



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

SENIOR
SCHOOL NEWS

8 SEPTEMBER 2017

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FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



Megan competed at the Junior World Rowing Championships in Lithuania, in August. She placed second and returned with a silver medal



Tinhiko Nkuna has been appointed as deputy head, Innovation

Welcome back to school. Spring is clearly evident in our gardens and in the growing intensity of the sun. The season promises rebirth and a time of growth, thus a good time to return to school and participate in a new term and the possibilities that it holds.

Our Form V girls have begun writing the preliminary examinations and I am pleased to note that they have settled into a measured routine that will benefit their efforts. The teachers are eager to track their progress through these examinations so as best to support them for the final examinations that begin in October. Our Form I to IV girls have been involved in special programmes, which include a leadership course for the Form IVs and bush school for the Form IIs.

I am pleased to inform you that after a rigorous process, and in consultation with the Board, I have appointed Tinhiko Nkuna as deputy head, Innovation. Tinhiko is an Old Girl of St Mary's and returned to our school to teach History and join the e4 team. Her passion and vision for educational transformation has been evident in her teaching and in her role as head of Phelps House. She will lead innovation through all the educational focus areas including specifically the social, generational and transformational innovation that we aspire to at St Mary's.

I wish our families a healthy, happy Michaelmas Term.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

"Whatever prayer, whatever plea there is from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing the afflictions of their own hearts so that they stretch out their hands toward this house; then hear in heaven your dwelling place, forgive, act, and render to all whose hearts you know — according to all their ways, for only you know what is in every human heart — so that they may fear you all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our ancestors."

1 Kings 8:38-40

These words form part of the beautiful prayer King Solomon prayed, upon the completion of the newly-built temple in Jerusalem, and in the assembly of all Israel. In today's context the phrase "the fear of God" can have a negative connotation; it may help to substitute "fear" with "awe" in reading the above passage to gain a more accurate understanding of Solomon's meaning.

I am moved by the intensity of Solomon's request to God. I am also struck by the vulnerability of individuals' prayer that he describes,

elicited by words such as "plea", "afflictions of their own hearts", and the action of stretching out one's hands to God in making such a plea to God. Solomon lays bare the intimacy that is prayer: individuals bringing what burdens their hearts to a God who knows each heart.

As we welcome one another back for a new term, I pray these words for all of us, the community of St Mary's School.

On 13 August, sadly, Jaide-Maree's father David died in a motor bicycle accident. Following a cremation, the family celebrated David's life at their home. We continue to hold Jaide-Maree, her sister Arabella, and their mother Joanina in our prayers as they mourn David's passing.

Rest eternal grant unto David, oh Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

CONTOUR CAKES

Contour Cakes has become a much-anticipated event on the Form II calendar and this year's cakes were a wonderful example of teamwork and creativity. The Form II girls are required to work in groups to assemble a 3D island using a template of a contour map. Cake, icing and other edible materials are used to interpret landforms, slopes, a beach and the sea of the island in a creative manner. This exercise enabled the girls to visualise the topography of an area and to compare and interpret it with what they saw on a map. An element of fun is always added as each group dresses up according to a theme and adds music and décor to the table. The cakes this year were a remarkable sight and the precision shown by most of the groups in the creation process was most impressive. An online rubric was used to assess the girls' cakes, based on the geographical correctness of the landforms as well as the creativity. A rationale and photographs had to be uploaded to Google Drive with the girls voting for their favourite group's cake online. RRRAP Gang is congratulated as it was voted the favourite group of the day.

MEGAN DEVINE
HOD: GEOGRAPHY



A CULTURAL FEAST: 31 JULY TO 3 AUGUST

INTER-HOUSE PLAYS

The Sizzling '17 house plays were devised theatrical pieces inspired by the themes: "Spare Rib" or "Fake News". The Form IV girls were tasked to cast by Friday 28 July, rehearse up a storm over the weekend, hold the final dress rehearsal on Monday and perform on Tuesday – and they did it. Sarah Terry, an Old Girl swung in to adjudicate. She spoke most eloquently about the successes of each of the plays. The girls were commended on their sincerity and opinions inspired by the themes. The body of work presented clearly demonstrated word, action and a theatrical aesthetic to express very real and meaningful ideas of the world, gender bias as well as a celebration of simply being a girl.

