



Grade 00 Little Saints girls diligently practising social distancing while listening to their teacher

## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Amidst the threat of Covid-19 and the adversity of lockdown, St Mary's began the phased-in reopening of school on 3 June and, over the course of two months, we have welcomed back almost all Grades. Well-planned and co-ordinated health and safety procedures have ensured that our campus has been a secure place for learning and teaching to take place. I thank the entire support team at St Mary's for the focused effort to organise, clean and manage the school.

It has been a delight for me to witness the joy of teachers and pupils as they reunited in the shared experience of school. Although masks and distancing have presented a challenge to normal interaction, it is evident that there is much pleasure in studying alongside peers and enjoying the social and collective experience of the classroom.

Our school was in the privileged position of having resources to provide a remote learning programme for uninterrupted schooling. The girls engaged in their learning and covered a significant portion of the curriculum off-site. Since returning to campus, the teachers have assessed the girls' progress and remediated where necessary. A dual approach has also allowed some girls to continue learning successfully at home. The experience of remote learning and teaching will guide us

to reimagine aspects of pedagogy for the future. Summative reports will be published on the portal next Friday as scheduled.

Last night, the President announced that public schools will close for a break during the so-called peak of the virus. St Mary's will close for our school holiday on Friday 31 July and we expect to return to school on Tuesday 1 September. The assembly for the senior girls will be virtual and the Junior School will enjoy a whole school online assembly and various inter-house activities on the last day of term.

I wish all our families well over the coming weeks and my hope is that the girls will take time away from their screens to relax and enjoy the slow change in the season that promises warmer weather and a more holistic experience at school.

I wish to thank all parents for your ongoing support of our school. Your good wishes and appreciation of the teachers encourages us, and as Paulo Freire says, education is an act of love, and thus an act of courage ...

**DEANNE KING**  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

### School magazine

An amount of R320 per family will be charged to your school account in September for the school magazine. If you would like more than one copy or do not wish to have a school magazine, please contact Pritha Chetty via email at [pritha.chetty@stmary.co.za](mailto:pritha.chetty@stmary.co.za)

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

- Matthew 13:18-23 (NRSV)

In difficult times such as these, the parable Christ told first to the crowd and then explained to his disciples (it is this explanation that is quoted in the passage above), is a gentle reminder to us not to

be distracted, dismayed or overwhelmed. The seed that is the Word – Christ's self, as well as his teachings to us – is sown amongst us and within us. Let us spend time returning to that seed, focusing upon it such that it is watered, puts roots down in good soil, and yields fruit in our community and our world.

On Sunday 19 July, Kelly Croucher's (Form II) brother, Connor, passed away suddenly at home. Funeral or memorial arrangements have not yet been finalised. Please do keep the Croucher family in your prayers at this sad time.

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

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN

## ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

### A success story

The 2020 de Beers English Olympiad attracted about 8 000 top English students from Grades 10, 11 and 12 across the country. The theme of this year's Olympiad was *Consequences* and the anthology included works such as Christopher Marlowe's *Dr Faustus*.

Our St Mary's girls did superbly with six of our candidates being placed in the top 100 countrywide. Samantha Collins placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall while Emma Craig placed 7<sup>th</sup>.

Our results were as follows:

Top 100 candidates  
Tarumbidzwa Chirume  
Samantha Collins  
Emma Craig  
Tylor-nique Gewers  
Lesedi Mochela  
Siphosethu Mnguni

Gold  
Danielle Grobbelaar  
Mira Kathawaroo  
Jessica Royan  
Elliott Rogers

Twenty-one girls achieved silver certificates and four achieved bronze certificates.

The English Olympiad is written in March annually and is a superb way for girls to extend their English education.

LYNN KNOWLES  
ENGLISH TEACHER



Samantha Collins



Emma Craig

# DEBATING

After weeks of deliberation, the SACEE Provincial Championships were launched, finally, just after half-term, with all the teams from across the province participating via Zoom.

St Mary's was well represented by four teams – two senior and two junior – and it was evident from our placement at the top of the log that we benefited from our participation in friendlies against various teams, including World Champions, Singapore, during lockdown.

