



Squares knitted for Mandela Day

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

There have been a number of occasions in the past weeks where I have witnessed St Mary's girls participating in activities and showcasing their talents and abilities. These have included, but are not limited to, the choir which achieved a significant level of excellence on the eve of Mandela Day, the exhibition of "women in 1958" curated by our girls in collaboration with BAHA, the variety of talent on display at the On the Edge festival, the hockey victories for the U16 A and 1st team in the Howell Pullen Tournament and the news about our squash girls and equestrian team's overall success this season. I am in awe of what young people can achieve when they are presented with opportunities for self-development during their years at school.

There is no doubt that children thrive when they have adults who are committed to their well-being and development. Parents, grandparents, teachers and coaches are integral to children's individual journeys towards identifying their reason for being and fulfilling their dreams.

The contract between parents and a school is vital in terms of creating

an environment conducive to a child's development. This relationship needs to be characterised by healthy communication, shared ideals and a focus on the best interests of the child. Recent reports in the press about conflict between parents and schools have disturbed me. Surely, parents and schools should work together to raise children and educate them to allow them to be their best selves. The St Mary's community has achieved this outcome through collaboration and shared values between parents and the school.

I wish all our families a restful August holiday and I look forward to the girls returning with the promise of spring.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

NOTICE BOARD – PLEASE SEE PAGE 12 FOR ALL OUR IMPORTANT NOTICES

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Chaplains from around the country attending the NISCC 2018 in KwaZulu-Natal

From 22 to 27 July, I was privileged to attend the annual National Independent Schools Chaplains' Conference (NISCC), hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal chaplains and schools in the Midlands. The conference is a time of fellowship, rest and restoration for the chaplains, who come from Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and non-denominational schools and backgrounds. We were treated to zip-lining in Karkloof, a talk on and an opportunity for healing prayer, a retreat day in Hilton College's game reserve, and each night one of the schools in the area hosted us for a meal. In connecting with other chaplains, we gain a sense of common issues with which we are faced, as well as creative ideas for our own schools. Each day, we listened to speakers on topics such as "Looking after Generation Z", "Resilience", and a talk on creating spaces for ourselves and for the girls and boys in our schools to find their identities in Christ, called "the Cathedral spaces of childhood". We were honoured to listen to the Revd Canon Alan Smedley, chaplain to Michaelhouse for 25 years this year, reflect on his time as chaplain and impart what he has learnt of chaplaincy to us.

I have come away from the NISCC 2018 feeling rejuvenated and with a sense of community with my fellow chaplains across the country. I also have a renewed sense of the incredible blessing it is to work as a chaplain in schools such as ours, and am inspired to reflect further on my own approach to chaplaincy and to implement some of what I have learnt.

As a school community, we mourn the passing of Apehelele Gama (matric 2016), who died on Sunday 22 July. Her funeral was held at Gracepoint Methodist Church on Thursday 26 July.

Rest eternal grant to Apehelele, oh Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

TELL YOUR STORY

Our *Studium Apertum* and On the Edge initiatives joining forces proved to be a great success. From subject Music recitals and an international choir from Berlin, to plays and lectures, the St Mary's community was entertained, enlightened and enchanted. Bryan Schimmel touched our hearts with his story of success despite personal challenges, Gus Silber gave the staff something to chew on, and Natasha Sutherland shared with the girls insights into the demands of being an actor who shifts from stage to screen. The satirical Form III play was a hit as they

challenged a traditional school system. Our mini-market helped to create a vibe outside The Edge with the secondhand book sale being a roaring success – thank you to all who contributed. The Ikusasa Lethu pupils joined us for an interactive drumming and percussion session on the patio of The Edge which proved to be one of the highlights of the event.

JANE MCMURRAY
HOD: CULTURALS



Girls enjoying the morning session at the *Studium Apertum* and *On the Edge* initiative

FROM THE FOUNDATION

My experience at the Nelson Mandela Centenary gala dinner

This grand dinner was held at the Johannesburg Expo Centre, Nasrec. It was a phenomenal encounter to see inspirational people such as President Cyril Ramaphosa, former President Thabo Mbeki, former US President Barack Obama, and many other influential people.