STAMP

The Saints Art Music and Performance (STAMP) Festival took on a slightly new look this year as we celebrated all work that had been created within the St Mary's community.

The theme was "Women", appropriately selected to coincide with women's month. The morning began with a heart-wrenching documentary titled *Strike a Rock* produced and directed by Aliko Saragas. Her documentary follows the life of the women of Marikana after the devastating massacre in 2012. Do yourself a favour and go to <http://strikearock.co.za> to find out more about this sensational story that has yet to find fair and reasonable conclusion – the struggle continues.

On offer on the day were FEDA plays, slam poetry, matric final practical examination pieces, coding, chess and DJing. The Science department presented demonstrations. The day ended with a showcase of the sensational dance and singing talent in The Edge. A big "thank you" goes to the technical crew – Barry, Jarred and Luke – who worked hard to ensure this day was successful.

CULTURAL AWARDS

The awards ceremony took on a very different format this year owing to the proximity to STAMP. We transformed the gym to look rather spectacular. Performances were solos, duets or quads, and the girls blew their audience away. The evening was well supported by staff, girls and parents. This was a fitting end to a rather frenetic but wonderful week of cultural experiences. Two very special Form IV girls volunteered to help with all the cultural events this term. I extend a huge thank you to Georgina and Veneka for being so generous with their time, patient with my indecisiveness, creative in their outlook and, finally, their contribution to the success of the events this term.

JANE MCMURRAY
HEAD OF CULTURALS



Dancing



Veneka singing *Black Coffee*

OXBRIDGE

For the past few years, St Mary's students have had the opportunity to participate in a range of academic offerings from the Oxbridge Academic Programs. This year, our students participated in the spring and summer seminars in Oxford, UK, and in the month-long summer programmes in Cambridge, UK, and Los Angeles, US. Joined by students from all over the world, the St Mary's girls studied courses including global business, medicine and the brain, filmmaking, astronomy and astrophysics and many others.

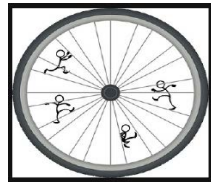
We are delighted to be able to offer St Mary's students the opportunity to participate in the Oxbridge Academic Programs in 2018. Current Forms I and II girls are eligible to apply for the month-long summer programmes and current Forms I to III girls are eligible to apply for the one- and two-week spring and summer seminars.

St Mary's girls are required to apply internally through the school before they can make an application to Oxbridge Academic Programs. Details of this process and more information about the various programmes on offer will be available at an information evening to be held in the Wantage Auditorium on Tuesday 26 September from 18h30 for all interested pupils and parents. Any interested students must attend this evening should they wish to apply. Anyone who is unable to attend must let Ms Nathanson know in advance.

For further information, please see the Oxbridge Academic Programs' website: <http://www.oxbridgeprograms.com>. It is worthwhile to look at the blogs to get a sense of the day-to-day running of each programme. For any queries, please contact Ms Nathanson: nina.nathanson@stmary.co.za.

NINA NATHANSON
OXBRIDGE CO-ORDINATOR

INNOV@TION HUB



At the end of Term II, the Form I girls had the opportunity to experience a taste of what life was like for migrant workers in early Johannesburg through an e4 outing to the Workers' Museum in Newtown.

Migrant workers travelled long distances from all over South Africa and other Southern African states to live in poor conditions on the compounds and work mostly on the mines. Through visiting the spaces where these men spent so much of their lives, and by reading the migrant workers' personal stories and being exposed to artifacts from the time such as clothing, bottles and pass books, the girls were able to extend their understanding of our city and our country, and develop empathy for those who went before us and made such an impact on the development of the City of Gold.

The other highlight of the day was a walk through the Newtown cultural precinct to the historic Market Theatre. The girls were treated to a special performance of the play *Ankobia* by Vice Motshabi and Umphile Molofi. The play revolved around themes of culture, identity and language, past, present and future, and raised questions about governance and abuse of power in society. A highlight of the day was the challenging and thought-provoking questions asked by the girls to the cast members and playwright.

CLARE SEARLE
CURRICULUM INNOVATION LEADER



At the Workers' Museum

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



TENNIS

The St Mary's tennis players have been very busy participating in tournaments and practising all around the world and in South Africa over the past few weeks.

