



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

ST MARY'S NEWS



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30 October 2020



Our congratulations are extended to the junior debating team, from left: Tyla Promnick, Danika Neuhooff, Dalila Spinazze, Hayley Laithwaite and Franscesca Lewitton (not in picture), who are the GSDB Junior Provincial Champions for 2020. They are the first team to win all nine rounds in the history of the competition.

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

I had good news for the Grade 3s when I saw them in assembly last week: one of my hens hatched three eggs. I showed the girls some footage of the remarkably nimble trio of chicks clambering over food trays and gamely tackling other obstacles in their quest to stick as close to their mother as possible and, while we watched, we discussed chickenlore. Did you know, I asked the girls, that chickens are among the closest living relatives to the Tyrannosaurus Rex, that the only continent with no live chickens is Antarctica, and that chickens experience an REM phase of sleep which means that, like humans and other mammals, chickens do dream?

As always, the girls knew things about chickens I didn't know, and they asked questions and offered observations that made me think, scratch my head, and laugh. Actually, we spent a lot of the time we had together laughing – one little girl simply gurgled with delight behind her mask as she recounted the times she and her brother chased chickens on visits to her grandmother.

Most people are reduced to something like mute admiration when confronted with the sight of newborn chicks – august personalities have been caught mumbling words like “cute” in response to their disarming fluffiness – and it is undeniable that their presence in the world evokes feelings of hopefulness and a sense of renewal in all but the most hardened.

As the head of a Junior School, at a time of worldwide fear and withdrawal, I have to tell you that a halfful of socially distanced, bright-eyed and intent girls evokes similar feelings: and it's more complex than the cheerful optimism pedalled by anodyne social media posts and motivational memes.

Listening to the girls, thinking about what they have been asked to make sense of this year, and watching them back on campus trying to live up to our expectations, and the often unspoken expectations they have of themselves, fills me with the kind of hope that one Lutheran minister and public theologian memorably described as “a gritty, defiant hope”. This is the hope of Emily Dickinson that “never stops – at all –” and of Mongane Wally Serote that asserts, against all odds, “but seasons come to pass.”

It is the hope that infuses our daily work at the school. I see it and hear it in the girls in their classrooms, singing in Music, participating in chapel and assemblies, and in their physical activity all around the campus. I see it in the staff at St Mary's, and also in this newsletter, at a time when very little can be taken for granted. It is the hope that will sustain us over the next few weeks of living with the virus at our school, and in our country, as we bring this difficult, demanding year to a close, together, gracefully, for the sake of the girls in our care.

SARAH WARNER
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

All Saints' Day, and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

On the Sunday preceding Advent Sunday each year, the Church celebrates All Saints' Day. This year, All Saints' Day falls on Sunday 1 November.

I have always been drawn to the Feast of All Saints. It is a time to remember with gratitude all those persons whose goodness has inspired me in my beliefs and given me courage to act on what I believe. It is a day to acknowledge that these holy men and women have helped me find my own potential for goodness.

I think of "saints" as not only those women and men canonised by the church, but all people whose lives reflect the goodness of God. Saints are not perfect people. They have their faults, idiosyncrasies, and weaknesses. They have their own struggles and difficulties. Even the canonised ones are noted to have been difficult to live with because of some of their unique mannerisms. Yet, the saints are people of integrity. They have a central focus at the core of their lives: the love of God. They consistently choose to act out of that central reality, no matter how ordinary or extraordinary their lives may be.

[...] As we celebrate this feast on November 1, we gather to commemorate not just martyrs or people we might tend to put on spiritual pedestals, but all those people who have drawn us to God because of who they were and how they lived. All Saints' Day is an excellent opportunity for us to be re-inspired by their virtuous lives and to cherish the union we have with them.

- Rupp, *Out of the Ordinary* (2010), p. 43

Sacred One, Giver and Sustainer of life,
thank you for the holy ones whom we have known.
As they embrace you in the white-robed home of eternity,
We give you thanks for them.
May our lives model their virtues.
May our hearts resonate with their goodness.

Amen.

Rupp (cited above), p. 46

All Saints' Day is followed by the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on Monday 2 November. On the latter day, we remember those who have died during the course of the preceding year. On 2 November this year, in addition to our own prayers for those we know and love who have passed away, let us set time aside in order to remember all who grieve family members or friends who have died owing to Covid-19.

