

10 FEBRUARY 2023

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FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The true value of community is often only realised during hardship. I accept that this is a human trait because when all goes well, we have the tendency to believe that we can be singular, but when tragedy strikes, we rely on others.

As St Mary's School grieves the death of Lunathi Mdlungu, with daily reminders of her contribution, her vibrant presence and her space being empty, we reach out to one another for support, love and comfort. Our parents, girls and staff have ensured that our community can and will hold one another through this difficult time and, especially those who were close to Lunathi, in a supportive and love-filled circle. This sense of love and community has given us the courage to continue to embrace the activities of school.

I thank our St Mary's community for the love and display of collective strength that were extended to the Mdlungu and Conjwa families. No words can express the loss of the families but I pray that they will continue to feel the love and warmth of Lunathi's school.

"God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Rites of passage are essential to being in the world and growing up. They are there to help us transition from one stage of life to another. Most cultures have rites of passage that help young people transition from childhood to adulthood. Some rites we choose to undertake willingly, and some are thrust upon us. In both instances, these rites involve a process of *becoming*.

Confirmation, Baptism and First Holy Communion are some of the rites of passage we have in the Christian faith. *An Anglican Prayerbook* 1989 describes confirmation as follows:

At confirmation, the individual makes a response of faith, an act of commitment to Christ, by making or renewing the baptismal promises. This takes place in the presence of the bishop who represents the whole church and who is a sign of apostolic authority. The bishop then lays hands on the candidate's head and along with the people, prays that she will receive the strengthening gift of the Holy Spirit. By receiving this gift, the candidate is commissioned and empowered to fulfil her vocation as a Christian within the fellowship of the Church (*An Anglican Prayerbook* 1989:363).

Confirmation, as described above, is a voluntary rite of passage which a young person undertakes. As a school, we offer the space for girls to go through confirmation. Confirmation is described in the prayer book as a sacramental rite. As a sacramental rite it is a means of grace and yet not necessary for all people in the same way.

Confirmation at St Mary's happens annually in October and the Bishop of Johannesburg takes the service. It all begins in the first term with weekly classes, where we discuss matters concerning the Christian faith with the girls.

The process is open to girls from Form III to Form V.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

2023 SRC REPRESENTATIVES

Form	Clayton	Furse	Karney	Phelps
II	Jemma Tresling	Christine Mihigo	Bontle Shuenyane	Bokamoso Swazi
III	Annabel Schreuder	Marie Ella Maske	Kganya Kodisang	Retshegofaditswe Seobi
IV	Shamiso Chitenhe	Ntombifuthi Dlamini	Muyamuri Sambaza	Aphiwe Makhaphela
V	Thiya Kalan	Tessa Dagut	Khumoetsile Mokgawa	Moleboheng Leeto

Form I SRC representatives will be announced after half-term.

SELF-eSteam: SPACE EXPLORATION

When I tell people what I do at St Mary's, I am often met with a smile that tends to settle into the face and yet the eyes are either seeking the quickest escape route or blinking as the brain desperately tries to make sense of the words coming out of my mouth. 'Project-Based Learning', or PBL in all its permutations, is a buzzword for many and a trigger warning for everyone else. I thought I would take the opportunity to share briefly this style of learning and why the team feels it is so important.

To begin with, self-eSTEAM is a uniquely St Mary's brand of PBL that is focused on developing an entrepreneurial mindset, exploring real-world connections in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, while always remembering the individual's mission and vision. A mouthful, I know. The programme is facilitated by a team of teachers who represent a range of different subjects, different worldviews, and different interests. What brings us together is the passion for student-led learning that requires individuals to engage actively with real-world issues. There is nothing new about cross-curricular work or integrating content and skills but what is exciting is the tremendous potential for Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) through PBL. This brings me to why this style of learning is so important.

Education in South Africa has many, many challenges. We need to be doing everything in our power to equip our pupils to cope wherever they find themselves after school. To be able to identify one's strengths and challenges, to work in collaboration with a range of different people, to find solutions and, ultimately, to take responsibility for one's learning are some of the keys, I believe, which will open doors to the uncertain future that lies ahead.

The benefits and value of this style of learning programme is immense. My last article outlined the first project with the Form II girls, around space exploration and the challenges of setting up a sustainable human settlement on another planet. This project is topical and relevant in light of the recent developments in space travel but is also intended to afford the students the opportunity to reflect on life on earth, our past, and identifying the power each individual has in finding solutions to earth's predicament.