The theme for the evening was "Night of 100 Words". In keeping with the theme, guests were separated from their groups and sat with complete strangers to encourage conversations. I sat next to an Italian professor and Cosatu member and politician, Frida Oosthuysen, who both shared great stories about their backgrounds and professions. Obama's speech was eye-opening and interesting. He spoke of continuing to build an even more perfect nation than Nelson Mandela was aiming to create. He said "more perfect" because there is always room for improvement. This experience was truly an honour. I thank

my sponsors, Flow Communications, for inviting me to what was a life-changing event.

"It was a great honour to take Rorisang as our guest to the gala dinner with Barack Obama, Cyril Ramaphosa and others on the eve of Mandela Day, on 17 July. Rorisang is poised, interested and confident, despite her young age – a great testament to St Mary's! We have no doubt Rorisang will go on to meet many great leaders of the calibre of Obama in her lifetime, and will indeed become one herself," says Tara Turkington, CEO of Flow Communications.

**RORISANG
FORM II**



Tara Turkington with Rorisang and Edwina van der Burg from Flow Communications

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



Pupils from the Ikusasa Lethu Programme visiting Sunninghill Hospital

Grade 11 and 12 pupils from Ikusasa Lethu visited Sunninghill Hospital in their holidays to experience the work environment of a hospital. "I learnt that it does not matter if your career has a fancy name, it's all about loving what you do, being dedicated and respecting your job. It also takes hard work for people to be what they want to be," says Thulisile Moloi.

The Grade 11 and 12s also visited a number of commercial companies and a farm.

LINDA GIURICICH
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

MANDELA DAY

Our thanks are extended to everyone who made a contribution to the success of Nelson Mandela International Day (Mandela Day).

We are delighted that the staff tea raised R2 000, which will be donated to CANSA. The girls also had an excellent cake sale and raised close to R5 000. Their money will go to Dignity Dreams, an organisation that supplies reusable sanitary towels to girls who do not have access to sanitary products. Thanks to those who made such delicious treats for the occasion.

We have also collected a large number of bags of secondhand clothes for the Ikusasa Lethu Programme, which will benefit the pupils and their families. Not least of all was the exceptional number of squares that have been knitted. It was lovely to see the girls chatting, knitting and picnicking.

LYNN NORTHMORE
HEAD OF PASTORAL CARE

INNOV@TION HUB



This term, I have written much about 21st century pedagogies of curation, conversation, correction, creation, and finally, the ability to make sense of chaos, which are at the core of our approach to teaching and learning in e4. Many of these pedagogies are evident in the excursions enjoyed by the girls which form an integral part of the e4 programme.

The e4 excursions are not passive events. Instead, they are opportunities for the girls to become actively involved in a learning experience which is outside the ambit of their everyday lives and to engage meaningfully in the research of a concept through conducting field work. Outings are an essential part of the integrated e4 programme and they form a vital component of the pupils' learning and assessment.

The Form I girls began the examination period with an outing to the Northwards mansion, built more than a hundred years ago. Northwards and other homes on the Parktown Ridge built at the same time are artefacts of a particular era in the story of Johannesburg and South Africa; an expression of various social, economic and political factors which came together at a specific time in our history.

Driving questions were posed relating to the mansion and its surrounds. Pupils conversed with teachers, Johannesburg Heritage

Foundation guides, the curator of Northwards and, of course, one another. They had the opportunity to test and correct their own understanding of the concepts presented. The girls used knowledge gained about the social norms of early Johannesburg, as well as their imaginations, in the performance of a dramatic scene at their own chosen site within the mansion. They were then catapulted into the present when they made use of their smartphones and the Google cardboard goggles to create a 3D photosphere, considering geographical concepts such as the aspect of the slope north of the site, as well as the development of Johannesburg and the spread of the city. Pupils ended the day by creating iMovies on their iPads while still on site at Northwards, expressing the insights gained from the day.

Lastly, as always in e4, the pupils extended themselves by investigating a current challenge in society related to what they observe – in this case, how the high cost of running a heritage site is covered. They got to grips with the idea of "living history" in the mansion in that its modern-day use as offices for small businesses, a location for functions and a set for television commercials make it both a protected heritage site and a self-sufficient going concern.