Eternal Lord God

creator and sustainer of all life:

we entrust to you the souls of your servants who have died
and we rejoice with them in the sure hope
of resurrection to the fulness of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

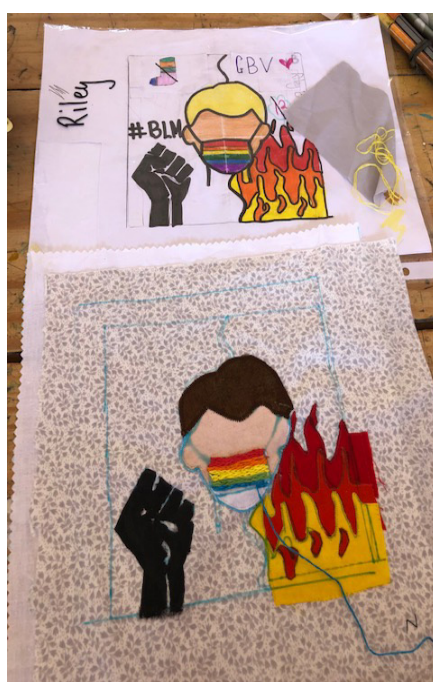
CPSA, *An Anglican Prayer Book* (1989), p. 313

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

SENIOR PRIMARY HALL

All Junior School grades are involved in making a new wall hanging for the Senior Primary hall and the Grade 7 girls are busy creating the border. The wall hanging represents their experiences in 2020. Here are some of their plans and completed work to date.

ROBYN RICHMOND
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

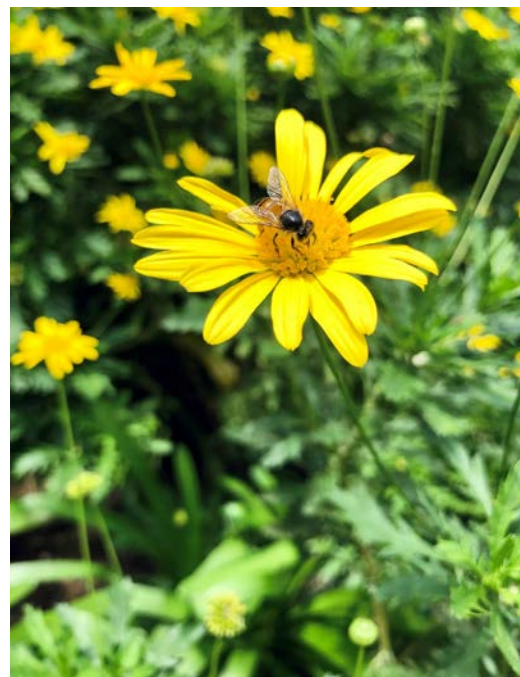


During lockdown in Term II, a number of girls attended an online Google classroom course to enter the Apple Excellence in Education competition. A virtual awards ceremony was held on 22 October and a number of our girls fared extremely well.

In the CATEGORY: #SaveMyPlanet (Photography) Grade 8 – 12, St Mary's girls attained the top three positions:



Tayla Gibbs placed first with this thought-provoking bird's eye view of a waste picker



Sophia Babaya placed third with her image highlighting the importance of bees



Megan Saunders placed second with her clever contrast of black and white with colour imagery



In the CATEGORY: #SaveMyPlanet (Video) Grade 8 – 12

Sophia Babaya and Ava Economakis placed first with their excellent production and thought-provoking content. They combined voice over, animation, film clips and stills to provide an important environmental message. Mieke Smit placed third in this category with her evocative video on environmental awareness. Well done, girls!

These videos can be viewed by clicking on these links:

https://youtu.be/_CVpUM7HFPw

<https://youtu.be/GGc6aGcwJbg>



SUE HEYDENRYCH
HOD: VISUAL ARTS

APPLE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION COMPETITION (CONTINUED)

In the CATEGORY: #Curriculum Challenge Grade 4 – 7

Nuhaa Mahomed created an iMovie on number patterns in Mathematics and placed second. Her iMovie was captivating and informative and showed a thorough understanding of concepts related to number patterns. Her work ethic and enthusiasm for the project were exemplary and her achievement of second place was well deserved. I am incredibly proud of her and she did St Mary's proud. Please click here to view her iMovie: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ggw6dxu_v4w