Congratulations to our new tennis captain for the 2017/2018 season, Maja, on her excellent performances in the singles and doubles events of the ITF tournaments recently held at the Wanderers Club and in Pretoria. Maja won the singles of the ITF U18 tournament at the Wanderers and lost in the semi-finals of the singles in the Pretoria U18 ITF. Maja, along with her partner, won the doubles title at the Pretoria tournament. As a result of these excellent performances, Maja is now currently ranked number three in the U18 age group in South Africa which is an awesome achievement.

Tamsin travelled to Spain to practice at a tennis academy in Mallorca and also played a match at the Rafael Nadal Academy. Tamsin was extremely impressed by all the facilities at the Nadal Academy and cannot wait for the St Mary's tennis tour to Spain next year.

After reaching the finals of the singles in the Gauteng East U14 event in Benoni, Sarah travelled with her coach and a few other players to play in three tournaments held in Germany on clay courts. It was extremely hot in Germany and the opposition was tough but Sarah loved playing

on clay and found the whole trip an amazing learning experience, on and off the court.

Tamsin and Alexis flew to Mauritius to participate in two U18 ITF tournaments. The two young players fended for themselves and did extremely well in reaching the finals of the doubles in the last event. Once again, many life lessons were learnt on and off the court.

Congratulations to Amukelani for being chosen to play for an Invitational U16 South African team, which participated in the International Club Challenge. Amukelani's team played in a quadrangular tournament, which included Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Nina participated in a tournament in Middelburg and came second in the Open section.

Good luck to all the players with the new season on the tennis courts. The tennis matches start next Tuesday.

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



Tamsin at the Nadal Academy



Sarah with her opponent from The Czech Republic



Sarah playing on the European clay



Amukelani with a member of the U16 South African Invitational Team



Tamsin and Alexis with their ITF doubles runners-up trophies



Maja with the winner's trophy

BASKETBALL

Every year, the St Mary's 1st basketball team travels to Pietermaritzburg to take part in the Val Fowler Basketball Tournament. For the first time, the U16 basketball team joined what was set to be an eventful tour. The tournament provided an opportunity for the teams to bond, develop our skills and build a solid foundation for the upcoming season. Both teams did superbly, with the U16s being placed 10th and the 1st team coming in second after losing in the finals against the hosts, Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School. In addition to this, Khanyisile and I were selected as most valuable players of our respective teams. A huge thank you is extended to our coaches, Christa Kgamphe, Lerato Letsoalo and Palesa Masinga. Without the three coaches, the tour would

have been impossible. They went from being our coaches to being our mothers and played multiple roles in between coaching both teams. With sadness, we also say goodbye to our matrics, as this was their last schools' basketball tournament. They played a big role in the team by mentoring the younger players and leading the team on and off court. It was a tour full of fun memories and experiences, which we will cherish forever.

RETHABLE
FORM IV



1st team with their medals



Team photo

HOCKEY

During the August holiday, the St Mary's 1st hockey team attended the annual FNB Private Wealth Super 12 Hockey Tournament at C&N Meisieskool Oranje. This tournament showcases the "cream of the crop", allowing very little room for error.

Our results for the pool matches were:

- 2-0 win over St Mary's Kloof
- 1-2 loss against Collegiate
- 3-0 win over Pearson
- 3-1 win over Menlo Park
- 0-1 loss against St Anne's

We were third in the pool and played for positions five to eight. We met Renish Girls' High School in the crossover. The game ended in a 0-0 draw where we lost 0-2 in shootouts. Playing for seventh/eighth position was definitely not where we wanted to end but the 1st team beat Collegiate 1-0 and finished seventh.

We wish both Sarah and Kiara all the best in their exchange to Framlingham College.

ROXY COETZEE-TURNER
HEAD OF HOCKEY



Kiara and Sarah off to Framlingham College



Matrics of 2017: 1st hockey team



St Mary's 1st hockey team at Oranje

SQUASH

St Mary's excelled in the 1st league this year and was invited to the SA Schools' Top Schools' Squash Tournament held in Pietermaritzburg in August. Eight schools represented their provinces and while we did not win the tournament, St Mary's girls did us very proud and displayed great sportsmanship, we finished in 5th place.