CLARE SEARLE AND LINDA BRADFIELD
CURRICULUM INNOVATION AND ED-TECH LEADERS

FORM II PARACHUTE PROJECT



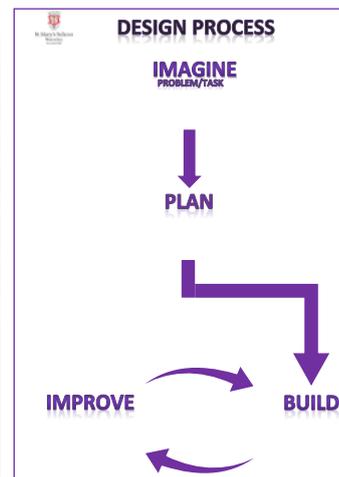
Parachute planning



Building the parachute



Parachute being dropped



Design process

In order to expose our Form II girls to the design process in Natural Sciences, before they embark on their robotics project in Term III, we ask them to design and build a parachute from recycled materials. The parachute must transport a rock from the top floor of the science block to the ground. The girls were placed in pairs and worked solely in class time. The aim was to create the parachute that falls to the ground the slowest and the group with the longest descent time automatically scores full marks for their project. The girls explored how to answer their own questions through trial and error and not only to incorporate their partner's ideas but also to work together to manage their time. They

followed a series of rubrics and had to submit a prototype drawing and document the changes they made to their design to iTunesU, complete a worksheet where they did calculations on speed and distance and submit a video of their parachute's flight. It was a simple concept which was a very effective way to consolidate mechanical energy concepts, teach girls to put their ideas into practice and submit their best work. Much joy was also had by both teachers and girls.

MELANIE BLAIR AND CAROLYN HUYSAMER
NATURAL SCIENCES

PEER COUNSELLORS

“KNOW YOUR WORTH,
THEN ADD TAX.”

Happily ever after

At one stage, all of us believed in magic. We believed in happy endings, success and Prince Charming.

Similarly, at one stage we stopped believing. We cast the thoughts away and deemed them fairy tales. We recognised the world to be a cruel environment over which we have no influence. We downgraded ourselves to being not good enough to have a happy ending and being not good enough to change the world.

We view ourselves through distorted mirrors – as too small compared with the world and as too imperfect compared with the fairy tale princesses.

In some ways, this has made us stronger. We have become fierce, confident women who fashion our own futures. In all the areas

in which we have improved, we have not focused any energy on changing our perception of what we think we deserve.

As children, we had confidence and we believed that one day we would change the world. As we grew older, we experienced life's obstacles and we stopped pursuing success, and coincidentally, we stopped pursuing happiness.

We see ourselves as too flawed to deserve a happy ending. We need to take our success and ferocity and move towards our childhood beliefs. We need to look at ourselves and see how powerful and wonderful we have grown to be and we should learn to accept what we deserve in life: the best.

SHANNIN
FORM IV

MIGRATION

Last Tuesday, the Form IV girls had the privilege of listening to three incredible women who are aiming to raise awareness about migration issues in South Africa. Two St Mary's Old Girls, Bongwiwe Bongwe and Ntombi Nkiwane, as well as activist, Sophie Kanza, delivered the talk. Bongwiwe and Ntombi are ambassadors for Amnesty International, while Sophie is the founder of the Sophie A Kanza Foundation: a non-profit organisation that aims to unite and empower African women from around the continent. The organisation does amazing work with African youth and strives to fight institutional and social Afrophobia. The organisation also created an incredible short film about migrants in South Africa called *Singabantu*, which won the international United Nations Award. We learned about the difficulties faced by African migrants and asylum seekers in South Africa, as well as hear from Sophie's own experiences as a migrant from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was an eye-opening and enriching talk. In today's society, where Donald Trump's controversial border policies are broadcast on every mainstream news channel, we often forget that there are many migrants in South Africa who have suffered similar hardships. Our thanks are extended to Bongwiwe, Ntombi and Sophie for taking the time to address us on such an important issue.

ANGELIQUE
FORM IV



Sophie Kanza, Ntombi Nkiwane and Bongwiwe Bongwe

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION (ISTE) CONFERENCE 2018



Melanie Blair at the ISTE Chicago

I was fortunate to have a paper accepted and be invited to present at the ISTE conference in Chicago between 24 and 28 June. I presented on the robotics project which we do with the Form II girls and which is now in its third year. In our project, the girls are given a custom-made circuit board, two motors and a program designed using MPLAB X (in Java) by Ryonic Robotics, installed on laptops in the science labs. Our girls have to design a chassis, wheels for the motors, a holder for the battery and circuit board, and make their robot move in a 1m x 1m square. Their robot design also had to have a "purpose", such as to fetch the remote control when you are too lazy to get up, or to mop up spills in the kitchen. The project is difficult and the girls experience failure and have to use trial and error to reach their goal.