SUE LE SUEUR
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



In the CATEGORY: #Curriculum Challenge Grade 8 - 9

In the first Form II Self-eSTEAM project of the year, the girls were faced with this question: As a state of emergency has been declared as a result of the Covid-19 virus, can you be a pioneer for change by improving the lives of others, through sustainable acts of kindness? Bianca Kritzman chose to create an app entitled "Ditch the Junk" to encourage her fellow school users to follow a healthy sustainable way of life. Bianca placed first in this category! Please click here to view her app: <https://youtu.be/J5SJVDFKBXk>

LINDA BRADFIELD AND LERATO SHUPING
EDTECH LEADER AND EDTECH CO-ORDINATOR



GRADE 3 TREES

The girls in Grade 3MA have been researching and investigating indigenous trees on campus. These are some of the beautiful art pieces the girls created after learning about silhouettes and warm and cool colours.

LINDA MAISHMAN
JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

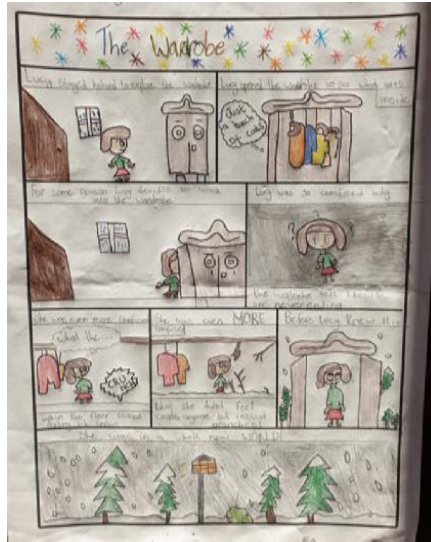


GRADE 5

In English, the Grade 5 girls are enjoying reading *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S Lewis.

They recently examined the scene when Lucy Pevensie enters Narnia through the wardrobe. The girls identified the key events and translated them into a comic strip, applying their understanding of facial expressions, speech bubbles and onomatopoeia.

CHRISTI LAWLESS
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



Adelola Adebule



Sarah Silcock

GRADE 3



During Literacy month, the Grade 3 girls researched their favourite authors. They learned new facts about David Williams, Lebohlang Masango, Nikki Daly and Nadine Gordimer. They created posters and mindmaps to share and display their findings.

They imagined what it would be like to be an aspiring author and created fabulous book covers. They then wrote interesting fantasy stories incorporating the skills and concepts learned during Literacy month.

LINDA MAISHMAN
GRADE 3 TEACHER



GRADE 0 - MATHEMATICS SOLVING

The Grade 0s were challenged to solve the problem of a little girl who had invited her friends over for some porridge. The problem was that her friends all ate different amounts of porridge. Some of her friends ate a small helping of porridge and some ate lots of porridge! She had four different-sized bowls and was unsure which bowl to give to which friend.

The girls used vocabulary like: capacity, hold, contains, biggest, smallest, largest, big, bigger, biggest, small, smaller, smallest, large, larger, largest, more, most, less, least, order, size and count.

AGOTHA CLARKE AND LYNN TROLLIP
GRADE 0 TEACHERS



JUNIOR PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, Sports Day had to be structured differently. Each grade walked down to the Howell Hub on different days during their physical education lesson.

The teachers set off with their groups of girls in the different houses and made sure they rotated and participated in the various stations.

Once every house completed all the stations, they ended with sprint races. Each girl can be very proud of herself for running and taking part so well.

My thanks are extended to all the teachers who helped to make the Junior Primary sports day run smoothly.

The inter-house results are as follows:

1 st	Springboks	128
2 nd	Lions	121
3 rd	Zebras	115
4 th	Hares	114

VICKI JONKER
SPORTS TEACHER



LITTLE SAINTS SPORTS DAY

The whole of Little Saints went to the Howell Hub on a Thursday morning. The classes were split into groups of three and there was a teacher allocated to each group.

The teachers set off with their groups of children and made sure they rotated and participated in the various stations. Once every group completed all the stations, we ended with sprint races. Well done to our Little Saints boys and girls for participating with such energy and vigour. As with our Junior Primary sports day, we thank all the teachers who helped to make the Little Saints sports day such a success.