I hope that something about this article has alerted you to the need for project-based learning and the development of tools to thrive, both socially and emotionally, for the present and in the future. Our aim at St Mary's is to provide the best education possible for our students and to develop them into the future leaders and change-makers they will become.

JANE MCMURRAY
TEACHER IN-CHARGE

MEET THE FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE DEPARTMENTS

AFRIKAANS



Berdine Fourie-van der Watt
HoD: BA, HDE (UPE), BA
Hons (UNISA), MBA (UB)



Charlene Buddingh
HDE (CTTC)



Marié Jacobs
HDE (UF)



Alicia Hinckemann
BEd Hons (CUT)



Esmaleet van Zyl
BA, PGCE (UNISA) PGDip
(Stellenbosch)

ISIZULU



Silindile Majola
BEd (Wits)



Nokuthula Mchunu
BA (UNIZULU), HDE (UKZN)



Thembi Ngobese
BA(RAU)



Phumzile Sithebe
BA (Wits) PGCE(RAU)

SESOTHO



Thandiwe Mahasa
HoD African Languages:
BEd Hons (UJ)



Seipati Shiakallis
BA, Dip Nutrition (UNISA)

DEBATING

Juhi Baboolal (Form III) has been selected for the South African Junior Debating Team for 2023. They will compete at the World Schools' Debating Championship, the most prestigious competition of its kind, later this year. We know that Juhi will make both our school and the country proud, and we are immensely proud of her.

Francesca Lewitton (Form IV) has been selected for the South African Nationals Debating Team for 2023. They will compete at the World Schools' Debating Championship later this year. WSDC is the world's most prestigious school debating competition and we are immensely proud of Francesca for this exceptional achievement. We know that she will make both our school and the country proud.



Juhi Baboolal



Francesca Lewitton

SIMON IDEMA
HEAD OF DEBATING

FROM THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Kahlo, Sher-Gil, Stern: Modernist Identities in the Global South



The senior art students were privileged to attend the exhibition at the Johannesburg Contemporary Art Foundation which featured the works of three pioneering women artists, Frida Kahlo, Amrita Sher-Gil and Irma Stern, together in South Africa and in Africa, for the first time. Located in a renovated tram shed in Forest Town, the exhibition explores the history and backgrounds of these three women. The trip to the exhibition included a guided tour and conversational lecture from the guide who discussed their roles as revolutionary figures and focused less on the 'colonial gaze' of the artists. These narrations intended to show the similarities between each artist, such as these three women all being of mixed heritage.

This JCAF exhibition entrance features the geographical locations of the three women which possibly had an influence on them - The Metropolitan Cathedral in Mexico, the Ajanta Caves in India and Elizabethville. It features an archive called *Identify Formation*, which contains objects from the artists' lives such as Kahlo's dress, Stern's photo collection of Bakayishonga, and their journal drawings. JCAF sourced images of the artists' journals, recreated exhibition copies and created what their journals could have looked like to display in their exhibition. Finally, three paintings, one by each of the artists, were displayed: Frida Kahlo's *Self Portrait of a Hummingbird and Thorn Necklace*, Amrita Sher-Gil's *Three Girls* and Irma Stern's *Watussi Woman in Red*. Each is contained in its own architectural structure within a gallery, created to give a sense of the places from where they came.

Upon entering the actual exhibition space, the first thing to emerge from behind the dark curtains was a massive photograph of a Spanish cathedral taken by Frida Kahlo's father, accompanied by other awe-inspiring photographs of locations which held importance in the lives of Amrita Sher-Gil and Irma Stern. The dimly-lit exhibition space was effectively used to display elements of the lives of these artists in ways that brought the viewer into their lives. We were taken through each section of the exhibition which was devoted specifically to each artist. With the aid of photographs and replicas of the artists' old visual journals, we were given their life stories and told of what encouraged them to become artists, as well as the messages behind their art. Unlike typical gallery exhibitions, we were able to focus on the person behind the art and were able to receive in-depth art analyses from a knowledgeable tour guide who did not skirt around their unsavoury aspects.