My aim at the conference was to show other educators that they do not need to spend large amounts of money on expensive robot kits in order to run a functional and educational robotics project. Our girls shared one kit between two so that they could all be hands-on and experience the benefits of collaborating with a peer.

At the conference, I was able to attend Google and Apple workshops

and see other projects in which schools engage. I learned how to teach a concept using augmented reality, had discussions about PLIs (personal learning initiatives), digital citizenship and how to change education from something that "happens to a child" to one where the child is equipped to navigate her own learning. Another important lesson I learned was that St Mary's is not trailing behind the rest of the world regarding technology in education. In fact, we can be proud of how skilled we are as a staff at using our technology and using it creatively in our teaching.

Thank you to Ms King for being supportive and for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference. Thank you also to my Science department for looking after my classes while I was away.

MELANIE BLAIR
HOD: PHYSICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES

CAREERS EVENING



The annual careers evening is always accompanied by mixed emotions. Initially, it can be quite overwhelming to walk through the careers expo and listen to the post-school experiences of St Mary's alumni. I think I can safely say that the uncertainty I'm feeling about my plans for when I leave school is shared by many of my peers.

Despite the nervous undertone of the evening, many of us left The Edge more excited about our futures than when we arrived. It's not necessarily that one of the talks we heard helped us to pinpoint exactly what we want to study after school but more that the vast

array of experiences shared by St Mary's Old Girls displayed the endless possibilities that are waiting for us. Although the thought of a world outside St Mary's is somewhat frightening, it's simultaneously comforting to know that one day we, too, will become Old Girls and begin to make our marks on the world.

HANNAH
FORM IV

CONTOUR CAKES



On Monday 30 July, The Close was transformed and took on a carnival atmosphere as the Form II girls constructed edible 3D islands from a designated contour map. This group exercise has become a tradition in Geography when an integral component of the mapwork section comes alive. The islands that the girls produced were assessed on shape and also accuracy of slopes and landforms using an online rubric. Marks were allocated for creativity and, judging from the original themes, this years' group did not disappoint. The girls were

encouraged to dress in keeping with their themes and some outfits were ingenious. Each group had to upload their rationale, videos and photographs to Google Drive and the girls also voted for their favourite group's island online.

CINDY LEN AND ZIMKHITA RAOLANE
GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS



FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



HOCKEY



1st team huddle



Senior house hockey



Georgina (captain 1st team) and Sarah (captain U16 A)



St Mary's U16 A Howell Trophy winners



1st team winners of the Pullen Trophy



Londeka vs Noordheuwel

Inter-house hockey took place for the senior and junior teams on 16 and 17 July. This was the last week of inter-house competition for the hockey girls. There were some tough matches and the competition was fierce!

In the previous *Senior School News*, we reported on some inter-house hockey results, but after four days of inter-house hockey, the final results are as follows:

Final results:								
	Junior				Senior			
	Team	Social	Total	Pos	Team	Social	Total	Pos
CLAYTON	9	6	15	1 ST	2	6	8	4 TH
FURSE	5	8	13	2 ND TIE	6	12	18	1 ST TIE
KARNEY	5	6	11	4 TH	9	9	18	1 ST TIE
PHELPS	8	5	13	2 ND TIE	12	2.5	14.5	3 RD

The annual Howell Pullen Tournament began on Saturday 21 July with pool fixtures for both the St Mary's U16 A and 1st teams. Both teams won all three of their pool matches and ended at the top of their pools. This ensured that they played in the quarter-finals. These matches took place on Tuesday 24 July. St Mary's U16 beat Roedeana U16 5-0 and the St Mary's 1st team beat Northcliff 6-0. The semi-finals on Thursday 26 July proved tough for the U16 A team with the team trailing twice to Northcliff's U16 A. The fight and determination to secure the final spot finally paid off with a goal from Londeka to win the game 3-2. The 1st team met Fourways in their semi-final match and won 4-0. The final of the Howell Pullen Tournament took place on Saturday 28 July. The support and atmosphere were tremendous with both of the St Mary's teams taking the titles. St Mary's U16 A team emerged as winner of the Howell Trophy beating Noordheuwel 4-0

and the St Mary's 1st team won the Pullen Trophy beating St Stithians 2-1.