Demi – "My greatest accomplishment to date has been my participation in the Maccabi Games for squash and to be representing South Africa and St Mary's from 6 to 17 July. Maccabi was not only an amazing sports' tournament but it is a great way to meet new people, all playing various sports from around the world. I played squash in Herzliya and Ra'anana and stayed in Hadera in Israel. The South African women's junior squash team placed fourth in the team event and, individually, I was placed in the 10th to 16th category."

Panashe, once again, represented SA Schools and SA Squash at the WSF World Junior Team and Individual Squash Championships, in Tauranga, New Zealand, from 19 to 29 July. The team placed 11th and Panashe reached position 34 in the individual event. Well done.



Ruth, Demi, Panashe (captain), Alexia, Megan, Jemma and our adorable mascot

SA school rankings for 2017:

- U19 girls – Panashe – No 1
- U16 girls – No 7

JENNIFER FOX
HEAD OF SQUASH



Panashe with other members of the SA Junior Schools' team



Demi at the Maccabi Games

USA WATER POLO TOUR

Memorable, exciting, thrilling, amazing, unforgettable, indescribable and momentous were only some of the words that the girls of the US water polo tour had to describe their incredible tour.

After more than 24 hours of travelling time to Los Angeles, the girls got straight into the fun of the tour on day one and went to Disneyland, California.

The first day of water polo was a five-hour training session at Huntington Beach High School with Kami Craig and Kayleigh Gilchrest, both US women's water polo players and Olympic gold medallists.

Riverside was the next stop on the water polo adventure. We transferred inland from Anaheim to Riverside to spend a week with the Riverside Water Polo Club, headed up by head coach Sarah Greenawalt. The girls progressed from fundamental skills to game tactics and drills. The girls' sessions were three hours in the morning and then two and a half hours in the evening, where they played friendly scrimmages against the Riverside Water Polo Club.

The girls spent three days at Arizona State University with the head coach of the Sun Devils NCAA water polo team, Todd Clapper. In those three days, they spent three hours every morning with the college water polo players and had one-on-one sessions throughout the course of their clinic. They also had the chance to play games with the

college team and had to up their game to that of the college players.

Every girl on the tour progressed and the improvements throughout were incredible. Each girl took away a huge amount of water polo skills and life skills, too.

On our last day in the US, we did the Grand Canyon Skywalk. The girls were able to walk across the horseshoe-shaped cantilever bridge with its glass walkway that juts 10m out over the majestic west rim of the Grand Canyon.

We travelled by bus from the Grand Canyon to Las Vegas, Nevada. The famous Stratosphere was our hotel. Miles and miles above the ground, on the very top of the Stratosphere, were the three rollercoaster rides that kept the girls in anticipation.

The US tour from California and Arizona to Nevada was unbelievable and a tour that will not be forgotten. I look forward to the water polo season ahead and hope that all that was learnt in the US is brought back to St Mary's.

KELSEY WHITE
HEAD COACH: WATER POLO



At the Grand Canyon



Courtney: 2017/2018 season captain



Robyn: 2017/2018 season vice-captain



The team at Arizona State University



Angela



Fun at Disneyland



The team with Kami Craig and Kayleigh Gilcrest



St Mary's at Huntington Beach High School



At Mount Ribedoux



Nicola saving

ROWING

Silver at world championships

We are very proud of our national athletes who competed at the Junior World Rowing Championships in Lithuania. We congratulate Megan on her fantastic achievement! Megan dominated heats, making waves throughout her championship. Congratulations to Jessica and Caitlin on their sixth place.

Rowing camp

Rowing camp is both mentally and physically challenging but the girls, including St Mary's rowing club's 19 new U14s, stayed strong, worked hard and pushed through, with the guidance of our exceptional coaches as well as the support of the camp moms.

Camp was a great opportunity for the St Mary's rowing club girls to interact and bond with each other.

Early morning sessions, ergo trials, long runs and cycles, and challenging bodyweight sessions put us on our path to get fit and strong.