Each artist had an element of controversy surrounding her which, in some cases, might completely shift your opinion on the artist, but I think it commendable that JCAF did not omit any of it. Instead, they gave us the whole story and let us formulate our own opinions. After walking through the carefully curated artifacts from each artist's life, we were able to see one authentic artwork from each. We were informed of the reasons behind each one's creation and they were separated to give significance to each. Care was taken to select how they were separated as well as the appearance of the enclosure in which each work was placed. Elements significant to the cultures of the artists were chosen to adorn the enclosures and this attention to detail was consistent with the care taken to preserve all other elements of these artists' lives.

Being able to visit the Johannesburg Contemporary Art Foundation was a truly memorable experience and a privilege we hope to enjoy again.

Information sourced from: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2022-10-30-when-frida-kahlo-amrita-sher-gil-and-irma-stern-come-to-a-gallery-in-johannesburg/>

<https://jcaf.org.za/>

**ALICE THIEL AND
NALENHLE MBATHA
FORM IV**

SPORTS

NATIONAL AQUATICS

The National Aquatics Festival is one of the most prestigious events on the aquatics calendar. The event was started in 2000 by Pretoria High School for Girls. The event includes a swimming gala (swum over 50m), a 1st team water polo tournament and a diving competition. Teams from around the country participate in the two-day event. St Mary's had the privilege of hosting the event this year.

The Aquatics Festival was opened by Lize-Mari van Staden (née Retief) on Friday 3 February. Lize-Mari is a St Mary's Old Girl who, during her swimming career, held eight South African records as well as attended both the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.

The swimming gala was tightly contested with the lead changing hands many times. There were some very good swims from the St Mary's girls throughout the morning, however, in the end, we finished in second place, just three points behind last year's runners up, Our Lady of Fatima.

1 st	Our Lady of Fatima DCS	409
2 nd	St Mary's, Waverley	406
3 rd	St Stithians	387
4 th	Oranje Meisiesskool	364
5 th	Durban Girls' College	332
6 th	Clarendon	286
7 th	Eunice High School	252
8 th	St Mary's Kloof	206
9 th	Durban Girls' High	134
10 th	Pretoria High School for Girls	84

With inter-high just two weeks away, we hope that all the swimmers will continue to train hard in order to peak at this event.

The water polo section of National Aquatics was also a tightly-contested tournament with many games being won by one or two goals. We welcomed eight schools from Gauteng, K-ZN and the Eastern Cape. We saw some amazing game play by St Mary's 1st team, who held some of the top teams to a very close score. At the end of the tournament, St Mary's 1st team finished 4th overall.

1 st	St Stithians Girls' College
2 nd	Clarendon High School
3 rd	Durban Girls' College
4 th	St Mary's, Waverley
5 th	Maris Stella
6 th	St Mary's Kloof
7 th	Durban Girls' High
8 th	Pretoria Girls' High

Diving began with the U15 event then proceeded onto the U16 event and ended with the Open event.

It is a difficult competition for the divers as it is halfway through the season. This means that the schools are working on inter-high combinations and the divers are competing in more complicated and difficult dives for the first time.

The individual results of the St Mary's divers are as follows:

U15	
5 th	Rebecca Wolstenholme
6 th	Luyanda Mshengu
8 th	Daniella van der Berg

U16	
7 th	Emma Campbell
8 th	Kristin Biggs
13 th	Katherine Davidson

Open	
1 st	Zalika Methula
6 th	McKenzie Coakley-Eager
13 th	Caitlin Kersten

The overall results of the competition are as follows:

St Stithians	181
St Mary's	141
Brescia	108
St Andrew's	108
Roedean	101
Maris Stella	60
St Mary's DSG Kloof	60



QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

ROWING

Rowing a boat can be one of the most rewarding experiences. The feeling of the boat gliding elegantly through the water while listening to the bubbles left in your wake is unmatched. There is great satisfaction in hearing the click of the blades turning in unison and the splash as the crew reaches the catch. It is truly exhilarating when the boat gathers speed and the crew rows together as one red St Mary's unit. There is no feeling quite like that of crossing the finish line, knowing that you gave everything that you could have, and the crew pushed themselves to their limits thanks to the coxswain's unfaltering motivation.

Besides from just moving a boat, the St Mary's rowing club creates a community of students, coaches and parents who are always there in support of one another. When asked why we row, the answer is that it is for the love of such a unique and rewarding sport, for the friendships that are formed along the way and for the exhilarating feeling that is difficult to find elsewhere.

Our senior rowers are on the Buffalo tour to East London where they will compete in both the Buffalo Regatta as well as Selbourne Sprints.