We wish the U14 A team, travelling to Grahamstown on 9 August, all the best for the DSG U14 hockey tournament. Our U16 A and 1st teams will be taking part in their respective age group Top 12 tournament from 8 to 12 August. The U16A team is travelling to Paarl Gimnasium and the 1st team to C&N Meisieskool Oranje.

Congratulations to all teams on a successful season of hockey.

ROXY COETZEE-TURNER
HEAD OF HOCKEY

TENNIS

Congratulations to Tamsin who has done extremely well on the tennis court over the past few weeks. Tamsin reached the semi-finals of the singles in the Growth Point tournaments in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng East. Tamsin and her partner from Bloemfontein won the doubles of the Gauteng East Growth Point U18 and reached the finals of the past two ITF U18 tournaments held at Wanderers and at Groenkloof in Pretoria. Well done, Tamsin, on these excellent results.

I extend a resounding thank you to Zaina and her team of tennis players who coached Grade 10 learners from the Ikusasa Lethu Programme. The

tennis players became coaches for the morning and enjoyed sharing their love for tennis with the Grade 10 learners.

Good luck to all the players who will be playing in tournaments during the August holidays.

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



Tamsin



Ikusasa Lethu tennis coaching



Tennis coaching

TRICOLORE GAMES

In an earlier newsletter, I reported that Kristen had been selected to represent Gauteng at the Tricolore International Sport Games, in Reggio Emilia, Italy, in the code of para-swimming. I also reported that Ynez had been selected for the same event but to play for Gauteng in the girls' football team.

The team had an awesome send-off with the Premier of Gauteng and the Minister of Sport, both being present.

Ynez's football team did well and earned a silver medal. Kristen swam in

four events and placed in all her races. She achieved gold medals in 50m and 100m backstroke, a silver medal in freestyle and a bronze medal for butterfly.

Well done girls, what an amazing opportunity.

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT

EQUESTRIAN



St Mary's equestrian team - proud winners of SANESA Category E Johannesburg Region

India

I am extremely proud of the commitment and dedication shown by all 10 riders in the St Mary's Senior School team. At the SANESA Gauteng Johannesburg District Awards, St Mary's was declared winner of category E (13 to 16 rider combinations) with 27 785 points. This overall score was the third-highest composite score of all the schools and categories which competed in the region. This is a phenomenal achievement as the two schools, which had higher scores, competed in Category A (35 or more rider combinations).

I extend my congratulations to India for being awarded a silver medal as runner-up Victor Ludorum on AEA Maximillion for the Gauteng Johannesburg District. These awards are for the highest number of points accumulated by a single rider combination and is reflective of the hard work that India and Max have put in. They have competed in an average of eight classes per SANESA Core League Qualifier as well as in various Stadium Eventing and Eventing Qualifiers. Well done, India and Max!

The next step in the SANESA league is Gauteng finals which will be held at the beginning of August. These will be used to select the Gauteng teams to compete at Nationals in October. The following

riders have received SANESA Johannesburg Core League Regional Full Colours, on various A and B Teams and at various levels:

- Hannah
- Erin
- Robyn
- Nicola D
- Nicola B
- India
- Lia

Nina was also selected but will, unfortunately, not be able to compete at Gauteng Regionals owing to prior personal commitments. I also unfortunately had to withdraw one of my horses owing to injury.

Good luck, girls!

LIA
EQUESTRIAN CAPTAIN

SQUASH

The South African top 10 squash rankings have recently been announced and we are proud of the following three players:

- Panashe SA U19 number 1
- Jemma SA U19 number 9
- Tayla SA U14 number 8

Congratulations girls, this is a superb achievement.

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT

NOTICES

PTA CLUB 100

Our congratulations are extended to our Term III winners:

100%	Aleeza	Grade 000 G	R20 100
20%	Zalika	Grade 6 N	R7 160
10%	Chelsea	Grade 2 P	R2 900