Seniors:

Round	Team	Motion	Opponent	Result
1	SMS 31314	THP individuals rather than parties running for elections	HeronBridge	Won
	SMS 35050		Bryanston	Won
2	SMS 31314	THW implement eco-conscription	Bryanston	Won
	SMS 35050		St Peter's	Won
3	SMS 31314	THBT developing countries should privatise utilities	St John's	Won
	SMS 35050		Roedean	Lost

Juniors:

Round	Team	Motion	Opponent	Result
1	SMS 31314	THBT elected officials should be required to make use of public services	Bryanston	Won
	SMS 35050		Brescia	Won
2	SMS 31314	THRT digital entertainment has generally replaced written materials in the lives of children	Crawford Lonehill	Won
	SMS 35050		Roedean	Won
3	SMS 31314	THW ban all meat consumption	Jeppe Boys	Won
	SMS 35050		Parktown	Won

SEIPATI MOHAPI  
DEBATING CO-ORDINATOR

## GRADE 5 PREPOSITION POEMS

Dinner Battle Ground  
by Caitlin Duggan  
Underneath our stove is an  
isolated island of hardened pasta.  
Beside our stove is a  
gaudy galaxy of splattered sauce.  
Inside our stove is a  
pepperoni pizza playground of pinky-  
purple mould.  
On our stove is an  
overgrown jungle of stringy cheese.

In My Bedroom  
by Claudia Cunningham  
Within my bedroom  
is a colourful fantasy of lazy Lego pieces.  
Inside my bedroom  
is a parallel universe of comfortable  
pillows.

Through my bedroom  
is a secret fairy world of glittering characters.  
Across my bedroom  
is a destiny island of magical and magnificent  
light.

The Beach  
by Adelola Adebule  
Rocks under the waves,  
surfers on top of surfboards,  
children playing on the sand,  
ice-cream melting in a bowl  
and  
a small café beside the boardwalk  
ready to serve the families.

My Brother's Couch  
by Catherine Desilla  
Behind the couch is the

stinking swamp of old dirty socks.  
In front of the couch is  
an abandoned planet of broken toys.  
On the couch is the  
terrible tomb of the dangerous dog.  
Under the couch is a  
compost heap of mouldy sandwiches.

The Mysterious Pencil Case  
by Zamangwane Hlongwane  
In the pencil case  
there is stationery having a party.  
Next to the pencil case  
there is a book flooding with words.  
Underneath the pencil case  
is a table full of school work.  
Above the pencil case  
is a ceiling with wads of gum  
spat by my teenage brother.



# FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

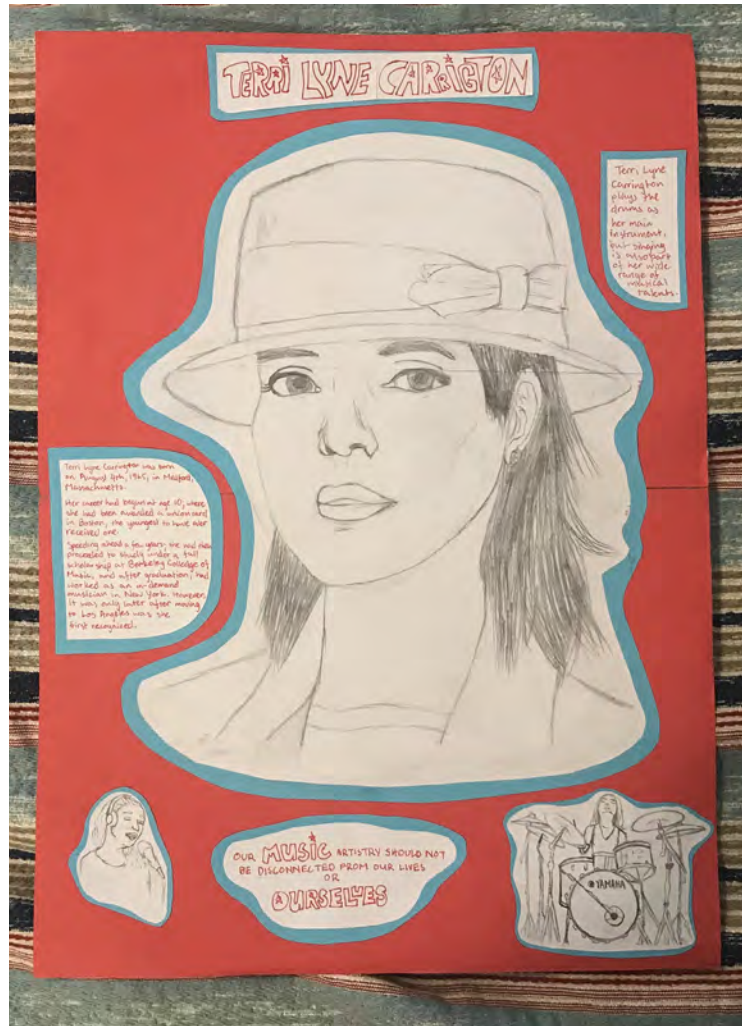
## GRADE 6

The Grade 6s have been studying the history of jazz with a special focus on women pioneers in jazz. Yuxi Zhang created an exquisite sketch for her poster on African American female jazz drummer, composer and producer, Terri Lynne Carrington who has performed alongside jazz greats such as Dizzy Gillespie, Al Jarreau and Herbie Hancock.

## GRADE 5

The Grade 5s created their own percussion instruments in class Music using recycled materials from home. The girls' instruments, and the names they gave them, were very inventive, like the Swish Swish Bish and Skippy di-doo-ba-bow created by Katherine Deacon. Pictured below is a selection of what the girls produced.

TARYNNE SWARTS  
MUSIC TEACHER



Yuxi Zhang - sketch of famous jazz musician Terri Lynne Carrington



Katherine Deacon: Swish Swish Bish and Skippy di-doo-ba-dow



Tsubi Mahlare



Kamila Nosarka



Sihe Mbuyane

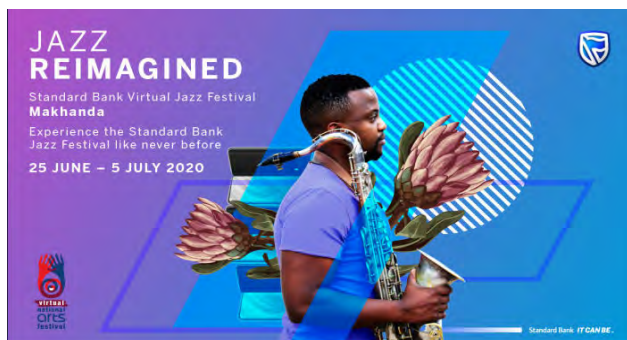
# VIRTUAL NATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

The coronavirus pandemic prevented this year's annual tour to the Standard Bank National Arts Festival from taking place. Instead, my jazz band members joined the 'Virtual' National Arts Festival (VNAF) and enjoyed online jazz performances and interactive webinars with this year's artists. Please read the girls' reflections below:

'The performances were so diverse' comments Caitlin Kersten, while Siphokazi Ndlovu explains: 'Two things I really enjoyed about the virtual jazz festival were the diversity in artists and how they had all mastered the skill of performance and made me feel like I was watching it live.' Dikeletso Mutshekwane echoes: 'I loved how each performance that I watched felt intimate.'

Favourite artists singled out by my students included this year's Standard Bank Young Artist for Jazz, saxophonist Sisonke Xonti, vocalist Spha Mdlalose, the extraordinarily talented British multi-instrumentalist Jacob Collier whose beautiful reharmonisation of Nkosi Sikelele' iAfrika left us 'absolutely speechless', in the words of Lara Stipinovich. Erin Parkes says of Collier: 'he inspires me to practise my instruments!' Another favourite was Mi Casa. Siphosethu Mnguni comments: 'I particularly enjoyed their performance: the vocals, the horns, the mix of amapiano and electronically produced music in an acoustic setting was great. I also appreciated the message.'