The welcome addition of the new U14s provides the St Mary's rowing club with renewed excitement and motivation to excel. We look forward to witnessing their progress and growth in the sport.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

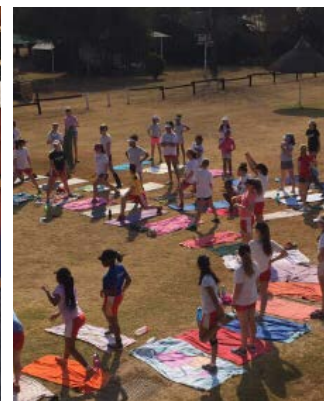
CATHERINE
FORM III



Megan



Jessica and Caitlin

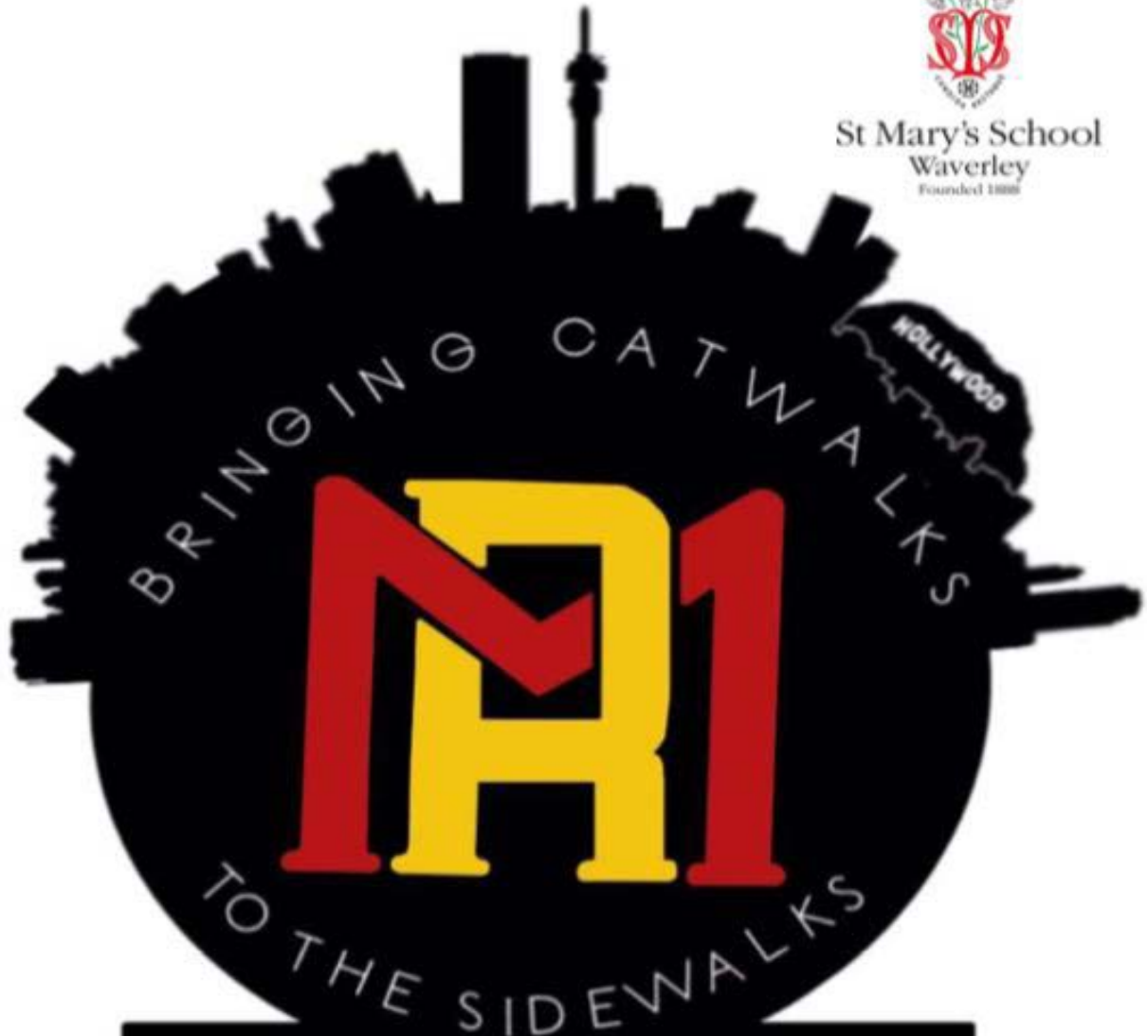


Tackling our first rowing training camp held at Bronkhorspruit dam from 28 August to 2 September as always, marks the beginning of the new 2017/2018 rowing season

FORM III FASHION SHOW



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888



RETRO ON *METRO*

SAVE THE DATE!



Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28
September 2017
St Mary's School Waverley, hall
R120 - General
R180 - VIP

