.

Our teams performed superbly, and all the coaches were proud to be associated with the "red" school. Out of a total of 24 matches across all four sports, we were only 4-5 down in one tennis match when time was called, and one squash match was lost. It was an outstanding performance for "Team St Mary's". Well done, everybody.

#### QUIX HEAD OF SPORT



# **COMRADES MARATHON**

Congratulations to Annie Thom and Claire Lord, who both ran and completed the 2017 Comrades Marathon. They have both run before, and said the conditions this year were hot and very tough. The rest of us are in awe of this achievement.

QUIX HEAD OF SPORT





Claire Lord

# WATER POLO

Daniela has been selected for the South African women's water polo team to participate in the EU Nations Water Polo Cup, to be held in Bazén Slovany, Pilsen, Czech Republic from 14 to 16 July.



Daniela

# EQUESTRIAN



### IMPERIAL SELECT

SANESA Gauteng Metro 20-21 May 2017

Kiara



#### Olivia Dunkley



Nicola Douglas

The St Mary's equestrian team had a busy month during May. Riders competed in the third Core League SANESA qualifier, Eventing and Stadium Eventing. Unfortunately, some riders and horses were unable to compete in the SANESA qualifiers owing to illness and injury; however, those who did compete flew the St Mary's flag high. We welcome Michelle Crossman, who has joined the team. We thank Ms Jacobs, Ms Wood and all the parents who came to support the Senior and Junior School teams.

The team is proud to have achieved the following top five results:

Level 7 Equitation: Margaret 1<sup>st</sup> Eventing: Kiara 1<sup>st</sup> Performance Riding: India 4<sup>th</sup>, Lia 5<sup>th</sup> Working Hunter: India 1<sup>st</sup> Working Riding: Nicola 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lia 5<sup>th</sup>

Level 6 Equitation: Kiara 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Level 5

Dressage: Lia 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Performance Riding: Lia 2<sup>nd</sup>, India 5<sup>th</sup> Prix Caprilli: India 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Show Jumping: India 4<sup>th</sup> Stadium Eventing: India 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Hunter: Lia 1<sup>st</sup>

Level 4 Equitation: Nicola 4<sup>th</sup> Showjumping: India 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Level 3

Dressage: India 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Hunter: Nicola 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Riding: Lia 5<sup>th</sup> Show Jumping: Lia 2<sup>nd</sup>

Level 2 Dressage: India 1<sup>st</sup>, Nicola 5<sup>th</sup>

Level 1 Eventing: India 2<sup>nd</sup> Prix Caprilli: Michelle 5<sup>th</sup> Show Jumping: Robyn 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lia and India also both qualified and represented Gauteng in the Dressage South Africa Challenge at the end of May, where Lia won the Junior Elementary-Medium Section. At the recent Gauteng Dressage Council Annual Awards, Lia and Waterside Magic Flute received the Top Gauteng Pony Rider Elementary Dressage Award 2015 and Top Gauteng Pony Rider Elementary-Medium Dressage Award 2016.

> CAITLIN EQUESTRIAN CAPTAIN

# SQUASH



The victorious St Mary's A squash team: Alexia, Ruth, Megan, Panashe, Demi and Jemma

St Mary's A squash team took top honours in the recent Gauteng Top Schools' Squash Tournament. The tournament was held at St Stithians College.

The team has now qualified to participate in the National Top Schools' Squash Tournament, which will take place in August at Epworth School, Pietermaritzburg.

#### JENNIFER FOX HEAD OF SQUASH

### ROWING



Megan

Throughout the winter "off" season, girls from all age groups have been in weekly early morning training sessions to ensure fitness and continued camaraderie.

We are delighted by the selection of Megan, Jessica and Caitlin to compete in the Junior World Rowing Championships this August. This is a national selection and is only achievable through hard work, grit and determination. These girls train consistently in their respective boat classes with Megan in a single scull, and Jessica and Caitlin partners in a double. We wish these girls luck with their future training and racing.

A few dedicated rowers from St Mary's have entered the annual long row, taking place on the Vaal River. This row is planned to fall on the forecasted coldest day of the year, meaning not only do the girls have to row 27km but they must endure the cold too. We wish these girls luck for their row on Sunday!



Jessica and Caitlin

Despite its being the "off" season, rowing is still a dominant aspect of each girl's life. The St Mary's rowing club prides itself on its members' dedication, love of the sport and its sisterhood.

A rowing open day is taking place at the Victoria Lake Club on Sunday 9 July. We ask all those interested in rowing to join us for a morning that will provide insight into and experience of being a member of a club. Each girl will be taken for a crash course of rowing with our senior girls and dedicated coaches, providing the real experience of rowing.

"Glory is in the team, not the individual" Sean Sullivan

MALLORY FORM IV

## NETBALL

The netball season has been a blast for both the girls and the coaches. The season is nearing its end and we are left with only one more week of Senior School netball. On Wednesday 21 June, the D13 netball league had its final matches as play-offs at Kingsmead College. The U14 A team, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> team, made it to the play-offs. Congratulations to both teams.