The girls enjoyed the webinars too. Rebecca Trickett observes: 'I loved the webinar with Spha Mdlalose, Sisonke Xonti and Sakhile Simani. I found it interesting hearing about their lives as musicians', and Siphosethu Mnguni: 'I also found it interesting in one of the webinars, to hear that Ms Gloria Bosman gave so much credit to classical music. Often it seems as though genres exist in such isolation from one another and there's almost a sense of exclusivity, hence, it was refreshing to hear more about the crossover of genres.'



St Mary's jazz band leader Elliott Rogers reflects: 'Having attended the jazz festival for the past three years, going online was a strange experience. Being able to watch my favourite gigs repeatedly and listen to the music (while studying) was a perk, but the atmosphere of immersion and live music was definitely missed. Each show I watched almost gave me a fear of missing out, wanting to be in Makhanda, rushing to see every musician I can ... I do, however, marvel at the dedication of the jazz festival team who, despite challenges, still brought an echo of live music to a wide audience in their homes.' Form I Ella Stipinovich mused: 'Although I was sad not to experience my first Jazz Festival 'live', I really enjoyed watching the performances while I was chilling in my room.' Siphosethu Mnguni concludes: 'It was, of course, a strange experience in a sense, but the best kind of strange which one could imagine.' Many families enjoyed the jazz with their daughters, as Siphokazi Ndlovu reflects: 'Another thing I enjoyed about the virtual jazz festival was seeing how happy my mom and dad were hearing music that they loved and artists that they loved performing, and noticing that, even though they are older than me, they could appreciate the amazing music.'

It is heartening that the arts can often traverse generational perspectives and experiences. The arts do not just provide beauty either, they offer critical reflection on our human experience, interrogating identity and meaning from the personal to the political. The performing arts are currently extremely hard hit by the ban on live performances. Many performers have limited formal employment and rely heavily on this income. If you would like to view some of the performances mentioned here, the VNAF has been extended until 31 July:

<https://nationalartsfestival.co.za>

CERI MOELWYN-HUGHES  
HEAD OF WOODWIND STUDIES

The Form I Music class was tasked with producing a promotional video assignment for which they had to choose a band, artist or festival to promote. They used a variety of editing software to include pictures, video and audio. Some of the music students decided to promote the National Arts Festival (jazz component), which happened online this year. Please click here to view the advert for the VNJF (part of the Virtual National Arts Festival) made by Heather Welchman and Rachel de Lange:

<https://youtu.be/msKI4YmxLC4>

DANIELLE MCKINNON  
MUSIC TEACHER

## Virtual National Arts Festival 2020 now available until 31 July

The online space is proving to be a refuge for artists around the world. In hosting a Virtual National Arts Festival, we created a platform for hundreds of hours of content from artists and our vFringe continues to grow and generate revenue for South African artists. With so much to see, we talked to our artists about staying on and they've agreed - so the VNAF 2020 content (with a few exceptions) will now be available till 31 July. Catch it before it really is gone!

NB: Festival passes expired at midnight on 16 July so you'll need to buy an individual ticket for any shows you want to see - prices range from R25 to R45.

The daily programmes of curated work are now available under genre and all the recorded webinars have been extracted and can be found under their own heading. The same is true for exhibitions, virtual green and visual art.

Go check it out and have a wander around <https://nationalartsfestival.co.za>



# LOCKDOWN MUSIC LESSONS



As the world changed rapidly, the teaching and learning of instrumental music at St Mary's moved swiftly online. The image above features students of long-serving Music department member Christine Geldenhuis (also featured) who teaches both the recorder and violin. Before the coronavirus pandemic, Christine was not a huge fan of computers, but she responded to the challenge of online lessons with immense creativity and innovation.

Thank you to all of our music staff for their ongoing efforts maintaining musical progress and sustaining happy, important relationships. Thank you also to all the wonderful young musicians of St Mary's keeping up your music-making!

CERI MOELWYN-HUGHES  
HEAD OF WOODWIND STUDIES

## LARA FOOT - AP ENGLISH

On 23 July, the Advanced Programme English girls were privileged to participate in a question and answer session on their setwork, *Karoo Moose*, with the writer and director of the play, Lara Foot.