VICKI JONKER
SPORTS TEACHER





Mia van der Westhuizen (vice-captain) and Jade Adams (captain)

We have won the inter-high shield for the past 12 years and were hoping it was going to be lucky number 13. This was not to be as, with much of 2020, Covid-19 was the winner. The athletes are commended on their commitment despite there being no meetings. The commitment, camaraderie and vibe were created by the seniors in the team and lead most ably by Jade Adams (captain) and Mia van der Westhuizen (vice-captain). Well done, girls, I hope that the fitness levels assist in your other sports.

QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

GOLF

During lockdown, Samantha Whateley did not waste a single moment of practice time. Sam and her father erected a golf net in their garden where she hit balls every day. As soon as golf opened up again, Sam was out on the fairways honing her game. Her efforts are not going unrewarded as she has climbed to 4th on the South African Senior Ladies' ranking list.

Well done, Sam, keep up this outstanding play.

QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORT



From 8 to 11 October, Sienna Blaauw and her horse, Gondor UFO, successfully competed in Polokwane at the Revil Rider Series Limpopo Championships. Sienna and "Goofy" jumped stunning rounds and won the 90cm Show Jumping Revil Championships, earning herself some very generous prize money, goodies, a gigantic rosette and a branded horse blanket.

This past weekend, 23 to 25 October, Katherine Franck, won the illustrious title of Open Pony Rider Champion in the 110cm President's Cup Show Jumping. Katherine was one of only two competitors to achieve clear rounds over all three days of competition. In an exciting timed jump-off on Saturday, Katherine and her pony Bodehausen le Chocolatier (Chuckles) jumped almost three seconds clear ahead of the second-placed pupil. She won a massive trophy, a rosette, medal and horse blanket for her efforts.



The Senior School held their inter-house equestrian competition on Sunday 25 October at Pegasus Riding Club in Kibler Park. The girls completed a utility class and a showjumping class consisting of ten 70 cm jumps on borrowed horses. They coped very well and had much fun.

The results were as follows:

- 1st Clayton
- 2nd Karney
- 3rd Furse and Phelps

MELANIE BLAIR
EQUESTRIAN CO-ORDINATOR



Sameeha Omar on Pegasus Snowfall



Robyn Gush on Pedro's Secret



Sienna Blaauw on Winter Ash



Hannah Sherman on Winter Ash

WORLD RESTART A HEART DAY

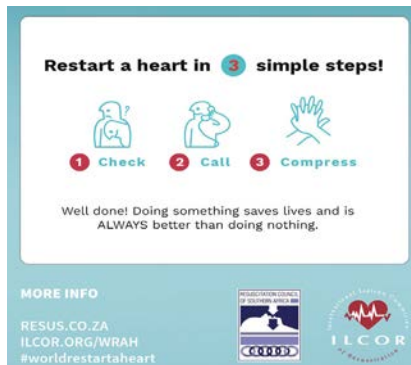
With 16 October being *World Restart a Heart day*, the Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa tried to create awareness about CPR and the difference it can make in a person's life.

The basic message is that "Your Two Hands Can Save a Life."

#WorldRestartAHeart
#WRAH

Please click here to view the *World Restart a Heart* video:
<https://www.ilcor.org/wrah#images>

LEIGH SULLIVAN
SCHOOL NURSE



IKUSASA LETHU'S SIGHT INITIATIVE

The main focus of the community partnership programme at St Mary's is our Saturday school, called Ikusasa Lethu (Our Future) which supports academically talented learners from five high schools in Alexandra by providing an extra full day of school for them every week.

In addition to teaching, we do everything we can to support these learners to overcome any barriers to their success. Ikusasa Lethu is funded entirely by external donors, which means that this year has been a tough one.

Ikusasa Lethu Sight aims to provide eye tests and glasses for our learners. We have been offered eye tests at the bargain rate of R99 per

learner and can dramatically decrease the cost of glasses by using donated frames.

Boxes have been placed in the Junior and Senior School reception areas where your old frames can be donated. We have also set up a *Click'n Donate* campaign which is designed for monetary donations towards our Sight initiative. Follow the link to get involved:
<https://clickndonate.com/ikusasa-lethu-sight-goal-r-40-000/>

ROBYN KNOWLES
IKUSASA LETHU PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