Our results from the past three league matches are as follow:

Results for matches played against St Dunstan's at St Dunstan's on Wednesday 31 May:

U14 A: 14-6 to St Mary's		
U14 B: 12-2 to St Mary's		
U15 A: 6-17 to St Dunstan's		
U15 B: 10-7 to St Mary's		
U16 A: 16-12 to St Mary's		
U16 B: 16-7 to St Mary's		
1 <sup>st</sup> team: 8-33 to St Dunstan's		
2 <sup>nd</sup> team: 7-15 to St Dunstan's		

Results for matches played against Beaulieu College at St Mary's on Wednesday 7 June:

U14 A: 11-8 to St Mary's	
U14 B: 14-3 to St Mary's	
U14 C: 16-10 to St Mary's	
U15 A: 8-22 to Beaulieu	
U15 B: 15-11 to St Mary's	
U16 A: 14-15 to Beaulieu	
U16 B: 14-7 to St Mary's	
1 <sup>st</sup> team: 28-20 to St Mary's	
2 <sup>nd</sup> team: 11-13 to Beaulieu	
3 <sup>rd</sup> team: 9-14 to Beaulieu	

U14 A: 13-13 draw
U14 B: 28-2 to St Mary's
U15 A: 14-32 to Leeuwenhof
U15 B: 29-5 to St Mary's
U16 A: 15-23 to Leeuwenhof
U16 B: 13-15 to Leeuwenhof
1 <sup>st</sup> team: 20-23 to Leeuwenhof
2 <sup>nd</sup> team: 12-27 to Leeuwenhof

NB! The netball and basketball dinner will be hosted in the gym, at 18h00 for 18h30, on Wednesday 5 July. Kindly remember to RSVP to me at palesa.masinga@stmary.co.za by Friday 23 June.

PALESA MASINGA HEAD OF NETBALL

## **RYTHMIC GYMNASTICS**



Jessica, Zeinab, Romy and Caitlin

### HOCKEY

The Malik League, which includes the Queens (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> teams) and U16 C, U14 C and U14 D teams, finished their league with an unbelievable performance against Jeppe. The 3<sup>rd</sup> team played an exceptional game to draw 1-1 against Jeppe's 1<sup>st</sup> team. The 4<sup>th</sup> team took on Northcliff's 3<sup>rd</sup> team and managed a nail-biting 1-0 win. We can also be proud of the efforts and results of our Grays league.

The results are as follows:

	Lose	Draw
8	0	0
6	0	2
9	0	0
1	2	0
0	2	0
4	2	1
	6 9 1 0	6 0 9 0 1 2 0 2

Caitlin, Romy and Jessica took part in the Level 8 competition at Wierda, Pretoria, at the beginning of June. They will also compete

Zeinab, a Grade 4 pupil, achieved the highest score in level 6 at the

in the South African Invitational in Stellenbosch in July.

Wierda competition.



3<sup>rd</sup> Queens

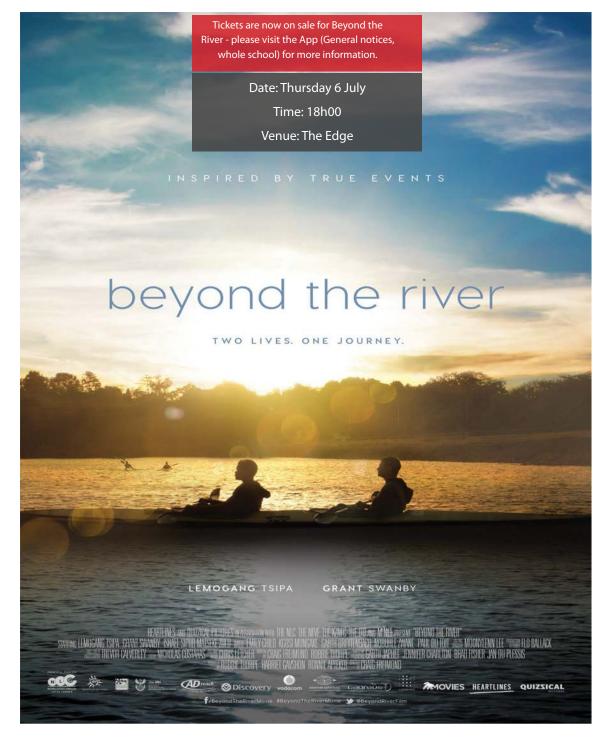
The Grays League is nearing its close, with our last match against Roedean on 6 July. We have had successful results against Kingsmead and Northcliff. Our 1<sup>st</sup> team drew 1-1 against St Stithians, which means our clash against Roedean is even more important to secure the league win.

ROXY COETZEE-TURNER HEAD OF HOCKEY

LINDA GIURICICH

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS COACH

# NOTICES:





#### SAVE THE DATE: STUDIUM APERTUM

Saturday 22 July

Choose from 20 speakers who include:

Khanyi Dhlomo - Editor and CEO of Destiny Magazine

Patrick Conroy - Author, Journalist, Motivational Speaker and 1996 702 Everest Crisis Climber

Dr Corrin Varady - author, journalist and entrepreneur, educator working with rescued children in Tanzania Reverend Dr Vicentia Kgabe - Anglican priest and academic

Christa Kuljian - free-lance writer and author of Darwin's Hunch: how scientists are shaped by their political and social context

and 15 more...

and Whistle Stop - National Arts Festival play