Lara is the CEO of the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town and is well-known for her hard-hitting and relevant plays. After viewing a video of the production of *Karoo Moose*, the girls had the opportunity of attending a Zoom meeting with Lara where she reflected on the play, on the staging of it and responded to questions they posed.

This proved to be elucidating and provided detailed insight into the evolution of the story and the characters. Thanks are extended to Janet Baylis (HoD: Dramatic Arts) who was integral in making this connection with Lara possible.



LYNN KNOWLES  
ENGLISH TEACHER

## GRADE 0 - TIME2READ



Grade 0 girls are learning the letter 'X' - x marks the spot. They drew a treasure map and then, with a partner, had to go and find the 'X'. Please click here to see a video from the Treasure Map adventure: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBvKNGQ\\_gkg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBvKNGQ_gkg&feature=youtu.be)

# SUMMER SPORTS AWARDS

From the head of sport

When I think back to how much has changed during the past few months, I am astounded. I am very grateful that we managed to fit in some of our sporting seasons, at the start of the year and I can't believe how quickly they all came to an end.

Our recent assembly serves to acknowledge the contribution of all the athletes and the roles that each of them have played. It also serves as a platform for various awards for each of the sports represented here today.

I thank the girls and their coaches for their selfless dedication to St Mary's and to the sports that they represent. Each of you has made sacrifices, you have given freely of time and you have given of your best. Our results have been impressive again this year, and it is your excellence and your effort that have allowed for this.

Thank you

**TARYN DE WINNAAR**  
HEAD OF SPORT: SENIOR SCHOOL

## BASKETBALL



Award for Spirit and Commitment:  
Angela Varghese



Most Improved Senior Player:  
Tlou Duba



Senior Player of the Year:  
Emma Roberts



Dzinotyiwai Letsoalo Trophy for the Most  
Consistent Senior Player:  
Ynez Mayet

## DIVING



Isaac Trophy for Progress in Diving:  
Tannah Proudfoot



Lawrie Trophy for the Best Diver:  
Kerry-Leigh Morrison



Boake Trophy for Commitment to Diving:  
Angelia Bollo and Alexandra Kirstein



# SUMMER SPORTS AWARDS (CONTINUED)

## SQUASH



U19 Best Squash Player:  
Rebecca Sinner



U19 Best Squash Player:  
Megan Beart



Van Dyk Trophy for Commitment:  
Kutloano Shuenyane



Jean Perry Trophy for the Most Improved Squash Player:  
Sasha Steyn



U16 Ingersent Trophy and Open School Championships Squash Trophy:  
Tayla Rohana

## WATER POLO



Hallendorff and Morley-Jepson Trophy for Most Outstanding 1<sup>st</sup> Team Water Polo Player:  
Abigail Milella and Nicola Watt



Hayley Botha Trophy for Best Senior Water Polo Player:  
Hannah Henry and Rebecca Duffy



# SUMMER SPORTS AWARDS (CONTINUED)

## TENNIS



The Tracy Plant Tennis Trophy for the Love of the Game:  
Amy Leishman and Amukelani Mokone



The Karen Haswell Trophy for outstanding tennis:  
Sarah Millard  
(ranked in the top ten in U18 in South Africa)



The Imaan Hassim Trophy for being a team player:  
Sarah Roy and Simone Voigt



The Alison Sanders Trophy for Sportsmanship:  
Julianne Klingenberg

## OLD GIRLS' NEWS - WATER POLO

Courtney O'Shaughnessy - Salem University  
USA

Daniela Passoni – California State University  
East Bay USA

Both Courtney O'Shaughnessy (2018)  
and Daniela Passoni (2017) made the US  
Association of Water Polo Coaches, 2020 Top  
Women's All-Academic Awards list. Both girls  
achieved the outstanding list, which means  
a 4.0 GPA.

Well done, girls!

**KELSEY THOMPSON**  
HEAD OF WATER POLO



Daniela Passoni



Courtney O'Shaughnessy