SOPHIA BABAYA
FORM IV



TENNIS

Congratulations to the AB tennis team that have won their matches so far in the premier section of the league in a convincing manner. The other teams have faced some strong opposition playing the AB teams from the opposing schools. Well done to the St Mary's D team that posted wins over both Brescia and Roedean B. Congratulations to the F team that also beat the Crawford Sandton B team.

The St Mary's School championships have been ongoing throughout the practice sessions and a high standard of tennis has been played. Keep up the good work and enthusiasm.

League results

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS

24 January

St Mary's A vs Linden A	55 - 26
St Mary's B vs Linden B	55 - 26
St Mary's C vs Brescia A	20 - 43
St Mary's D vs Brescia B	26 - 37
St Mary's E vs Crawford Sandton A	17 - 46
St Mary's F vs Crawford Sandton A	37 - 26
St Mary's G vs Trinity House C	65 - 39

31 January

St Mary's A vs Trinity House A	45 - 24
St Mary's B vs Trinity House B	46 - 23
St Mary's C vs Roedean B	35 - 28
St Mary's D vs Roedean B	35 - 28
St Mary's E vs Holy Rosary A	9 - 54
St Mary's F vs Holy Rosary B	28 - 55
St Mary's G vs Redhill A	31 - 57
St Mary's H vs Redhill B	22 - 40

SAVE THE DATE

Please add this to your diaries as a "must-see" coming up next month - a wonderful programme of music presented by our very own Eugene Joubert (piano), joined by Gerrit Koorsen (cello) and Shannon Armer (French horn).



JOURNEY TO WAKKERSTROOM

12 MARCH 2023
5 pm



The Edge
St Mary's School
Waverley

Eugene Joubert, Shannon Armer, and Gerrit Koorsen will be performing selected works from two upcoming concerts - *'Rachmaninoff Restored'* (Eugene and Gerrit) and *'Reflections and Perspectives'* (Shannon and Eugene) -

that will be presented at the 2023 Wakkerstroom Music Festival. Enjoy an afternoon of classical music as these musicians bring their unique interpretations to the stage.

DUDLEY TROLLOPE
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

MUSE MORNING

The St Mary's community is invited to our first Muse Morning of 2023

Date: Tuesday 21 February

Time: 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30

Venue: Seminar room in The Edge

RSVP: Lynsay.young@stmary.co.za

Topic: "Shrinking diet culture - building a healthy relationship with food and our bodies"

Speaker: Anele Honono

Anele will be speaking on how to support your child in building a healthy emotional relationship with food. The talk will further guide on when to be concerned about your child's eating habits, the signs to look out for and what you can do to support your child.

Anele is a clinical psychologist with diverse experience in mental health care in public and private health care. From 2015-2020, she worked in ward 1 and 2 at Tara Hospital as one of two permanent psychologists in the eating disorders and adolescent wards.

From 2020-2022, she moved to the Adult Out-patients department, ward 8 - Female biochemical ward, and continued to work in the eating disorders ward.

As of August 2022, she moved to fulltime private practice, seeing patients from the Oxford Day Clinic as well as her own private practice in Melrose and Auckland Park where she sees adults and adolescents who present with a variety of psychological challenges.

Anele has a keen interest in working with eating disorders and is a director and shareholder at LinkedCare Consortium, a multidisciplinary team with specialised eating disorders experience, that provides mental healthcare services to individuals, families, and organisations.

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For queries, contact: support@schooldays.co.za

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ED-ADMIN PARENT PORTAL

St Mary's uses a school management information system called Ed-Admin to distribute termly school reports and to provide parents with an opportunity to inspect and amend personal information recorded in our database.

Below, please find details as to how to access the Ed-Admin St Mary's parent portal:

- You will require a Parent ID whenever signing into the parent portal. If you are unsure of your Parent ID, please email portal@stmary.co.za, with both your and your daughter's names and surnames, for assistance.
- To access the St Mary's parent portal, please visit the school website on www.stmarysschool.co.za and click on the portal login on the top right of the page.
- Enter in your Parent ID and choose 'forgot password'. Please ensure that you enter the email address that St Mary's has on record and enter in the CAPTCHA code.
- You will then receive an email. Once received, click on the link in order to set up your password. Choose a secure password. You will then receive another email to confirm your password has been changed. You can now proceed to log into the portal.

If you experience problems logging into the secure portal, please contact portal@stmary.co.za.